

Response to notification 86908 from the Natural History Museum, UK

CBD Notification 2017-104 - *Contribution to the first Assessment and Review of the Effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol* – requests *Relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector/business community, research/scientific community and ex situ collections, to provide information on the development, update and use of model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices and/or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing.*

The Natural History Museum has considerable interest in this.

The Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum (Natural History)) holds, cares for and makes accessible an increasing collection of animals, plants, fossils and minerals of global significance and value. It also holds one of the largest libraries relating to natural history in the world. The collections comprise approximately 80 million items, some more than 200 years old, from geographical areas globally, and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. In recent years we have expanded our collections to include frozen tissues and DNA. The collection is managed the Museum's Science Group which comprises 250 core-funded staff, 70 staff on externally-funded contracts, 280 scientific associates and volunteers, and 100 postgraduate students, creating a team of approximately 700 people.

The Museum has a policy of making information open for use, and through its data portal (<http://data.nhm.ac.uk/>) provides access to information on nearly 4 million of the specimens we hold, in the 4 years the portal has been available there has been 1 billion downloads of specimen data. Our scientific staff regularly work in partnership with researchers from many other countries, and publish some 1000 scientific papers annually and datasets from these publications will also be available through the portal. Each year we host some 7000 scientific visitors from around the world to use the collections in their research, and send out approximately 30,000 specimens on loan. The Museum is one of the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and also provides the UK National Focal Point of the Global Taxonomy Initiative. We wholeheartedly support all objectives of the CBD and continue to provide practical support to the CBD and to the UK in its policy development.

The Museum has been aware of the issues attendant on compliance with ABS since 1993, and has been managing compliance with permits issued by countries and national protected areas from before that time. With the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol we have re-examined our policies and procedures to ensure compliance. As part of this process we have contributed significantly to the development of two Codes of Conduct and Best Practices of two consortia to which the Museum belongs, that of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (https://cetaf.org/sites/default/files/final_cetaf_abs_coc.pdf) and the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (http://www.ggbn.org/docs/ABS_Guidance/GGBN%20Guidance%20Best_Practice_June_2015-Final.pdf). Both have now been posted on the ABS Clearing House. The GGBN documents are based on those of CETAF, modified for the particular needs of the GGBN members and operations. These Codes of Conduct and Best Practices, and the tools that have been developed with them (a 'use of materials' statement for informing provider countries and give legal certainty for future use – see <http://nagoyaprotocol.myspecies.info/node/5> for the version used by NHM) and template Material Transfer Agreements, have been in turn used by the Museum in its policies and procedures, and we are proud to state that we are implementing them.

While we use a standard form for acceptance of material into the NHM collection, and a standard Material Transfer Form for sending material to others, we have not been able to provide standard clauses for use with provider countries, since the terms of PIC and MAT rest with them – many

countries use their own phraseology for access to genetic resources for non-commercial study. Such standard clauses would be of great value to us in managing contractual obligations, and we look forward to their development.

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