

From THE GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL,
c/o Robin Cameron, McMaster University,
Department of Biology, 1280 Main St. West
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada



21st of September, 2021
To Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Dear Elizabeth Maruma Mrema,

As you may know, plant scientists rely heavily on open access to information digital sequence information or DSI (e. g DNA and RNA sequences data) to perform their daily work.

Lately, The Global Plant Council board of directors has been concerned that things might change drastically in the near future for many of this researchers because of the obligations to respect access and benefit-sharing (ABS) rights under the [Convention on Biodiversity \(CBD\)](#) and the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\) Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture \(The Treaty\)](#) and the [Nagoya Protocols on Access and Benefit Sharing](#). In fact, since February 2021, we have set up a working group that meets regularly to raises awareness among the plant science community writing blogs posts and organizing policy panels at popular plant science conferences.

We concur the previously mentioned agreements must be met; however, we think plant scientists and the plant science community must have a voice in these policies and how they are implemented as they are being developed internationally. Therefore, we want to be proactive in developing a code of practice for plant scientists and will be happy to contribute to these conversations to make the appropriate decisions.

Sincerely yours,

The block contains a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ros Gleadow". To the left of the signature is a small, semi-transparent version of the Global Plant Council logo.

Ros Gleadow
The Global Plant Council President
School of Biological Sciences, 25 Rainforest Walk,
Monash University, Clayton, Melbourne, Vic. 3800