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

Second meeting

Montreal, Canada, 15-17 June 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda *

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

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (COP-MOP) adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (decision NP-1/8). The COP-MOP also established an informal advisory committee (IAC) to provide advice to the Executive Secretary on matters of relevance to the assessment of the effectiveness of the strategic framework.

2. The terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Committee, as stipulated in decision I/8, annex II, include providing advice regarding the following:

(a) Stocktaking 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 e-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 Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and from other sources;

* UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2016/1/1.

(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.

3. Pursuant to the above decision, the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee was held in Montreal from 15 to 17 September 2015. At the first meeting, the Committee reviewed, under agenda item 3, the status and scope of recently completed, ongoing and planned capacity-building and development initiatives on access and benefit-sharing and discussed major overlaps and gaps and possible options for addressing them. The Committee also discussed and provided advice on the draft common format for capacity-building and development initiatives (activities, projects and programmes). Furthermore, Committee members exchanged views on how to improve documentation and the sharing of information on experiences and lessons learned.

4. The present document has been prepared 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 presents an update on recent developments since the last meeting of the Committee regarding capacity-building initiatives. Section III provides an overview of emerging experiences and lessons learned with respect to capacity-building and development initiatives on access and benefit-sharing. Finally, section IV highlights issues for further consideration and suggestions for the way forward.

5. To supplement the information contained in the present document, Committee members will be invited to provide updates on their access and benefit-sharing capacity-building initiatives as well as emerging experiences and lessons learned. The Committee will then further discuss ways of enhancing synergies, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the capacity-building strategic framework, taking into account the recent developments, experiences and lessons learned.

II. UPDATES ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

6. At the first meeting of the Committee, the Secretariat presented an overview of known capacity-building and development initiatives relating to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol ([UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](#)). Since then, the Secretariat has received information about four other initiatives, increasing the total number of known initiatives from 67 to 71. These are:

(a) The ongoing project in Ethiopia on “Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development” implemented by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and funded by the Darwin Initiative. The project is examining how the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture operate and interrelate in Ethiopia, exploring utilization and chains of custody, addressing bottlenecks, and will produce recommendations for simplified ABS measures;

(b) The approved South African project entitled “Development of value chains for products derived from genetic resources in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the national biodiversity economy strategy”, to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the South African Department of Environmental Affairs, with expected funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project seeks to strengthen value chains for products derived from genetic resources that contribute to the equitable sharing of benefits and the conservation of biodiversity. It focuses on Key Areas 3, 4, and 5 of the strategic framework;

(c) The proposed project entitled “Strengthening capacities for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal”, to be implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and executed by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal, with expected funding from GEF. The project seeks to build capacity of key stakeholders at national, subnational and local levels to mainstream and implement ABS in Nepal. It focuses on Key Areas 2, 3, and 4 of the strategic framework;

(d) The proposed project entitled “Institutional capacity strengthening for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and awareness on biosafety in Uganda”, to be implemented by UNEP and

executed by the National Environment Management Authority and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, with expected funding from GEF. The project seeks to strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to conduct an effective awareness campaign on Biosafety in Uganda. It focuses on Key Areas 1, 2, and 4 of the strategic framework.

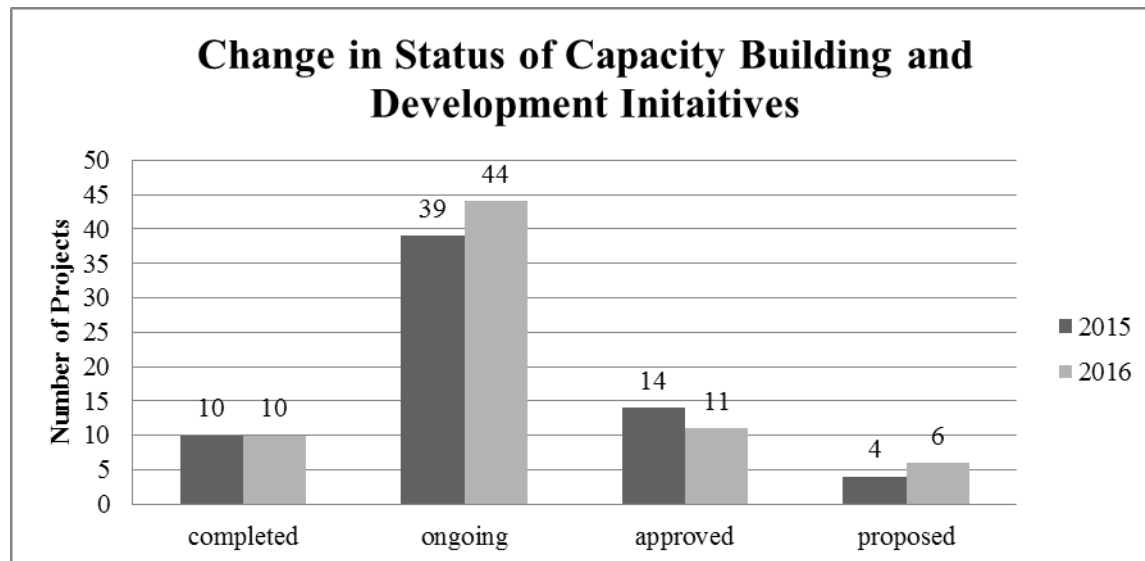
7. Furthermore, since the last meeting of the Committee, the Secretariat has received information regarding changes in the status of the capacity-building and development initiatives that were reported in document [UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](#) (see figure below). The list of the initiatives for which there has been a change in status is provided in annex I. In summary, the changes in status are as follows:

(a) The number of ongoing projects increased from 39 to 44. This includes three GEF projects in Algeria, China, and Mongolia that were previously categorized as “approved”, one GEF project in the Caribbean that was previously categorized as “proposed” and one new Darwin Initiative project in Ethiopia outlined in paragraph 6(a) above;

(b) The number of projects in the category “approved” changed from 14 to 11. This change is due to the three GEF projects referred to above which were previously categorized as “approved” but have since entered into the implementation phase, one GEF project in Cameroon that was incorrectly categorized as “approved” at the first meeting but is actually still under the category “proposed”, and one new approved project in South Africa which is outlined in paragraph 6(b) above;

(c) The number of projects in the category “proposed” increased from four to six. This is due to the two new GEF projects in Nepal and Uganda outlined in paragraph 6(c) and 6(d) above.

8. The number of completed initiatives remained unchanged (10 projects).



9. Overall, information regarding the geographic and thematic coverage by existing capacity-building and development initiatives has remained more or less unchanged since the first meeting of the Committee in view of the limited number of new capacity-building and development initiatives.

10. Committee members will be invited to provide updates on recent developments since the last meeting of the Committee with respect to their access and benefit-sharing capacity-building and development projects as well as emerging experiences and lessons learned.

III. OVERVIEW OF EMERGING EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

11. At the first meeting of the Committee, members exchanged preliminary views on ways and means to usefully facilitate the exchange of information on experiences and lessons learned from capacity-building and development initiatives for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It was pointed out that experiences and lessons learned were being documented, for instance, through project implementation reviews carried out for all GEF projects and through mid-term and end-of-term project evaluation reports. The usefulness of compiling such information and making it available was noted.

12. Accordingly, after the first meeting of the 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. The Secretariat also received submissions from various organizations involved in capacity-building on access and benefit-sharing. A compilation of the information collected and received is contained in annex II of the present document.

13. Some of the common themes emerging from the lessons learned include the following:

(a) The importance of coordination in a country including coordination of different ministries and institutions involved in regulating ABS and coordination of different capacity-building projects;

(b) The importance of involving stakeholders in capacity-building projects including indigenous and local communities, non-governmental organizations and different actors along the value chain;

(c) That care must be taken not to underestimate the costs involved and the time required for the work to be undertaken in a project;

(d) The need to adapt projects in the light of changing circumstances in a country, e.g. due to the period between project design and project implementation or in the light of new information gathered during the inception phase of a project or through a capacity assessment.

14. The Committee may wish to discuss how to facilitate further documentation and exchange of information on experiences and lessons learned with a view to informing the implementation of capacity-building and development initiatives for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

15. It is noted that, while the common format for publishing information on capacity-building and development initiatives in the ABS Clearing-House includes space for providing information on experiences and lessons learned, very limited information in regard has been available through the ABS Clearing-House to date. Accordingly, Parties and relevant organizations, including members of the Informal Advisory Committee, are encouraged to share information on best practices and lessons learned from their initiatives through the ABS Clearing-House, using the common format on capacity-building initiatives.

IV. POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS ENHANCING SYNERGIES, COORDINATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY AS WELL AS POSSIBLE WAYS AND MEANS OF ADDRESSING GAPS AND OVERLAPS IN COVERAGE BY EXISTING CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES

16. At its first meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee considered some gaps, overlaps, and other issues regarding the geographic and thematic coverage of ABS capacity-building initiatives, which are highlighted in paragraphs 13 to 18 and paragraphs 23 to 27 of document [UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](#) and in paragraphs 23 to 42 of the report of the meeting ([UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/3](#)).

17. In document [UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](#), the following gaps in geographic coverage were identified:

(a) The Central and Eastern European region is currently the most undercovered by projects providing direct support for country-level activities;

(b) The Asian subregion is also generally undercovered by projects providing direct support for country-level activities.

18. The Committee noted that geographical gaps could be due to a number of factors highlighted in paragraph 23 of the report of the meeting, including: lack of political will and the fact that some countries are not eligible for GEF funding support or may lack information or the capacity to develop proposals to acquire funding from GEF or other capacity-development partners.

19. In terms of thematic coverage, the analysis of existing initiatives contained in document [UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/2](#) shows that the following measures/activities are currently supported by the least number of projects and may need further attention:

(a) Developing the capacity for valuation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (covered by 6 per cent of the projects);

(b) Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Protocol (covered by 11 per cent of the projects);

(c) Promoting better understanding of business models in relation to the utilization of genetic resources (covered by 14 per cent of the projects).

20. In addition to the above mentioned gaps in thematic coverage, during their first meeting, members of the Committee also noted that there is a need for capacity-building on conflict resolution in the context of the Nagoya Protocol, for example for the stakeholders involved in the negotiation of mutually agreed terms or in the implementation of ABS capacity-building projects.

21. At the first meeting of the Committee, members also noted that, in carrying out capacity-building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, there is a need to do the following:

(a) Take into account value chain considerations in the development of national ABS frameworks;

(b) Integrate ABS into the curricula of educational and training institutions;

(c) Involve indigenous and local communities as co-researchers and co-publishers and in the ABS processes;

(d) Provide technical support for countries that already have national ABS legislation in place;

(e) Mainstream ABS into broader national development policies and programmes, including national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs), national development plans, poverty alleviation plans and climate change adaptation plans, etc.;

(f) Build the capacity of countries to develop good project proposals and engage with donors effectively;

(g) Strengthen the capacities of regional institutions to enable them to support their member States;

(h) Strengthen the capacities of national and subnational institutions;

(i) Distinguish between projects dealing with utilization of genetic resources and projects that have a broader scope (for example, biotrade);

(j) Ensure the sustainability of capacity-building initiatives.

22. At the second meeting of the Committee, members will be invited to further consider possible ways and means of addressing the gaps, overlaps and other issues referred to above, building on suggestions developed at the first meeting.¹

¹ At its first meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee identified some options for addressing the gaps and overlaps, as well as other capacity-building issues and challenges (such as those contained in paragraphs 26, 30, 31, 33, 40, 64, 66 and 67).

23. In addition, the Committee may wish to consider options for addressing the following issues that were highlighted at the first meeting:

(a) How to reach out to and collaborate with relevant organizations (for example, United Nations Volunteers, regional networks and organizations of indigenous and local communities) in building capacity for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to promote synergies in countries where other capacity-building providers are active;

(b) How to identify and mobilize existing ABS experts to assist in executing and/or coordinating ABS capacity-building projects and supporting national ABS processes;

(c) How to train additional ABS experts;

(d) How to diversify the capacity-building delivery methods and approaches beyond organizing workshops.

24. Finally, the Committee may wish to further discuss ways of enhancing synergies, coordination and complementarity among initiatives, as well as possible ways and means of addressing gaps and overlaps in the coverage of existing capacity-building initiatives while taking into account the recent developments, experiences and lessons learned thus far. Building on suggestions made at its first meeting, the Committee will also be invited to provide, as appropriate, further advice to enhance coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the strategic framework.

Annex I

**LIST OF INITIATIVES FOR WHICH THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN STATUS SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Title of initiative	Country/ies or region	Status at first IAC meeting	Status at second IAC meeting	Start date	End date	Funding source	Implementing agency
Developing a National Strategy and Legal Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and Related Benefit Sharing and TK in line with the CBD and its NP	Algeria	Approved	Ongoing	Dec 2015	Dec 2019	GEFTF	UNDP
Developing and Implementing the National Framework on Access to and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge	China	Approved	Ongoing	April 2016	April 2021	GEFTF	UNDP
Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change	Mongolia	Approved	Ongoing	May 2015	May 2020	BMZ	GIZ
Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region	Caribbean (8): Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago	Proposed	Ongoing	January 2016	January 2019	GEFTF	IUCN/UNEP
Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development	Ethiopia	Project was unavailable	Ongoing	April 2016	March 2019	Darwin Initiative	Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Title of initiative	Country/ies or region	Status at first IAC meeting	Status at second IAC meeting	Start date	End date	Funding source	Implementing agency
Development of Value Chains for Products derived from Genetic Resources in Compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy	South Africa	Project was unavailable	Approved			GEFTF	UNDP
A Bottom Up Approach on ABS: Community Level Capacity Development for Successful Engagement in ABS Value Chains in Cameroon (Echinops giganteus)	Cameroon	Approved	Proposed			NPIF	UNDP
Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal	Nepal	Project was unavailable	Proposed		GEFTF	UNEP	IUCN
Institutional Capacity strengthening for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and Awareness on Biosafety in Uganda	Uganda	Project was unavailable	Proposed			GEFTF	UNEP

Annex II

**COMPILATION OF EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED REGARDING
CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

1. The following is a compilation of emerging experiences and lessons learned regarding capacity-building initiatives for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The information was derived from submissions received from various organizations involved in capacity-building and from the sources listed below.
2. The information was mainly gathered from the following sources:
 - ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2013. Progress Report. Retrieved from: http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/About_us/Progress_Report_2013_140227.pdf;
 - ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014. Progress Report. Retrieved from: http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin//media/About_us/Progress_Report_2014_20150312.pdf;
 - ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2015. Progress Report. Retrieved from: http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin//media/About_us/ABS_Initiative_-_Progress_Report_-_2015.pdf;
 - ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 2016. Lessons Learned from Capacity Building Project entitled Building Capacity for Regionally Harmonized National Processes for Implementation CBD Provisions. E-mail communication from Anthony Foronda, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity;
 - Indigenous Information Network, 2016. African Region – Indigenous Peoples and Local communities -lessons learned and experiences acquired through capacity-building projects. E-mail communication from Lucy Mullenkei;
 - IUCN, 2014. Lessons Learned from Capacity Building Project entitled “Strengthening the Implementation of ABS Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean” by the IUCN. E-mail Communication from Sonia Peña Moreno, IUCN;
 - Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, 2016. ABS Capacity Building Case Studies – RBG, Kew. E-mail Communication from China Williams, Kew Royal Botanic Gardens.
3. The experiences and lessons learned identified include the following:

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Taking into account the increasing number of national and regional projects funded by the GEF and bilateral donors for supporting ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol **coordination of ABS capacity development efforts is not only necessary at the international level** (for example through the informal advisory committee established by decision NP-1/8 on measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development) **but also at the national level** in order to avoid duplication and ensure synergies between projects funded by different donors.
 - To this, **national road maps jointly developed** with the national focal point and/or competent national authority may be beneficial (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014).
- With focus on national implementation, **interministerial coordination processes** are becoming more relevant and executing and implementing agencies are challenged not only to **provide technical expertise** but also to facilitate the **coordination of stakeholders** with different interests, requiring a **high degree of intercultural sensitivity and political communication skills** (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014).

- **Political willingness on the ABS theme:** Lack of ratification needs to be understood inside national frameworks, but also requiring consideration are new debates from some non-governmental organizations and left-leaning countries concerned that the Nagoya Protocol is “another tool from the market” which will give transnational companies free access to key genetic resources (such as those related to food security or traditional medicine). **There is a lack of understanding – accidental or purposeful – regarding the fact that the objective of the Nagoya Protocol is to regulate the international framework rather than provide free access – and that, in the end, the genetic resource remains the property of the State.** Owing to this dichotomy in understanding, it will be important to continue **regional dialogues on ABS matters** – in particular the Nagoya Protocol – with other countries (IUCN, 2014).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- The **multi-stakeholder approach** remains useful to develop a common understanding and to create an open, productive and bridge-building learning environment. With national implementation in the focus, this approach has to be supplemented by specific **training elements, building the relevant management and technical skills at the personal and institutional levels** (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2013).
- The success of projects will derive from a **participative approach**, involving partners at all levels — local, national and international — and ranging from rural communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as a wide range of experts from different disciplines, including botanists, horticulturists, agronomists and foresters. Most importantly, **local communities participate from the beginning of the process** in the selection, prioritization and propagation of indigenous species while scientific and technical knowledge, and support is provided to them (Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, 2016).
- There is need to **reach out at the local levels** and indeed the IPLCs who have already been trained and who have the energy to spearhead ABS processes. It is important that they have **well-defined objectives** and they are **empowered in capacity** at all levels (Indigenous Information Network, 2016).

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Budgets should be allocated to **focus on national activities** with themes which **relate closely to a project’s objectives and take into consideration the stipulated needs of the countries** (e.g. capacity-building workshops at the national level or in international forums) (IUCN, 2014).
- During project design, **the budget should consider the costs associated with the involvement of stakeholders at the national level** or NFPs who could require financial support – and **not assume that in kind co-financing is easily available** (IUCN, 2014).
- Allocate ample resources to **project design, management, monitoring and evaluation, engaging outside expertise** where the necessary in-house skills and experience are lacking (Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, 2016).

DESIGN STAGE

- There is a need to **focus support more towards national implementation** (regulatory and institutional frameworks), **human capacity development and understanding of different stakeholder perspectives** (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014).
- **National ABS processes** are time-consuming and **require considerable backstopping**, while slowly moving away from a focus on the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and more towards the drafting of national ABS regulatory frameworks and the negotiation of actual ABS agreements (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014).

- After securing country endorsement to prepare a proposal, it would be advisable for project designers to carry out **in-depth consultations with potential participating countries and other partners to understand the capacities and needs specific to each country**, and the administrative context in which a project will have to function. The GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) template does not explicitly require this, but the issue could be addressed in the section on project justification. Omitting this kind of context analysis at the design stage can impact a project's substantive work and create an uneven playing field for participating countries (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 2016).
- Ensure that country initiatives are **facilitated by partners** with sufficient skills and **experience in relevant areas, including community organization, PRA and community-based planning, value chain and market development, small enterprise development** (Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, 2016).

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

- As “old” ABS experts have left their positions (retirement / new assignments) capacity gaps in relevant line institutions occur, while **new and inexperienced actors** in this matter have stepped in. They **need to be briefed and informed accordingly**. This entails long consultation and decision-making processes in the development phase of ABS frameworks, which makes it often difficult for the private sector to engage effectively, and this remains a challenge (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2012).
- In certain regions, any capacity development programme must consider that, due to the small populations and economies, a **very limited number of experts are working on biodiversity-related issues** and the **Governments exercise a high degree of priority setting**. The regional and country experts for biodiversity-related issues are, in general, well trained, but, in some regions, the process of regional integration is not as advanced as in others (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2013).
- **If capacity assessments were not done as part of the project development process, these should be carried out at the beginning of the project**, rather than after the project is already well into its implementation. **If capacity assessments were done as part of the project development process and the results included in the project document, these should be reviewed and updated during the inception phase**. This would provide a basis for revising the components, outcomes, deliverables and activities to focus on a particular capacity gap or gaps for all countries, groups of countries, or even individual countries (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 2016).
- Recognizing that there may be a lapse of a year or more between project development and implementation, it would be advisable for the designers of future projects to specifically build in an **inception phase that requires a critical review of project design at start-up, with substantive input from all project partners**. During such a substantive inception phase, future projects would do well to: **update the actual situation** in participating countries and in the region against the context at the time the project document was written; **assess the time and funding proposed for implementation** against actual national capacity to deliver; **revise project components and deliverables accordingly**; and **develop work plans on this basis**. Carrying out this kind of capacity assessment at the very beginning of a project should provide valuable insight on how to revise the components, outcomes, deliverables and activities to focus on a particular capacity gap or gaps for all countries, groups of countries, or even individual countries (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 2016).

CREATING SYNERGIES

- **In establishing links to other relevant topics**, such as protected area management or ABS under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), **expert workshops** proved to be a useful format for identifying key issues at the specific interface and developing initial ideas on how to address these in future work. As legal and technical advice needs to be very specific when developing national regulatory systems, **tailored analytical studies** are becoming more relevant (ABS Initiative, 2012/2013).

- **Countries with a well-implemented national regulatory system can support others in their development, since it is evident that training is needed by national authorities.** This promotes the celerity of processes; it provides legal certainty to users and helps equitable benefit-sharing. When subregional projects invite other countries (outside of subregions) to participate in projects, it is important to make sure that there are no overlaps in workshops or meetings with other subregions to ensure participation (IUCN, 2014).

CAPACITY FOR NEGOTIATING FAVOURABLE MAT

- It is important to enhance the understanding of the research and development and the business models of the different user sectors of genetic resources in order to enable providers to negotiate successfully ABS agreements. Thus, further and increased **capacity development on private sector “functioning” for ILCs, academia and Governments of ACP countries is required** (ABS Initiative, 2012, 2013).

SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGES AND BILATERAL COOPERATION

- The capacity development work in certain regions can benefit from other regional experiences and provide opportunities for South-South exchanges (ABS Initiative, 2012).
 - However, experiences learned from coordination efforts and activities suggest that approaches developed in certain regions can only be **transferred to a limited extent** to other regions (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2013).
- The capacity development work in the Pacific is benefiting from the African experiences and provides new opportunities for South-South exchange. Unique is the high level of **community governance and the presence of traditional governance schemes in some regions**, such as the Pacific, **which offers opportunities to learn and showcase how the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol related to indigenous and local communities can be implemented** in a politically enabling environment (ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2014).

MAINSTREAMING ABS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- There is still a need for **strengthening the mainstreaming of ABS into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national development strategies and plans.** Countries have been advised in particular to try to link the ABS issue with other development/conservation projects, considering the fact that it is not easy to raise funds for particular initiatives uniquely focused on ABS (IUCN, 2014).

OTHER

- Governments have to ensure that capacity trainings are continuous and that the two focal points are working together. In some countries, the focal points are also not reaching out to IPLCs and the information and communication among them is very minimal (Indigenous Information Network, 2016).