



Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale

*Une dimension régionale pour la conservation
et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers*

ABS capacity-building initiatives in the COMIFAC sub region

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Outline of the Presentation

- Ongoing ABS Projects in the COMIFAC sub region
- Lessons learned
- Challenges for coordination
- Opportunities



Ongoing ABS Projects in the COMIFAC sub region

- **Support for the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in COMIFAC Sub-Region**
 - Funding: **GEF under the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF)**
 - Implementing Agency: **UNEP**
 - Objective: **Support CBD parties ratify/accede, and implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.**

- **Implementation of the access and benefit- sharing (ABS) process in member countries of COMIFAC (GIZ)**
 - 1) Funding: **German Government (BMZ)**
 - 2) Implementing Agency: **GIZ**
 - 3) Objective: **COMIFAC member countries develop and implement harmonized national regulations on ABS**



Ongoing ABS Projects in the COMIFAC sub region

- Capacity building for bioprospection (assessment needs of the laboratory of research in Central Africa) **(JICA) (this is one of the components of the JICA's support project to COMIFAC)**
- **Another ABS Project is under development in collaboration with IUCN**



Capacity building activities

1. Strengthening / capacity building and awareness.

- Sensitization (Public awareness of key stakeholders on the obligations and provisions of Nagoya Protocol) ;
- Training of stakeholders.

2. Development of administrative procedures and promoting the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol

- Elaborate national ABS strategies and action plans
- Facilitate the creation of the national ABS CH
- Elaborate models of PIC and MAT

3. Developing legal and institutional frameworks

- Review existing laws and regulations on ABS;
- Contribute to the designation of the National Competent Authority
- Develop drafts of laws / draft decrees on ABS



Capacity building activities

4. Development of the mechanisms for stakeholders participation

- Mapping keys actors for ABS and assessing their capacity-building needs
- Elaborate the participation plan defining the modalities for the involvement of stakeholders
- Information, experiences and knowledge sharing;
- Develop a model of Community Protocol

5. Promotion and valorization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge

- Conduct studies on the operation and actors of bioprospecting in Central Africa and perform analysis of patents;
- Document the existing value chains and/or establish the new value chains



Steering and coordination (different approaches)

UNEP ABS Project

1. Steering and coordination of the project are led by UNEP.

- UNEP-GEF Unit is the implementing agency with oversight functions;
- UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP-DELIC) assumes the coordinating and overall executing functions in the project;
- Project Steering Committee (PSC) is chaired by the UNEP-DELIC Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Point for Africa in charge of the COMIFAC region
- UNEP sign with each country a small scale funding agreement and have to assign an implementing entity that will carry out Project activities.

2. Role of COMIFAC (when the SSFA will be signed with UNEP)

- UNEP-DELIC and the COMIFAC Secretariat will play a support role to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to expedite the ratification or accession to the Nagoya Protocol
- the COMIFAC Secretariat will continue to provide political and technical support, which will contribute to implementation of the project.
- Use established COMIFAC focal points to deliver the tasks assigned to them under the project
- Liaise with the various project stakeholders as needed for the execution of the project



Steering and coordination (different approaches)

GIZ ABS Project

Steering and coordination

- **Coordination is led by the COMIFAC Secretariat.**
 - it put in place a decision committee (Steering committee) which is chaired by the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC
 - The ABS Coordinator of COMIFAC works in close collaboration with the Project Management Unit in order to ensure the complementarity with other ABS Projects



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DECISION N° 002 /SE/2015

PORTANT CREATION DU COMITE DE DECISION DU PROJET : MISE EN ŒUVRE DU PROCESSUS D'ACCES ET DE PARTAGE DES AVANTAGES – APA- DANS LES PAYS MEMBRES DE LA COMIFAC

Fait à Yaoundé, le 28 SEP 2015





Implementing Partners

- GIZ
- UNEP
- CBD Secretariat
- ABS Capacity development Initiative
- NGO and CSO Networks in the region



Lessons learned

- Communication and experience sharing are very important between all the partners involved to the implementation of these projects in order to avoid duplication
- Appropriation of the Project by the decisions makers can facilitate the coordination at the national level
- At the national level, the coordination role is not clear between the ABS and CBD Focal Points;
- The implementation of some activities at the national and local level is not easy and can not running as Schedule (lack of national experts, administratives procedures , political issues, etc.);



Challenges

- Avoid duplication of activities of the various projects
- Ensure harmonization of different approaches / synergy with other programs
- Enhancing synergies and complementarity among projects and with other programs
- Many and different administrative procedures to follow up;
- Ensure continuous sharing of experiences between projects



Challenges

- Deficiency of national expertise in some countries
- Ensure that all COMIFAC member countries take advantage of the multitude ABS projects underway or in development
- Institutional and Political instability
- Conflict of interest
- Problem of leadership (Focal points, institutions, etc.)
- Appropriation of the projects by all stakeholders



Opportunities

- Existing network/platform of stakeholders in the sub regional, (GTBAC, REPALEAC, REPAR, REJEFAC, RIFFEAC). We usually organized capacity-building workshop of these network at the national and sub regional levels
- Decisions makers platform as The COMIFAC's Council of Ministers
- Partners /donors platform as a CBFP (Congo Basin Forests Partnership)
- **Technical coordination meeting with all the PMU representatives of all the projects coordinating by the COMIFAC Secretariat (at least one time per month).**



If the NP is implemented, we
will have a chance to survive
Thank you very much

