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REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE ON ITS FOURTH MEETING

MONTREAL, CANADA, 2-4 DECEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization established an Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol established an informal advisory committee to assist the Executive Secretary with the implementation of the ABS Clearing-House and to provide technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from its ongoing development.
3. At its third meeting, Parties to the Protocol expressed appreciation for the work done and decided that the Informal Advisory Committee should continue its work and hold at least one meeting during the intersessional period, as well as informal online discussions as needed, and report on the outcomes of its work to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting ([decision NP-3/3, para. 8](#)).
4. The fourth meeting of the Committee was held in Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 4 December 2019.

B. Attendance

5. Taking into account that a number of countries had become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol since the last meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee, there was a need to renew the composition of the Committee for the intersessional period on the basis of new nominations from Parties to the Protocol.
6. Through notification [2019-052](#), issued on 30 May 2019, the Secretariat invited Parties to nominate an expert for the Informal Advisory Committee. From the nominations received, with due regard to regional and gender balance, 14 experts were selected based on their experience and involvement with the ABS Clearing-House. The new composition of the Informal Advisory Committee was announced in notification [2019-082](#) dated 25 September 2019.
7. The meeting was attended by the members of the Committee from Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Cameroon, China, the European Union, Germany, Guyana, Kenya and South Africa.
8. The members of the Committee from Albania, Peru and Tuvalu were unable to attend the meeting.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

9. The meeting was opened by Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 2 December 2019.
10. Mr. Cooper welcomed the Committee members to the meeting and noted that 123 Parties to the Convention had ratified the Nagoya Protocol and further ratifications were expected in the coming

months as countries finalized their national processes. He emphasized the key role of the ABS Clearing-House as the central platform for facilitating the exchange of information relevant to the implementation of the Protocol. He pointed out the importance of the Secretariat's ongoing work in providing outreach and technical support for Parties and other users of the platform. He also welcomed the progress made in the development and availability of information to support monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and highlighted that 15 checkpoint communiqués and 1,115 internationally recognized certificates of compliance have been published.

11. In referring to the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee, Mr. Cooper highlighted the importance of the Committee's role in providing technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from the ongoing development of the ABS Clearing-House.

12. In concluding, Mr. Cooper pointed out the unique opportunity of that the Committee had to share its valuable experience and provide valuable feedback in order to enhance the effectiveness and improve the functioning of such an essential tool in achieving the successful implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

13. Mr. Thomas Greiber (Germany) was elected to chair the meeting. He highlighted the key role that the ABS Clearing-House plays for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and expressed his hope for a productive meeting that would provide constructive feedback and concrete recommendations that would be useful to assist the Secretariat to carry on their work to improve the ABS Clearing-House over the next biennium.

14. The Committee and Secretariat staff observed a minute of silence to remember Ms. Alejandra Romana Barrios Perez, the former Access and Benefit-sharing National Focal Point of Mexico, who had passed away in May 2019.

15. On the basis of the provisional agenda ([CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/1](#)) prepared by the Executive Secretary, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Report on progress in the implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House.
4. Technical and practical issues related to the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources through the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House.
5. Priorities for further work.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

16. The Committee adopted the organization of its work as proposed in the annotated provisional agenda ([CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/1/Add.1](#)).

ITEM 3. REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

17. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat reported on progress made in the implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Section II of document [CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2](#) provided a basis for consideration of this agenda item.

18. The Secretariat presented progress on ratification of the Protocol as well as information and statistics related to the website traffic of the ABS Clearing-House. The Secretariat informed the Committee about the increase in the number of visitors to the website due to the search engine optimization, which had been carried out in order to increase the visibility of ABS Clearing-House records to users of search engines, such as Google. At the same time, the Secretariat shared possible reasons for anomalies in the bounce rate.

19. The Secretariat noted that the information and indicators that serve as a basis for the progress report could be standardized to ensure the information contained in future progress reports would be comparable and therefore more useful. Based on the review of previous reports, the following format was suggested as a basis for future reports on progress in the development and administration of the ABS Clearing-House: (a) progress on ratification; (b) analysis of website traffic (number of visits/users, users by location, devices used, most frequently viewed pages, frequently used searches, most frequently viewed records); (c) analysis of information available (overview of published information and analysis of each record type); (d) progress on the goals and priorities; and (e) new feedback received.

20. The Committee agreed that it would be useful to standardize the report on progress and make the information proposed in the paragraph above available in the ABS Clearing-House.

21. The Secretariat subsequently presented the progress made on the goals and priorities, annexed to decision NP-3/3, in the continued implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House.

A. Increase the use and the information available on the ABS Clearing-House (Goal 1)

1. Outreach and engagement

22. Under this goal, the Secretariat presented the number of Parties engaged in publishing information. It was noted that when displaying this information as a percentage, it could be adjusted to provide a more accurate reflection of the actual situation. For example, the percentage of Parties who have published internationally recognized certificates of compliance should be calculated based on the total number of Parties who require prior informed consent.

23. The Secretariat presented the efforts undertaken to improve the quality and reliability of information published on the ABS Clearing-House. An issue tracking tool is being used to help the Secretariat keep track and follow-up with countries on a number of issues, such as: (a) countries for which no publishing authority has been designated; (b) information available but not posted; (c) information that may be available at a later date; (d) published records that need clarification; (e) bugs reported by users; (f) technical support and questions; and (g) suggestions for further improvement.

24. The presentation also included the results of the analysis conducted by the Secretariat on type and frequency of the issues collected. The Committee noted with concern the amount of national information that was incomplete or had not yet been published on the ABS Clearing-House and underscored the urgency for Parties to make all mandatory information available in the ABS Clearing-House. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for conducting outreach with Parties and stressed the utmost importance of continuing this work to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

25. The Secretariat introduced an idea to make the outreach efforts more effective by sharing the list of tracked issues and other actions that require the attention from the respective country's ABS Clearing-House users (ABS national focal point, publishing authority, national authorized users). It was noted that the shared issues would also include automatically triggered alerts based on information contained in the record (e.g. the expiration date of permits). Information on issues could be accompanied with additional information such as suggestions and guidance material from the Secretariat on how an issue can be resolved.

26. The list of a country's issues would be presented and organized in a user-friendly way on the ABS Clearing-House's dashboard and be accessible only to the national users¹ of that country. The experts noted that many national users do not regularly sign into the ABS Clearing-House and, therefore, there was still a need for the system to send email notifications alerting them of pending issues that required their attention.

27. The Committee noted that, although the system would support outreach and engagement efforts, there was still a need for the Secretariat to continue to follow up directly with Parties and to provide support as appropriate. It was also noted that increased efforts were needed, in particular, to encourage the publication of information on ABS procedures, information on permits and to update and complete the information on the key elements of the ABS measures.

28. It was also suggested that the Secretariat make use of existing opportunities and meetings, such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, to raise awareness among indigenous peoples and local communities to encourage the publication of community protocols on the ABS Clearing-House.

2. Capacity-building for use of the ABS Clearing-House

29. The Secretariat presented suggestions to improve the efficiency of the technical support provided namely through the development of: (a) a chat bot; (b) new guided website tours for key problem areas; and (c) short videos to explain specific functionality of the ABS Clearing-House. The Secretariat could take advantage of the migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House to the ABS Clearing-House platform and would develop this in collaboration with the Biosafety Clearing-House/Global Environment Facility Global project.

3. Interoperability

30. The Secretariat presented ongoing efforts to enhance interoperability of the ABS Clearing-House with national databases and systems in order to facilitate the exchange of information. The Secretariat noted that more work was needed to improve the Application Programming Interface (API), such as streamlining the API and its endpoints, improving documentation, and developing a registration system to track users of the API. Those improvements would be focused on simplifying and improving the integration with national permit and monitoring systems and might also help to improve the speed and performance of the ABS Clearing-House website.

4. Collaboration

31. The Committee sought clarity on the scope and extent of the Secretariat's current collaboration with other relevant international instruments and initiatives with regard to the development of the ABS Clearing-House. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it continued to monitor developments in other international forums and shared relevant information on the Secretariat's work related to the ABS Clearing-House with a view to exploring opportunities for collaboration. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should continue to engage with relevant forums and raise awareness of the ABS Clearing-House, as appropriate.²

¹ National authorized users include: the ABS national focal point (NFP), the publishing authority (PA) and national authorized users (NAUs).

² International instruments, such as: the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (WIPO IGC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and their Global Information System (GLIS); the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

B. Translation and functionality for operationalizing the ABS Clearing-House in the six official languages of the United Nations (Goal 2)

32. The Secretariat presented on progress in translation and proposed the use of automated translation software. The Committee emphasized that the Secretariat should prioritize the official translation of the website into the six official languages of the United Nations.

33. The Committee subsequently discussed the possibility of including a function to provide courtesy translations by using automated translation software. The Committee thought that that could be a useful function to translate information published in records in order to promote the understanding of users of genetic resources of the relevant ABS frameworks. The automated translation software could also be useful to complement translation of the website (e.g. “About the ABS Clearing-House) into languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations.

34. The Committee requested the Secretariat to explore and propose options on the use of automatic translation software and provide an analysis of the cost implications of implementing such a function.

C. Maintain and improve functionality (Goal 3)

35. The Secretariat presented progress regarding the maintenance and improvement of functionality of the ABS Clearing-House. Particular attention was given to improving the website’s search function. The Committee discussed different options for visualizing data and filtering records. The Committee agreed that the country profile page was the most useful and accurate place for users of genetic resources to find information related to access, and, therefore, efforts were still needed to encourage the publication and increase the relevant national information available. The Committee noted that an enhanced search function would be particularly helpful for internationally recognized certificates of compliance, checkpoint communiqués, ABS measures. It may also be relevant for capacity-building information.

36. The Committee provided the following suggestions for the implementation of search filters in the ABS measures common format: (a) the search should be designed to provide clarity on the scope of the measure (e.g. exclusions and type of genetic resource covered); (b) the search function should address both “access” and “benefit-sharing” together; and (c) include a filter on associated traditional knowledge.

37. The Committee also discussed ways to assist users of the ABS Clearing-House to easily identify information on a country’s access requirements, such as whether a country has access measures, or such measures are under development.

38. The Committee requested the Secretariat to develop: (a) mock-ups for an improved search layout and functionality, including proposals for filters and data visualization; and (b) proposals for providing information on the status of a country’s ABS measures, including an indication on whether they have access measures. The Committee decided to discuss those proposals through online discussions.

39. The Committee discussed a number of other improvements to support the overall CBD clearing-house infrastructure. Among other things, the Committee discussed the possibility of developing tools for editing and review of records and to consolidate and manage databases related to organizations. Those proposed improvements are reflected in the list of priorities for further development and administration of the ABS Clearing-House (see annex below).

D. Integration with the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention (Goal 4)

40. The Secretariat presented progress in the integration of the ABS Clearing-House with the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

41. The Secretariat presented some ideas contained in the draft knowledge and information management strategy to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which would be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, in 2020. The Committee decided to consider the draft strategy through online discussions.

42. The Secretariat also provided information on the Bioland and Bio-Bridge initiatives and their linkages with the ABS Clearing-House. Bioland is a tool for supporting countries in establishing their

national clearing-houses which can be adapted to individual country needs. The Committee decided that it would be useful to include an interoperability option to display national information from the ABS Clearing-House on national Bioland websites.

43. The purpose of the Bio-Bridge initiative was to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation. The Committee decided that it would be useful to include relevant information on ABS-related opportunities, requests for assistance, and technical service providers in the ABS Clearing-House search as part of the reference records under the section on capacity-building.

**ITEM 4. TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE SYSTEM
FOR MONITORING THE UTILIZATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES
THROUGH THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE**

44. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented the relevant outcomes and key messages from the Global Capacity-building Workshop on Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol, held in Bonn from 30 September to 2 October 2019 with financial support provided by the Government of Japan, the European Union and the Government of Germany. The report on the workshop was made available to the Informal Advisory Committee as an information document ([CBD/NP/CB-WS/2019/1/2](#)). The Secretariat also presented an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Protocol's system to monitor the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House, including an analysis of the internationally recognized certificates of compliance (IRCCs) and checkpoint communiqués available in the ABS Clearing-House ([CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2](#), section III).

A. Permits and certificates

45. The Secretariat presented options for supporting countries in publishing their permits in the ABS Clearing-House, including through an Excel spreadsheet to facilitate bulk importing of permits as draft internationally recognized certificates of compliance. The Committee emphasized the importance of publishing permits in the ABS Clearing-House, as that supported monitoring the utilization of genetic resources.

46. The Committee decided that uploading permits to an Excel spreadsheet could be a useful intermediate solution, primarily to reduce the backlog of unpublished permits, while the API was being further improved. However, it was noted that importing through an Excel spreadsheet required time and resources from the Secretariat, and the Committee was of the view that Parties should be encouraged to publish their permits online or to make use of the API to develop interoperability links between national permitting systems and the ABS Clearing-House.

47. The Committee emphasized the importance of providing accurate information in the ABS Clearing-House in order to ensure the transparency and credibility of the information published. In particular, the Committee noted with concern that some IRCCs contained false email addresses for the "person or entity for which PIC was granted". The Committee requested that the Secretariat engage with relevant Parties in order to better understand the reasons why that information had not been provided correctly and to propose options for addressing the issue through online discussions.

48. The Committee agreed that it was useful for Parties to publish information on permits granted to national users as IRCCs on the ABS Clearing-House because it enhanced transparency and legal certainty in the value chain, and such certificates might have international relevance.

49. The Committee suggested that the Secretariat should make the following improvements to the IRCC common format:

(a) Provide more clarity on the fact that multiple users of genetic resources could be entered in the field on "person or entity to whom prior informed consent (PIC) was granted", and that those users could be national and/or foreign;

(b) Provide in the explanatory note further guidance on the expiry date as it related to PIC and/or mutually agreed terms. In addition, the Committee suggested that the user of the genetic resource

should also receive an automatically generated notification reminding the user that the permit would expire in two months.

B. National databases and websites

50. The Secretariat noted that it would be useful to provide more information on the type of national websites or databases made available on the country profile page in the ABS Clearing-House (such as informational websites and online permitting systems).

C. Checkpoints

51. The Secretariat noted that there continued to be some misunderstanding regarding the functions and responsibilities of checkpoints as provided for in Article 17 of the Protocol.

52. The Committee discussed the different types of authorities and functions that had been submitted through the checkpoint common format in the ABS Clearing-House. In particular, the Committee noted that information currently published as checkpoint records in the ABS Clearing-House performed different functions, such as:

- (a) Issue checkpoint communiqués;
- (b) Ensure compliance of users of genetic resources within its jurisdiction;
- (c) Serve as a point to collect or receive relevant information for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources;
- (d) Monitor the utilization of their own genetic resources abroad.

53. The Committee noted that monitoring the utilization of genetic resources abroad was not one of the functions identified in Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol.

54. The Committee requested the Secretariat to propose options for providing more clarity on the information on checkpoints published in the ABS Clearing-House, taking into account the discussions reflected in paragraphs 52 and 53 above. The Committee decided to consider the proposals through online discussions.

D. Checkpoint communiqués

55. The Committee noted that some Parties had been publishing checkpoint communiqués on the use of their own genetic resources (i.e. when the user and provider country are the same). The Committee determined that checkpoint communiqués should not be issued in those cases. For that reason, the Secretariat would provide relevant guidance to encourage the withdrawal of past submissions and disable future submissions.

56. The Committee also determined that checkpoint communiqués should not be issued to countries that do not require prior informed consent under their national legislation.

57. The Committee discussed the possibility for organizations (such as regional organizations and publishers of scientific journals) to publish checkpoint communiqués in the ABS Clearing-House and determined that organizations could share relevant information on utilization with authorities in provider and user countries but were not in a position to publish such information as communiqués in the ABS Clearing-House.

E. Contacts

58. The Secretariat presented the option of making national contacts searchable in the ABS Clearing-House. The Committee noted that that feature was particularly important for the contacts published in the IRCCs and checkpoint communiqués in the ABS Clearing-House.

59. The Committee requested the Secretariat to propose changes to the common formats for IRCCs, checkpoints, checkpoint communiqués and national websites and databases, following the guidance provided above, for further consideration by the Committee in online discussions.

ITEM 5. PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER WORK

60. Under this item, the Committee identified and discussed priorities for further development and administration of the ABS Clearing-House. The Committee requested the Secretariat to implement the priority actions listed in the annex below, taking into account the level of priority attributed to each action.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

61. Under this agenda item, the Committee was invited to raise any relevant issues that were not addressed under the other items. No other matters were raised.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

62. The Chair introduced the draft report on the meeting, which was adopted as orally amended.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

63. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, made closing remarks. She thanked the members of the Committee for their contribution to the important process of guiding the development of the ABS Clearing-House, a key tool for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. She highlighted the Committee's advice, which was much appreciated in advancing a common understanding of the system, in particular for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and supporting its practical implementation.

64. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed his gratitude to the Committee members for their excellent and concrete contributions designed to improve the ABS Clearing-House and highlighted the important role of the Committee. He also congratulated the Secretariat for its work in the preparation and organization of the meeting.

65. The Acting Executive Secretary declared the meeting closed at 12 p.m. on Wednesday,
4 December 2019.

*Annex***PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Priority</i>
1	Increase the use and amount of relevant information available in the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House		
1.1.1	Outreach - Assist with the publication of available national information	Ongoing	High
1.1.2	Outreach - Encourage publication of information on ABS procedures	Ongoing	High
1.1.3	Outreach - Encourage countries to complete the section on the key ABS measure elements for each ABS measure	To do	High
1.1.4	Outreach - Ensure each Party has designated a publishing authority	Ongoing	High
1.1.5	Outreach - Continue to provide on-demand technical support	Ongoing	Medium
1.1.6	Outreach - Improve and expand the notifications section in the dashboard to include a list of all potential issues requiring attention for a country, including automatically triggered alerts and suggested resolutions	To do	High
1.1.7	Outreach - Raise awareness and engage with partners and indigenous peoples and local communities	Ongoing	Medium
1.1.8	Outreach – Continue to provide technical support and awareness raising for use of the Application Programming Interface (API) and improve its documentation	Ongoing	High
1.2.1	Capacity-building: In collaboration with the Biosafety Clearing-House, develop tools to improve efficiency providing technical support (e.g. developing chat bot, online tours, short videos tutorials)	To do	Medium
1.2.2	Capacity-building - Disseminate and promote ABS Clearing-House capacity-building material	Ongoing	High
1.2.3	Capacity-building: Improve the guidance for publishing information, including frequently asked questions, taking into account the report of the Informal Advisory Committee on its fourth meeting	To do	High
1.2.4	Capacity-building – Continue to support training, as needed	Ongoing	High
1.3.1	Collaboration - Continue to explore collaboration with ITPGRFA GLIS, InforMEA, WFCC	Ongoing	Low
1.3.2	Collaboration - Raise awareness about the ABS Clearing-House and the system to monitor the utilization of genetic resources established by the Protocol in relevant international forums (WIPO IGC, ITPGRFA, CGRFA, WHO, BBNJ) dealing with ABS issues	Ongoing	Low
1.3.3	Collaboration - Collaborate with partners in developing projects that include issues related to the ABS Clearing-House	Ongoing	Medium

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Priority</i>
1.3.4	Interoperability - Facilitate the exchange of information with national databases or systems, including through low technological options (e.g. utilizing Excel spreadsheets to publish IRCCs)	Ongoing	Medium
1.3.5	Interoperability – Improve the API by simplifying the number of endpoints, particularly to streamline integration with national permitting and monitoring systems	To do	High
1.3.6	Interoperability - Develop a developer/application registration system to control and track access to the API	To do	High
2	Translate the ABS Clearing-House information into the six official languages of the United Nations		
2.1	Translation - Ensure that the official translation of the ABS-CH webpages into the six official languages of the United Nations is kept up-to-date	Ongoing	High
2.2	Translation - Explore and propose options for automatic courtesy translation of records as well as translation of website pages into a language other than the six official languages of the United Nations, including an estimate of associated costs, as appropriate	To do	Medium
3	Maintain and improve functionality		
3.1	Functionality - Update the checkpoint communiqué format - Allow for certificates and permits included in one checkpoint communiqué	To do	High
3.2	Functionality - Develop mock-ups for improved search layout and functionality (landing page, search and explore), including proposals for filters and visualizations	To do	High (IRCC, CPC, MSR) Medium (Capacity-building information)
3.3	Functionality - Develop proposals to easily identify information on a country's access requirements, such as whether a country has access measures or such measures are under development	To do	High
3.4	Functionality - Explore with relevant Parties the reasons behind not making available email addresses of users in IRCCs and propose possible ways to address the problem	To do	Medium
3.5	Functionality - Propose ways to identify different types of national websites or databases in the common format and make this information available to relevant Parties through the dashboard	To do	Medium
3.6	Functionality - Propose ways to clarify the different types of authorities and functions related to checkpoints in the common format	To do	Medium
3.7	Functionality - In “record details” view, include a display of referenced records, grouped by record type	To do	Medium
3.8	Functionality - Lock records while they are being edited (prevent overwriting changes)	To do	Low

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Priority</i>
3.9	Functionality – Create a tool for highlighting changes in record versions (track changes)	To do	Medium
3.10	Functionality - Simplify managing national roles and display change history	To do	Medium
3.11	Functionality - Explore automatic tagging/importing options, propose options and estimate associated costs, as appropriate	To do	Medium
3.12	Functionality - Improve analytics and tracking of downloads and make the information on reporting on the operation of the ABS Clearing-House available on the website	To do	High
3.13	Functionality - Continue to maintain, improve and optimize ABS Clearing-House functionality and performance	Ongoing	High
3.14	Functionality - Develop tools to improve the management of “organization” records in order to avoid duplicates and improve searchability	To do	Low
4	Integration with the CHM		
4.1	Integration - Ensure that relevant CHM records are made available in the ABSCH and relevant ABSCH records are made available, as appropriate, in the CHM and BCH.	Ongoing	Medium
4.2	Integration - Support back-end efficiencies	Ongoing	Medium
4.3	Integration - Support the overall CBD web strategy	Ongoing	Medium
4.4	Integration - Bioland - Include an interoperability option to display national information from the ABSCH on national Bioland websites	To do	High
4.5	Integration – Bio-Bridge - Include relevant information on opportunities, requests for assistance, and technical service providers in the ABSCH search in reference records under the section on capacity-building	To do	Medium
4.6	Integration- Support the development of the knowledge and information management strategy in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	To do	Medium