



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General

30 April 2026

English only

Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Seventh meeting

Nairobi, 4–12 August 2026

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol

Analysis of the information published in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in decision [NP-5/5](#) agreed to the methodology for the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol on the basis of the elements and sources of information included in the annex to the decision. Element (g) addresses the review of implementation and operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including number of access and benefit-sharing measures made available; number of countries that have published information on their competent national authorities; number of published internationally recognized certificates of compliance; and number of published checkpoint communiqués (Article 14).

2. The present document contributes to the review of the implementation and operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House). It provides an analysis of the published information and information from reports of meetings relevant to the ABS Clearing-House. Section II contains the analysis of the national records, reference records and ABS Clearing-House website traffic. Lastly, some of the main conclusions from the analysis are contained in section III.

II. Information published in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

3. The ABS Clearing-House plays a central role in the effective implementation of the Protocol, and the information published therein is intended to support the ABS Clearing-House's three core objectives, which are to: facilitate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; support compliance and assist in monitoring the utilization of genetic resources; and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol.

* CBD/SBI/7/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

4. The ABS Clearing-House has two main record categories, national records and reference records.¹ National records are made available and published by Parties, and other governments,² and they take full ownership over the information published. Reference records can be submitted by anyone and are reviewed by the Secretariat for relevance and completeness before publication.

A. National records

5. Sharing information through the ABS Clearing-House is a key obligation for Parties under Article 14 of the Protocol. Making national information available is crucial to facilitate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, support compliance with national ABS rules and procedures, and monitor utilization of genetic resources and has been reiterated consistently across all meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. Multiple decisions³ have not only reaffirmed this obligation but have repeatedly urged Parties to ensure that all mandatory information is published, emphasizing that information-sharing is fundamental to enhancing legal certainty, transparency and the effective implementation of the Protocol. Decision NP-5/4, paragraph 4, noted with concern that many Parties have not yet published in the ABS Clearing-House all mandatory information available at the national level, as required under paragraph 2 of Article 14, and noted in particular the low number of Parties publishing information on the internationally recognized certificates of compliance and checkpoint communiqués.

6. Overall trends show a continued increase in both the number of national records published across all record types, as well as the percentage of Parties publishing national information, as reflected in table 9 of the annex to the present document. At the same time, the number of Parties participating in publishing national records remain uneven across record types. Figure I below illustrates the number of national records by type available in the ABS Clearing-House, as well as the number of Parties that have published at least one record, as at 9 March 2026.

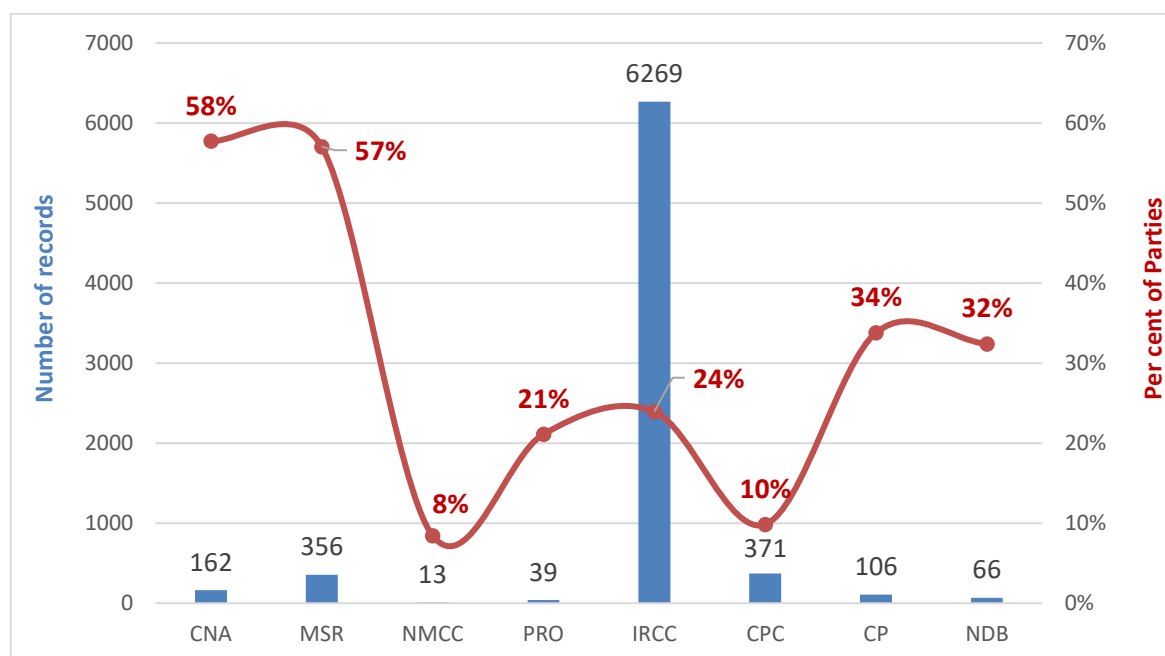
¹ The ABSCH also makes available a subset of Secretariat records from the CHM which includes meetings, news, notifications and statements. These are not included in the analysis.

² Non-Parties are encouraged to use the ABS Clearing-House, however, the records published by non-parties are not included in the analysis of national information.

³ NP-2-1, NP-2/2, NP-2/4, NP-3/1, NP-3/3, NP-4/2, NP-4/4 and NP-5/1, NP-5/4, NP-5/5

Figure 1

Number of national records⁴ and percentage of Parties publishing, as at 9 March 2026



7. Competent national authorities (CNA) and legislative, administrative or policy measures (MSR) show the highest levels of participation among Parties, with just under 60% of Parties having published at least one record in each of these categories. Checkpoints (CP) and national databases and websites (NDB) show lower participation, with fewer than half of Parties having published information, and comparatively fewer records made available overall. National model contractual clauses (NMCC) and procedures (PRO) display both a low number of published records and a low participation with fewer than 20% of Parties contributing information. Internationally recognized certificates of compliance (IRCC) account for the largest number of published records; however, these records have been published by a relatively small proportion of Parties, at around 24%. A similar pattern is observed for checkpoint communiques (CPC), which represent the second largest number of published records but have been published by even fewer Parties, at around 10%.

8. Accurate information is especially important for records that contain contact details or links to documents or websites, which can change frequently. National focal points, competent national authorities and ABS procedures and national websites and databases are some of the record types where accurate and up-to-date information is especially important. Overall, across these record types, about 32% have been updated in the last year, 29% are between one and three years old, and about 22% are older than five years.

1. ABS National Focal Points (ABS-NFP)

9. Article 13 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing requests Parties to designate a national focal point on ABS (ABS-NFP) to be responsible for making information available to applicants seeking access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, for liaising with the Secretariat, and to make their contact details available and notify the Secretariat of any changes. ABS-NFPs serve as key contact points for potential users, especially when national information on the ABS Clearing-House is lacking.

⁴ National records are the records published by Governments important for the operationalization of the Protocol. Information on ABS national focal points are not submitted through the Clearing-House but through official letters to the Secretariat and are stored in a separate database and therefore have not been included.

10. On 9 March 2026, there were only four Parties⁵ that had not designated an ABS-NFP. It was observed that ABS-NFPs records were the most regularly updated, with approximately 40% having been updated within the past 12 months and 77% within the last three years.

11. When examining other CBD focal point designations⁶ held by ABS-NFPs, it was observed that approximately 60% held at least one additional focal point designation beyond their access and benefit-sharing role. 33% of the ABS-NFPs also served as national focal points for the CBD while, 29% overlapped with focal point roles related to the Cartagena Protocol. In addition, approximately 18% held more than five additional focal point designations.

12. Among ABS-NFPs with multiple designations, close to 80% in Asia-Pacific States and in Latin America and the Caribbean States held more than one designation. In comparison, ABS-NFPs from Western Europe and other States held additional designations in roughly 22% of the cases. For both African States and Eastern European States approximately 50% of ABS-NFPs held at least one additional focal point designations.

13. When examining the level of seniority of the ABS-NFPs based on information provided on information provided on official function, it was observed that approximately 13% were at the Ministerial/Director-general (DG) level, around 40% at the Director/Head level, 21% at the Technical/Officer level, and in about 26% of the cases the level of seniority wasn't clear. By region, Asia-Pacific States had the most Ministerial/DG level NFPs, while African States and Latin America and the Caribbean States had the most Director/Head level NFPs, Western Europe and other States had the most Technical/Officer level NFPs, and Eastern European States had an equal number of Director/Head and Technical/Officer level NFPs.

14. Designation of a national ABS Clearing-House publishing authority (PA) is a prerequisite for governments to publish their national information on the ABS Clearing-House. It is the responsibility of the ABS-NFP to either take on the publishing authority role or designate a person to serve as the publishing authority with whom they work closely to validate and publish national information and ensure all available national information published is complete, accurate, up-to-date, and is made available in a timely manner. Three Parties⁷ currently do not have publishing authorities designated.

2. Competent National Authorities (CNAs)

15. As of 9 March 2026, 82 (58%) Parties have published 162 CNAs in the ABS Clearing-House. CNAs are key national contact points and are also among the most frequently updated records, with about 35% updated over last 12 months and 64% updated within the last three years.

16. As can be seen in Table 5, in Annex I to the document, there has been a significant increase in the number of CNA records published and the number of Parties publishing them over the last 12 months, and for the first time, more than half of all Parties have published at least one CNA. Eastern European States and Latin America and the Caribbean States have made the largest increases, nearly doubling the percentage of Parties publishing at least one CNA over the last year.

17. A total of 16 Parties published more than one CNA. Spain has published 42 different subregional CNAs, and 41 of the 42 Spanish CNAs are referenced as the issuing authority on one or more certificates. A little over half of all CNAs, 53%, are referenced as the issuing authority on one or more certificates (IRCC).

⁵ Afghanistan, Myanmar, Slovakia, and Solomon Islands.

⁶ Examples of CBD focal point designations: ABS National Focal Point, BCH National Focal Point, CBD National Focal Point, CBD Secondary National Focal Point, Cartagena Protocol National Focal Point, Clearing-House Mechanism National Focal Point, Emergency Measures (Article 17) Contact Point, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation National Focal Point, Global Taxonomy Initiative National Focal Point, Programme of Work on Protected Areas National Focal Point, Resource Mobilization Focal Point, SBSTTA National Focal Point, Traditional Knowledge National Focal Point.

⁷ Afghanistan, Botswana and Syrian Arab Republic.

3. **Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing (MSR, Measures)**

18. As of 9 March 2026, 81(57%) Parties have published at least one measure for a total of 356 records in the ABS Clearing-House. Over the last five years, measures have experienced modest but steady growth both in the number of records published and the number of Parties publishing them across all regions.

19. Nearly 77% of the measures recorded were identified as legally binding. An examination of the entry- into-force date reported in these records indicate that many measures predate the Nagoya Protocol, and about 50% having entered into force in or before 2014, and a further 25% of those having entered into force in or before 2010.

20. Examining the types of measures published, it was observed that about 50% were identified as laws, 30% were regulatory or administrative measures, and 10% were policy, strategy, or action plans. Notably, no community protocols, procedures or customary laws have been published as national ABS measures.

21. With regard to their jurisdiction, most measures have been identified as national, and only three Parties⁸ have published sub-national measures and no Parties have published community level measures.⁹

22. With regard to the languages of the documents attached to measure records, the majority approximately 70%, are available in one of the six official languages of the United Nations, with around 30% in English. In addition, about 23% of measures records include a courtesy translation, of which approximately 75% are available in English.

23. When examining the key elements used to describe the measures and to identify the relevant provisions applicable to those elements, it was observed that 29% of records indicated that key elements were not applicable. A review of a subset of these records, however, suggests that key elements may in fact be applicable in some cases and could require review and updating by the relevant Parties.

4. **National Model Contractual Clauses (NMCC)**

24. National model contractual clauses were developed to increase the visibility of this important part of the national framework. However, as of 9 March 2026, only 12 (8%) Parties have published information on national model contractual clauses through this specific record format.

25. In some cases, national model contractual clauses have been included as part of the ABS measure records. As of 9 March 2026, 28 it was observed that ABS measures and several reference records may also include information on national model contractual clauses. More efforts by the Secretariat may be needed to better organize and present this information coherently.

5. **ABS Procedures (PRO, procedure)**

26. Procedures were introduced in the ABS Clearing-House in 2018 to enhance the visibility of and complement the information contained in records on ABS measures as explanatory information. This record type is intended to offer practical information and clear step-by-step guidance to users on applicable rules and requirements and support compliance with access and benefit-sharing obligations.

27. Several past decisions¹⁰ of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, for example, NP-3/3, NP-4/4 and NP-5/4 have repeatedly urged Parties to publish this information on the ABS Clearing-House when available. In addition, the global ABS

⁸ Belgium (5), France (1) and India (20).

⁹ Malta has published one community level measure; however, it may be more accurately labeled a regional level measure.

¹⁰NP-3/3 paragraph 4. Urges Parties to provide information on their national access and benefit-sharing procedures through the voluntary common format on procedures, as available in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House. This paragraph has been recalled in decisions NP-4/4 and NP-5/4.

workshops held in 2019, and in 2024, as well as the fourth (2019) and fifth (2024) meetings of the informal advisory committee to the ABS Clearing-House, have also highlighted the usefulness and value in providing information and practical guidance aimed at users to support understanding of, and compliance with, ABS rules and requirements.

28. As of 9 March 2026, 30 Parties (21%) have published at least one procedure for a total of 39 records. The number of Parties publishing this information has almost doubled over the last four years, from 14 Parties (10%) in 2022.

29. With regard to the age of the records, approximately 28% have been updated within the last 12 months, and 54% within the last three years, and 30% were published five or more years ago.

30. Further analysis indicates that all procedures relate to access. Approximately 60% of the procedures specify that an application fee is required. Information on the average duration of the application is not provided in about 66% of the records. Among procedures that do include this information eight indicate the average application process typically takes between one and three months, five indicate a duration of between three and six months, and one indicates on average duration of between six and twelve months.

31. Five Parties have published different ABS procedures in separate ABS Clearing-House records, which is a good practice. These procedure records cover: commercial use, non-commercial use, use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and the use of genetic resources in cases of emergency.

32. Looking at the language of the procedure records, it was found that 65% are available in English, 39% in Spanish, 28% in French, 5% in Russian, 3% Arabic, and 3% Chinese.

6. Monitoring utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House and the internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC, certificate), checkpoints (CP), and the checkpoint communique (CPC, communiques)

33. The internationally recognised certificates of compliance, checkpoints and checkpoint communiques play key roles in the Protocol's system for monitoring utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House. Historically, understanding of how this system works and the role each record type plays in the operationalization of this system at the national level has been a challenging issue for many Parties.

34. In subparagraph 21 (c) of decision NP-3/1, the Executive Secretary was requested to continue providing technical assistance for the submission of information on the ABS Clearing-House, including through increasing the understanding of the functioning of the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources. In response, the Secretariat organized two global ABS capacity-building workshops¹¹ in 2019, and again in 2024 that primarily focused on monitoring utilization through the ABS Clearing-House.

35. Key findings from the 2019 workshop highlighted a widespread lack of understanding, as well as instances of misunderstanding relating to these record types and the operationalization of national systems to monitor utilization, in particular with regard to the function of checkpoints and use of the checkpoint communiques.

36. In preparation for the 2024 workshop, the Secretariat sent out a pre-workshop survey to participants, and again, participants requested that the workshop focus on monitoring utilization, highlighting a lack of understanding of the roles of checkpoints, internationally recognized

¹¹ The workshops were financially supported by the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the European Union, the Government of Denmark and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The workshops were attended by a regionally balanced group of about 70 participants, representing about 40 Parties, as well as participants from several other stakeholder groups, including users of genetic resources, indigenous peoples and local communities and capacity-building partner organizations.

certificates of compliance, and checkpoint communiqués. Furthermore, both the workshop report and the evaluation of the workshop indicate that participants consistently identified issues related to monitoring utilization as among the key challenges associated with the use of the ABS Clearing-House. The top three challenges reported in the workshop evaluation by participants were:

- (a) General concerns about the reliability and lack of national information published on the ABS Clearing-House;
- (b) Unclear or a lack of information on how to access genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge;
- (c) A lack of understanding regarding the monitoring utilization through the ABS Clearing-House, including the functioning of checkpoints, and implementation of the compliance-related provisions of the Nagoya Protocol.

7. **Internationally recognized certificates of compliance (IRCC, certificates)**

37. Parties requiring prior informed consent (PIC) are to provide for the issuance of a permit or its equivalent at the time of access as evidence of the decision to grant PIC and of the establishment of mutually agreed terms (MAT) (Article 6, subpara. 3 (e)). This information is to be made available through the ABS Clearing-House as an internationally recognized certificate of compliance in accordance with Article 14, subparagraph 2 (c) of the Nagoya Protocol.

38. The number of Parties that have published at least one certificate has increased from 25 to 34 Parties (24%) over the last four years. While more than six thousand certificates have been published in total, only five Parties account for 83% of all certificates published. Notably, a single Party, particularly active in publishing certificates in earlier years, alone accounts for 57% of the total certificates published.

39. Further analysis of the information indicates that approximately 58% of all published certificates have been granted to domestic users and may be characterised as “internal”. In around 28% of cases, the “entity granted PIC” differs from the country issuing the permit or equivalent, which may be characterised as “external.” In the remaining 14% of cases, the identity of the “entity granted PIC” has been kept confidential and therefore cannot be classified as either internal or external. In addition, most of the internal certificates were published by only two Parties.

40. Given the relatively small number of Parties publishing certificates, the Parties high numbers of certificates published may exert a disproportionate influence on the observed trends and the resulting analysis. By excluding the statistical outliers, specifically the Party accounting for 57% of all certificates, as well as all certificates classified as internal, the analysis can offer a more balanced and global representative perspective on publication patterns.

41. For example, looking at the complete set of certificates, the number of certificates published per year can be seen to be decreasing in recent years. However, this trend is mainly due to a recent decrease in publishing from one high-certificate-publishing Party. When the outliers are excluded, the information reveals a stable and gradually increasing number of both non-commercial and commercial certificates published over time, including a notable recent rise in the number of commercial certificates published. Although only 84 commercial certificates have been published within the last 16 months, this represents a significant increase compared to previous years. Also notably, when outliers are excluded, it was observed that the vast majority, 92% of certificates, are non-commercial and only 6% are commercial.

42. Examining the users (entities granted PIC) referenced on external and commercial certificates it was observed that most users came from the following ten countries: Germany (180), United States of America (147), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (106), France (76), India (56), Japan (35), Switzerland (34), Belgium (31), Canada (26) and Austria (22).

43. When grouping the users (entities granted PIC) referenced on external and commercial certificates by region, it was found that 75% of users come from Western Europe and other States,

15% come from Asia-Pacific States, 4% come from Eastern European States, 4% come from Latin America and the Caribbean States, and 2% come from African States.

44. Further analysis revealed that approximately 500 different users (entities that have been granted PIC) are identified in certificates. When considering these users, a clear distinction can be noticed between the communities accessing genetic resources for commercial and non-commercial purposes. For example, users of external and commercial certificates are mainly private sector companies, multinational and biotech firms,¹² while the users of non-commercial and external certificates are mainly public non-profit research and academic institutions.¹³

45. Looking at all certificates, the top five countries publishing non-commercial certificates are: France (949), India (384), Spain (310), Argentina (234) and Panama (155). The top five countries publishing commercial certificates are: India (1292), South Africa (40), Costa Rica (23), France (15) and Bhutan (13).

46. Again, looking at all certificates, in terms of subject matter, about 60% are for plants, about 35% are divided between microorganisms and animals, and fungi and soil/water samples make up the remaining 5%. Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is identified as the subject matter in 13 certificates.

8. Checkpoints (CP)

47. Under Article 17, Parties are to designate checkpoints (CP) to collect or receive, as appropriate, relevant information to support monitoring utilization and provide it to relevant national authorities, to the Party providing prior informed consent and to the ABS Clearing-House, as appropriate. Article 17, in subparagraph 1 (a) (iv) of the Nagoya Protocol, specifies that checkpoints should be relevant to the utilization of genetic resources, or to the collection of relevant information at, inter alia, any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization.

48. In the report of the fourth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, (ABSCH-IAC) it was noted that some checkpoint records indicated functions not directly related to Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol. Similarly, in the report of its fifth meeting, the Committee highlighted the continued wide variation in information provided by Parties regarding checkpoint responsibilities and underscored the importance of greater clarity on the stages of the value chain at which checkpoints collect information in accordance with Article 17 of the Protocol. The Committee also emphasized the need for further capacity-building and awareness-raising on the system under the Protocol to monitor the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House, including the designation of effective checkpoints to implement Article 17 of the Protocol.

49. The number of checkpoint records published in the ABS Clearing-House has steadily increased; 40 new checkpoint records have been added within the last two years bringing the total to 106 records. The number of Parties making this information available has also increased by 10% over the last two years, raising the percentage of Parties that have published at least one checkpoint to 34% (48 Parties).

¹² Top 10 users referenced on external and commercial certificates include, in order from most to least referenced: Basecamp Research Ltd, BASF, Cosmo International, Ingredients Société par Actions Simplifiée à Associé Unique, Sederma, Chanel Parfums Beaute, S.A.S Company V. MANE FILS, Merck KGaA, Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria, and BioN2 Inc.

¹³ Top 10 users referenced on external and non-commercial certificates, in order of most to least referenced: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Smithsonian Institution, Wellcome Sanger Institute, Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, University of Vienna, Alfred Wegener Institute, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, University of Graz, and Max Planck Society.

50. Approximately half of the 48 Parties publishing checkpoints have published more than one checkpoint, with one Party¹⁴ having published 13 checkpoints. Three Parties¹⁵ have published specific checkpoints for subnational jurisdictions.

9. Checkpoint communiques (communique, CPC)

51. To support monitoring of the utilization of genetic resources, checkpoints collect or receive relevant information from users at appropriate stages of research and development along the ABS value chain, in accordance with Article 17, subparagraph 1 (a) (i) of the Nagoya Protocol. Pursuant to Article 17, subparagraph 1 (a) (iii), such information collected or received by the checkpoint is to be transmitted to relevant national authorities, to the Party providing prior informed consent, and, as appropriate, to the ABS Clearing-House in the form of a checkpoint communique.

52. In the report of its fifth meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee noted the low number of Parties publishing checkpoint communiqués, despite their central role in the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources under the Protocol. The Committee further noted that checkpoint communiqués serve as a tool for communication between the provider country and authorities in user countries, supporting compliance in the user’s jurisdictions. It underscored that increased communication and cooperation between provider and user country authorities are key to supporting the effective implementation of Articles 15 and 16 of the Protocol and to foster mutual trust.

53. As at 9 March 2026, relatively few and only 14 Parties (10%) had published at least one checkpoint communique, and a very concentrated group of only five Parties (4%) are responsible for 90% of all communiques published. For example, in the WEOG, the region with the most CPCs, of all the 309 communiques, more than 90%, comes from only three countries.

54. The top 10 Parties publishing communiques are: Germany (105), France (35), United Kingdom (35), Republic of Korea (28), Japan (27), Austria (8), Denmark (7), Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (7), Switzerland (6) and Argentina (2).

55. Examining the data, indicates that 30% of the communiques are “internal,” meaning the source country of the genetic resources is also the country publishing the communique. In addition, a single Party is responsible for 96% of all internal communiques, and to avoid statistical bias related to the record published by a very small group of Parties,¹⁶ this analysis will exclude internal communiques and focus only on the 262 external communiques published.

56. An in-depth analysis of the information contained in the communiques indicated that 31% reference a specific certificate (IRCC) and another 55% provide some evidence of prior informed consent (PIC) or an ABS permit. About 14% of communique records do not refer to any evidence of PIC.

57. Currently, given the lack of clarity in the checkpoint records it can be difficult to understand of where along the value chain the information for checkpoint communiques was gathered and whether the utilization type relates to commercial or non-commercial use. Therefore, indicating utilization type is at the discretion of the Party publishing the record and limited to the description added to the free text fields of the record. Many records indicate the utilization type in the record’s title. A search of the ABS Clearing-House checkpoint communique records for the word “research” returns 304 results, and this may provide an indication that around 80% of communique records are related to non-commercial utilization. An examination of the certificates referenced in the communiques indicates the usage type in 95% of cases as non-commercial, while the remaining 5% is either commercial or kept confidential.

58. Genetic resources originating from fifty-one different countries were cited in checkpoint communique records, with the top ten most frequently referenced source countries being as follows:

¹⁴ Kenya

¹⁵ Belgium, Sudan and Uganda.

¹⁶ Parties publishing internal communiques are France (105), Peru (2), Dominican Republic (1) and Qatar (1).

Viet Nam (36), Cameroon (29), France (28), Spain (16), Lao People's Democratic Republic (14), Madagascar (13), Peru (12), Benin (9), Brazil (8) and Malawi (7).

10. National websites and databases (NDB)

59. National websites and databases records include information on national clearing-houses, websites, databases, or other online sources that contain national information relevant to ABS.

60. National websites and databases (NDB) records have seen an incremental increase over the past few years, as at 9 March 2026, about one third, 46 Parties, have published 66 records.

61. With regard to the age of these records, around 77% of NDB records are over three years old and using an automated link checking program, it was observed that about 42% of the records contained inaccessible broken links.

B. Reference records

62. In the ABS Clearing-House reference records comprised of four different types of records:

- (a) Virtual library resources, this is “catch-all” type which are mainly capacity-building resources;
- (b) Capacity-building initiatives;
- (c) Model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices and/or standards, coming from Article 19 and 20 of the Protocol;
- (d) Community protocols and procedures and customary laws.

63. Reference records can be submitted by any registered user and are verified for completeness and relevance before being published by the Secretariat, as opposed to national records, which are submitted and published by governments.

64. The analysis of reference records indicates that the number of new records being published per year has generally declined across all reference record types, and only 29 reference records have been published within the last 12 months, and about 65% of those records were directly related to digital sequence information. However, the virtual library resources, community protocols and procedures as well as customary law records have increased incrementally over the past few years.

65. More than half of the reference records are over five years old. In the case of capacity-building initiatives, this proportion increases to 69%, with only one capacity-building initiative having been published within the last three years.

66. With regard to languages in which the records are published the results indicated that, the approximately 90% of all reference records are published in English, followed by 17% in Spanish, 16% in French, and Arabic, Chinese and Russian each represent about 5% of the total reference records.

67. The analysis also highlighted several potential issues and inconsistencies with reference records, which may require further review, updating, and reorganization to more effectively contribute to the implementation of the Protocol, including, for example:

- (a) The lack of capacity-building initiatives being published;
- (b) Many of the terms used to categorize virtual library records (VLR) are nearly empty and may include excessive overlap or redundancy, for example, “guide” as compared to “technical guide”;
- (c) Model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices and/or standards, community protocols and procedures and customary laws may contain information that should be national information and some overlap with information found in the virtual library records.

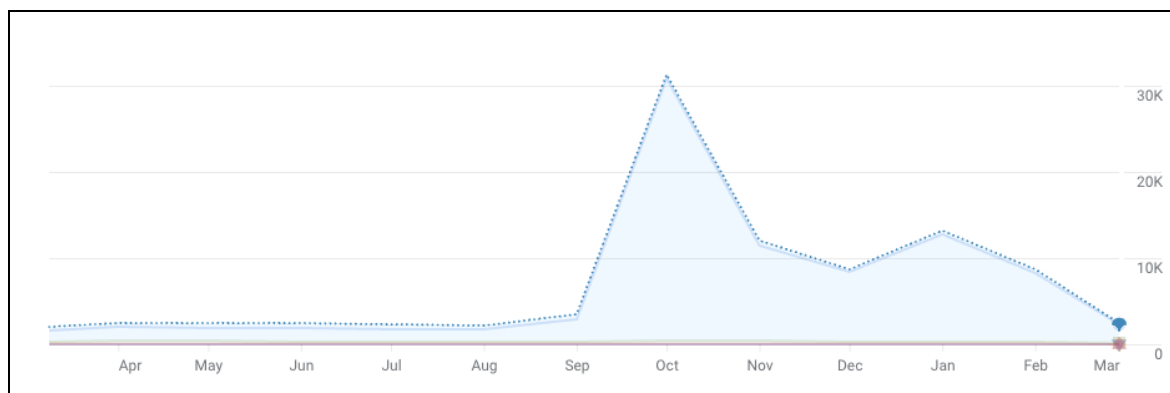
C. ABS Clearing-House Website Traffic

68. In terms of visitor traffic, the ABS Clearing-House saw roughly 2500 visitors per month between April 2025 and September 2025. This is about a third less than the previous year during the same period. However, October 2025 saw a major spike in visitor traffic, which has since declined. That spike pushed the yearly average up to about 7500 per month, with visitors remaining on the website for an average duration of 1 minute and 24 seconds per visit. While not conclusive, this bump may be due to preparations to meet the national reporting deadline of 28 February 2026, and it is likely to return to around 2500 monthly visitors in the coming months.

69. Most visitors had IP addresses originating from one of the following ten countries, in decreasing order: China, Singapore, United States of America, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Japan, India, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Brazil.

Figure II

Website visitor traffic between 9 March 2025 and 9 March 2026



III. Conclusions

70. Overall, the volume of national records published in the ABS Clearing-House has continued to increase steadily over the years. The number of Parties publishing ABS procedures has nearly doubled over the last four years, rising from 10% to 21%, this positive trend may reflect a growing awareness of the value of these records in supporting user compliance. Similarly, the percentage of Parties publishing certificates has also grown from 18% to 24% over the same period. While these numbers remain relatively low, the upward trend may reflect a growing operationalization of the Protocol and increase in ABS engagement and readiness at the national level for some Parties.

71. However, in general, the proportion of Parties publishing national records remains unevenly distributed across national record types and regions. This disparity is particularly noticeable in the records most critical to the Protocol's system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, namely the internationally recognized certificates of compliance and checkpoint communiqués. For example, only five of Parties account for 83% certificates published. Even more striking, only 5 Parties account for 90% of all checkpoint communique records published and, in addition, approximately one third of these are "internal" and therefore do not contribute to monitoring of the utilization of genetic resources across borders or at the international level.

72. It was also observed that, when statistical outliers are excluded, 92% of the certificates published relate to non-commercial utilization. Similarly, a very high proportion of checkpoint communiques published relate to research activities, also likely to reflecting non-commercial utilization. Taken together, these patterns may point to limited practical implementation of ABS measures in relation to commercial utilization. Furthermore, reports of the ABSCH-IAC and findings from the global ABS capacity-building workshops have consistently documented a persistent lack of

understanding of the Protocol's system for monitoring utilization, in particular the role and function of the checkpoint and the checkpoint communiques within that system.

73. Finally, the analysis also highlights several issues related to reference records. The overall number of reference records has declined across nearly all categories. Record on capacity-building initiatives are of particular concern, with only one record published in the last three years. In addition, more than half of all reference records are over five years old, which may raise questions regarding their continued relevance and accuracy. The categorization of reference records also reveals a few inconsistencies, including overlapping terminology, potential duplication across record types, and instances where records may be more appropriately classified as national record. A comprehensive review and refinement of reference records, in both content and presentation, could enhance their effectiveness in supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Annex

Information generated to assist with the analysis

The tables below were generated to assist with the analysis, and although not all table were used in the analysis they have been included here for reference.

Table 1

Number of certificate (IRCC) records and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

Certificates (IRCC)		As at 9 March 2026		As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	
Africa	359 (+102) ¹⁷	11 (22%) ¹⁸	257 (+79)	8 (16%)	178 (+7)	6 (12%)	171 (+32)	6 (12%)	
Asia and the Pacific	3790 (+87)	5 (12%)	3703 (+83)	5 (12%)	3620 (+241)	5 (12%)	3379 (+888)	5 (12%)	
Central and Eastern Europe	26 (+6)	2 (15%)	20 (+3)	2 (15%)	17 (+2)	2 (15%)	15 (+3)	2 (15%)	
Latin America and the Caribbean	789 (+403)	11 (55%)	386 (+84)	11 (55%)	302 (+115)	10 (53%)	187 (+85)	9 (47%)	
Western Europe and Others	1305 (+176)	5 (28%)	1129 (+160)	4 (22%)	969 (+155)	4 (22%)	814 (+147)	3 (18%)	
Total	6269 (+774)	34 (24%)	5495 (+409)	30 (21%)	5086 (+520)	27 (19%)	4566 (+1155)	25 (18%)	

Table 2

Number of checkpoint communiqué (CPC) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

Checkpoint Communiqués (CPC)								
As at 9 March 2026			As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)
Asia and the Pacific	57 (+36)	3 (7%)	21 (+6)	2 (5%)	15 (+3)	2 (5%)	12 (+6)	2 (5%)
Central and Eastern Europe	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	5 (+2)	3 (15%)	3 (+0)	2 (10%)	3 (+1)	2 (11%)	2 (+2)	1 (5%)
Western Europe and Others	309 (+74)	8 (44%)	235 (+72)	7 (39%)	163 (+95)	7 (39%)	68 (+18)	5 (29%)
Total	371 (+112)	14 (10%)	259 (+78)	11 (8%)	181 (+99)	11 (8%)	82 (+26)	8 (6%)

¹⁷ In parenthesis is the change in number of records from the previous year.

¹⁸ In parenthesis is the percentage of all Parties that have published records.

Table 3

Number of checkpoints (CP) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

Checkpoints (CP)		As at 9 March 2026		As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions		Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa		38 (+6)	11 (22%)	32 (+18)	8 (16%)	14 (+0)	5 (10%)	14 (+5)	5 (10%)
Asia and the Pacific		13 (+3)	5 (12%)	10 (+0)	4 (10%)	10 (+0)	4 (10%)	10 (+0)	4 (10%)
Central and Eastern Europe		22 (+6)	9 (69%)	16 (+1)	8 (62%)	15 (+0)	7 (54%)	15 (+1)	7 (54%)
Latin America and the Caribbean		13 (+2)	8 (40%)	11 (+2)	6 (30%)	9 (+1)	5 (26%)	8 (+1)	4 (21%)
Western Europe and Others		20 (+1)	15 (83%)	19 (+1)	14 (78%)	18 (+5)	13 (72%)	13 (+0)	11 (65%)
Total		106 (+18)	48 (34%)	88 (+22)	40 (28%)	66 (+6)	34 (24%)	60 (+7)	31 (22%)

Table 4

Number of ABS Measures (MSRs) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

ABS Measures (MSR)		As at 9 March 2026		As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions		Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa		88 (+10)	27 (55%)	78 (+9)	25 (51%)	69 (+3)	24 (49%)	66 (+1)	21 (44%)
Asia and the Pacific		58 (+10)	11 (26%)	48 (+1)	9 (21%)	47 (+2)	8 (19%)	45 (+1)	7 (17%)
Central and Eastern Europe		53 (+7)	12 (92%)	46 (+1)	11 (85%)	45 (+0)	11 (85%)	45 (+2)	11 (85%)
Latin America and the Caribbean		59 (+5)	13 (65%)	54 (+5)	12 (60%)	49 (+3)	11 (58%)	46 (+3)	10 (53%)
Western Europe and Others		98 (+5)	18 (100%)	93 (+5)	17 (94%)	88 (+5)	17 (94%)	83 (+5)	16 (94%)
Total		356 (+37)	81 (57%)	319 (+21)	74 (52%)	298 (+13)	71 (50%)	285 (+12)	65 (47%)

Table 5

Number of Competent National Authorities (CNAs) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

Competent National Authorities (CNAs)		As at 9 March 2026		As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions		Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa		28 (+7)	25 (51%)	21 (+5)	19 (39%)	16 (+3)	14 (29%)	13 (+1)	11 (23%)
Asia and the Pacific		21 (+7)	13 (31%)	14 (+0)	9 (21%)	14 (+1)	9 (21%)	13 (+2)	9 (22%)
Central and Eastern Europe		15 (+6)	12 (92%)	9 (+2)	7 (54%)	7 (+0)	6 (46%)	7 (+2)	6 (46%)
Latin America and the Caribbean		29 (+15)	17 (85%)	14 (+4)	9 (45%)	10 (+1)	8 (42%)	9 (+5)	7 (37%)
Western Europe and Others		69 (+24)	15 (83%)	45 (+19)	13 (72%)	26 (+11)	11 (61%)	15 (+7)	7 (41%)
Total		162 (+59)	82 (58%)	103 (+30)	57 (40%)	73 (+16)	48 (34%)	57 (+17)	40 (29%)

Table 6

Number of national websites and databases (NDBs) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

National Websites and Databases (NDB)								
As at 9 March 2026			As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa	14 (+1)	12 (24%)	13 (+2)	11 (22%)	11 (+0)	9 (18%)	11 (+2)	9 (19%)
Asia and the Pacific	10 (+4)	7 (17%)	6 (+0)	6 (14%)	6 (+0)	6 (14%)	6 (+0)	6 (15%)
Central and Eastern Europe	4 (+1)	4 (31%)	3 (+0)	3 (23%)	3 (+0)	3 (23%)	3 (+1)	3 (23%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	16 (+1)	10 (50%)	15 (+4)	10 (50%)	11 (+2)	9 (47%)	9 (+2)	7 (37%)
Western Europe and Others	22 (+1)	13 (72%)	21 (+0)	12 (67%)	21 (+1)	12 (67%)	20 (+2)	12 (71%)
Total	66 (+8)	46 (32%)	58 (+6)	42 (30%)	52 (+3)	39 (28%)	49 (+7)	37 (27%)

Table 7

Number of ABS Procedures (PRO) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

ABS Procedures (PRO)								
As at 9 March 2026			As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa	16 (+3)	12 (24%)	13 (+3)	10 (20%)	10 (+2)	8 (16%)	8 (+2)	6 (12%)
Asia and the Pacific	5 (+2)	5 (12%)	3 (+1)	3 (7%)	2 (+0)	2 (5%)	2 (+0)	2 (5%)
Central and Eastern Europe	2 (+1)	2 (15%)	1 (+0)	1 (8%)	1 (+0)	1 (8%)	1 (+0)	1 (8%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	10 (+4)	8 (40%)	6 (+2)	6 (30%)	4 (+1)	4 (21%)	3 (+0)	3 (16%)
Western Europe and Others	6 (+1)	3 (17%)	5 (+1)	2 (11%)	4 (+0)	2 (11%)	4 (+0)	2 (12%)
Total	39 (+11)	30 (21%)	28 (+7)	22 (15%)	21 (+3)	17 (12%)	18 (+2)	14 (10%)

Table 8

Number of National Model Contractual Clauses (NMCC) and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

National Model Contractual Clauses (NMCC)								
As at 9 March 2026			As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa	7 (+3)	6 (12%)	4 (+2)	3 (6%)	2 (+0)	2 (4%)	2 (+0)	2 (4%)
Asia and the Pacific	2 (+2)	2 (5%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)
Central and Eastern Europe	2 (+2)	2 (15%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	1 (+0)	1 (5%)	1 (+0)	1 (5%)	1 (+1)	1 (5%)	0 (+0)	0 (0%)
Western Europe and Others	1 (+0)	1 (6%)	1 (+0)	1 (6%)	1 (+0)	1 (6%)	1 (+0)	1 (6%)
Total	13 (+7)	12 (8%)	6 (+2)	5 (4%)	4 (+1)	4 (3%)	3 (+0)	3 (2%)

Table 9

Number of national records and the number of Parties publishing at least one record at yearly intervals since 2023

All National Record Types	As at 9 March 2026		As at 9 March 2025		As at 9 March 2024		As at 9 March 2023	
Regions	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one	Number of records	Parties with at least one
Africa	550 (+132)	32 (65%)	418 (+118)	30 (61%)	300 (+15)	29 (59%)	285 (+43)	24 (50%)
Asia and the Pacific	3956 (+151)	15 (36%)	3805 (+91)	12 (29%)	3714 (+247)	11 (26%)	3467 (+897)	11 (27%)
Central and Eastern Europe	124 (+29)	12 (92%)	95 (+7)	11 (85%)	88 (+2)	11 (85%)	86 (+9)	11 (85%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	922 (+432)	17 (85%)	490 (+101)	16 (80%)	389 (+125)	14 (74%)	264 (+98)	14 (74%)
Western Europe and Others	1830 (+282)	18 (100%)	1548 (+258)	18 (100%)	1290 (+272)	18 (100%)	1018 (+179)	17 (100%)
Total	7382 (+1026)	94 (66%)	6356 (+575)	87 (61%)	5781 (+661)	83 (59%)	5120 (+1226)	77 (56%)

Table 10

All certificates by usage at yearly intervals since 2017

Usage type	As at 9 March 2026	As at 9 March 2025	As at 9 March 2024	As at 9 March 2023	As at 9 March 2022	As at 9 March 2021	As at 9 March 2020	As at 9 March 2019	As at 9 March 2018	As at 9 March 2017
Confidential	1942 (+13)	1929 (+43)	1886 (+130)	1756 (+437)	1319 (+470)	849 (+365)	484 (+346)	138(+87)	51 (+22)	29
Commercial	1471 (+64)	1407 (+43)	1364 (+41)	1323 (+191)	1132 (+533)	599 (+325)	274 (+173)	101 (+48)	53 (+35)	18
Non-Commercial	2878 (+696)	2182 (+322)	1860 (+350)	1510 (+518)	992 (+237)	755 (+293)	462 (+340)	122 (+78)	44 (+38)	6
Commercial and non-commercial	22 (+3)	19 (+0)	19 (+0)	19 (+6)	13 (+6)	7 (+1)	6 (+2)	4 (+2)	2 (+1)	1
Total	6269 (+770)	5499 (+408)	5091 (+521)	4570 (+1140)	3430 (+1234)	2196 (+982)	1214 (+857)	357 (+211)	146 (+94)	52

Table 11

Certificates by usage at yearly intervals since 2017 (excluding outliers¹⁹)

Usage type	As at 9 March 2026	As at 9 March 2025	As at 9 March 2024	As at 9 March 2023	As at 9 March 2022	As at 9 March 2021	As at 9 March 2020	As at 9 March 2019	As at 9 March 2018	As at 9 March 2017
Confidential	5 (+3)	2 (+0)	2 (+0)	2 (+1)	1 (+0)	1 (+1)	0 (+0)	0 (+0)	0 (+0)	0
Commercial	46 (+17)	29 (+13)	16 (+4)	12 (+3)	9 (+3)	6 (+3)	3 (+0)	3 (+1)	2 (+1)	1
Non-Commercial	701 (+194)	507 (+94)	413 (+90)	323 (+65)	258 (+49)	209 (+65)	144 (+122)	22 (+10)	12 (+10)	2
Commercial and non-commercial	4 (+0)	4 (+0)	4 (+0)	4(+0)	4 (+1)	3 (+0)	3 (+0)	3(+1)	2 (+1)	1
Total	748 (+214)	534 (+107)	427 (+94)	333 (+69)	264 (+51)	213 (+69)	144 (+122)	22 (+10)	12 (+10)	2

Table 12

Internal/external certificates at yearly intervals since 2017¹⁹ Certificates published by India and internal certificates (where the permit granter and grantee are from the same country).

Country of entity granted PIC	As at 9 March 2026	As at 9 March 2025	As at 9 March 2024	As at 9 March 2023	As at 9 March 2022	As at 9 March 2021	As at 9 March 2020	As at 9 March 2019	As at 9 March 2018	As at 9 March 2017
Confidential	1732 (+130)	1602 (+71)	1531 (+109)	1422 (+286)	1136 (+350)	786 (+303)	483 (+315)	168 (+101)	67 (+38)	29 (—)
External	858 (+216)	642 (+126)	516 (+104)	412 (+115)	297 (+62)	235 (+72)	163 (+126)	37 (+16)	21 (+15)	6 (—)
Internal	3679 (+424)	3255 (+211)	3044 (+308)	2736 (+739)	1997 (+822)	1175 (+607)	568 (+416)	152 (+94)	58 (+41)	17 (—)
Total	6269 (+770)	5499 (+408)	5091 (+521)	4570 (+1140)	3430 (+1234)	2196 (+982)	1214 (+857)	357 (+211)	146 (+94)	52 (—)

Table 13
Record age based on date of last update or publication

Record type	< 1 year	1–3 years	3–5 years	5+ years
National records				
ABS National Focal Points	55	51	21	11
Competent National Authorities	57	48	23	35
Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing	36	26	16	215
ABS Procedures	11	10	6	12
Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance	740	962	2382	2185
Checkpoints	16	29	9	52
Checkpoint communiqués	106	180	35	47
National websites and databases	8	7	12	39
National model contractual clauses	7	3	0	3
Reference records				
Virtual library resources	25	91	62	190
Capacity-building initiatives	0	1	31	72
Model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices and/or standards	0	1	2	33
Community protocols and procedures and customary laws	4	7	11	24

Table 14

Number of Parties to the Protocol at yearly intervals since 2016

Nagoya Protocol Parties by Region	As at 9 March 2026	As at 9 March 2025	As at 9 March 2024	As at 9 March 2023	As at 9 March 2022	As at 9 March 2020	As at 9 March 2018	As at 9 March 2016
Regions	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties	Number of Parties
Africa (54)	49 (91%) (+0)	49 (91%) (+0)	49 (91%) (+1)	48 (89%) (+2)	46 (85%) (+1)	45 (83%) (+4)	41 (76%) (+11)	30 (56%) (+30)
Asia and the Pacific (59)	42 (71%) (+0)	42 (71%) (+0)	42 (71%) (+1)	41 (69%) (+1)	40 (68%) (+4)	36 (61%) (+9)	27 (46%) (+6)	21 (36%) (+21)
Central and Eastern Europe (23)	13 (57%) (+0)	13 (57%) (+0)	13 (57%) (+0)	13 (57%) (+1)	12 (52%) (+1)	11 (48%) (+3)	8 (35%) (+4)	4 (17%) (+4)
Latin America and the Caribbean (35)	20 (57%) (+0)	20 (57%) (+1)	19 (54%) (+0)	19 (54%) (+2)	17 (49%) (+2)	15 (43%) (+2)	13 (37%) (+4)	9 (26%) (+9)
Western Europe and Others (31)	18 (58%) (+0)	18 (58%) (+0)	18 (58%) (+1)	17 (55%) (+0)	17 (55%) (+1)	16 (52%) (+1)	15 (48%) (+10)	5 (16%) (+5)
Total	142 (70%) (+0)	142 (70%) (+1)	141 (70%) (+3)	138 (68%) (+6)	132 (65%) (+9)	123 (61%) (+19)	104 (51%) (+35)	69 (34%) (+69)