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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF
BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

Third meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS REPORT ON MEASURES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (ARTICLE 21)

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision [NP 1/9](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted an awareness-raising strategy that aims to provide a systematic and coherent approach to assist Parties in the implementation of Article 21. It recognized the need to link activities related to Article 21 to other capacity development activities under the Nagoya Protocol, and the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and other outreach initiatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

2. The strategy recognizes the importance that awareness-raising activities respond to the specific needs and contexts of each Party. For this reason, the strategy is country-driven. However, to assist Parties in the implementation of the strategy, it was agreed that the Secretariat would take certain actions to support the development of national awareness-raising strategies and associated materials and tools by Parties. All products developed under the strategy by the Secretariat, Parties and others should be disseminated through the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House.

3. The strategy is structured around four priority activities which build upon each other. Parties are invited to report on progress in the implementation of the strategy following the completion of their first iteration by submitting materials and national awareness-raising strategies to the ABS Clearing-House.

4. Parties are invited to create and implement awareness-raising activities that fit national circumstances, including by developing national awareness-raising strategies. The role of the Executive Secretary is to support Parties and others in their implementation of the priority activities by providing resources, training and facilitating the sharing of information through the ABS Clearing-House as identified under the priority activities of the awareness-raising strategy.

5. The strategy also builds on the work on awareness-raising that has already been done under the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness. The lessons learned, and tools

* CBD/NP/MOP/3/1.

developed from this programme of work are important resources for strategic communication upon which to build specialized resources. In the spirit of realizing synergy, duplication is to be avoided.

6. Section II of the present document provides an overview of progress made in implementing the awareness-raising strategy according. Section III discusses the way forward in the upcoming biennium and beyond. Section IV contains a draft decision to be considered by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second meeting.

II. PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST TWO PRIORITY ACTIVITIES OF THE AWARENESS-RAISING STRATEGY

7. Under this section, the document presents the progress made by the Executive Secretary, Parties, non-Parties, and relevant actors on implementing the priority activities identified in the awareness-raising strategy. The information on progress made by Parties and non-Parties comes from the interim national reports submitted by 69 Parties and six non-Parties to the Nagoya Protocol as of 22 February 2018.¹

8. The activities carried out by the Executive Secretary were made possible due to the financial support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, which provides resources for capacity development.

A. Priority activity 1: Communication situation analysis and the development of needs-based awareness-raising strategies at the national, regional and subregional levels

1. Progress made by the Executive Secretary

9. The Secretariat has developed an ABS awareness-raising tool kit that includes guidance and recommendations on how to carry out a situation analysis and design a communications strategy (see priority activity 2 below).

10. The main mechanism for sharing information on access and benefit-sharing is the ABS Clearing-House, which was established by Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Nagoya Protocol as part of the clearing-house mechanism. The ABS Clearing-House allows anyone with a CBD account to share information on capacity-building and awareness-raising resources, as well as communication materials on access and benefit-sharing, with a wider audience. Sharing information through the ABS Clearing-House multiplies the impact and visibility of existing materials and helps those raising awareness on ABS to find the tools and materials they need.

11. Awareness-raising related materials are published in the Virtual Library of the ABS Clearing-House by identifying “raising awareness” as the main purpose of the document or resource being published or searched. Information is provided on the target group or audience of the resource, on the content of the resource, and the level of the content or level of knowledge/expertise of the audience for which the resource is intended. Parties and non-Parties can also publish their adopted national awareness-raising strategies as part of their national framework by registering the information as a legislative, administrative or policy measure.

12. According to information gathered by the Secretariat as of 24 August 2018, there are 89 resources related to capacity-building and awareness-raising on access and benefit-sharing. Of these, 40 per cent have been classified as materials for raising awareness. An additional 34 resources have been added to the list since the update prepared for the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in September 2016. It is important to note that only 41, or 46 per cent, of these resources, have been published in the ABS Clearing-House. Of these, 40 per cent have been classified as materials for raising awareness.

¹ The information presented in this section is from the assessment and review analysis detailed in [SBI/2/INF/3](#) that was based on the interim national reports received by the Secretariat by 22 February 2018.

2. *Progress made by Parties and non-Parties and relevant actors*

13. Under priority activity 1, Parties were invited to create national, regional and subregional awareness-raising strategies, including timetables, activities, evaluation tools and identification of target groups. They were also invited to submit national awareness-raising strategies to the ABS Clearing-House.

14. In their interim national reports, countries were asked whether they had taken measures to implement the awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS adopted as decision NP-1/9.²

15. Of the 66 countries that indicated having taken measures to implement Article 21, 50 Parties and three non-Parties reported that they had taken measures to implement the awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol.

16. Some indicated that such a strategy had been integrated into or taken into account within their current framework³ and others have developed a communication or awareness-raising strategy on ABS or are planning to do so.⁴ For instance:

(a) Morocco indicated having developed a strategy and communication tools on ABS. The strategy has three stages: popularization of the concepts and terms of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS principles; consolidating information for stakeholders and opening to the general public; and follow-up in parliamentary debate and adoption of law and regulation;

(b) China reported that the Ministry of Environmental Protection is developing a national communication strategy for the Nagoya Protocol. In collaboration with relevant departments and institutions, and with the support of the Global Environment Facility project, the Ministry will undertake wide-ranging communication and education activities related to ABS and organize training activities at the national and local levels for over 5,000 persons working in ABS management departments, local communities, companies and social media;

(c) Congo reported that it created a specific department for awareness-raising and outreach in the ministry in charge of sustainable development.

17. Countries were also asked whether they had taken measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and related access and benefit-sharing issues as provided in Article 21.

18. A total of 61 Parties and five non-Parties responded that they had taken measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and related access and benefit-sharing issues, while 8 Parties and 1 non-Party reported not having taken such measures.

19. Several countries indicated that they plan to implement Article 21 through an ABS capacity initiative or project.⁵

20. Many countries provided details on the activities carried out to raise awareness on ABS, and a large number of countries reported doing so through the organization of workshops, meetings, seminars and conferences.⁶ Other means to raise awareness mentioned are: (a) information leaflets, brochures or

² The information presented in this section is from the Assessment and Review analysis detailed in SBI/2/INF/3 that was based on 75 interim national reports received by the Secretariat by 22 February 2018.

³ For example, Benin, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Peru, Uganda.

⁴ For example, Morocco, Seychelles, Eswatini, Sweden, Switzerland.

⁵ Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Botswana, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan and Eswatini.

⁶ For example, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Estonia, European Union, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa, Sudan, Eswatini, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

other materials;⁷ (b) national clearing-houses and websites;⁸ (c) dialogues and exchanges;⁹ (d) ABS committees with different stakeholders;¹⁰ (e) emails or newsletters;¹¹ (f) consulting services;¹² helpdesk¹³ or provision of information by the national focal point;¹⁴ (g) online surveys and questionnaires;¹⁵ (h) development of user databases;¹⁶ (i) radio or television programmes;¹⁷ and (j) scientific journals and print media.¹⁸ Some countries reported on specific awareness-raising activities targeted to indigenous peoples and local communities.¹⁹

21. Some countries provided information on awareness-raising activities including the following:

(a) Ethiopia indicated that weekly radio programmes have been produced and disseminated, addressing the importance of biological diversity, the benefits of sustainable utilization, the importance of legal transfer and access of genetic resources, and the legal consequences of illegal access to genetic resources. Short advertisements and television programmes and documentaries have been produced and aired through the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and Addis TV. Billboards on the importance of genetic resources and the benefits of legal access to genetic resources have also been posted at the airport. The Ethiopia Biodiversity Institute has a newspaper column in two newspapers and has published information on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit-sharing in different local languages (Amharic, Oromifa and Tigrigna) and English;

(b) Malawi reported having engaged with the media about ratification of the Nagoya Protocol;

(c) The awareness campaigns of Bhutan on ABS have been mainstreamed into national plans and more than 180 awareness programmes have been conducted at the community level, and more than 50 advocacy and consultation programmes were carried out for academia, policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and others at both the national and international levels. They reported that around 26 awareness programmes were planned targeting communities and academia.

B. Priority activity 2: Creation of a toolkit and awareness-raising material

1. Progress made by the Executive Secretary

22. Under this priority activity, an ABS awareness-raising toolkit is being finalized and the English version will be made available online through the Secretariat's website²⁰ and the ABS Clearing-House²¹ in early November 2018. The toolkit will also be presented at the CEPA fair to be held in Egypt. By the end of the year it is expected that the tool kit will be published in all official languages of the United Nations. It is important to note that the main audience for this toolkit is ABS focal points and other government officials working on ABS policies and implementation.

⁷ For example, Bhutan, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, Viet Nam.

⁸ For example, Burundi, Czechia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Spain, Viet Nam.

⁹ For example, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Malawi.

¹⁰ For example, Benin, Bulgaria, Honduras.

¹¹ For example, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Netherlands.

¹² For example, Japan.

¹³ For example, Germany.

¹⁴ For example, Hungary.

¹⁵ For example, Estonia, Germany, Sweden.

¹⁶ For example, Germany, Sweden.

¹⁷ For example, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Morocco.

¹⁸ For example, Belarus, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

¹⁹ For example, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa.

²⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/abs>.

²¹ <https://absch.cbd.int>.

23. To address the needs of users in navigating the volume of materials available on ABS communication that already exist in a variety of formats and platforms, the ABS toolkit has been developed as an interactive document and offers a menu of choices or “pathways” for the user to select from. At the highest level, the user is invited to choose from among the following five strategic goals:

Goal 1: Raising awareness of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol at different levels;

Goal 2: Fostering political will for ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

Goal 3: Involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

Goal 4: Building awareness for national ABS systems/requirements;

Goal 5: Negotiation of ABS agreements.

24. The toolkit is designed in such a way as to enable the users to easily find the most relevant materials (tips, checklists, guidelines and case studies) to fulfil their own communications and awareness-raising needs. In addition to an introduction to the toolkit and how to use it, the toolkit contains a section that outlines the 10 steps for strategic communication planning which helps the user to carry out a situational analysis to identify the issues, communication purposes, target audiences and how to go about developing a communication strategy. It also consists of the following sections: how to inform and advocate; how to engage for change and action; and how to collaborate on biodiversity. In addition, the toolkit has been designed in such a way as to allow the inclusion of new resources as they become available.

25. Moreover, the user of the toolkit can select specific topics related to ABS on which they wish to build awareness. This can include the following: promoting ratification of the Nagoya Protocol; negotiating mutually agreed terms; ensuring participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; or considering the different sectors’ approaches to using genetic resources.

26. Finally, the user is led to a list of possible useful resources. These include general resources on strategic communication principles and approaches, similar to those found in the Convention’s CEPA toolkit, as well as communications resources that are specific to raising awareness on access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol.

2. Progress made by Parties and relevant actors

27. Under priority activity 2, Parties are expected to create ABS awareness-raising and training materials by using the toolkit and its resources, and then to distribute materials at the national and regional levels through established communication channels. Materials developed are to be submitted to the ABS Clearing-House.

28. Since the tool kit will only be made available in November 2018, progress on this item will be reported on at a later date.

III. THE WAY FORWARD: ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM (2019-2020)

29. This section presents proposals to promote the use of the toolkit by Parties, non-Parties, and other relevant actors involved in the Nagoya Protocol and to encourage users of the toolkit to provide feedback on their experiences, to ensure its continued updating.

30. The third (Train communicators and engage target groups) and fourth (Evaluation and feedback) priority activities of the awareness-raising strategy will be initiated by the Executive Secretary and by Parties and relevant organizations over the next biennium now that the ABS awareness-raising tool kit has been created.

31. For priority activity 3, the Executive Secretary will disseminate the toolkit to Parties and relevant organizations and encourage its use in ABS capacity-building and awareness-raising projects and activities. The kit may also be used as part of ABS capacity-building activities that may be developed by the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in line with the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets²² as well as with other existing opportunities and activities organized by the Secretariat and by other actors.

32. For the fourth priority activity, the Executive Secretary will seek the feedback from users of the tool kit, including Parties and relevant organizations. Implementation of priority activity 4 will form the basis for future iterations of the awareness-raising strategy.

IV. DRAFT DECISION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AT ITS THIRD MEETING

33. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

1. *Takes note* of progress made in the implementation of the awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing;²³

2. *Welcomes* the awareness-raising toolkit for access and benefit-sharing developed by the Secretariat with a view to supporting the implementation of the awareness-raising strategy;

3. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, relevant organizations and other actors to utilize the access and benefit-sharing awareness-raising toolkit developed by the Secretariat as part of their awareness-raising and capacity-building activities and to provide feedback on its use to the Secretariat;

4. *Also invites* Parties, non-Parties, relevant organizations and other actors to continue to implement awareness-raising activities and to make available information on awareness-raising strategies and resources through the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue supporting the implementation of the awareness-raising strategy, including the use of the access and benefit-sharing awareness-raising toolkit, through its capacity-building activities and by encouraging the use of the access and benefit-sharing awareness-raising toolkit in access and benefit-sharing capacity-building and awareness-raising projects carried out by Parties, non-Parties and relevant organizations;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek feedback from Parties, non-Parties and other relevant actors on the access and benefit-sharing awareness-raising toolkit and to provide an update on the progress of implementation of the awareness-raising strategy for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting.

²² UNEP/CBD/COP/13/13.

²³ CBD/NP/MOP/3/6.