



PRESS RELEASE

Nagoya Protocol sees new ratification and issuance of second internationally recognised certificate of compliance

Montreal, 29 March 2016 – Following the ratification by Senegal, the total number of ratifications to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization now stands at 73. In addition, South Africa issued the second internationally recognized certificate of compliance on 23 March 2016, following a permit made available to the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House.

“With the ratification by Senegal, 32 African countries have now ratified the Nagoya Protocol, sending a strong and clear signal of the region’s commitment to the implementation of the Protocol,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “The issuance of the second certificate by South Africa is also an excellent advance towards making the Nagoya Protocol operational. I congratulate the Government of South Africa, and look forward to seeing others follow this example.”

The Government of Senegal deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 3 March 2016. Ratification by September 2016 will enable countries to participate in decision-making at the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to be held in December 2016, and to further advance the treaty’s global implementation. Further information on becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/becoming-party/.

Following the issuance of a permit by South Africa, the second internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC) was constituted through the ABS Clearing-House. The permit was made available by South Africa’s Department of Environmental Affairs, the competent national authority under the Nagoya Protocol, and grants access to *Sceletium tortuosum* (Kanna plant) and associated traditional knowledge for commercial use.

Under the Nagoya Protocol, issuance at the time of access of a permit or its equivalent serve as evidence that access to genetic resources was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established. Parties are required by the Nagoya Protocol to make information on issuance of permits, or their equivalent, available to the ABS Clearing-House. Once the information on the permit is published by the country in the ABS Clearing-House, it automatically becomes the IRCC. The first IRCC was constituted in October 2015 following a permit made available by the Government of India.



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Note to editors

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, and entered into force on 12 October 2014. The Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being. To date, 73 Parties have ratified the Nagoya Protocol.

The full text of the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf

The list of signatories of the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 73 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
