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INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NAGOYA PROTOCOL

Third meeting

Montreal, Canada, 20-22 March 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**UPDATE ON EXISTING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AND
RESOURCES SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING AND LESSONS LEARNED**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force on 12 October 2014, and, as of 24 January 2018, 105 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Protocol.
2. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol ([decision NP-1/8](#), annex I) and established an informal advisory committee to provide advice to the Executive Secretary on matters of relevance to the assessment of the effectiveness of the strategic framework (decision NP-1/8, para. 2).
3. According to its terms of reference (decision NP-1/8, annex II), the Committee is to provide advice to the Executive Secretary, regarding:
 - (a) Stock-taking of the capacity-building and development initiatives being implemented by Parties and various organizations with a view to identifying gaps in the implementation of the strategic framework;
 - (b) The need for the development of new tools, guidelines and training materials, including learning modules, to facilitate capacity-building and development initiatives of Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders;
 - (c) Facilitation of coordination, synergy, coherence and complementarity among capacity-building and development activities, taking into account information on capacity-building and development needs and activities available in the ABS Clearing-House and from other sources;
 - (d) Facilitation for matching the capacity-building and development needs identified by Parties with potential opportunities and resources to support the implementation of the strategic framework.

* [CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/1](#).

4. The purpose of the present document is to assist the Committee in its further consideration of the issue of capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Section II offers an updated overview of capacity-building and development initiatives supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Section III provides an updated overview of capacity-building and development resources. Section IV provides an overview of experiences and lessons learned with respect to capacity-building and development initiatives. Section V presents an update of activities carried out by the Secretariat to support capacity-building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Finally, section VI discusses options for enhancing the sharing of information on initiatives and resources, improving the sharing of lessons relating to capacity-building, examining capacity-building tailored for specific stakeholders, and enhancing coordination.

5. For the preparation of the present document, the Secretariat relied on information gathered from the following sources:

(a) Information made available by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations regarding their capacity-building initiatives and tools and resources through the ABS Clearing-House;¹

(b) Submissions from Parties for the assessment and review and the interim national reports;

(c) Project documents, identification forms (PIFs) or other information available in the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Project Database² and the GEF Small Grants Programme Project Database;³

(d) Information provided by organizations implementing and/or executing capacity-building initiatives, including members of the Informal Advisory Committee;

(e) Online searches.

II. UPDATE ON CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

6. Since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, different capacity-building and development initiatives have been implemented or proposed to support its ratification and implementation. These include broad global or region-wide initiatives and activities (such as training courses and information-sharing platforms) intended to benefit all countries as well as initiatives that are intended to directly support and benefit specific countries.

7. An overview of capacity-building and development initiatives completed or initiated after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010 that are providing, or have provided, direct support for country-level activities contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol was prepared for the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee in September 2015 ([UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](https://absch.cbd.int/)), updated for its second meeting, in June 2016 ([UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2016/1/2](https://absch.cbd.int/)) and also submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its second meeting ([UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/8](https://absch.cbd.int/)).

8. Subsection A below offers an update on the capacity-building and development initiatives that have provided or are providing direct support to countries to enable them to ratify and/or implement the Nagoya Protocol.

9. For some initiatives, key information, such as the start and end dates, has not been updated, and there are cases in which information such as the budget was missing or not readily available. Due to these limitations, some of the information presented in the document may not reflect the actual situation.

10. Subsection B examines information on capacity-building from the interim national reports on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

¹ The ABS Clearing-House can be accessed at: <https://absch.cbd.int/>

² The GEF Project Database can be accessed at: <http://www.thegef.org/projects>.

³ The GEF Small Grants Programme Project Database can be accessed at: <https://sgp.undp.org/>.

A. Capacity-building and development initiatives benefiting specific countries

11. According to the information available to the Secretariat as of 19 January 2018, the total number of initiatives has grown to 92. It is important to note that, as of 8 February 2018, 55 of these initiatives, representing 60 per cent of known initiatives, have been posted in the ABS Clearing-House. Since the last update, which was prepared for the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in 2016, five new projects have been added. Of these, two are slated to take place in Africa, two in Latin America and one in the Asia-Pacific region. An overview of the 92 initiatives, including type, status, duration, funding levels, and geographic and thematic coverage, is provided below; the complete list is available in CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/2/Add.1.

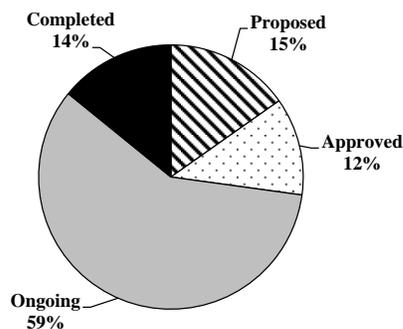
1. Types of capacity-building initiatives

12. Of the 92 capacity-building and developing initiatives providing direct support to specific countries, 77 (84%) are national projects, 13 (14%) are regional or subregional projects and 2 (2%) are global.

2. Status of the capacity-building initiatives

13. In terms of status, according to the information available as of 19 January 2018, 13 initiatives (14%) were completed, 54 initiatives (59%) were ongoing, 11 initiatives (12%) were approved, and 14 (15%) new initiatives were proposed (see figure 1).⁴ Regarding the five new projects added to the list, only one has been approved, while the remaining are proposed.

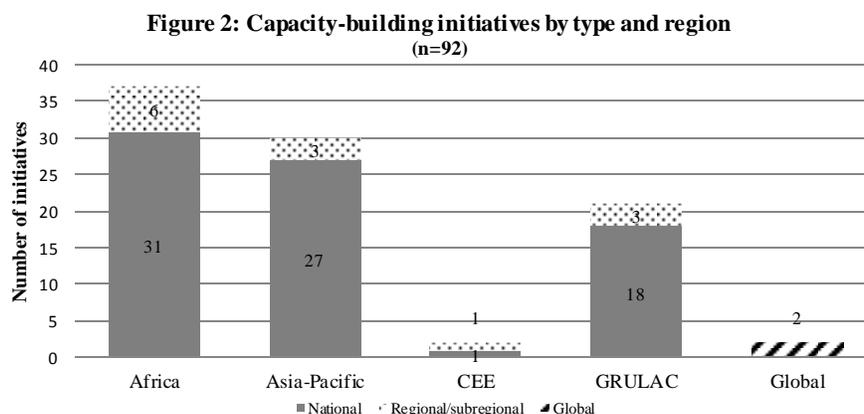
Figure 1: Status of capacity-building initiatives
(n=92)



3. Geographic coverage of the initiatives

14. In terms of geographic coverage, the African region has the largest number of initiatives, with 31 national and six regional/subregional projects. This is followed by Asia and the Pacific, with 27 national and three subregional projects. In Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), there are 18 national and three regional/subregional projects. In Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), there is 1 national project and 1 regional. Furthermore, there are two global initiatives that are also providing support to a number of countries from these regions (see figure 2).

⁴ Donors use different terminology to reflect the status of projects. For the purposes of this analysis, the status of projects has been classified as follows: proposed, approved, ongoing and completed. "Proposed" refers to projects for which concepts have been developed but not yet submitted to a donor(s) or are submitted but not yet accepted/approved. "Approved" refers to projects whose concepts or documents have, in principle been accepted by the donor(s) and are being developed into full project documents. "Ongoing" refers to projects that are under implementation and "completed" refers to projects that have finalized.



15. The geographic coverage of existing capacity-building projects continues to be uneven:

(a) In Africa, 41 (76%) countries received direct support through one or more national, regional/subregional or global projects. There are 13 countries in Africa not specifically covered by any capacity-building project; however, they may be benefiting from global or regional projects;⁵

(b) In the case of GRULAC, 26 countries (78%) received direct support through one or more national, regional/subregional or global projects. Seven countries are not yet covered;⁶

(c) In the Asia-Pacific region, 34 countries (61%) received direct support through one of more national, regional/subregional or global projects. In total, 22 developing countries, mostly from the Asian subregion are not covered;⁷

(d) CEE continues to be the least covered region. Since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, there has not been a change in the number of projects implemented in this region. Only five countries (22%) — Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia — have received direct support from an ABS capacity-building project.

16. It is important to reiterate that, despite a number of countries not being direct beneficiaries of projects at the country level, they may have benefited from activities such as workshops and trainings carried out by projects at the regional or global levels.

4. Duration of the initiatives

17. With respect to the duration of the initiatives, information is currently available for 83 out of the 92 projects.⁸ The majority of the initiatives (80%) have a planned duration of two to five years; approximately 12 per cent have a duration of less than two years and only 8 per cent have a duration of more than five years (see figure 2).

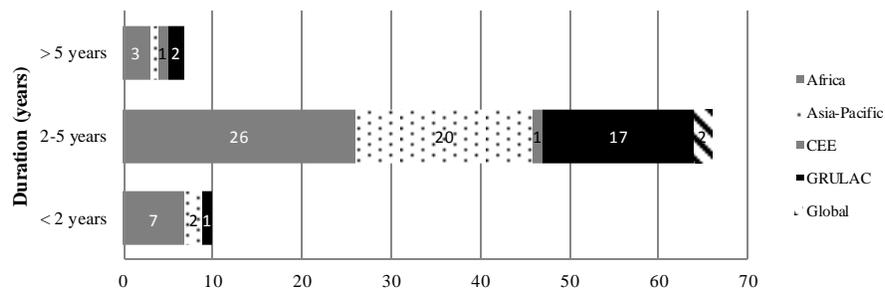
⁵ Countries not covered: Cabo Verde; Eritrea; Gambia; Libya; Mali; Mauritius; Somalia; South Sudan; Swaziland; Tunisia; United Republic of Tanzania; and Zambia.

⁶ Countries not covered: Bolivia; Chile; Dominica; Haiti; Paraguay; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Suriname.

⁷ Countries not covered: Afghanistan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Cyprus; and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

⁸ Information is unavailable for nine initiatives mainly due to the fact that they are still at the proposal stage.

Figure 3: Capacity-building initiatives by duration and region (n=83)

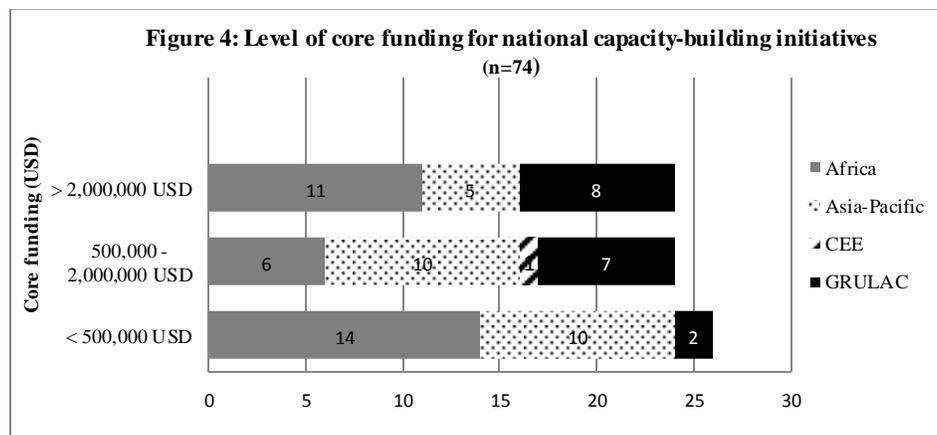


18. Regarding the actual duration of the projects, there is no readily updated information available to determine whether the projects were finalized as planned or extended. The Committee may wish to discuss possible ways to ensure that this information is periodically updated and made available.

5. *Level of funding*

19. Regarding the level of funding for the initiatives,⁹ information is available on the core funding for 74 out of the 77 national projects. Of these, 26 projects (35%) are small-sized with funding of less than US\$ 500,000; 24 projects (32%) are medium sized, with funding between US\$ 500,000 and US\$ 2,000,000; and 24 projects (32%) are full sized, with funding of over US\$ 2,000,000 (see figure 4).

20. It is important to note that several initiatives carried out at the national level are supported through co-financing from national budget allocations. Out of the 18 national projects published in the ABS Clearing-House, 10 (55%) are reported to have received national funds for their implementation.

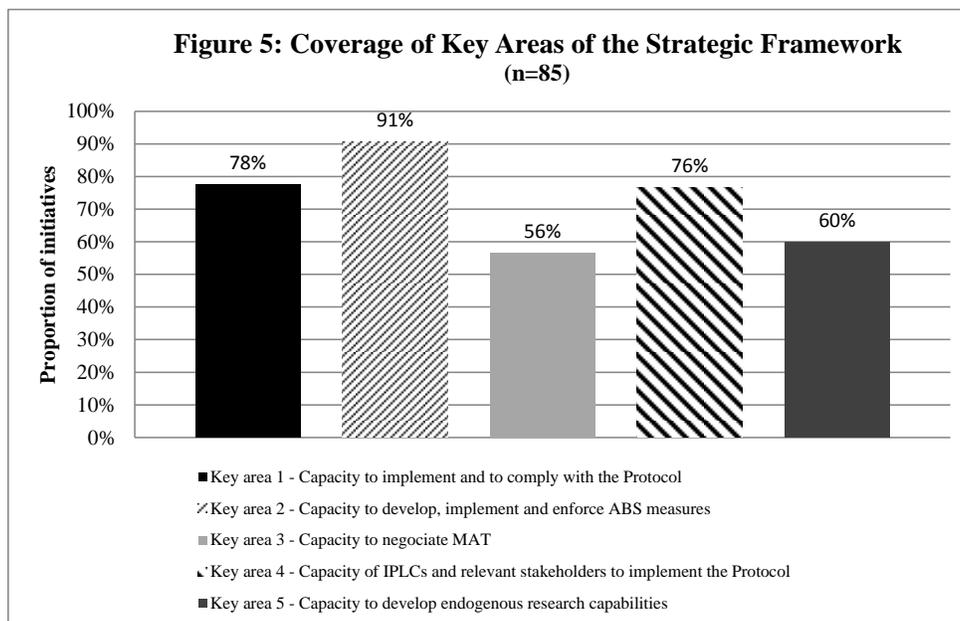


6. *Thematic coverage by existing initiatives*

21. In terms of the key thematic areas¹⁰ being covered by the capacity-building initiatives, information is available for 85 of the 92 projects (see figure 5).

⁹ For the purposes of the present document, the analysis is based on information available on core funding; it does not include co-financing or in-kind contributions. It is important to note that co-financing in some cases may equal or surpass core funding.

¹⁰ In [decision NP-1/8](#), the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (para. 1 and annex I to the decision). The framework identifies five key areas for capacity-building and development.



22. The majority of the projects (91%) focus on key area 2 (capacity to develop, implement and enforce ABS measures) followed by 78% on key area 1 (capacity to implement and to comply with the Protocol and 76% on key area 4 (capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to implement the Protocol). Approximately 56 per cent of the projects have focused on key area 3 (capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms) and 60 per cent on key area 5 (capacity to develop endogenous research capabilities). The main focus on key areas 1 and 2 is in line with efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which calls for the Nagoya Protocol to be in force and operational, consistent with national legislation by 2015.

23. In the latest analysis of project documents that was carried out for the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol,¹¹ it was observed that most measures and activities carried out as part of the projects were among the short-term (2014-2017) priorities listed in appendix 1 of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development. The majority of the projects have focused on the following measures/activities of the strategic framework:

- (a) Development or amendment of ABS legal/regulatory frameworks (32 out of 41);
- (b) Raising awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and related ABS issues (31 out of 41);
- (c) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems (26 out of 41).

7. Organizations supporting ABS capacity-building initiatives

24. Of the 92 known capacity-building initiatives, 48 (52%) have or are being funded by the [Global Environmental Facility](#) (GEF). Based on the information compiled by the Secretariat for the present report, GEF has invested more than US\$ 90 million in core funding for capacity-building initiatives on ABS.¹²

25. As can be observed in table 1 below, the [United Nations Development Programme](#) carried out the greatest number of ABS capacity-building initiatives, followed by the [United Nations Environment](#)

¹¹ An analysis of project documents and/or project identification forms (PIFs) was carried out for 41 projects to identify the measures and activities carried out a part of the projects and comparing them to the priorities listed in appendix 1 of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development (see [UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/2/8](#)).

¹² An estimate was made based on available information regarding the core funding of projects funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme, the GEF Trust Fund and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund.

Programme. The ABS Capacity Development Initiative is providing support for national-level capacity-building activities in 15 countries and collaborating with the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) in supporting an additional seven projects.

Table 1. Number and proportion of projects implemented/executed by various organizations in each region

Organization	Africa	Asia-Pacific	GRULAC	CEE	Global	No. of projects	Percentage
ABS Initiative ¹³	8	5	2	-	-	15	16%
ABS Initiative/GIZ	7	-	-	-	-	7	8%
Biodiversity International/ABS Initiative	1	-	-	-	-	1	1%
Botanic Gardens Conservation International	1	-	-	-	-	1	1%
GIZ	-	3	4	1	-	8	9%
Inter-American Development Bank	-	-	1	-	-	1	1%
IUCN	-	1	-	-	-	1	1%
JICA/COMIFAC	1	-	-	-	-	1	1%
KfW	1	-	-	-	-	1	1%
UNDP	9	13	8	-	1	31	34%
UNEP ¹⁴	9	3	4	1	1	18	20%
UNEP/IUCN	-	1	2	-	-	3	3%
UNEP/ACB	-	3	-	-	-	3	3%
UNEP/SPREP	-	1	-	-	-	1	1%
Total	37	30	21	2	2	92	100%

8. *Analysis of information on capacity-building initiatives published in the ABS Clearing House*

26. As of 8 February 2018, 73 records in the ABS Clearing House have been published under “capacity-building initiatives”. Of these records, nine relate to capacity-building workshops on ABS which, in most cases, are part of larger ABS initiatives and have been classified as ABS activities or components. With regard to projects or programmes exclusively dedicated to ABS, there are 45 records in the ABS Clearing-House. Of these, 20 have been classified as national projects, 8 as regional/subregional and 3 are global. Finally, there are 19 records that are classified as an ABS component. It is worth noting that 50 per cent of the national projects report they are being co-funded using national budget allocations.

27. The analysis of the information recorded in the ABS Clearing-House has limitations due to the following:

- (a) Several records are missing important information such as budget, start and end date, etc.;
- (b) The information is not being updated on a regular basis;
- (c) In some cases, activities of a project are being uploaded while the project itself is not;

¹³ The ABS Capacity-Development Initiative through its global project is providing direct national support to 15 countries.

¹⁴ This refers only to projects implemented by UNEP and directly executed by national Government agencies.

(d) In some cases, the development of resources, such as guidelines, is being reported as a capacity-building initiative while the document or reference material is not being uploaded to the ABS-Clearing House database on capacity-building resources.

28. Committee members will be invited to provide updates on developments since the last meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee with respect to their access and benefit-sharing capacity-building projects as well as emerging experiences and lessons learned. In addition, Committee members will be invited to verify the information contained in CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/2/Add.1. Finally, the Committee will also discuss ways to improve the timeliness and quality of the information being published in the ABS Clearing-House.

B. Information on capacity-building from the interim national reports on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

29. Article 29 of the Nagoya Protocol requires Parties to monitor the implementation of their obligations under the Protocol. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested Parties to the Protocol to submit an interim national report by 1 November 2017. As of 8 February, 64 Parties and 5 non-Parties have published their interim national reports on the ABS Clearing-House. The regional breakdown of the national reports is as follows: 27 from Africa; 11 from Asia; 9 from CEE; 9 from GRULAC and 13 from the Western Europe and Others group.

30. As part of the reporting, countries are required to provide information on awareness-raising and capacity-building (Articles 21 and 22) by answering a series of questions with “yes” and “no”. Respondents were also requested to provide additional information. The information captured is presented in table 2.

Table 2. Information from interim-report relating to awareness-raising and capacity-building

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>Most mentioned</i>
Proportion of countries that have taken measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and ABS	91%	Awareness raising events (workshops, seminars and conferences)
Proportion of countries that have taken measures to implement the awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS?	81%	Awareness raising activities, campaigns, events and materials
Proportion of countries that are developing capacity and strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities to effectively implement the Protocol	78%	Training and capacity-building workshops
Proportion of countries that have taken measures to implement the strategic framework for capacity-building and development	80%	Participation in capacity-building initiatives and implementation of measures proposed in the strategic framework
Proportion of countries that have received external support for building and developing capacity for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	65%	Several capacity-building initiatives and funds for projects
Proportion of countries that have provided external support for building and developing capacity for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol?	35%	Funds and technical expertise for capacity-building
Main difficulties and challenges	N/A	Lack of financial resources and capacity-building for stakeholders (IPLCs, business and research communities)

31. As can be observed in table 2, the majority of the countries are actively engaging in awareness-raising and capacity-building as part of their implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The most commonly

mentioned measures involve awareness-raising workshops and events. A few countries also mentioned that they are engaging with the media and developing information platforms to raise awareness. In terms of measures to implement the awareness-raising strategy of the Nagoya Protocol, most countries referred to activities they are carrying out while a limited number referred to communication and awareness-raising strategies they are developing. A few European countries also mentioned the national clearing-houses they are developing.

32. With regard to capacity-building to implement the Protocol, the great majority of countries mentioned training and capacity-building workshops. Only one country mentioned the creation of a special division within the ministry to deal with ABS along with other biodiversity issues as an outcome of capacity-building efforts. When asked about the measures to implement the strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the countries again referred to their participation in specific projects or implementation of specific measures proposed in the framework.

33. Moreover, the majority of countries have or are receiving external support by way of projects or funding of capacity-building projects, while a smaller number of primarily developed countries are providing funds and technical expertise. It is worth noting that a number of developing countries have been sharing their experiences with other countries and have invited neighbouring countries to participate in capacity-building activities.

34. Finally, countries reported that the greatest challenges were the lack of financial resources to implement the Protocol and the lack of support for capacity-building and awareness-raising. Some countries mentioned the difficulties in communicating about ABS in several local languages and to very diverse audiences. Also, the need to focus capacity-building for stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia and the business community, was mentioned.

III. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS RAISING RESOURCES

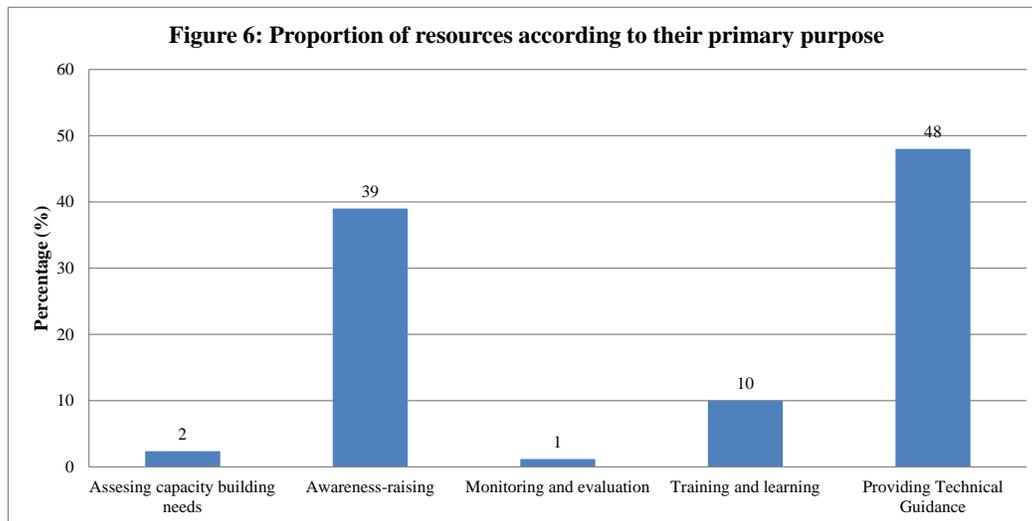
35. Pursuant to requests made in paragraphs 10(a) and 10(b) of [decision NP-1/8](#) and paragraph 12 of [decision NP-1/2](#), and on the basis of advice provided by the Informal Advisory Committee, the Secretariat established a database for capacity-building resources, accessible through the Virtual Library of the [ABS Clearing-House](#), which is meant to display existing ABS tools and resources (including training materials, toolkits/guidelines, good practice case studies, etc.).

36. The following subsection provides an update on existing capacity-building tools and resources¹⁵ on access and benefit-sharing that the Secretariat has compiled, including their primary purpose and thematic coverage. An overview of all the resources is contained in CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/2/Add.2.

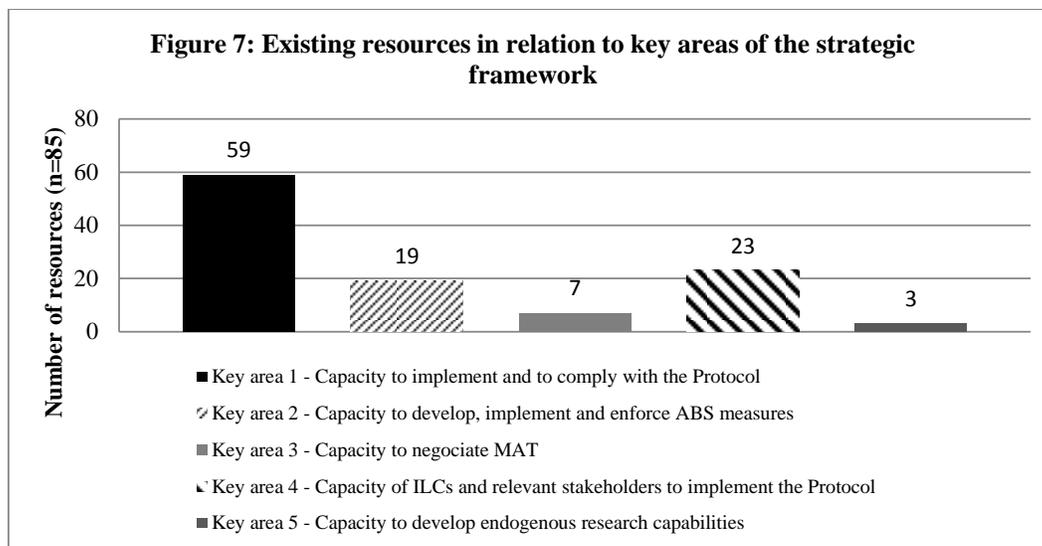
37. According to information gathered by the Secretariat by 8 February 2018, there are 84 resources related to capacity-building and awareness-raising on access and benefit-sharing. An additional 28 resources have been added to the list since the latest update prepared for the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in September 2016. It is important to note that only 31 or 37 per cent of these resources have actually been published in the ABS-Clearing House.

38. The majority of the resources are devoted to providing technical guidance (48%) and raising awareness (39%). Only 10 per cent of resources are designed as training or self-paced materials, while 2 per cent is intended to assist Parties and stakeholders in assessing capacity-building needs and/or designing capacity-building initiatives and 1 per cent for monitoring and evaluating capacity-building initiatives and products (see figure 6). There has been no change in the composition of the collection of resources since the latest update provided for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, with the new resources also falling into technical guidance and raising awareness categories.

¹⁵ Capacity-building tools and resources are considered those whose primary intent is to facilitate structured learning, to impart new knowledge and skills through systematic instructive steps and/or to provide guidance on how to perform specific tasks related to access and benefit-sharing.



39. With regard to thematic coverage, key areas 1, 2 and 4 of the strategic framework continue to be well covered by existing capacity-building and awareness-raising resources, while key areas 3 and 5 remain underrepresented (see figure 7). It is important to recognize that, in several cases, one resource may be covering more than one area.



40. In the light of this stock-taking, committee members will be invited to share information on additional existing capacity-building resources that are not currently listed in the table provided in CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/2/Add.2 and will be invited to upload the missing information or new resources in the ABS Clearing-House.

41. It is important to note that the above analysis is based on the information compiled by the Secretariat and is not an exhaustive list of all the ABS capacity-building and awareness material that may be in existence. It does indicate, however, that there has not been much change with respect to previous analyses carried out for the meetings of the Committee and the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Given that the trend has not changed with regard to the types of materials and the areas of capacity-building that they are targeting, the Committee may wish to consider the following:

- (a) Are any resources missing from the table?

- (b) Is there a need for the development of additional resources?
- (c) Is there a need to encourage the development of more resources in key areas 3 and 5 or are existing resources sufficient?
- (d) What suggestions does the Committee have to encourage Parties, international organizations and other stakeholders to upload information on capacity-building and awareness-raising resources on the ABS-Clearing House?

IV. OVERVIEW OF EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

42. For the second meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee, the Secretariat conducted a desk review of emerging experiences and lessons learned from capacity-building and development initiatives relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and invited submissions from organizations involved in capacity-building on ABS.¹⁶ Common elements emerged from this analysis on the following topics: importance of coordination at the national level; importance of engaging key stakeholders; the importance of better financial planning for projects; and of adopting a flexible and adaptable project implementation approach. This compilation was based on a selection of project documents of global and regional initiatives, and, as a result, many of the lessons relate to general project management and not specifically to ABS capacity-building.

43. In the second meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee, members highlighted a number of lessons that were organized under the following headings: awareness-raising; mainstreaming access and benefit-sharing; project design and implementation; and coordination. The members also observed that, to be useful, the experiences and lessons from various initiatives need to be systematically compiled, packaged and shared with relevant actors.

44. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol requested that the Executive Secretary continue to gather and compile information on experiences and lessons learned from capacity-building and development initiatives and seek the advice of the Informal Advisory Committee on how these could best be packaged and disseminated in order to assist in improving the design and implementation of future capacity-building initiatives (NP-2/8, para. 8).

45. In the ABS-Clearing House best practices and lessons learned are being captured under Capacity-Building Initiatives. Question 18 of the common format requests countries and organizations to provide a short summary of the best practices and lessons learned. Of the 73 capacity-building records published on the ABS Clearing-House, only 16 (22%) include a summary of best practices and lessons, which is not surprising as the majority of the projects are still ongoing. To date, most of the lessons reported in the ABS Clearing-House are generic and, in some cases, the field is being used to describe outputs or outcomes. In a limited number of cases, reflection has been made on the approaches to capacity-building or on specific tools used to raise awareness and engage stakeholders. The Committee may wish to discuss possible ways to improve the capturing of lessons in the ABS Clearing-House by including more specific questions to guide submissions.

46. As projects continue to be implemented and are nearing completion it is important to reflect on the types of lessons that could be useful for future initiatives. A simple way of capturing and organizing lessons that could be useful for the design of future projects is to reflect on the different capacity-building approaches, strategies or activities employed by the capacity-building initiatives and ask what has worked well, what did not work and what could be done differently in future ABS projects. This requirement could be built into the project design and also into the terms of reference of project mid-term and final evaluations.

47. Another possibility involves organizing lessons by key area of the strategic framework. This would aid in the analysis of the implementation of the framework and would provide more information to aid the analysis on gaps and overlaps.

¹⁶ See [UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2016/1/2](#), annex II.

48. Finally, the Committee may want to consider the utility of capturing and disseminating lessons which may be relevant for either institutional and/or individual capacity-building making this distinction explicit in the reporting of lessons.

49. In addition to sharing key lessons, Committee members will be invited to share how they are capturing, packaging and disseminating lessons. The Committee will discuss the types of lessons that would be most useful for future project design and will provide advice on how best to compile, package and disseminate them.

V. UPDATE ON CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT

50. Since the second meeting of the Conference of Parties, the Secretariat has continued to support capacity-building and development through various initiatives and activities. A brief overview of these is provided in the following subsections.

A. Capacity-building and development activities

51. As requested in decision NP-2/8, paragraph 9, the Secretariat is continuing to carry out a number of capacity-building activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol during the current biennium (2017-2018), as follows:

(a) With support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the European Union and other partners, the Secretariat and the [International Development Law Organization](#) (IDLO) have launched a new capacity-building programme to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The programme builds on the experience and materials developed in a previous phase (2015-2016) that resulted in the development of eight e-learning modules and the organization of a course delivered through a blended approach in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. The new programme will use the e-learning modules developed in the previous phase and includes the realization of six regional courses to be carried out in 2018. Each course will comprise three components: a mandatory six-week preparatory e-learning session; a five-day intensive face-to-face workshop; and follow-up peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing through an online discussion and networking forum;

(b) The Secretariat has continued to work with the Secretariat of the [International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) (ITPGRFA), [Bioversity International](#) and the [ABS Capacity Development Initiative](#) to promote mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Plant Treaty. This included the development and publication of fact sheets presenting scenarios that may arise at the interface of the two instruments and how national focal points can respond.¹⁷ It also included a tandem workshop for national focal points of the two instruments for countries in South and South-East Asia.¹⁸ A tandem workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean is planned for September 2018. The Secretariat's involvement in these activities is supported by the [Japan Biodiversity Fund](#);

(c) The need for capacity-building for the use of the ABS Clearing-House was stressed by Parties in a number of decisions adopted at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. These decisions underscore the crucial relationship between Parties' information-sharing obligations through the ABS Clearing-House and the successful implementation of the Protocol. In this regard, the Secretariat has been carrying out capacity-building in the following ways:

¹⁷ The fact sheets are currently available in English

(https://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/user_upload/research/research_portfolio/policies_for_crop/Mutually_supportive_implementation_scenarios.pdf) and French

(https://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/user_upload/research/research_portfolio/policies_for_crop/Mutually_Supportive_Implementation_Scenarios_French.pdf), and other languages are planned.

¹⁸ The workshop was held in March 2017 at the International Rice Research Institute, in Los Baños, Philippines, and was organized in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. For more information, see https://www.bioversityinternational.org/treaty_nagoya_workshop_2017/.

- (i) *A proactive outreach campaign to build awareness and increase engagement.* This campaign provides cost-effective, proactive, personalized (by email and phone) and consistent follow-up to support Parties in understanding and complying with their information-sharing obligations under Article 14 of the Protocol. The outreach conducted is tailored to specific needs of countries and current progress in the implementation of the Protocol. Part of the goal of this campaign is to build a relationship and rapport with ABS national focal points and publishing authorities and to encourage a sense of active responsiveness and participation from national focal points;
- (ii) *On-demand technical support.* The ABS Clearing-House help desk has been set up to provide immediate technical support to users of the ABS Clearing-House as they use the website. The live chat application is accessed through the question mark icon available on the lower right corner of every page. When the icon is clicked, users are prompted to chat with a real person based at the Secretariat who can answer questions and provide technical assistance on the ABS Clearing-House or Nagoya Protocol. Each question is recorded and can be added to a knowledge base of frequently asked questions which are made available on the ABS Clearing-House and also used to improve other awareness-raising and capacity-building guidance material;
- (iii) *Organization of workshops and trainings at relevant regional meetings.* The Secretariat of the Convention has provided a number of on-demand capacity-building trainings for the use of the ABS Clearing-House. In general, these trainings are provided remotely (via webinar or Skype). In addition, and in order to maximize impact while minimizing costs, the Japan Biodiversity Fund is supporting the inclusion of an ABS Clearing-House component in relevant global and regional events, meetings or workshops. All trainings are used as an opportunity to disseminate the materials developed. Since the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Secretariat has participated in four awareness-raising activities (one face to face and three remotely) and two face-to-face capacity-building trainings;
- (d) Of specific relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities, in 2017-2018, thanks to continued support from the Japanese Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat will be implementing a “capacity development programme on national arrangements for achieving traditional knowledge elements of Targets 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020” It aims to build capacity among the Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities to develop national action plans for traditional knowledge containing national arrangements to implement obligations arising from Article 8(j) of the Convention and to achieve Aichi Target 18 on traditional knowledge, by 2020, and to contribute to the national implementation of articles of the Nagoya Protocol that are most relevant to the indigenous peoples and local communities, especially Articles 5, 6, 7, 12, and 16. The activities include: (a) an online global forum; and (b) four regional capacity development programmes, for Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and the Pacific.

B. Facilitation for matching the capacity-building and development needs

52. With the financial support from the Republic of Korea the Secretariat has launched the [Bio-Bridge Initiative](#), which aims to catalyse and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to its Protocols on Biosafety (Cartagena Protocol) and on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol). The Bio-Bridge Initiative facilitates technical and scientific cooperation among Parties by:

- (a) Linking Parties that have specific technical and scientific needs with Parties or institutions that are able to provide the necessary technical support and resources to meet those needs through mutual partnerships;
- (b) Creating a space for countries and institutions to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned with each other.

53. During the last meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities were invited to make use of the tools developed, including those under the Bio-Bridge Initiative, to assess their capacity-building and development needs and submit related requests for assistance, for possible matching with existing opportunities for support relating to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

54. In October and November of 2017, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened three regional Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) round tables, for Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to promote awareness of the initiative and facilitate interaction between Parties requiring technical assistance and Parties and/or organizations that could offer such assistance. Furthermore, in response to notification [2016-126](#), in which developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition were invited to submit requests for assistance under the Bio-Bridge Initiative, 31 requests were received. After careful review, 10 proposals were selected, of which 2 are on access and benefit-sharing. The first project, to take place in China, aims to support the inventory and documentation of traditional knowledge associated with biological and genetic resources in a specific region in China, and conduct research to propose a possible ABS model contract. The second project will take place in Morocco and will help build up a coalition of countries willing to take up a leadership role in designing ABS legislative, administrative and policy measures. A complete description of the selected proposals is available at <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>.

C. Developments of the ABS Clearing-House, capacity-building portal and e-learning platform

55. The ABS Clearing-House is a key tool for promoting capacity-building and, in order to facilitate its role as the central hub for sharing ABS information, the Secretariat has developed tools and services that allow for interoperability between computer systems to enable partners to share information in an efficient and automated manner directly on the ABS Clearing-House. Partners interested in using these tools are invited to contact the Secretariat for more information and technical details.

56. In order to optimize the use of the information submitted and enhance capacity-building projects, the Secretariat is developing a capacity-building portal on the ABS Clearing-House. The portal will provide an improved search and map interface dedicated to capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, resources and opportunities (including capacity-building and technical support providers). Drawing on the wealth of information submitted, the interface is designed to invite the user to explore this data graphically through charts, graphs and maps. Currently, statistics such as the number of views or downloads of this capacity-building material are not available. However, progress is being made to improve the tracking of such information, including viewed records and downloaded attachments, on the ABS Clearing-House.

57. The biodiversity e-learning platform is also being used to share self-paced e-learning courses on ABS. Currently the e-learning course developed in collaboration with IDLO on “Establishing Legal Frameworks to Implement the Nagoya Protocol” is available in English, French and Spanish.

58. The Secretariat will make a brief presentation of the capacity-building portal that is under development and will invite Committee members to provide feedback.

VI. POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD TOWARDS ENHANCING THE REPORTING ON CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES AND SHARING OF LESSONS

59. Looking at the way forward, the Committee will be requested to reflect on enhancing the reporting of capacity-building initiatives and resources, the sharing of lessons, the in-depth examination of specific issues, and the enhancement of coordination in support of capacity-building and development on ABS.

60. The previous sections highlight the situation with regard to capacity-building initiatives, capacity-development resources and the lessons learned that have been compiled to date. One of the main challenges faced by the Secretariat in taking stock, monitoring progress and identifying limitations is that many initiatives and resources are not being uploaded to the ABS-Clearing House, and, for the initiatives

that are there, information is missing and/or not updated. As a result, the Secretariat may not be capturing all the relevant activities and resources. This limitation has a direct impact on the quality of the information available for the analysis related to the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development. It also limits the ability of the Committee to identify neglected key areas or regions where a more proactive and strategic approach may be needed or to coordinate in countries which benefit from multiple projects.

61. To address these limitations, the Committee is invited to consider the following proposals:

(a) Include in the project design a requirement to upload the capacity-building project along with its results in the ABS Clearing-House. It is important that these records be updated once a year;

(b) Project documents should explicitly indicate which key areas of the strategic framework the project is covering;

(c) The Committee may want to share additional recommendations that could increase publishing records in the ABS Clearing-House and enhance the quality of the information on capacity-building initiatives and resources published.

62. With regard to capturing, packaging and disseminating experiences and lessons learned, the Committee will be invited to discuss the types of lessons that would be most useful for future project design and provide advice on how best to compile, package and disseminate them. In addition, the Committee is invited to consider the following suggestions:

(a) Whether the common format should be revised for reporting initiatives to separate best practices from lessons learned and include a pair of guiding questions that would result in relevant information for designing future projects;

(b) Incorporate in the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of the projects the capture of lessons as per key area of the strategic framework as well as approaches to capacity-building and development (i.e. peer-to-peer learning; regional approaches, case studies, multi-stakeholder forums, training, forms of institutional capacity-building, etc.);

(c) Build into projects reporting on achievements and lessons regarding individual and institutional capacity-building.

63. The analysis carried out in sections II and III has demonstrated that capacity-building efforts have largely focused on key areas 1 and 2, which aim to build capacities to comply with the Protocol and develop, implement and enforce ABS measures. Key area 4 also appears to be relatively well covered by the capacity-building initiatives, while a lesser number of initiatives have focused keys areas 3 and 5. Despite the number of initiatives focused on key area 4, capacity-building for stakeholders (indigenous peoples and local communities, business and research communities) was highlighted as one of the challenges mentioned in the interim national reports. This challenge has also been mentioned in previous meetings of the Informal Advisory Committee. Given this ongoing and recurring challenge, the Committee may want to consider examining this issue in more depth during a future meeting.

64. Another recurring limitation is the low number of projects being carried out in the CEE region, and the Committee may wish to discuss options for addressing this.

65. Finally, the Committee may wish to further discuss ways of enhancing synergies and coordination among initiatives, as well as ways of addressing gaps in the coverage of existing capacity-building initiatives.
