



ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

# Introduction to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

## Article 14

**Establishes the ABS-CH -  
as part of the CHM**

**Main function - to facilitate  
the exchange of ABS  
relevant information**

Article

**14**

### **THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE AND INFORMATION-SHARING**

1. An Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House is hereby established as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention. It shall serve as a means for sharing of information related to access and benefit-sharing. In particular, it shall provide access to information made available by each Party relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.
2. Without prejudice to the protection of confidential information, each Party shall make available to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House any information required by this Protocol, as well as information required pursuant to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. The information shall include:
  - (a) Legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing;
  - (b) Information on the national focal point and competent national authority or authorities; and
  - (c) Permits or their equivalent issued at the time of access as evidence of the decision to grant prior informed consent and of the establishment of mutually agreed terms.
3. Additional information, if available and as appropriate, may include:
  - (a) Relevant competent authorities of indigenous and local communities, and information as so decided;
  - (b) Model contractual clauses;
  - (c) Methods and tools developed to monitor genetic resources; and
  - (d) Codes of conduct and best practices.
4. The modalities of the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including reports on its activities, shall be considered and decided upon by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol at its first meeting, and kept under review thereafter.

## Article 14

The main information that is to be shared:

1. **ABS Measures**
2. **NFPs**
3. **CNAs**
4. **Permits and their equivalent (IRCC)**

14

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Facilitate the  
implementation  
of the NP

Facilitate exchange of  
relevant information

**The goal  
of the  
ABS-CH**

- ✓ **Access:** legal certainty, clarity, transparency on how to access GR and TK
- ✓ **Benefit-sharing:** opportunities for ABS agreements
- ✓ **Compliance:** monitoring the use of GR

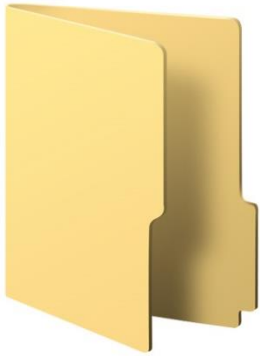
**How does the ABS-CH  
function?**

## Registering functions

- **Standardized publishing procedure** to ensure reliability of information made available through the ABS Clearing-House
- Use of **common formats** and **controlled vocabulary** for submission of information with a view to facilitating consistent and harmonized searches in different languages
- Possible submission **online and offline**

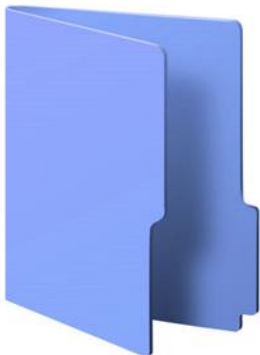
## Common Formats: Two categories of ABS records

### **National Records**



- Legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS
- Competent National Authority/ies
- National ABS Website or Database
- Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (Article 17.2)
- Checkpoint (Article 17.1(a))
- Checkpoint Communiqué (Article 17.1 (a)(iii))
- In progress: Interim national report (Article 29)

### **Reference Records**



- Virtual Library Resource
- In progress: Article 19 and 20 tools
- In progress: Community protocols and customary laws

# Common Formats: Two publishing procedures

## National Records



Drafted by national authorized users

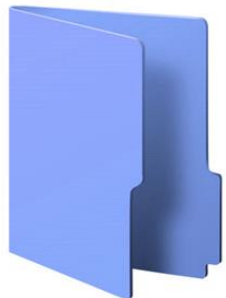
Approved by publishing authority

**ABS-CH**

Public

Published Information Related to ABS

## Reference Records



Drafted by any Registered User

Approved by SCBD

View records  
Search  
Aggregate Information  
Country profiles



**How can I contribute to  
the ABS-CH?**

**How can I benefit from  
the ABS-CH?**

**Governments:** By publishing national information on the ABS-CH, Parties and other governments help:

- **Users:** Find the information they need to access genetic resources and associated TK
  - **Providers:** Find the necessary tools to monitor the utilization of these resources
- ✓ By providing reliable information, the ABS-CH creates opportunities for the development of **ABS agreements and the sharing of benefits**

**Non-Parties** are encouraged to share all relevant ABS information through the ABS-CH

## Private sector and research institutions

- ✓ Find reliable and up-to-date information on how to access GR and TK in the country profiles
- Can contribute to the ABS-CH by sharing **model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices** and access resources shared by others

## Indigenous and local communities

- Can use the ABS-CH to share information on how to access TK:
  - Community protocols, customary laws and procedures, model contractual clauses and competent authorities of ILCs
  - ✓ Providing information will increase the opportunities for the development of ABS agreements and the sharing of benefits
- Can access and contribute to the ABS-CH with **awareness-raising and capacity building** materials on the Nagoya Protocol in their own indigenous languages

## International and non-governmental organizations and others

- Can share information through the **Virtual Library**: (e.g brochures, toolkits, publications, booklets and learning modules)
- ✓ The ABS-CH can become a **central hub of information** related to capacity-building, including initiatives and tools and resources.

## Participate

The ABS-CH will not work without the active participation of Parties and others

### Register information:

- Country: nominate a publishing authority
- Other users: register for a CH account

**Search information:** No need of an account for searching information in the ABS-CH

**Common formats for  
capacity-building**

- Common formats have been developed for sharing information on the **ABS-CH, CHM and BCH**.
  - There is a set of information which is common to all platforms
  - There is a specific information for each of the exchange mechanisms.
  - Make use of agreed controlled vocabulary applied consistently throughout the different common formats and exchange mechanisms.
- **Reference records**
  - Any registered user with a CH account can submit information
  - Secretariat approves the records



## Process forward:

- IAC-CB: Advice to the ES from the CB perspective
- IAC to the ABS-CH and the CHM will jointly provide guidance to the ES on resolution of technical and practical issues (30 October 2015)
- The ES will revise the common formats taking into account guidance received as well as technical requirements for ensuring coherence and compatibility between common formats and CBD exchange mechanisms
- The ES to implement the common formats online and display and analysis of information.
- The ES to analyze information received for COP-MOP-2

## How to ensure that the ABS-CH becomes a reliable source of information on capacity-building?

- Need the participation of countries, ILCs, organizations, and other stakeholders to populate the ABS-CH.
- The SCBD offers technical support for submitting information in the ABS-CH (webinar, helpdesk, personalized technical support, guidance materials)