

Information with respect to steps Thailand has been taken towards ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The focuses of Thailand's work toward ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol are on public awareness, institutional capacity building, as well as policy, institutional and regulatory arrangement.

The development and implementation of ABS regulation

Following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol by COP 10 in October 2010, the new regulation on access and benefit sharing was approved by the Cabinet on 11 January 2011 to be implemented among government agencies and organizations. The ABS regulation have all necessary elements on access and benefit sharing according to CBD and the Nagoya Protocol and will be used as a framework for those agencies that do not have specific criteria and procedures on access permission to biological resources to set up their own criteria and regulations on ABS accordingly. The Regulation provides set of criteria and procedure for access permission to biological resources and associated knowledge, including those in areas under authorizations of local administrative organizations. The access permission when grant will lead to the development of two types of access and benefit sharing agreements – commercial and non-commercial purpose.

In order to facilitate implementation of the ABS Regulation in accordance with the obligation of the CBD and Nagoya Protocol, the ad hoc working groups were established to push forward implementation of the ABS regulation and Nagoya Protocol's provisions at agency and university level. MOUs were signed with major universities in Thailand to develop academic ABS regulation and to promote and build awareness of the researcher, lecturers and students on the importance of biodiversity and ABS issues.

Public awareness and institutional capacity building

Since early 2011, series of public awareness activities have been organized for different sectors throughout the country to educate relevant partners about the Nagoya Protocol. Sectors involved include government agencies, local administrative authorities, researchers, educators, private sectors, NGOs, and local community representatives. Networks among agencies and universities have been initiated to develop institutional-level regulations on ABS and educate researchers on ABS issues. Further cooperative works with major stakeholders, especially regulating agencies and universities would be continuously done in cooperating with capacity building activities to increase researchers and regulators awareness on ABS issues, status and regulations, as well as to strengthen their capacity in developing their own ABS regulations and mechanisms.

Policy, institutional and regulatory review and arrangement

Thailand signed the Nagoya Protocol on the 31 January 2012 to show our commitment to work toward ratification of the Protocol. Right after that mechanism was set for revision of policy, institutional and regulatory framework. Working Groups are established as an integral platform between relevant agencies in preparation toward ratification and implementation of the Protocol. Institutional Structure and domestic legislations have currently been reviewed. The work at this stage has been focused on regulating agencies and research communities, which would be soon expanded to cover all stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, private sectors, media and general public. Public consultation will be held for all relevant sectors before submitting to the National Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, the Cabinet and the Parliament for approval on the Protocol's ratification consecutively.
