



ABS CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

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**3rd Meeting of the
Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to the
Nagoya Protocol**
Montreal, Canada, 20-22 March 2018



OVERVIEW*

- SCOPE OF CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS
- MAIN CHALLENGES
- LESSONS FOR FUTURE CAP-BLDG INITIATIVES
- HOW LESSONS ARE CAPTURED
- FUTURE PROJECTS

* the views expressed here are of the presenter only and DO
NOT reflect the views of the ACB as an organization



About ACB

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Who We Are

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), established in 2005, is ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss. It is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) and with regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.

Our Beginnings

ACB's beginnings date back to 1998 when the ten AMS established the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity (ARCBC) Project with funding support from the European Union. The project was implemented with two key objectives: a) intensify biodiversity conservation and b) promote institutional networking among ASEAN countries and between ASEAN and European Union partner organizations. The outcome of the ARCBC Project was viewed as a productive flagship project. Prior to the project's ending, the Environmental Ministers of ASEAN found the need to create an institution that would sustain the gains of the ARCBC Project. In 2005, the Environmental Ministers of ASEAN agreed to establish ACB.



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Our Vision

An ASEAN region whose biodiversity is conserved, sustainably managed and used, and equitably shared for the well-being of its peoples.

Our Mission

To effectively facilitate regional cooperation and deliver capacity building services to the AMS in conserving biodiversity.

Our Goals

- Facilitate coordination and cooperation on regional biodiversity conservation programmes
- Deliver capacity-building services
- Develop regional mechanisms to sustainably manage and protect biodiversity and ecosystems and strengthen ASEAN regional positions in negotiations and in compliance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements
- Impart and deliver to AMS the knowledge and tools on managing biodiversity
- Enhance the linkage between science and policy on biodiversity
- Promote multi-stakeholder and leadership awareness of the values of biodiversity and the actions they can take to conserve it
- Undertake resource generation and mobilization measures for impact activities that will enhance biodiversity conservation in the region
- Enhance ACB's capacity and sustainability as a regional centre of excellence on biodiversity

SCOPE OF CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

- assessment & development of regulatory and institutional frameworks (2015-2016, UNEP-China Fund)
 - *aimed at developing capacity to implement, and comply with the obligations, of NP (Art. 22.4[a])*
 - *aimed at developing capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative, or policy measures on ABS (Art. 22.4[c])*



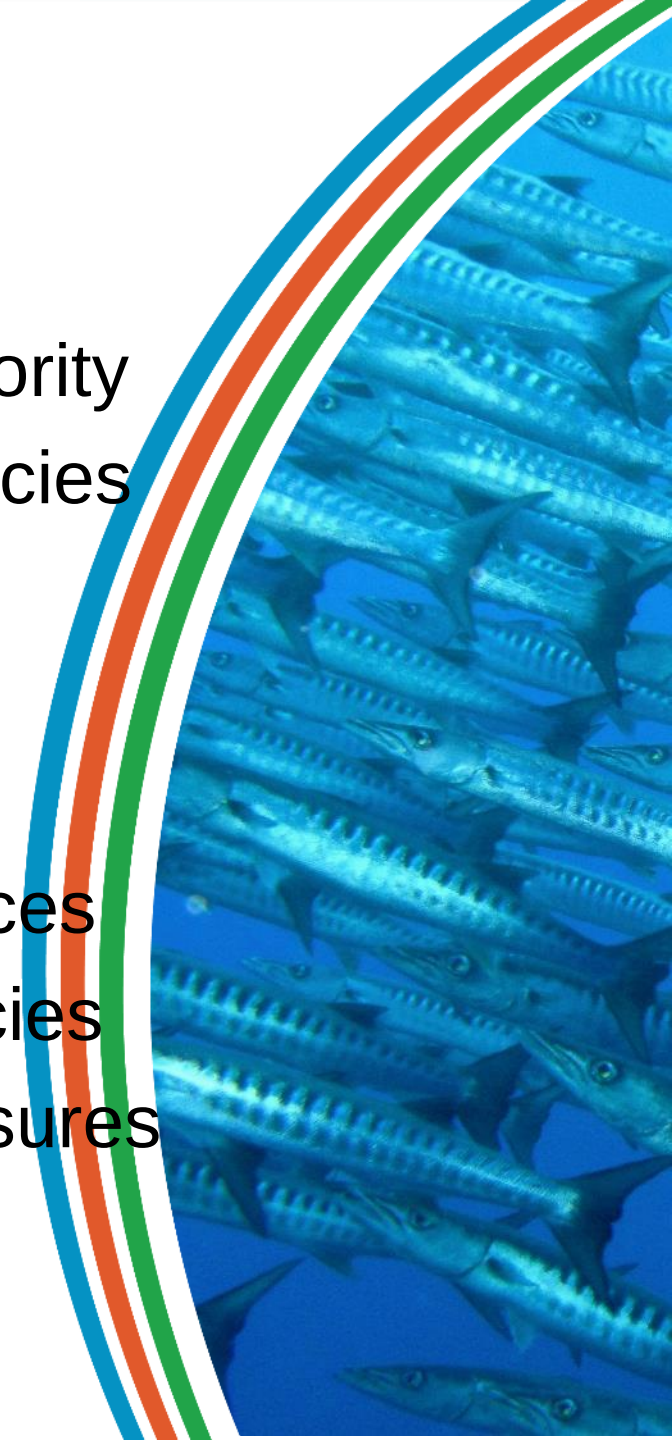
SCOPE OF CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

- pilot-testing of MAT - Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar
 - *aimed at developing capacity to negotiate mutually-agreed terms (Art. 22.4[b])*



MAIN CHALLENGES

- the diffused nature of the subject, making the authority over it spread out among various ministries, agencies & offices WITHIN a country, makes the focusing of capacity-building efforts difficult
- given that frameworks dealing with natural resources exploitation are already in place, making the agencies aware that they already have the basic ABS measures in place, will have to be repeated again and again



LESSONS (1)

- determining legal certainty, clarity and transparency in existing access regulations can be done via a thorough assessment of what is currently in place
- determination of the appropriate benefit-sharing scheme is up to the country to decide
- tracking utilization is difficult, but it must be done



LESSONS (2)

- Nagoya Protocol's interface with ITPGRFA, etc keeps on coming up, raised by ASEAN member-states, eventually they will have to be dealt with
- the context of ASEAN makes it difficult to deal upfront with the issue of TK but ASEAN member-states are aware of the issue's importance



HOW LESSONS ARE CAPTURED

- via groups or core groups who will replicate the efforts
- making content viral
- expansion to other stakeholder groups
- extent of the development of a country's institutional and regulatory framework



FUTURE

- design capacity-building programs that are embedded on what the AMS are currently doing
- update ABS awareness and understanding for AMS to be able to deal with multiple challenges - synthetic biology, digital sequence information, etc
- keep up with indigenous peoples' rights



CAPACITY-BUILDING CONCERNS (1)

- **Singapore** : not being a party to the Protocol, there are policy and capacity building considerations if Singapore were to become a Party to Nagoya Protocol.
- **Malaysia** : plans to do a few series of capacity building sessions with the stakeholders before the Biodiversity Act can be implemented.



CAPACITY-BUILDING CONCERNS

Vietnam : a program for “Capacity building on the management of access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization for 2016-2025” (Decision No. 1141/QD-TTg dated June 27, 2016 of Prime Minister) has been adopted. At the moment, activities on the ground have now been planned for implementation.

- The main challenge is to introduce about ABS and its fair and equitable sharing from utilization of GRs. Hence, more intensive activities for capacity building for managerial sectors at all levels and awareness raising of the communities and researchers are most important for success implementation and enforcement of ABS regulations in the country.





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