



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT

Directorate E - Global & Regional Challenges, LIFE
ENV.E.2 - Global Sustainability, Trade & Multilateral Agreements

At. Mr. Hugo-Maria Schally

In Brussels, on the 19th August, 2013

Dear Mr. Hugo-Maria Schally,

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities: Best Practice and Code of Conduct

Following the invitation received from EC_DG Environment (ENV.E.2), we are pleased to provide you several documents that show the overall approach of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, CETAF, with regards to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access To Genetic Resources And The Fair And Equitable Sharing Of Benefits Arising From Their Utilization (ABS). These documents provide instruments and tools that, in our understanding, will facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by the Members of our Consortium. They comprise a Best Practice document and Code of Conduct, both based on the practices and internal codes of conduct that have been developed by our institutions through their history. Also provided is a 'Use of Materials' document, setting out how Genetic resources are used in our members' institutions.

CETAF, as the major European network of taxonomic institutions and collection holders and comprising 45 institutions as members, has been deeply involved in and has closely followed the process of negotiation of the European Regulation to implement the Nagoya Protocol. As expressed in previous correspondence, we have some doubts and concerns regarding the implementation of this Regulation and the effects it may have on basic non-commercial biodiversity research carried out by our natural history and natural science museums and botanical gardens, and their delivery of non-monetary benefits. However, we are also conscious of the importance of emplacing an effective common legal framework that will regulate, facilitate and promote fair and equitable benefit sharing between users and providing countries of GR.


Being aware of its crucial importance of Access and Benefit-sharing for CETAF Member Institutions (and other similar institutions globally), the Consortium has created a working group on the subject comprising ABS experts from within our institutions across the EU.

This Working Group has produced the DRAFT documentation that we attach herewith and that we would like to share with all parties and stakeholders to this issue. The Working Group will shortly submit this draft package of documents to the Governance Bodies of CETAF for its consideration, revision and further approval.

Please do not hesitate to ask us for any explanation that may arise in relation to these documents, and we would welcome any comments you may have.

We look forward to collaborating with you and contributing our efforts and work to the best implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

With Kind Regards,



ANA CASINO

General Secretary
CETAF, AISBL