



Ref.: SCBD/ABS/SBG/NAD/83881

8 September 2014

## NOTIFICATION

### **Launch of the operational phase of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and capacity-building workshop Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea - 12 October 2014**

Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the Nagoya Protocol enters into force on 12 October 2014 after receiving the required number of ratifications and its first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP 1) will be held from 13 to 17 October in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, concurrently with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 12). Entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and a fully functional Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) represents major steps in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which provides that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

With a view to having a fully functional ABS Clearing-House, Parties are kindly reminded to expedite the designation of their publishing authorities and national authorized users for the ABS Clearing-House and are invited to actively participate in sharing national information through this platform. To support this process, the Secretariat is currently undertaking an outreach and engagement campaign among Parties and is available for providing training sessions in the format of webinars and technical assistance to Parties having designated their publishing authorities that request technical support for registering information on the ABS Clearing-House. Please contact [absch@cbd.int](mailto:absch@cbd.int) if you require any assistance.

In addition, please be informed that in order to launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House by the date of entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, all test records currently hosted in the ABS Clearing-House will be deleted, and all information published in the central portal will become official information.

Against this background and in order to officially launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House and conduct hands-on training, I am pleased to inform you that, thanks to the generous contribution of the European Union, a capacity-building workshop on the ABS Clearing-House will be held on 12 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, back-to-back with COP-MOP 1 to the Nagoya Protocol. The outcomes of this workshop will be made available to COP-MOP 1 as an information document.

A draft programme containing the objectives and methodology of the workshop is attached for your information and is available on the Secretariat website at the following address: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSWS-2014-07>.

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



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)



The workshop will be divided in two different sessions: a general informative session in the morning and a training session in the afternoon.

The objective of the morning session is to launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House and improve understanding of the role of the ABS Clearing-House for supporting implementation of the Protocol. It will also increase awareness of the importance of actively participating in sharing information through this platform. This session is open to the general public and interpretation will be offered in English, French and Spanish.

In the afternoon, the workshop will consist of a hands-on training on registering and retrieving information through the ABS Clearing-House. Only publishing authorities and national authorized users designated for the ABS Clearing-House are invited to participate in the afternoon session of the workshop. For this reason, Parties to the Convention are encouraged to designate their publishing authorities and national authorized users for the ABS Clearing-House prior to the workshop. Please refer to notification 2014-045 for further information on how to proceed with designations (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2014/ntf-2014-045-abs-parties-en.docx>).

In order to enable hands-on training during the afternoon session of the workshop for the submission of national information, participants are highly encouraged to bring their own computer and national information on the following topics, if available:

- (a) Competent national authorities;
- (b) Legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing;
- (c) Permits or their equivalent; and
- (d) Checkpoints.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

**Capacity-building Workshop on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House**  
*Alpensia Convention Center,*  
*Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 12 October 2014*

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**INTRODUCTION**

Following guidance from the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol and the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has been implementing the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House.<sup>1</sup>

Having a fully functional ABS Clearing-House that includes national information is essential for the operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol and will significantly contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16: “By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation”.

**OBJECTIVES**

The capacity-building workshop on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House has the following objectives:

- Demonstrating the role of the ABS Clearing-House for supporting implementation of the Protocol;
- Increasing awareness of the importance of actively participating in sharing information through this platform;
- Enhancing capacity to make use of the tools available through the ABS Clearing-House and heightening awareness of how these tools can support Parties, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders in their work;
- Enabling active participation of Parties by building capacity to register and retrieve<sup>1</sup> information, in particular for those countries that have already ratified the Protocol.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY**

The workshop will be held on Sunday 12 October 2014 from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a pause for lunch and two coffee breaks.

In the morning, a general informative session will launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House and raise awareness of the potential contribution of the ABS Clearing-House in implementing the Nagoya Protocol. This session is open to the **general public** and interpretation will be offered in **English, French and Spanish**.

In the afternoon, a training session will build capacity for registering and retrieving information through the ABS Clearing-House. Only **designated publishing authorities for the ABS Clearing-House and national authorized users** are invited to participate in this training session. The online demonstration will be in English, even though the Secretariat will be available to answer questions and assist also in Spanish and French.

---

<sup>1</sup> More information on progress made and feedback received in the implementation of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House can be found in document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/2. Draft modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House are made available in document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/2/ADD1.

## **General session (9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.)**

### ***1. Opening of the workshop***

The Secretariat will officially launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House and introduce the organisation of work and methodology of the workshop.

### ***2. Overview of the role of the ABS Clearing-House in supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol***

The Secretariat will introduce the contribution of the ABS Clearing-House to the Nagoya Protocol implementation on the following topics:

- (a) Access;
- (b) Monitoring the utilization of genetic resources;
- (c) Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources; and
- (d) Sharing information and experiences on implementation of the Protocol.

### ***3. Operation of the ABS Clearing-House***

Participants will be introduced to the ABS Clearing-House. This will include an overview to the registering and searching functions, the proposed modalities of operation, including the different user roles (publishing authority and national authorised users) and types of records (national and reference records).

### ***4. Report on progress made on the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House and issues for consideration by the COP-MOP***

The Secretariat of the CBD will report on the progress made during the pilot-phase of the ABS Clearing-House and present the issues concerning the ABS Clearing-House which will be under discussion at COP-MOP.

## **Training session (2 p.m. – 5 p.m.)\***

*\* Only for designated publishing authorities and national authorized users*

### ***5. Introduction to the help functions of the ABS Clearing-House***

The Secretariat will present and demonstrate the online “help functions” of the ABS Clearing-House to inform participants on how to perform the following activities:

- (a) Searching information about national records and reference records (virtual library, meeting documents, etc.);
- (b) Browsing country profiles.

### ***6. Registering and publishing information at the ABS Clearing-House\*\****

Participants will be invited to undertake hands-on training for registering and publishing their national information. This will allow building the capacity of the participants in completing the following common formats:

- (a) Competent National Authority (CNA);
- (b) ABS measures ( Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing);
- (c) Checkpoints;
- (d) Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC);

- (e) Checkpoint Communiqué (CPC);
- (f) ABS National Website or Database;
- (g) Uploading files in the Virtual Library.

\*\* For this exercise, it is recommended that participants **bring existing national information**. In order for participants to take part in this hands-on training it is very important that each participant bring a **computer**. The Secretariat will be available to answer any questions participants may have during the registration of the information.

### 7. Provision of feedback

Participants will be invited to provide feedback on the ABS Clearing-House.

### 8. Closure of the workshop

The workshop will close at 5 pm.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<i>Time Allocated</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>GENERAL SESSION</b>	
9.30 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.	<b>1. Opening of the workshop</b>
10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	<b>2. Overview of the role of the ABS Clearing-House in supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</b>
11.00 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.	<b>3. Operation of the ABS Clearing-House</b>
11.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	<b>4. Report on progress made on the ABS Clearing-House and issues for consideration at COP-MOPI</b>
12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>TRAINING SESSION</b>	
2.00 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.	<b>5. Introduction to the help functions of the ABS Clearing-House</b>
2.45 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.	<b>6. Registering and publishing information at the ABS Clearing-House</b>
4.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
4.30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>7. Provision of feedback</b>
5 p.m.	<b>8. Closure of the workshop</b>