



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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NOTIFICATION

Access and Benefit-sharing: Peer review process for ABS studies commissioned in accordance with decision IX/12, paragraph 13

At its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted a timetable for the completion of the negotiations of the International Regime on access and benefit-sharing and for the adoption of the Regime by its tenth meeting, in October 2010 (decision IX/12).

With a view to supporting the negotiating process, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat (decision IX/12, paragraph 13) to commission five studies on the following technical and legal issues, which are central elements of the negotiations:

- a) **Recent developments in methods to identify genetic resources directly based on DNA sequences;**
- b) **To identify the different possible ways of tracking and monitoring genetic resources through the use of persistent global unique identifiers, including the practicality, feasibility, costs and benefits of the different options;**
- c) **How an international regime on access and benefit-sharing could be in harmony and be mutually supportive of the mandates of and coexist alongside other international instruments and forums that govern the use of genetic resources, such as the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;**
- d) **Development of a comparative study of the real and transactional costs involved in the process of access to justice across jurisdictions;**
- e) **How can compliance be ensured in conformity with Indigenous Peoples and local communities customary law, national law, across jurisdictions, and international law, including human rights and trade?**

In accordance with the above mentioned decision, the studies were commissioned and are being carried out by experts in these respective fields.

To: CBD National Focal Points and ABS National Focal Points,
international organizations, indigenous and local community
organizations and stakeholders



The Secretariat is making available the first drafts of these studies for **peer review** by Parties, international organizations, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as they become available. The studies can be found on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/>.

The studies will be revised in the light of comments received and the final text will be made available as soon as possible before the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

Parties, governments, organizations, indigenous and local community organizations, and stakeholders are hereby kindly invited to provide any comments on the draft studies no later than 23 January 2009. Comments should be forwarded to: secretariat@cbd.int.

I thank you for your collaboration and support for the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary