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Sent: December 15, 2017 9:43 AM

To: secretariat

Cc: Ms. Pernilla Åhrlin

Subject: Submission of views on PIC

Dear Madam/Sir,

We hereby submit some comments and views on prior informed consent (PIC) (with some additional examples from "adjacent topics"). The comments and examples are collected from staff at the University of Gothenburg and Gothenburg Botanical Garden.

We are part of CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) and are working according to their Code of Conduct (found at: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/submissions/icnp-3/EU-Taxonomic-practices.pdf>).

Comments and examples:

1) In practice, when you are out on field work, it is very difficult to explain to the local people what the paper work is all about. It is difficult to ask people to sign a paper before you have asked them some things about their traditional knowledge, e.g. if they have seen a specific plant in their area or if they know what a certain species is used for. Instead, the first contact is often informal and it is common that the local people themselves take the initiative to talk about their plants.

2) The definition of "genetic resources" is complicated. Since all living material have DNA it is difficult to know when it starts to be a genetic resource instead of "just a twig or an insect".

3) Many countries are lacking elaborated legal frameworks for collecting, PIC, ABS, etc. It is not possible to demand permits in a specific format when they do not exist from the beginning.

4) It would be best if it was the responsibility of the user of the material, rather than the collector, to follow all laws and regulations concerning the use of resources for economic gain. This would facilitate the work of researchers.

5) Researcher at the University of Gothenburg:

"I had experience with permits in Costa Rica, Brazil and Peru.

Costa Rica: A colleague of mine is processing the export permit but it is currently very bureaucratic to get permission to use genetic material. Collecting permit has been gotten by my local colleague.

Brazil: Export permits were impossible to get because the online application platform was not working yet. Collecting permit was processed by and granted to my Brazilian colleague.

Peru: In general easier to get collecting and export permits if local people help out (I am Peruvian). Officially the whole process should take about a month and a half but in practice the bureaucracy can take even 3 months.”

6) Researcher at the University of Gothenburg:

“I have troubles with export permits from Brazil. But good experience with collecting permits.”

In Gothenburg Botanical Garden we are working on getting permits in several countries, e.g. Iran and Georgia.

Yours sincerely,
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