5th Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing

Jointly organised by

*the **ABS Capacity Development Initiative,** and*

*the **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)***

in partnership with

*the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD),***

10-13 November 2014, XXX, Sydney, Australia

D R A F T – 31 August 2014

Background

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative – a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – has been implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH since 2006. Following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010, the European Union tasked and funded GIZ to expand the ABS Initiative beyond its focus on Africa to include the Caribbean and the Pacific countries of the ACP Group of States.

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the ABS Initiative has convened four regional workshops and two training courses since 2012, contributing to capacity building to promote the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in the Pacific region.

The 5th workshop, co-organised by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and SPREP in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), will be held in Sydney from 10 to 13 November 2014, back to back with the IUCN World Parks Congress. Building on the outcomes of previous workshops, a particular focus of this workshop will be on addressing the challenges of regulating marine bioprospecting when implementing the Nagoya Protocol at national level. Furthermore, the outcomes of COP-MOP 1 of the Nagoya Protocol will be presented and discussed.

Objectives

This workshop aims to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific region by providing an opportunity for exchange of experiences and learning among stakeholders from all Pacific countries. Participants will be invited to discuss the processes and tools for the effective and efficient regulation of ABS at the regional, national and local levels. The objectives of the workshop will be:

- Exchange of experiences and update on the status of ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Enhance the understanding of the potentials marine bioprospecting and related challenges to address when developing national ABS frameworks;
- Increase the understanding of the business models of relevant sectors engaged in marine bioprospecting and the implications for establishing PIC and MAT.

Programme Overview

The workshop will comprise the following elements of work:

Outcomes of the COP-MOP 1 of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and status of ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific

Under this part of the programme a representative of the SCBD/SPREP will provide an overview on the discussions and decisions of COP-MOP 1, which took place from 12 to 17 October in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Participants will be invited to inform each other about the steps taken to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol at national level highlighting specific challenges and indicating possible approaches to overcome them.

Challenges when addressing marine bioprospecting in national ABS frameworks
Representatives of relevant organisations, such as USP, the LMMA Network et al., will be invited to update participants of relevant ongoing work focusing specifically on the relevant provisions of the Nagoya Protocol for establishing PIC and MAT when accessing and utilising marine genetic resources in coastal waters as well as from deep sea environments within Exclusive Economic zones (EEZ). Specific attention will be given

- to the role of traditional knowledge associated with marine genetic resources and traditional governance schemes when access is taking place within coral reefs, and
- to the potential implications for environmental impact assessments in the context of deep sea mining activities within EEZs.

Participants will be invited to share their experiences and discuss the implications for developing national ABS frameworks and possible synergies with the implementation of other relevant international instruments as well as opportunities for regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Business models of relevant commercial sectors engaged in marine bioprospecting
Especially pharmaceutical, biotech and cosmetic industries are increasingly utilizing marine genetic resources for developing new commercial products. Market volumes are usually hugh as the necessary investments in R&D. Understanding the different business models of these sectors and the implications for achieving PIC and establishing MAT are key to negotiate realistic ABS agreements which ensure that benefit-sharing becomes a reality and contributes to sustainable development of SIDS economies.

Expected Outcomes

Based on the objectives and the key elements of the agenda presented above, the following outcomes are expected:

- Capacities to undertake activities towards the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol among Pacific stakeholders are further improved.
- Regional exchange of views and experiences among Pacific stakeholders on ABS is strengthened.
- Awareness and knowledge of stakeholders in relation to marine bioprospecting and the implications for developing national ABS frameworks in the Pacific region is enhanced.

Participants

Up to 40 participants including CBD/ABS National Focal Points, representatives of competent national authorities on ABS, representatives of relevant regional organisations and international (research) institutions, NGOs, indigenous and local communities, as well as representatives of the private sector involved in bio-trade and bio-prospecting.

The workshop will be held in the English language.

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