

PRESS RELEASE

In lead-up to adoption of post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP-15, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing remains more relevant than ever

- *The Nagoya Protocol provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of the Convention's third objective: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources*
- *Protocol helps provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge*
- *Promotes a virtuous cycle of ethical sourcing and sustainable reinvestment by encouraging that benefits be reinvested in biodiversity conservation and sustainability efforts*
- *The Protocol has been ratified by 132 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

29 October 2021 – On its eleventh anniversary, 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 remains as relevant as ever.

Adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and in force since 12 October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol is a momentous international environmental agreement which embodies a commitment to fairer and more equitable relationships around the use of genetic resources, and the use of the associated traditional knowledge held by indigenous peoples and local communities.

“As we develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), “the spirit and principles of the Nagoya Protocol will remain critically relevant in the upcoming discussions and will play a key role in the successful achievement of not only Goal C and Target 13, which address access and benefit-sharing in the draft framework, but also in the contribution it makes towards the sustainable use and conservation of our planet’s biodiversity.”

“The Nagoya Protocol can serve as a vehicle for sustained positive change and transformation as we strive to achieve our 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. Therefore, it is important that more countries ratify the Protocol so that we may all reach, and achieve, a sustained future for the planet and humanity.”

The Nagoya Protocol and the principles it embodies will play a key role in making the post-2020 framework truly transformational, change our relationship with nature, and ensure that we all benefit fairly and equitably from the use of biodiversity.

To date, 132 Parties to the CBD have ratified, accepted, approved, or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol.

Robust, pragmatic, and efficient access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures can help make value chains more ethical and sustainable, so that countries and indigenous peoples and local communities continue



to be informed and compensated appropriately when their resources or knowledge are used, for instance, to develop commercial products. The Protocol is the first legal treaty to establish that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources should be accessed with the prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities. Thus, it ushered in the need to consider fairness and equity towards all societal stakeholders in the conservation, use and benefit-sharing from biodiversity, including the environment.

Parties, as well as non-Parties, have made considerable progress in putting in place ABS frameworks. To date, 68 countries have published ABS measures in the ABS Clearing-House and 23 countries have published over 3105 internationally recognized certificates of compliance (which translates to 3105 cases in which resources or knowledge were accessed in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol or prior informed consent/mutually agreed terms (PIC/MAT), with these numbers increasing every day.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Information on the Nagoya Protocol: www.cbd.int/abs/

Information on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/post2020

Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House: absch.cbd.int

E-learning Courses on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS (registration required):

<https://scbd.unssc.org/course/index.php?categoryid=4>

About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD 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, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD 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 peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 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. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 132 Parties.

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