



PRESS RELEASE

Countries issue reports on the use of genetic resources in international commerce and research

- *Germany, Malta and Qatar publish first reports on the use of genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing*
- *Afghanistan, Austria, Central African Republic and Palau latest countries to join the Nagoya Protocol*

2 AUGUST 2018 - Germany has published the first report on the utilization of genetic resources through the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House by issuing a checkpoint communiqué concerning research on ants from South Africa. This was rapidly followed by checkpoint communiqués from Malta and Qatar.

The ABS Clearing-House is a global repository of information that helps provide legal certainty and transparency in the context of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit Arising from their Utilization. Part of the role of the ABS Clearing-House is to enable countries to monitor how genetic resources are used along the value chain for commercial or non-commercial research, which is particularly useful when genetic resources have left the country.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, said: “The monitoring system is a key piece of the Nagoya Protocol, and I am very pleased to see it being put into action. Being able to track the use of genetic resources is critical to creating trust between users and providers of genetic resources. The ABS Clearing-House is a unique feature of this international agreement and provides an important tool for connecting users and providers of genetic resources.”

The system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources is further explained in a short video launched during the recent meeting of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

<https://absch.cbd.int/database/VLR/ABSCH-VLR-SCBD-240572>.

The checkpoint communiqués from Germany and Malta also mark the first time that interoperability functions have been used to automatically publish information on the ABS Clearing-House. In this case, information published on the European Union’s (EU) DECLARE tool, an EU-wide tool which enables users of genetic resources to submit the required due diligence declarations, was automatically transferred and published on the ABS Clearing-House. Using interoperability mechanisms like the application

programming interface of the ABS Clearing-House is a practical and efficient way for Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to automate the publication of information on the Clearing-House.

Additional countries have also joined the Nagoya Protocol in recent weeks following ratifications by Afghanistan, Austria, Central African Republic and Palau. This brings the total number of ratifications to 109.

Dr. Paşca Palmer said: “These recent ratifications demonstrate that implementation of the Protocol is gaining momentum. The more countries participate, the better the Nagoya Protocol can meet its objective of contributing to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.”

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House: <https://absch.cbd.int/>

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 so far, 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, 171 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 109 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
