

Uganda



MAINSTREAMING BIOSAFETY AND ABS IN NBSAPS : THE CASE OF UGANDA

PRESENTED AT THE GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON REVIEWING PROGRESS AND BUILDING CAPACITY FOR NBSAP REVISION PROCESS

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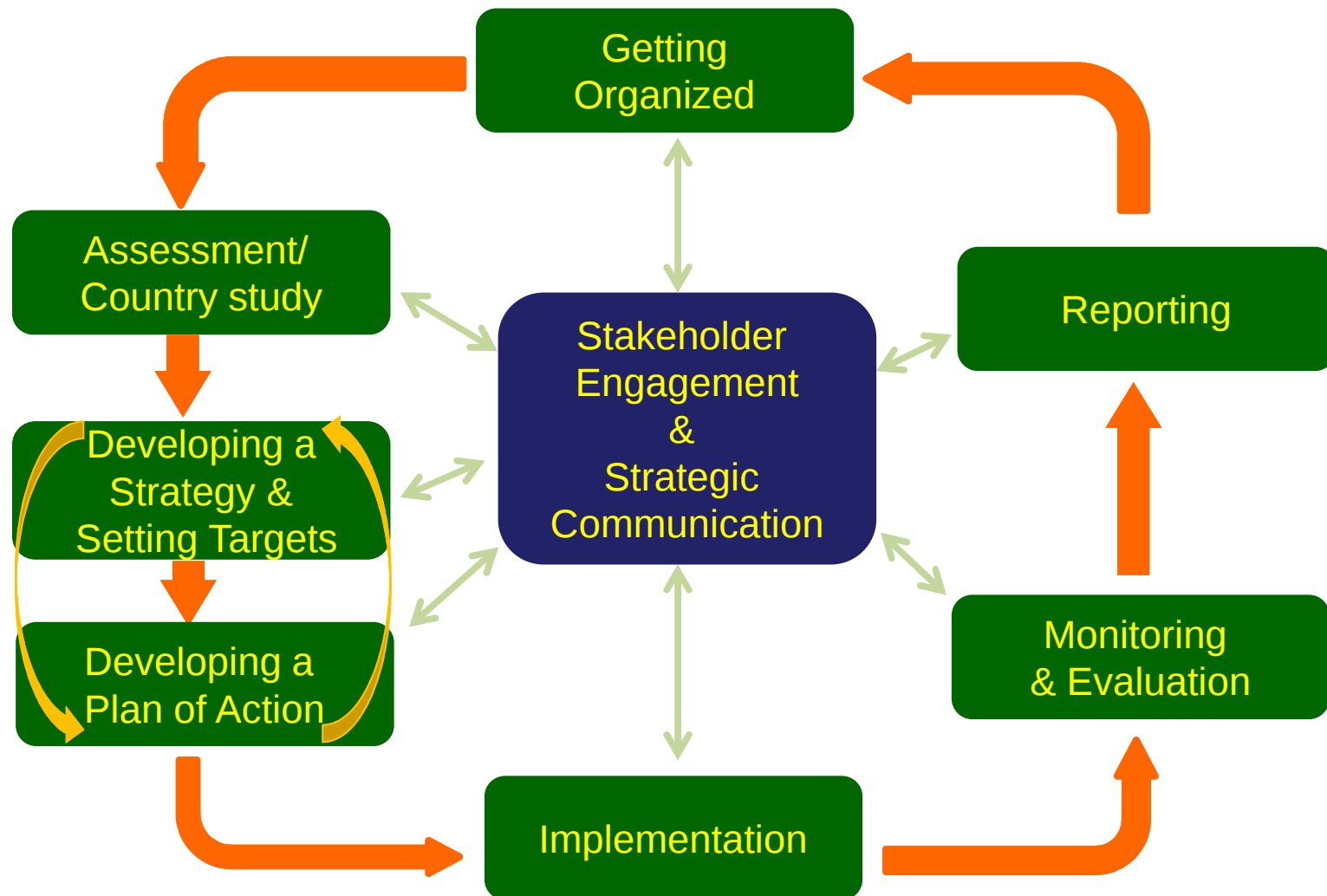
BRIEF BACKGROUND ON UGANDA'S NBSAP

- ☞ The NBSAP was completed in 2002 has a life span of 10 years. The process was coordinated by the CBD NFP (NEMA) on behalf of Government of Uganda
- ☞ It is supposed to be reviewed at the end of every 5 years with a major review at the end of 10 years.

WHERE IS UGANDA IN THE NBSAP REVIEW AND UPDATING?

- ➡ **Uganda benefited from the capacity building workshops** on the review and updating of NBSAP – 27-30 June 2011 in Kigali Rwanda (Eastern Africa) and in 27 February – 2 March 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Africa Region)
 - ➡ East Africa Capacity Building Workshops on Information Use and Indicators in Updating NBSAPs – 27-29 September 2011, Entebbe, Uganda
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NBSAP review and updating process



The National Process – Coordinated by the CBD NFP on behalf of Government

- ➔ The Technical Committee on Biodiversity Conservation providing overall technical guidance.
- ➔ July 2012, NEMA and UNEP signed PCA for the financial support for the review and updating of NBSAP.
- ➔ Started - 26-29 June 2012, national capacity building workshop (**getting organized**) for the review and updating of NBSAP held – awareness, stakeholder identification, stakeholder ownership of the process, identification of themes and thematic working groups.
- ➔ Four thematic working groups (**comprising of Government MDAs, academia, research institutions, CSOs/NGOs, the Private Sector, Convention Focal Points –CITES, UNFCCC, Ramsar, CMS, Biosafety, NFP CBD POWPA**) established (September 2012) for stocktaking/assessment. The four working groups were:
 - i. Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, ii. Policy, legal and institutional framework
 - iii. **Status of Biotechnology and biosafety**, iv. Biodiversity and national development – Members of the group – scientists, economists, lawyers etc

➡ WHERE IS UGANDA IN THE NBSAP REVIEW AND UPDATING?

- ☞ Road map and provisional outline of the NBSAP developed, Stocktaking/assessment completed in March 2013 by the four Thematic Working Groups.
- ☞ The group also developed **provisional national targets** and indicators which is now being refined by a national consultant. National targets assigned to **biodiversity champions**.
- ☞ Since the 5th National Reports to be prepared concurrently with the NBSAP review process (using information from the stock taking) Uganda has made progress preparing the 5th NR.
- ☞ Outline and road map for preparation of the 5th NR prepared. A Working Group drawn from the Thematic Working Group for NBSAP is taking lead coordinated by the CBD National Focal point.
- ☞ The current NBSAP has a Vision and 5 objectives. These have been reviewed and aligned to the Vision and the 5 strategic goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 by the Thematic Working Group
- ☞ A Zero draft of the 5th NR is being refined and revised draft should be ready before end of November 2014.
- ☞ A stakeholders review workshop is planned to be held at the end of November 2013.
- ☞ More information on the NBSAP review and updating process and development of 5th NR can be viewed at www.chm.nemaug.org

➡ MAINSTREAMING BIOSAFETY AND ABS INTO SECTORAL AND CROSS SECTORAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- ☞ Biotechnology and biosafety are part of the NBSAP - to ensure that biodiversity provides the necessary raw material for the biotechnology enterprise; and to ensure safety in biotechnology applications – minimize impacts/effects on biodiversity/human health
- ☞ A national biotechnology and biosafety policy was approved in 2008. The policy recognises the multiplicity of stakeholders involved in biotechnology as well as biosafety implementation.
- ☞ Structures have been put in place for biosafety, for example, the designation of the competent authority for biotechnology and biosafety, the establishment of a National Biosafety Committee and Institutional Biosafety Committees and involvement of Ministry of Agriculture in confined field trials of GE plants.
- ☞ ABS is recognised in the National Environment Act, and is a central feature of the NBSAP. A competent authority for ABS has been designated. The need for ABS has been specifically highlighted in the National Science and Technology Policy of 2009.
- ☞ Implementation of the ABS is guided by the ABS regulations 2005. Lead agencies like the Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Forestry Authority have mainstreamed ABS into their policies and strategies.
- ☞ Most active universities and research organizations, including the private sector are utilizing the existing framework for ABS, when they exchange genetic materials.

➡ MAINSTREAMING BIOSAFETY AND ABS INTO NBSAP

- ☞ This was done through involvement of the NFP for Biosafety, the CNA for Biosafety and ABS and other institutions that handle matters on or related to ABS and biosafety
- ☞ Information was collated on the status of biotechnology and biosafety in Uganda
- ☞ Presentations were made by Scientists on science of biotechnology were made to create understanding on biotechnology, biosafety and LMOs/GMO. The scientist are those that are involved in Confined Field Trials
- ☞ The presentations on biotechnology, biosafety and LMOs/GMOs helped to create knowledge and understand of these subjects
- ☞ Presentation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020
- ☞ Presentation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020 and the associated Aichi targets
- ☞ The Thematic working group were trained on process for developing and identifying indicator
- ☞ Sharing of information was strongly encouraged and promoted among the working groups





➡ THE OUTCOME SO FAR

☞ Although the current NBSAP has provisions for Biotechnology and Biosafety, it does not have a specific objective on biotechnology and biosafety as well as resource mobilization. The current NBSAP has the following 5 objectives:

1. To develop and strengthen co-ordination, measures and frameworks for biodiversity management
2. To facilitate research, information management and information exchange on biodiversity
3. To reduce and manage negative impacts on biodiversity
4. To promote the sustainable use and equitable sharing of costs and benefits of biodiversity
5. To enhance awareness on biodiversity issues among the various stakeholders

The Thematic Working Groups identified two objectives – one on biotechnology to address issues on biotechnology and biosafety more explicitly than in the current NBSAP and the other on resource mobilization

- a) To harness modern biotechnology for socio-economic development with adequate safety measures for human health and the environment
- b) To promote innovative sustainable funding mechanisms

Unlike the current NBSAP, the revised NBSAP will have a specific section dealing with ABS as a stand alone

➡ PROVISIONAL STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL TARGETS ON BIOSAFETY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

- ☞ These have been developed under Aichi target 19 which states that “*By 2020, **knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity**, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied*”.
- ☞ The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011 – 2020 was used to identify additional national targets for biosafety and biotechnology. The provisional strategies and national targets are:
 - ☞ Strategies
 - a) Assess national capacities in biotechnology and Biosafety
 - b) To enhance the availability and exchange of information on Biotechnology and Biosafety
 - c) Establish a mechanism(s) for continuous Human and Infrastructural Resource Capacity Development, deployment and retention
 - d) Develop a fully functional National Biosafety System
 - e) Enhance regulatory performance of the National Biosafety Committee and the Institutional Biosafety Committees



➡ PROVISIONAL NATIONAL TARGETS ON BIOSAFETY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

- ☞ **By 2018**, biotech tools (molecular markers, genetic bar coding ,etc)in the identification, characterization and conservation of biodiversity developed and applied
 - ☞ **By 2018**, public Awareness, Education & participation in Biotech and Biosafety are enhanced
 - ☞ **By 2015**, the Nagoya –Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is acceded to by Government.
 - ☞ **By 2015** Incorporate issues on liability and redress in the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill
 - ☞ **By 2016** Promulgate a legislation on Biotechnology and Biosafety
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