

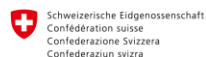
THE **ABS**
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'**APA**

Progress Report 2019

The ABS Initiative is funded by



Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

and implemented by





Table of Contents

1.	Executive Summary	1
2.	Background: Current status of ABS in ACP countries.....	5
3.	Financial status and perspective	8
4.	Outcomes and outputs	11
4.1	Support to partner countries (Africa) and cooperation countries (ACP-wide)	12
4.2	Support to cooperation countries.....	23
4.2.1	African cooperation countries with GIZ-implemented projects addressing ABS	23
4.2.2	African cooperation countries without GIZ-implemented projects addressing ABS	30
4.2.3	Caribbean (cooperation countries)	30
4.2.4	Pacific (cooperation countries)	31
4.2.5	Asia	32
4.3	Support at (sub-)regional and international level	33
4.3.1	Core implementation processes.....	34
4.3.2	Auxiliary processes	35
4.4	Steering and guiding processes	40
4.4.1	Steering Committee	40
4.4.2	Project management.....	41
4.4.3	(Sub-)regional management	43
4.4.4	External evaluation	43
5.	Challenges and opportunities in ABS implementation	44
5.1	Key challenges.....	44
5.1.1	Designing ABS systems / regulatory frameworks	44
5.1.2	Indigenous peoples, local communities and governance	45
5.1.3	Digital Sequence Information (DSI)	45
5.1.4	Developing specific regulations and procedures	46
5.1.5	Negotiations and clauses of ABS contracts.....	46
5.1.6	Monitoring of ABS contracts.....	47
5.1.7	ABS compliant value chain development	47
5.2	Momentum and opportunities	48
Annex A:	Expenditure Report 2019	51
Annex B:	Definitions for indicators as provided in the Addendum of the Progress Report 2015	55
Annex C:	Outline of the ABioSA sub-project	56
Annex D:	List of workshops, trainings and conferences (co-)organised, (co-)financed or attended by the ABS Initiative	57



1. Executive Summary

In 2019, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative) continued contributing to the establishment of functioning ABS agreements between providers and users and supported its partners in designing and implementing the required regulatory frameworks.

The unstable funding situation since 2015 continued in 2019. Thus the management of the ABS Initiative focussed operational expenditure in 2019 on supporting partner countries in the implementation of the national ABS roadmaps developed and updated since 2015, trainings on ABS contracts for Francophone West African/Indian Ocean states and for the Pacific, the IDLO-SCBD blended legal training workshop, the community-to-community ABS-exchange between African, Indian and Canadian IPLC representatives, supporting technical preparation of African delegates for the implementation review process of the Nagoya Protocol at CBD COP14/MOP 3 and ensuring the meaningful exchange with commercial users through the participation of partner countries at the 2019 UEBT conference in Paris.

Table 1 - Progress against outcome indicator 1 (regulatory ABS frameworks)

Outcome Indicator 1: In 4 (non-GIZ supported) partner countries of the ABS Initiative ABS National Focal Points / Competent National Authorities have **submitted drafts to the relevant decision makers** for the institutional and legal framework of ABS on the national level.
Baseline: 3 drafts (2 pre- and 1 post-Nagoya) - Target: +x post-Nagoya drafts – Status: +4 drafts

Status overview - Outcome Indicator 1

Benin: Interim legal framework in force, full description of the system including visualisations available on the ABS-CH and first access demands are being processed; an evaluation of the implementation of the interim framework is foreseen in the second quarter of 2020; ad-hoc committee acting as Competent National Authority. Plan for the elaboration of a specific ABS law has been elaborated.

Côte d'Ivoire: An inter-ministerial ABS decree has been developed before CIV became partner country of the ABS Initiative; since July 2019 the Initiative has supported the elaboration of a visualisation of the foreseen ABS system, several implementing regulations and model documents for the decree. In this process some shortcomings of the decree have been detected and a workshop for final modifications and validation of the decree is foreseen for March 2020.

Kenya: 2017-2019: Establishment of a single-window IT-based permitting and monitoring system in three phases, the institutional integration and hand-over is planned for 2020
2019: The National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) relaunched its online applications system RIMS for research permits supported by the advice and work of the ABS Initiative. This system is the entry point for the new ABS IT System. Three Pilot Counties were supported in awareness raising and capacity development aiming at developing ABS procedures.

South Africa: Revision of post-Nagoya ABS regulatory framework: Revised law (NEMBA) at cabinet level for approval; to be followed by public consultations on law and finalisations of draft of regulations (BABS).

Uganda: By decision of the Steering Committee, Uganda has been replaced by Ivory Coast as partner country of the ABS Initiative.

Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator
(the rating “good” reflects the progress made so far in reaching x drafts in March 2022)



**very good
(almost)
achieved**



**good
(on track)**



**Problems
(partially)
delays in
implementation**



**Deficiencies
(Risk to fail)**



Table 2- Progress against outcome indicator 2 (ABS agreements)

Outcome Indicator 2: In 4 partner countries and at least 5 cooperation countries of the ABS Initiative 20 new ABS agreements have been established.

Baseline: *no baseline* - Target: *+20 ABS agreements* – Status: *+19 ABS agreements*

Status overview – Partner countries:

Benin: The first 26 access demands have been analysed and 13 non-commercial demands from national users have been put on track for the delivery of ABS permits, given that all prerogatives are being fulfilled (e.g. research permit). 10 of these 13 non-commercial demands have fulfilled all obligations and the respective 10 permits have been signed and have been processed for upload on the ABSCH in March 2020.

Côte d'Ivoire: During the working sessions of the ad hoc ABS Committee, three international access demands have been discussed and the respective permits are currently being prepared.

Kenya: Four ABS agreements are under negotiation with the support of the ABS Initiative (2x Laikipia County, 1x Baringo County, 1x Kakamega County; the ABS Initiative supported county stakeholders in the negotiation of an ABS agreement, which signature is delayed due to the Corona outbreak (Baringo County). A German university was advised on procedures and possibilities for non-monetary benefit sharing related to an ABS agreement (Kilifi County). Stakeholder were advised on an ABS agreement on extremophile microbes which was concluded in the context of a UNEP GEF project. Negotiations between a French company and Kenyan authorities were supported and led to the signature of the PIC; the MAT is under negotiation.

South Africa: Four ABS agreements with support of ABS Initiative established, conceptual approach developed to support selected value chains as well as the entire BioTrade sector at large in the context of the sub-project on ABS compliant value chains (ABioSA). ABioSA implementation phase started in September 2018.

Uganda: By decision of the Steering Committee, Uganda has been replaced by Ivory Coast as partner country of the ABS Initiative.

Status overview – African cooperation countries:

Algeria: One ABS agreement between an Algerian company and a cooperative for lentisk oil has been elaborated and signed with support of the ABS Initiative.

Cameroon: Two ABS agreements with support of the ABS Initiative established between a French fragrance company and a local community.

Ethiopia: The ABS Initiative supported the GIZ-implemented public-private partnership (PPP) programme “develoPPP.de” in matters of ABS compliance with regard to a PPP project with the German pharmaceutical SME Repha sourcing myrrh in Ethiopia for one of their medicinal products. The contract should be concluded in 2020.

Malawi: The ABS Initiative, FNI and Malawi have conducted two missions where ten contracts have been discussed, improved and processed. None of them is signed yet.

Mauritania: The negotiation of an ABS agreement with the German research institution GeoMar for marine research was supported but has not been signed yet.

Status overview – Pacific cooperation countries:

Vanuatu: Support to the negotiation of an ABS agreement with a Spanish company for marine pharmaceutical bioprospecting provided since Oct. 2018. An agreement could not be achieved.

Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator
(the rating “good” reflects the progress made so far in reaching 20 agreements in March 2022)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
very good (almost) achieved	good (on track)	Problems (partially) delays in implementation	Deficiencies (Risk to fail)



Table 3 - Progress against outcome indicator 3 (ABS agreements based on BCPs)

Outcome Indicator 3: In 4 partner countries and at least 3 cooperation countries of the ABS Initiative 12 ABS agreements are based on Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) or comparable instruments (CI) and promote the inclusion and participation of women in benefit-sharing.
Baseline: *no baseline* – Target: *+12 ABS agreements* – Status: *+11 ABS agreements*

Status overview – Partner countries:

Benin: A BCP around two sacred forests in the municipality of Bonou (Ouémé region) has been finalised and is available in French and in the community's local language Ouémé. The validation of the translation was done in 2019 with Bioversity and then uploaded on the ABSCH. The ten signed permits for national non-commercial users are concerning 4 different communities and the adaption of the existing BCPs for the concerned communities has been initiated in 2019.

Côte d'Ivoire: So far, no work on BCPs and/or communities has started in Côte d'Ivoire yet. If one of the future access demands will concern a local community as provider, it is foreseen to kick-start the elaboration of a first BCP as basis for the upcoming negotiations.

Kenya: A BCP by the Endorois Welfare Council in Baringo County was adopted. One ABS agreement under negotiation in Laikipia County will benefit women producer groups.

South Africa: One ABS agreement between National Khoisan Council and the South African Rooibos industry and other companies; two further ABS agreements between the Cape Bush doctors and other companies. One agreement including the Heuningvlei community on the Clanwilliam Cedar. All agreements will impact directly or indirectly positively on women's livelihoods.

Status overview – African cooperation countries:

Cameroon: One ABS agreement based on intense exchanges with and amongst the providing community feeding into a national discussion on the establishment of BCP procedures has been finalised. More than 40% of beneficiaries in the supply chain of the resource are women.

Madagascar: 5 biotrade agreements between communities and users have been established based on the commercialization of Saro Oil. All of them have respected the BCP of the communities. A provision on ABS have been integrated in these agreements.

Malawi: One ABS contract between IPLCs and foreign users is finalised, a second one is currently under negotiation.

Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator

(the rating "good" reflects the progress made so far in reaching 12 agreements in March 2022)



**very good
(almost) achieved**



**good
(on track)**



**Problems
(partially) delays
in
implementation**



**Deficiencies
(Risk to fail)**

As in the previous year, the Initiative provided support to its partner countries along the three core processes of the ABS Initiative's intervention logic: **(1) national institutional and regulatory ABS frameworks, (2) effective participation of IPLCs based on BCPs or other relevant community procedures, and (3) development of ABS agreements.**

With respect to ABS frameworks, Benin uploaded a detailed description of its interim ABS system, including a detailed visualisation of the ABS process, on the ABS Clearing House and has initiated the process of elaboration of a specific ABS law. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Initiative has supported the elaboration of a visualisation of the foreseen ABS system, several implementing regulations and model documents for the inter-ministerial ABS decree, currently under revision by the concerned Ministries. In Kenya, the programming work for single window IT-based ABS application, permitting and monitoring system was concluded. The implementation in the institutions and hand-over is planned for 2020. After the adoption of the interim ABS regulation in Madagascar by Cabinet in 2017, the ABS Initiative is providing technical, strategic and legal backstopping support towards the finalisation of "textes d'application" between the different ministries to guide the proper implementation of the decree. Also, in Namibia the initiative punctually supported the development of draft implementing



regulations for the operationalisation of the ABS bill in Namibia (2017) as a key field of activity. With regard to the experiences made in ABS contract trainings and negotiation support, specific advice should be given to countries to include provisions in the legal ABS framework documents on the consequences in case of breach of the ABS contract.

In recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities as providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the ABS Initiative supported the elaboration of two BCPs in **Benin** that were both adopted in 2018. The official validation of the translation into the local language has been supported in 2019. Through funding of the ABS Initiative, Natural Justice continued in 2018 to support developing a BCP for seven communities in **Madagascar**, which was finalised and officially launched in December 2017. In **Kenya**, Natural Justice supported the Endorois Welfare Council in completing the BCP for the Endorois community. The BCP was officially presented in September 2019 and will form part of the Lake Bogoria National Reserve Management Plan, which also guides use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge within the reserve. Furthermore, the Ogiek community has requested Natural Justice guidance to expand and strengthen sections of their BCP in relation to traditional knowledge and ABS.

In South Africa, the Initiative has been besides facilitating consultations between users and Indigenous knowledge holders, supporting the National Khoisan Council (NKC) to finalise a rooibos industry wide ABS agreement which was finally concluded in 2019 and the setting-up two ABS trust funds for the different knowledge holders.

Support to development of ABS agreements was a key intervention field in 2019 – with focussed support activities at country and sub-regional level, culminating in the Pan-African ABS Workshop, which was primarily devoted to exchange and learnings on ABS compliant value chains. The ABS Initiative supported the matchmaking and/or negotiation of ABS agreements between **Kenyan** providers and a variety of stakeholders. Main efforts were made to support the PIC negotiations between providers from Baringo County and a Chinese company, which intends to use aloe in biotechnology applications amongst others. In **South Africa**, the ABS Initiative supported negotiations between a South African SME and a group of traditional herbal practitioners, which led to the granting of a biodiscovery permit for the South African SME. An additional two ABS agreements (Clanwilliam cedar, rooibos sector agreement) with local communities in South Africa were signed, supported by the ABS Initiative and its partners, UEBT and Natural Justice respectively. The SECO-financed sub-project of the ABS Initiative, on “ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa” (ABioSA) turned fully operational in 2019 and trained e.g. 21 SMEs to improve their technical and regulatory capacities in ABS relevant value chains. In **Benin**, 26 existing access demands were analysed and for 10 non-commercial demands from national users, the respective permits were signed. Technical expertise was sought by a German-Algerian ABS project which resulted in the signature of a first **Algerian** ABS agreement on lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus*) oil between a women’s cooperative and an Algerian company. In Madagascar, the ABS Initiative advised the CNA in analysing different access demands with respect to benefit sharing and monitoring obligations and continued supporting the CNA in exchanges with European private sector on further elaborating ABS agreements.

In several of the reported ABS negotiations, IPLCs are included. Two main challenges in drafting of ABS contracts that include associated traditional knowledge have been identified: One is describing the subject matter regulated by a contract in a manner that allows to enforce it in the context of a contract (which of course need to be enforceable in all its elements). The other arises when biotrade is leaning on associated traditional knowledge. This second challenge is particularly strong when biotrade does not require ABS permits or ABS contracts. One lesson learned is that an ABS-BioTrade Contract Tool needs to reflect aspects related to IPLCs and aTK in a clear end systematic manner.

In 2019, established formats and tools developed by the ABS Initiative once again proved to have great impact on ABS capacity development:

- The **12th Pan-African ABS Workshop**, held September/October 2020 in Cape Town, South Africa focussed on valorisation of biological and genetic resources and hands-on implementation of ABS. Experiences and real life ABS cases from South Africa and the SADC region provided a unique forum for National ABS Focal Points, industry and research stakeholders as well as IPLCS



to elaborate on necessary conducive legal, administrative and economic environments to improve the delivery of ABS for sustainable rural development in Africa.

- The **1st Global DSI Dialogue** offered a forum for open exchange reflecting about scientific, technical and policy issues. Participants were informed about the general patterns in production, storage and use of DSI by three international experts. Furthermore, the Secretariat of the CBD and five other international organisations presented on the current state of discussions on DSI in the respective fora. The main outcomes of the dialogue were:
 - Five options for sharing benefits arising from the (commercial) use of DSI;
 - A list of points for consideration with regards to analysing and evaluating benefit-sharing options for the utilisation of DSI;
- Within the established cooperation framework the ABS Initiative continued in 2019 its partnership with the **Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)** for conducting the **Beauty of Sourcing with Respect' (BSR)** conference as well as related business dialogue elements – including an African product share fair – around the conference in Paris.

The Initiative and its partners responded to the SC guidance to valorise the experiences of the Initiatives work and produced a range of publications focusing on ABS agreements and ABS implementation options. The ABS Initiative website incl. all documents and multimedia products were changed to reflect the new donor constellation and to include the ABioSA subproject. The Initiative continues shifting from offline to online products, working also on **knowledge management and tool development** in fields related to documenting ABS cases and best practices, understanding compliance and the ABS Clearing-House and national ABS permitting systems.

Further to the work undertaken in partner countries, the Initiative provided **ad hoc support to cooperation countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific as well as countries or projects in other regions** – including advice on emerging ABS cases (Ethiopia, Malawi, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe).

Despite visible progress in 2019, the ABS Initiative – or rather the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol – is still facing specific challenges. Due to **still unclear procedures and insufficient ABS and contract law capacities among legal experts**, countries face difficulties in the context of negotiating and concluding effective ABS agreements. A key issue that also needs to be resolved is how to match **understaffed and/or insufficiently capacitated government agencies operating on basis of new and often only partly functional ABS frameworks with the requirements of academia and the private sector**. Adding to that, a proper implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is limited through the fact that still many countries with a functioning ABS system in place do not provide the relevant information on the ABS Clearing-House, making it difficult if not impossible for users to comply with ABS. There is also limited understanding on the function of IRCCs, which are highly relevant for countries with compliance regulations such as the EU member states, Switzerland and Norway.

In light of the review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol in 2018, **emerging topics also urgently ought to be addressed in the context of the Protocol such as the issue of synthetic biology and digital sequence information and its relation to ABS**, which was brought to attention in particular by the African Group during CBD COP 13 / NP MOP 2 (Cancun) and COP 14 / NP MOP 3 (Sharm El-Sheik) respectively.

In order to make the Nagoya Protocol fully functional with clear legislative and administrative systems established at the national level as well as functioning compliance and monitoring internationally, the continuation of targeted activities of the ABS Initiative and its partners in the coming year is unarguable necessary.

2. Background: Current status of ABS in ACP countries

As of 31 December 2019, 123 countries have ratified the Nagoya Protocol and according to information provided by the CBD Secretariat (January 2020). With this, most of the world's countries are integrating the principles of ABS in their national environmental and policy frameworks, making the Nagoya Protocol a key international treaty.



Table 4 – Status of membership to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS among ACP countries and Northern Africa (source: ABS-CH as of 31 December 2019).

	ACP Region + Northern Africa			Total
	Africa	Caribbean	Pacific	
Parties	45	5	7	57
Ratified, not yet Party	0	0	2	2
Non-Party, signatory	6	1	0	7
Non-Parties	3	10	6	19
Total	54	16	15	85

With 89 **ratifications**, developing countries (OECD DAC classification) represent the vast majority (72%) of Parties to the Protocol. This underscores the importance that the so-called ‘provider countries’ are attaching to the ABS mechanism. Among them, Africa counts 45 Parties to the Protocol, which equals 83% of all AU member states. This underscores Africa’s strong commitment as well as expectations towards ABS as an instrument to support national conservation and sustainable development agendas. In line with this, the African Group continues to play a visible and active role in the negotiations at the international level. As table 4 shows, Caribbean and Pacific countries are less advanced in the ratification process, although progress can be observed in these regions, too. For instance, many C/P countries are still in the course of developing domestic legislation, which in many cases is a precondition for acceding to international instruments. Nevertheless, a major obstacle slowing down these processes especially in SIDS countries are the limited human capacities of small administrations.

Ratifications have been advancing considerably. Yet, the actual **implementation** of the Nagoya Protocol at the national level still bears challenges for most countries. While all ACP countries – Parties as well as non-Parties – have designated **national focal points**, only 20 African and five Caribbean countries have listed their **competent national authorities** on the ABSCH, and only three ACP countries have designated **checkpoints**. In their Interim National Reports on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol submitted to the CBD Secretariat in 2017, 27 African and four Caribbean countries report that they have taken **legislative, administrative and policy measures** on ABS, with 20 ACP countries having listed such measures on the ABS-CH by the end of January 2019. A large portion of these measures date from before the Nagoya Protocol’s adoption, and in most ACP countries, policy development, the revision of existing legislation and/or the drafting of new measures as well as related consultation processes are still ongoing. Not surprisingly, information on ABS agreements in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol is still scarce. Kenya (38) and South Africa (29) – both partner countries of the ABS Initiative – as well as Guyana (5), the Dominican Republic (2), Ethiopia (1) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (1) have so far created 76 out of 1,123 **internationally recognised certificates of compliance (IRCCs)**. In their Interim National Reports, some further countries specify that they have granted a certain number of **permits** and 24 state that **benefits** have been shared, but the respondents underline that many of these cases cannot be viewed as ABS cases in the narrow sense of the Nagoya Protocol.

As the Interim National Reports reveal (and the ABS Initiative’s experiences confirm), especially the Protocol’s **compliance system** is still insufficiently understood and addressed by many ACP countries. Yet, the so-called ‘**user measures**’ implemented by countries such as the EU member states, Switzerland and Japan are taking effect and thus help raise awareness of this issue in countries providing genetic resources. As the ABS Initiative’s partners confirm, users interested in genetic resources and/or associated TK are increasingly approaching national focal points and CNAs in ACP countries for information on their domestic measures, as they are now obliged to comply with these measures and provide evidence of PIC and MAT in the countries where the utilisation is taking place. At the same time, as the institutional setup is evolving, communication between CNAs of different (‘user’ and ‘provider’) countries across the world is slowly improving.



However, with legal frameworks and the related institutions not being (fully) operational yet, authorities in many ACP countries often feel uncomfortable to engage in ABS cases and do not always respond to users' requests. In the research and business communities, this causes frustration and has a negative effect on research cooperation. Upcoming business opportunities are in danger of not being realised, and even existing value chains contributing to biodiversity conservation, rural development and technology transfer are put at risk. Therefore, action for the implementation of the Protocol is still urgently needed at the national level. This support should focus on supporting the institutional and administrative effectiveness of national ABS systems and on the exchange of information via the ABS-CH which is crucial for the international compliance system set up by the Nagoya Protocol. Lessons learnt in some countries show that many users still follow a 'business as usual' approach and are reluctant to accept contract clauses in the negotiation with providers. Awareness raising is still needed amongst researchers using genetic resources to enter into ABS negotiations.

Such challenges aside, the data summarised above also show that more and more countries are developing their national ABS systems and gaining first concrete experiences. With this, the **interfaces** between general ABS rules formulated under the Nagoya Protocol and **measures and practices in other sectors**, some of which are driven by international negotiations around instruments like FAO-ITPGRFA, WHO-PIP or UNCLOS, are increasingly emerging as important issues. In most countries, the implementation of ABS in the sense of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol is the responsibility of the (often comparatively weak) ministry of environment, while agricultural and forestry resources, marine resources and pathogens are the respective domains of the (usually stronger) ministries of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and health. The Interim National Reports submitted by ACP countries indicate that cooperation between these sectors is still weak and that specialised measures for basic research, genetic resources for food and agriculture or for pathogens, as required by Art. 8 of the Nagoya Protocol, have hardly been developed so far, which can have severe implications for international research e.g. in health and agriculture. At the same time, ACP countries are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of **digital sequence information (DSI)** and the way it is addressed under the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as well as other international fora as the FAO ITPGRFA and the UNCLOS BBNJ negotiations. DSI has implications for ABS across all these sectors, with its relevance for taxonomy, basic and applied research as well as commercial applications. However, many countries lack the appropriate institutional arrangements necessary for the long and sometimes complicated consultations between different authorities required to adequately address issues like DSI in legislation and contracts. In all these cases, the dynamic situation at the international policy level can severely test the limits of national technical and legal capacity, sometimes resulting in legal uncertainty and/or institutional paralysis. In parallel to the ongoing global discussions, developing standard DSI-contracts and clauses could be a fruitful way forward. **Supranational institutions** such as the African Union Commission, whose ABS Guidelines have been reaffirmed as the key coordinating instrument for ABS by the AU General Assembly in January 2015, can and should play a strong role to help countries coordinate their positions and find common solutions for these emerging issues. Especially African countries play a driving role in the international DSI negotiations. The request for focussed capacity development led to the initiative by Norway and South Africa, to provide (Norwegian) funding to the ABS Initiative for organising two **Global Dialogues on DSI** in the run-up of CBD COP-15 in October 2020.

All these developments in the political and institutional spheres of ABS are met with a steadily growing awareness among stakeholders in ACP countries that the **valorisation** of biodiversity and traditional knowledge can and should be approached in a pro-active and strategic manner. More and more actors of existing value chains, including from biotrade projects that do not necessarily involve research and development, are beginning to include ABS considerations in their activities, and political frameworks promoting biodiversity-based innovation and valorisation are increasingly linked with the emerging ABS frameworks. This has led to a growing demand for technical and legal support to valorisation-related work, such as value chain configuration, business planning and contract negotiation, across the ABS Initiative's partner and cooperation countries. This demand has also prompted a debate among support institutions about how they can best deliver such support, and while some best practices have been identified, the matter is still far from being resolved.



Another recurring issue raised by both, governments and local stakeholders, in this context is the question of how ABS can be operationalised for the particular case of **traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources**, addressing matters of intellectual property as well as cooperation and benefit-sharing across country borders. In this regard, further practical experiences must be generated and shared. Regulatory arrangements are urgently needed to enhance legal certainty for both the holders and potential users of traditional knowledge.

All in all, the rich biological diversity and the related traditional knowledge and cultural practices across ACP countries bear enormous potential for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as for the development of local livelihoods. Stakeholders in these countries increasingly recognise this potential and start acting upon it, and slowly the respective regulatory and administrative frameworks are evolving. If these developments receive the required support at the international, national as well as local levels, this prepares fruitful ground for benefits to be generated and shared in the spirit of ABS.

3. Financial status and perspective

In 2015, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (**BMZ**) commissioned GIZ for additional three years to implement the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (2 Mio Euro for 04/2015-03/2018). In early 2017, BMZ made an additional amount of 750,000 Euro available to the ABS Initiative for expenditure until 03/2018, thus maintaining a sufficient level of funding to address immediate needs for capacity development. In June 2018, the Ministry granted an additional amount of 2.4 Mio Euro and extended the commission until March 2022; in 2019 an additional 2.7 Mio Euro were allocated to the ABS Initiative and commissioned in February 2020.

A second round of funding was approved by the relevant EU bodies in December 2016 under the **11th European Development Fund (through the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement)**. After conclusion of the necessary agreements between the Commission and the ACP Secretariat, a *Delegation Agreement* between the Commission and GIZ was established, making 5 Mio Euro available to the ABS Initiative for expenditure until 03/2022.

As in the previous year, **OIF/IFDD** contributed 50,000 Euro to the ABS Initiative for expenditure until 12/2019 and is considering continuing its support in 2020.

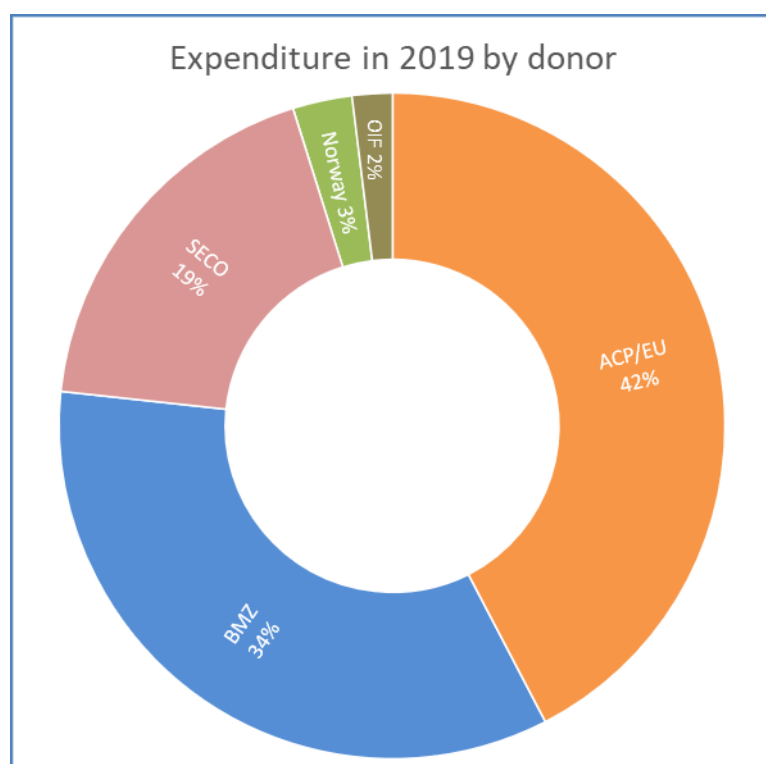


Figure 1- Donor contributions to the actual expenditure of 3,117,647 Euro in 2019 (see also expenditure report in Annex A).



In a financing agreement the **Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)** made available 3 Mio. CHF (approx. 2.5 Mio EUR) for 3.5 years to GIZ, earmarked for the project “ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa” (ABioSA). The project is focused on South Africa and the southern African region and started in February 2018. Annex D provides an overview on project objectives and components.

As a result of a series of exchanges with the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Ministry of Climate and Environment** in 2018, an additional amount of 5 Mio NOK (approx. 500,000 EUR) were made available in 2018 under the Delegated Cooperation Agreement between BMZ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with another 5 Mio NOK committed for 2020. This renewed engagement of the Government of Norway is directly linked to Norway’s environmental cooperation with South Africa and is targeting capacity development on DSI and the role of ABS in the CBD post-2020 agenda.

With the ABioSA project getting in full implementation, the expenditure in 2019 increased to 3.1 Mio Euro as compared to about 2.5 Mio Euro in 2018. With a view to maintaining key processes and keeping partnerships ongoing, operational expenditure in 2019 was focused on:

- core activities – i.e. supporting partner countries in the implementation of the national ABS roadmaps developed and updated since 2015,
- providing grants to South and Southern African SMEs and organising a sub-regional marula workshop under the ABioSA project;
- the yearly [Beauty of Sourcing with Respect Conference \(BSR\) of the Union for Ethical BioTrade \(UEBT\)](#), including technical dialogues sessions with the private sector where participation of African provider countries was largely co-funded by the BMZ-funded projects in the respective countries;
- the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop and the 1st Global DSI Dialogue
- a sub-regional training on ABS contracts for Anglophone African countries;
- Knowledge management and tool development in the fields related to:
 - documenting ABS cases and best practices,
 - CEPA tools for IPLCs,

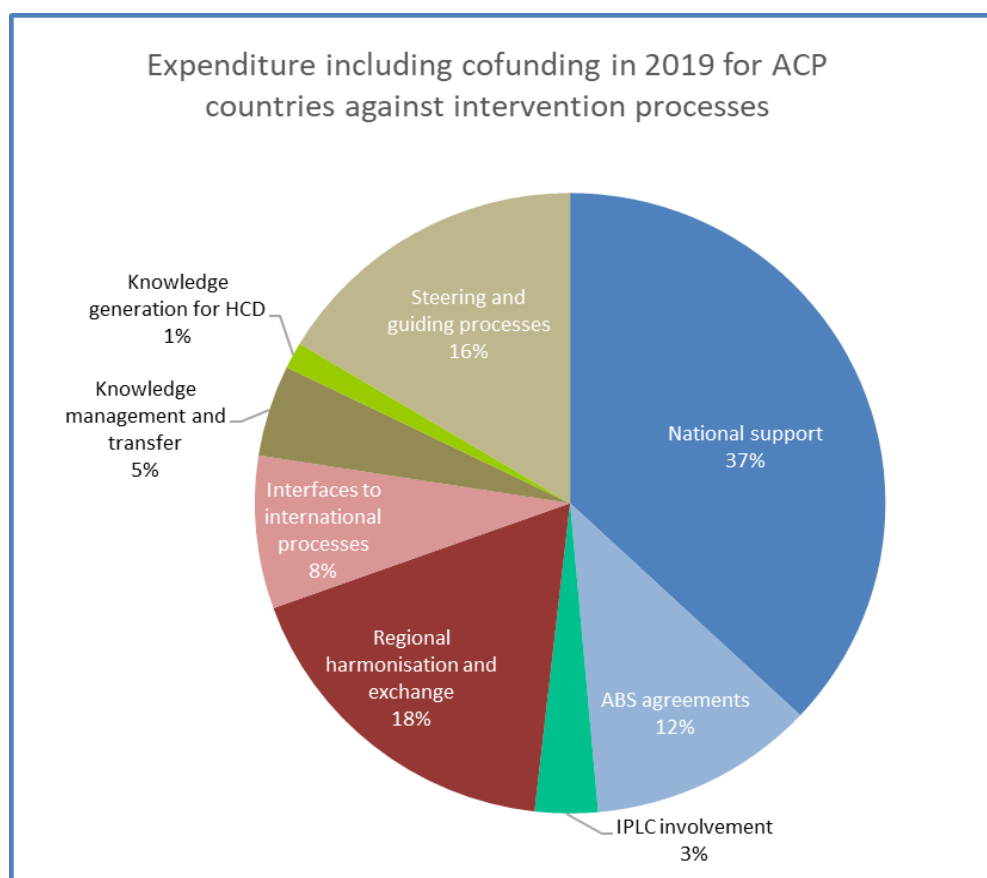


Figure 2: Expenditure including co-funding against intervention processes (for details see Annex A). As in 2018, support for developing regulatory frameworks was provided in 2019 exclusively through national support to CNAs and ABS NFPs.



- emerging issues relevant for ABS implementation (e.g. digital sequence information, implementation interfaces with other conventions/treaties)
- understanding compliance and the ABS Clearing-House
- national ABS permitting systems

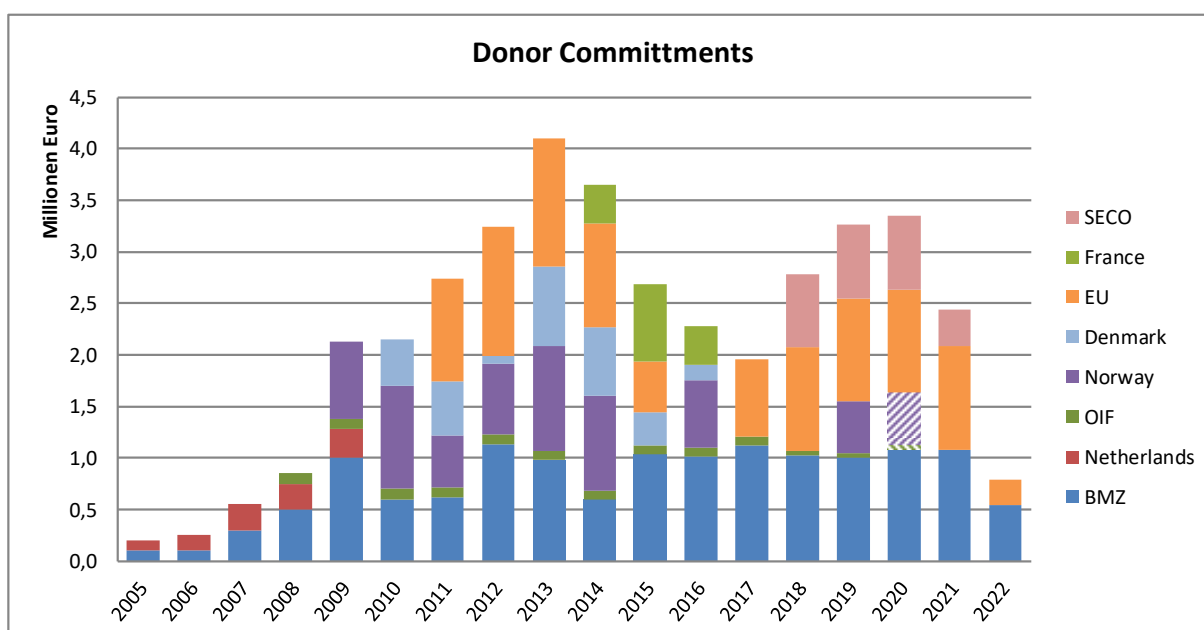
The distribution of funds across the different areas of work remained in 2019 quite similar to 2018 and continued to strengthen the core processes and specifically national support:

- 52% (59% in 2018, 38% in 2017, 39% in 2016 and 45% in 2015) of the expenditure directly contributed to national support to the development of institutional and regulatory frameworks, ABS agreements and IPLC involvement. i.e. the core processes of the ABS Initiative's intervention logic. The significant increase in 2018 must be attributed to some extent to the start of SECO co-funding for the ABioSA project. Funds of the ABS Initiative core budget were used to support partner and cooperation countries in implementing the established national ABS road maps including providing funds to partners in delivery, such as the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT), the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Natural Justice and the University of New South Wales.
- 32% (24% in 2018, 41% in 2017, 47% in 2016 and 30% in 2015) of the expenditure was directed to the auxiliary processes, such as regional harmonisation and exchange, interfaces to international processes, knowledge generation and management and the development of human capacity development (HCD) tools. The higher share in 2019 as compared to 2018 responds to the intensified efforts – based on the additional Norwegian co-funding – to improve technical understanding of digital sequence information (DSI) of and to create space for informal exchange among the relevant stakeholders.
- As in 2018, 16% (21% in 2017, 16% in 2016 and 25% in 2015) of the expenditure was used for the necessary **steering and guiding processes**.

Through the partnership with the **University of New South Wales (UNSW)** in Sydney, Australia, parallel funding is available through a research grant (568,796 AUD, appr. 360,000 EUR) that was awarded in 2017 to UNSW by the **Australian Research Council** for a 5-year project seeking to identify ways to protect biodiversity-related Indigenous knowledge in Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Northern Australia.

To broaden and thus improve the collaborative and funding base of the ABS Initiative, the Secretariat of the Initiative continued its outreach activities:

Figure 3 - Yearly funding commitments of the donors to the ABS Capacity Development Initiative since 2005. Until 2013 BMZ funds indicate the actual expenditure, from 2014 onwards estimates of minimum expenditure based on current planning cycles. Funds of other donors are included once financing agreements are signed; future commitments still lacking signed financing agreements are ruled.





- Based on exchanges with the Government of **Canada** (Environment Canada) in 2017 and 2018 to collaborate on improved ABS implementation a focus was put on engaging with Canadian users of genetic resources. In order to identify and assess the academic and commercial R&D landscape – and thus potentials to encourage Canadian entities to engage in ABS and value chain development – an initial user scoping study was financed by EC and conducted by partners of the ABS Initiative in 2019. The study now serves as a basis to discuss further collaboration potentials
- The ABS Initiative undertook punctual technical exchanges and updates with the French Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire, AfD France and the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food on reengaging in collaboration and partnerships, in particular related to value chains and private sector engagement.

With the Norwegian co-funding the annual donor commitments to the core budget of the ABS Initiative reached again 3 Mio Euros (see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**3). Efforts need to be continued to maintain this funding level beyond 2021 to respond to the capacity development needs in the global south for the efficient and effective implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol specifically.

4. Outcomes and outputs

As outlined in the programme document, the focus of the Initiative's activities in **Africa** is to support partner countries along the three core processes, following national ABS road maps elaborated in collaboration with the partners (see table 3). Support in South Africa has been up-scaled significantly in 2019 due to the implementation of the **ABioSA sub-project**, which contributes to the outcome indicators 2 and 3 of the ABS Initiative on the number of ABS agreements and ABS agreements based on BCPs. For a description of the project component and its objective, see Annex D.

In African cooperation countries with GIZ-implemented partner projects, support is provided based on the respective operational planning of and upon request by the GIZ-implemented projects. A flexible budget is available for on-demand support to other African countries (cooperation countries).

Funding available for activities in the **Caribbean** and **Pacific** does not allow the ABS Initiative to engage in individual countries at a comparable level to the African partner countries. Therefore, as a general rule, support in the Caribbean will rather be delivered based on regional-level activities, whereas in

Table 5 – Country-specific work packages based on the national ABS road maps, established following the country diagnostics conducted by the ABS Initiative in 2015.

Work packages in African partner countries	Benin	Kenya	South Africa	Côte d'Ivoire
Interim ABS regulations	x			x
Revision of existing ABS framework		x	x	
Development of legal TK framework				
Explore valorisation potentials	x	x	x	x
Assess national R&D capacities	x			
ABS valorisation cases	x	x	x	x
BCP development	x		x	x
Transboundary guidelines			x	
Technical/legal trainings	x	x	x	x



the Pacific, due to considerably high intra-regional travel costs support activities are responding within the budgetary limits to specific requests from countries. In both regions, all support is aligned as much as possible with the respective regional GEF/UNEP-funded ABS projects and national GEF/UNDP-funded ABS projects.

In response to the diverging understanding and interpretation of some technical terms, during its meeting in 2016, the Steering Committee of the ABS Initiative discussed and clarified what should be counted and what does not qualify to be counted by the outcome indicators of the ABS Initiative. For ease of reference, the relevant qualifications are provided in Annex B. To better reflect and account for the support provided to cooperation countries especially in the Caribbean and the Pacific, but also in Africa (funded through the “flexible country budget”), the Steering Committee decided in its meeting in 2017 to amend outcome indicators 2 and 3 to include progress in cooperation countries, too. The team was requested to propose target values to the Steering Committee for decision at COP 14 in November 2018, also considering the ABioSA sub-project. The approved values are provided in the respective tables below. The ABS Initiative reported to the African Steering Committee (ASC) in 2018 that despite many attempts a partnership with Uganda could not be established and asked for guidance how to proceed. The ASC asked the ABS Initiative to undertake and document a final attempt and, if necessary, submit suggestions for new partner countries at the 2019 meeting. After a series of consultations, Uganda agreed to be replaced by another African partner country. The ABS Initiative assessed candidates and submitted the results to the ASC in 2019 which finally chose Côte d’Ivoire as new partner country.

4.1 Support to partner countries (Africa) and cooperation countries (ACP-wide)

Outcome: Stakeholders in partner and cooperation countries (governments, indigenous and local communities, public research organisations, private sector and NGOs) as well as regional and international organisations use the contributions of the ABS Initiative for operationalizing access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation.

Outcome Indicator 1: In 4 (non-GIZ supported) partner countries of the ABS Initiative ABS National Focal Points / Competent National Authorities have **submitted drafts to the relevant decision makers** for the institutional and legal framework of ABS on the national level.

Baseline: 3 drafts (2 pre- and 1 post-Nagoya) Target: +4 post-Nagoya drafts – Status: +5 drafts

Status overview - Outcome Indicator 1

Benin: Interim legal framework in force, full description of the system including visualisations available on the ABS-CH and first access demands are being processed; an evaluation of the implementation of the interim framework is foreseen in the second quarter of 2020; ad-hoc committee acting as Competent National Authority. Plan for the elaboration of a specific ABS law has been elaborated.

Côte d’Ivoire: An inter-ministerial ABS decree has been developed before CIV became partner country of the ABS Initiative; since July 2019 the Initiative has supported the elaboration of a visualisation of the foreseen ABS system, several implementing regulations and model documents for the decree. In this process some shortcomings of the decree have been detected and a workshop for final modifications and validation of the decree is foreseen for March 2020.

Kenya: 2017-2019: Establishment of a single-window IT-based permitting and monitoring system in three phases, the institutional integration and hand-over is planned for 2020

2019: The National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) relaunched its online applications system RIMS for research permits supported by the advice and work of the ABS Initiative. This system is the entry point for the new ABS IT System. Three Pilot Counties were supported in awareness raising and capacity development aiming at developing ABS procedures.

South Africa: Revision of post-Nagoya ABS regulatory framework: Revised law (NEMBA) at cabinet level for approval; to be followed by public consultations on law and finalisations of draft of regulations (BABS).



Uganda: By decision of the Steering Committee, Uganda has been replaced by Ivory Coast as partner country of the ABS Initiative.

Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator

(the rating “very good” reflects the progress made so far in reaching x drafts in March 2022)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
very good (almost) achieved	good (on track)	Problems (partially) delays in implementation	Deficiencies (Risk to fail)

Output A: Draft institutional and legal frameworks including roadmaps for ABS implementation at national and (sub-) regional level.

<p>A.1: Drafts / concepts for the institutional and legal ABS framework at national level are formulated by partner countries.</p> <p>Baseline: 3 drafts (2 pre- and 1 post-Nagoya)</p> <p>Target: 4 post-Nagoya drafts in 4 partner countries</p> <p>Status: 5 drafts (post-Nagoya) in 3 partner countries</p>	<p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <p>Benin – Baseline: 0, Status: 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>interim legal framework for ABS</u>, which was developed in 2016 with the ABS Initiative’s support, was adopted in March 2017. The national <i>Directives</i> define the obligations of users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the ABS process and provide templates for access demand forms and elements of mutually agreed terms. The <i>Directives</i> are meant to implement the ABS systems of both the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in a mutually supportive manner. They were therefore made legally binding by an inter-ministerial decree of the two ministries in charge (environment and agriculture), which was signed by the President in September 2018. For the time being, the role of a Competent National Authority is assumed by an <u>ad-hoc committee</u> composed of representatives of the ministries relevant to the respective access requests. The committee is coordinated by the ABS focal point and has already started working with the Initiative’s financial support. Now that an interim system is in place, Benin has developed a plan for the development of a specific ABS law. <p>Côte d’Ivoire – Baseline: 0 (pre-Nagoya), Status: 1 (post-Nagoya)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before Côte d’Ivoire became a partner country of the ABS Initiative, an interministerial ABS decree has been elaborated, technically validated and introduced into the concerned Ministries for signature. After 7 Ministries had already signed, a governmental restructuration took place and the process of signatures has to be started again. In the meantime, and with support of the ABS Initiative, <u>activities on several implementing regulations, the respective model documents and an overall visualisation of the Ivorian ABS system have been implemented.</u> While working on the implementing regulations, several shortcomings in the ABS decree have been detected and a revised version of the decree is foreseen to be technically validated in March 2020, before being again introduced to the Ministries for signature. <p>Kenya – Baseline: 1 (pre-Nagoya), Status: 1 (post-Nagoya)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the progress in institutional consultations and coordination after the planning workshop 2015, the idea to convene a national coordination forum was abandoned. Instead, Phases 1 and 2 of the establishment of a single-window IT based ABS application, permitting and monitoring system integrating
--	---



	<p>six major institutions National Environment Management Authority, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Plant Health Service and Department of Veterinary Services was undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, backed by 20 national institutions, endorsed the results of Phases 1 and 2 and asked for the implementation of the IT system in May 2018 • Due to institutional and technical challenges the implementation process could only be finalised in Dec 2019, the hand-over is planned for 2020. • NACOSTI, with support of the ABS Initiative, put in place <u>a new IT-based IT permitting system as entry point for the IT ABS system.</u> • Kenyan Wildlife Service drafted two post-Nagoya ABS regulations: The Wildlife Conservation and Management (Access, Incentives and Benefits Sharing) Regulations, 2016 and the Wildlife Conservation and Management (Bio-prospecting) Regulations, 2016, which were presented in public consultations; the Initiative and Natural Justice commented on the drafts. The process was stopped later. • The ABS Initiative took part in a stakeholder validation for the Kenya National Biosciences Bill 2018 with ABS provisions <p>South Africa –Baseline: 1 (post-Nagoya), Status: 1 (revision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the country assessments of 2015 a methodological approach has been developed to inform and support DEA in revising South Africa’s ABS laws (National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004) and regulations (Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing Amendment Regulations) to ensure they are compatible with the Nagoya Protocol, supportive of its new national Biodiversity Economy Strategy (BES) and efficient with respect to transaction costs. • Based on a ministerial decision the law and regulations should be amended based on a draft, to be developed by mid / end 2018. During 2017, SA authorities and stakeholders held a variety of stakeholder fora and convened meetings of the NEMBA review task team in order to identify and elaborate on elements that would require modification. <u>A draft amendment has been established in 2018 and is currently at government level circulated for comments.</u> Approval of the draft bill for parliament adoption is expected for 2020. • Once the amended NEMBA will be in force also the ABS regulations (BABS) will be amended accordingly, taking into account feedback from past and future stakeholder consultations as well as other considerations, (e.g. related to the monitoring and permitting processes, developments at CBD level, relevant new regulations such as the aTK act etc.). • The ABS Initiative is proving input and support to several consultations related to the revision of the ABS framework and also accompanied and advised the process at the level of the DEFF¹.
A.2: Roadmaps for ABS implementation in	Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:

¹ After elections in 2019, the Department of Environmental Affairs was renamed the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in June 2019, incorporating the forestry and fisheries functions from the previous Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.



<p>partner countries and (sub-)regions include budget allocations</p> <p>Baseline: <i>1 partner country and 0 (sub-) regions</i></p> <p>Target: <i>4 partner countries and 2 (sub-) regions</i></p> <p>Status: 5 partner countries and 0 (sub-) regions</p>	<p>Benin – Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABS Initiative is continuing its support to the NGO CeSaReN through a grant agreement which is currently being implemented. The <u>grant agreement contains a detailed work plan with budget allocations</u> for the period from February 2019 to April 2020, based on the outcomes of past activities and the road map that was elaborated in 2015. <p>Côte d’Ivoire – Baseline: 0 (pre-Nagoya), Status: 1 (post-Nagoya)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the first activities supported by the ABS Initiative in Côte d’Ivoire was the <u>development and adoption of a three-year workplan including budget allocations</u>. <p>Kenya – Baseline: 0, Status: 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop/meetings in April 2015 refined the <u>2015 work plan and budgets</u> laying foundations for activities on BCPs and the IT monitoring system. Workshops/meetings in August and November 2016 specified content and procedures for implementing the IT monitoring system. Phases 1 and 2 for the establishment of the IT System convened from February to December 2018 in a highly integrative manner involving five core and up to 15 other national institutions with seven technical workshops and three workshops for the CEOs of the involved institutions (May and December 2017, May 2018). The <u>Workplan 2018-2019 including a budget</u>, developed through a stakeholder workshop in May 2018, focuses on supporting Kenyan pilot counties in ABS issues, ensuring IPLC participation and establishing a science-business-forum to foster ABS compliant biodiversity-based value chains. <p>South Africa – Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Letter of Intent between the Initiative and the S.A. Department of Environmental Affairs has been signed, <u>outlining potential clusters for collaboration and making reference to resource allocations</u> to further advance the implementation of the national ABS system. Due to the enlarged partnership between GIZ / the ABS Initiative and DEA under the ABioSA project (which started in June 2018) and the BioInnovation project (to start in July 2019) a new cooperation agreement is currently being framed and developed. Besides a variety of ABS stakeholder meetings (e.g. half yearly Bioprospecting Forum), further consultation support at community level for Benefit-sharing agreements (such as in the Rooibos case), as well as sub national awareness raising campaigns two major events in 2018 (Biodiversity Economy Indaba in March, Biodiversity Economy Operation Phakisa in August) were financed by SA government, as part of DEFF / other agencies budget allocations.
<p>A.3: The drafts/concepts in partner countries include the feedback from IPLCs as well as other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <p>Benin – Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Representatives of IPLCs (traditional healers, CBOs, farmer organisations) as well as from academia and the private sector are members of the national ABS committee</u>, which was involved in the validation and finalisation of the interim framework described above.



<p>Baseline: <i>1 draft</i> Target: <i>Concepts in 4 partner countries with feedback from stakeholders</i> Status: Concepts in 3 partner countries with feedback from stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benin's interim legislation recognises the right of communities to their traditional knowledge and provides that rules stipulated in biocultural community protocols must be respected. In the course of the community-level activities supported by the ABS Initiative, the partners piloted a community PIC & MAT for the transfer of genetic resources. <p>Côte d'Ivoire – Baseline: 0, Status: 0</p> <p>When the ABS Initiative started working in Côte d'Ivoire, the ad hoc ABS committee did not include a representative from IPLC. Upon a recommendation made during the first meeting for the elaboration of the ABS Action Plan, an IPLC representative was identified and has been invited to several meetings ever since but has not yet participated in any of the meetings.</p> <p>Kenya –Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABS Initiative and its partner Natural Justice commented on the two draft ABS regulations, Natural Justice participated in the public hearings in November 2016. The drafts have been withdrawn in 2017. The Workplan 2018–2019, <u>developed through a stakeholder workshop including representatives from Counties and IPLCs in May 2018, focuses on supporting Kenyan pilot counties in ABS issues, ensuring IPLC participation.</u> <p>South Africa –Baseline: 1, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Representatives of IPLCs, industry, including SMEs, and academia are involved in developing ABS-related laws</u> and regulations through direct consultations with government, the NEMA revision task force and the Bioprospecting Forum. At 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop stakeholders, incl. IPLCs, commented on South Africa's regulatory approach on ABS and the Biodiversity Economy. This feedback was welcomed by DEFF.
<p>A.4: Concepts for ABS-relevant measures are developed in sectors other than the environment sector (e.g. agriculture, forest, marine, IPR, TK) Baseline: <i>1 draft</i> Target: <i>4 concepts with requirements for sectors other than environment</i> Status: 3 concepts with requirements for sectors other than environment</p>	<p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <p>Benin – Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national ABS Committee, which was established with the help of the Initiative, regularly gathers representatives of nine Ministries to jointly discuss ABS-related activities and planning. The interim ABS legislation is meant to implement both the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in a mutually supportive manner and <u>was adopted through an inter-ministerial decree by the ministries of environment and agriculture</u>. This process was partly supported through activities under the DFID-funded pilot project under the Darwin Initiative on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA, executed by the Initiative and Bioversity in collaboration with the AU Commission and the relevant ministries in Benin and Madagascar. This project was concluded in June 2018. Supported by the Initiative, a process was started in 2016 to identify structures at the national, regional and local levels that are mandated to represent local communities in ABS-related matters. In a dialogue process with relevant stakeholders, appropriate



	<p>structures were defined, but remain to be implemented. Furthermore, it was decided that the <i>Association Nationale d'Accès et de Partage des Avantages</i> (ANAPA), to be established at national level, will act as IPLC competent national authority. Internal statutes and rules for these structures were developed and technically validated in 2018. The partner has asked to include activities regarding the political validation and the establishment of ANAPA in the new grant agreement with CeSaReN for the period from July 2020 onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the financial support of the ABS Initiative, CeSaReN supported the development of a template for community PIC document in the involvement of the local level in ABS cases. • Benin intends to continue its work on traditional knowledge and its documentation, which started in 2015 but was put on hold in recent years due to a lack of funding. In 2018, CeSaReN commissioned a study on the existing legal and scientific framework for the documentation of GR and aTK in Benin with a view to developing guidance for documentation efforts. <p>Côte d'Ivoire – Baseline: 0, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS decree that is in the process of validation and adoption must be signed by nine ministries. Six of these ministries are permanently represented in the ad hoc ABS committee. • <u>The Ministry for Forests (MINEF) has developed a ministerial decree on the utilisation of genetic resources</u> and the ABS Initiative has initiated a dialogue between MINED and MINEF in order to ensure the complementarity of the different texts. <p>Kenya - Baseline: 0, Status: 0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no progress reported <p>South Africa – Baseline: 1, Status: 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South-African multi-sectoral Biodiversity Economy Strategy (BES), gazetted in October 2015, is triggering the elaboration of complementary approaches in other sectors of relevance to the BES implementation. Particularly the Department of Science and Technology (DST), now Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), having already developed a Bio-Economy Strategy and being in charge of issues related to Traditional Knowledge, as well as the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) will play key roles. • In 2017, <u>as a cross-sectoral nationwide approach, the BioProducts Advancement Network South Africa (BioPANZA) has been established</u> which is in the process of being formalised. • The ABS Initiative participated in the South African Biodiversity Economy Indaba in March 2018, focusing on national and international investments in biodiversity e.g. presenting together with DEA the outline of the ABioSA project (see Annex D) to stakeholders from different sectors. Under the ABioSA project, six resource specific sector development plans to promote upscaling of ABS compliant value chains are being developed. These plans include concepts and recommendations to other sectors relevant to the valorisation of the specific resource. As a first “model” a structure for a Marula sector development plan has been elaborated, addressing also the agricultural, financing and IP sector.
--	---



<p>A.5: 4 new or updated strategy papers and/or guidelines for a coherent implementation of ABS at a (sub-) regional level are available.</p> <p>Baseline: <i>1 strategy papers and/or guidelines</i></p> <p>Target: <i>4 strategy papers and/or guidelines</i></p> <p>Status: 0 concepts with requirements for sectors other than environment</p>	<p>Baseline: 1, Status: 0</p> <p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative supported ILRI and the Center for Tropical Livestock Genomics and Health (CTLGH) in establishing ABS compliance approaches in accessing African animal GR and utilising them in the EU since October 2017. An ABS Compliance Workshop in January 2019 brought together legal and ABS experts and researchers from ILRI and other CG Centers with regulators from the main provider countries for ILRIs projects. Further capacity development and deepening of working relations were agreed upon. In June 2019, a meeting with the Deputy Director concluded that a follow-up workshop should be convened. • A draft institutional ABS guideline for ILRI was discussed in January 2019. The further work and finalisation were hampered by the twofold change of the Legal Counsel of ILRI in 2019. The work on the ABS Guidelines will be continued in 2020. • In April 2019, the ABS Initiative advised the CEO, legal and scientific officers of GALVmed, Edinburgh on the implications of ABS regulations for their commercial R&D in order to develop ABS-standards. A next workshop is planned for 2020. • Benin and Côte d'Ivoire have expressed interest in entering a close collaboration between the two countries regarding their activities on checkpoints. In April the Benin representatives will take part in a training on valorisation in Abidjan and options for future collaboration will be discussed.
---	--

Outcome Indicator 2: In 4 partner countries and at least 5 cooperation countries of the ABS Initiative 20 new ABS agreements have been established.

Baseline: *no baseline* - Target: *+20 ABS agreements* – Status: *+19 ABS agreements*

Status overview – Partner countries:

Benin: The first 26 access demands have been analysed and 13 non-commercial demands from national users have been put on track for the delivery of ABS permits, given that all prerogatives are being fulfilled (e.g. research permit). 10 of these 13 non-commercial demands have fulfilled all obligations and the respective 10 permits have been signed and are currently being processed for upload on the ABSCH.

Côte d'Ivoire: During the working sessions of the ad hoc ABS Committee, three international access demands have been discussed and the respective permits are currently being prepared.

Kenya: Four ABS agreements are under negotiation with the support of the ABS Initiative (2x Laikipia County, 1x Baringo County, 1x Kakamega County; the ABS Initiative supported county stakeholders in the negotiation of an ABS agreement, which signature is delayed due to the Corona outbreak (Baringo County). A German university was advised on procedures and possibilities for non-monetary benefit sharing related to an ABS agreement (Kilifi County). Stakeholder were advised on an ABS agreement on extremophile microbes which was concluded in the context of a UNEP GEF project. Negotiations between a French company and Kenyan authorities were supported and led to the signature of the PIC, the MAT is under negotiations.

South Africa: Four ABS agreements with support of ABS Initiative established, conceptual approach developed to support selected value chains as well as the entire BioTrade sector at large in the context of the sub-project on ABS compliant value chains (ABioSA). ABioSA implementation phase started in September 2018.

Uganda: By decision of the Steering Committee, Uganda has been replaced by Ivory Coast as partner country of the ABS Initiative.



Status overview – African cooperation countries:

Algeria: One ABS agreement between an Algerian company and a cooperative for lentisk oil has been elaborated and signed with support of the ABS Initiative.

Cameroon: Two ABS agreements with support of the ABS Initiative established between a French fragrance company and a local community.

Ethiopia: The ABS Initiative supported the GIZ-implemented public-private partnership (PPP) programme “develoPPP.de” in matters of ABS compliance with regard to a PPP project with the German pharmaceutical SME Repha sourcing myrrh in Ethiopia for one of their medicinal products. The contract should be concluded in 2020.

Malawi: The ABS Initiative, FNI and Malawi have conducted two missions where ten contracts have been discussed, improved and processed. None of them is signed yet.

Mauritania: The negotiation of an ABS agreement with the German research institution GeoMar for marine research was supported but has not been signed yet.

Status overview – Pacific cooperation countries:

Vanuatu: Support to the negotiation of an ABS agreement with a Spanish company for marine pharmaceutical bioprospecting provided since Oct. 2018. An agreement could not be achieved.

Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator (the rating “very good” reflects the progress made so far in reaching 20 agreements in March 2022)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> very good (almost) achieved	<input type="checkbox"/> good (on track)	<input type="checkbox"/> Problems (partially) delays in implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Deficiencies (Risk to fail)
---	---	--	--	--

Output B: Draft ABS agreements with users of the public research and private sector.

<p>B.1: The development of 10 new ABS agreements with users from public research and/ or the private sector have been initiated.</p> <p>Baseline: <i>no baseline</i></p> <p>Target: <i>+10 new ABS agreements</i></p> <p>Status: 36 new ABS agreements initiated</p>	<p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <p>Benin – Baseline: na, Status: +26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the financial and technical support of the ABS Initiative and in collaboration with the ABS Focal Point, CeSaReN has been continuing its capacity building activities among users of GR and aTK in Benin about how to obtain access permits in line with the interim framework. Furthermore, the ABS Initiative continued its financial support to the ad-hoc committee acting as Competent National Authority under the interim legal framework. <u>26 access demands were assessed</u> in the reporting period, mostly for non-commercial research, and ten permits have been signed. A commercial access demand with the potential for a full ABS agreement has not yet been identified. As in previous years, in 2018 the ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated matchmaking between industry and provider countries (incl. 3 participants from Benin) on the occasion of the jointly organised UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and accompanying events. <p>Côte d’Ivoire – Baseline: 0, Status: +3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three access demands have been analysed by the ABS committee and the respective permits are currently being processed. In the Ivorian ABS system, applicants for access will be obliged to fill in a basic ABS agreement when handing in their access demand. It is foreseen to elaborate the basic template for ABS agreements during a workshop in April 2020.
---	--



	<p>Kenya –Baseline: na, Status: +4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative convened a national ABS contract training in cooperation with KWS in Dec 2017. • The ABS Initiative supported county stakeholders in analysing and commenting on an ABS agreement which was <u>concluded between Kenyan providers and users from the public and private sector</u> in the context of the UNEP/GEF-NPIF Project. • The ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated matchmaking between industry and provider countries (incl. 2 participants from Kenya) in the framework of the jointly organised UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and accompanying events in 2017 and 2018. On this occasion, an information exchange and mutual learning between the Kenyan and Cameroonian delegation and a private sector representative concerning the value chain <i>Mondia</i> took place. • The ABS Initiative advised a Kenyan SME in preparing for MAT negotiations with government authorities in 2016/17, the PIC and MAT negotiations in Laikipia County are ongoing in 2019. • The ABS Initiative supported two German universities during their PIC and MAT negotiations with government authorities, one of the negotiations was concluded, the other was stopped because the GR was accessed in a country without ABS framework. • The ABS Initiative <u>advised a French company in preparing for MAT negotiations</u> with government authorities, meetings with the providers from Kakamega County and the company started in 2018, the PIC was signed in early 2019, MAT negotiations are on its way in 2019. • <u>Three more ABS agreements are under negotiation</u> with the support of the ABS Initiative (2x Laikipia County, 1x Baringo County). The ABS Initiative supported county stakeholders in the negotiation of an ABS agreement, which signature is delayed due to the Corona outbreak (Baringo County). <p>South Africa ² – Baseline: na, Status: +3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a view to scaling up this approach with capacity building and financial support components for the benefit of the national and regional BioTrade sector, the ABS Initiative is now implementing the SECO co-funded sub-project “ABS compliant BioTrade in Southern Africa” which concluded its orientation phase mid-2018. Implementation activities such as commercial briefings and technical trainings or grant allocations for SME in order to support value chains based on Southern African indigenous plants have started. • Since 2017, the ABS Initiative <u>supported negotiations between a South African company, Parceval (Pty) Ltd, and a group of traditional herbal practitioners, the Cape Bush Doctors</u>, regarding their potential collaboration with a large commercial partner based in Germany who was interested in doing R&D on GR that Parceval could supply, with the Cape Bush Doctors sharing in the benefits as holders of aTK. In 2018, specific benefit-sharing terms were elaborated and a permit for the biodiscovery phase was granted by DEA. In 2018, specific benefit-sharing terms were elaborated and a permit for the
--	--

² Including ABioSA activities from September 2018 onwards



	<p>biodiscovery phase was granted by DEA. As also the San/Khoisan hold traditional knowledge on the resource their involvement needs to be ensured before a full bioprospecting permit is issued. In 2019, Parceval engaged in constructive exchanges with the San/Khoisan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the support of UEBT, as an ABS Initiative implementation partner, <u>an application for bioprospecting and biotrade has been jointly submitted by a cosmetic company and a fragrance house based in Europe</u>. This application is supported by a benefit-sharing agreement that foresees projects for conserving endangered flora and promoting local livelihoods in the Western Cape. These projects were identified by the involved local communities and will be implemented by local organisations. The application was approved by the Minister in 2019. • <u>Conclusion of rooibos sector agreement with support of the ABS Initiative and Natural Justice</u>. The agreement is internationally regarded as a milestone because of its TK aspects. It serves as a basis for possible other sector agreements, inter alia for the Buchu, sector, supported by ABioSA / ABS Initiative. • At international level the ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated matchmaking between industry and provider countries (incl. South Africa) in the framework of the jointly organised UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and accompanying events in 2015-2019.
--	--

Outcome Indicator 3: In 4 partner countries and at least 3 cooperation countries of the ABS Initiative 12 ABS agreements are based on Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) or comparable instruments (CI) and promote the inclusion and participation of women in benefit-sharing.
Baseline: *no baseline* – Target: *+12 ABS agreements* – Status: *+11 ABS agreements*

Status overview – Partner countries:

Benin: A BCP around two sacred forests in the municipality of Bonou (Ouémé region) has been finalised and is available in French and in the community’s local language Ouémé. The validation of the translation was done in 2019 with Bioversity and then uploaded on the ABSCH. The ten signed permits for national non-commercial users are concerning 4 different communities and the adaption of the existing BCPs for the concerned communities has been initiated in 2019.

Côte d’Ivoire: So far, no work on BCPs and/or communities has started in Côte d’Ivoire yet. If one of the future access demands will concern a local community as provider, it is foreseen to kick-start the elaboration of a first BCP as basis for the upcoming negotiations.

Kenya: A BCP by the Endorois Welfare Council in Baringo County was adopted. One ABS agreement under negotiation in Laikipia County will benefit women producer groups.

South Africa: One ABS agreement between National Khoisan Council and the South African Rooibos industry and other companies; two further ABS agreements between the Cape Bush doctors and other companies. One agreement including the Heuningvlei community on the Clanwilliam Cedar. All agreements will impact directly or indirectly positively on women’s livelihoods.

Status overview – African cooperation countries:

Cameroon: One ABS agreement based on intense exchanges with and amongst the providing community feeding into a national discussion on the establishment of BCP procedures has been finalised. More than 40% of beneficiaries in the supply chain of the resource are women.

Madagascar: 5 biotrade agreements between communities and users have been established based on the commercialization of Saro Oil. All of them have respected the BCP of the communities. A provision on ABS have been integrated in these agreements.

Malawi: One ABS contract between IPLCs and foreign users is finalised, a second one is currently under negotiation.



Overall progress in Y5 towards attaining indicator (the rating “very good” reflects the progress made so far in reaching 12 agreements in March 2022)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> very good <i>(almost) achieved</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> good <i>(on track)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Problems <i>(partially) delays in implementation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deficiencies <i>(Risk to fail)</i>
---	---	--	--	--

Output C: Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) or comparable instruments as basis for the negotiation of ABS agreements involving IPLCs.

<p>C.1: In 4 partner countries 6 IPLCs have developed BCPs or similar instruments as basis for the negotiation of ABS agreements.</p> <p>Baseline: <i>no baseline</i></p> <p>Target: 6 new <i>BCPs in 4 countries for 6 IPLCs</i></p> <p>Status: 4 new BCPs in 3 partner countries for 4 IPLCs</p>	<p>Key activities supporting achievement of the indicator:</p> <p>Benin – Baseline: na, Status Benin: + 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the support of the Initiative and Natural Justice, the <u>local NGO CeSaReN facilitated a thorough BCP process around two sacred forests in the municipality of Bonou (Ouémé region)</u>. In 2018, the BCP was finalised and is now available in French and in the local language Ouémé. • The elaboration of two additional BCPs, to be developed in two of the communities providing resources to some of the above mentioned ten non-commercial permits, has been initiated. • With technical and financial support of the ABS Initiative and the partners to the Darwin Initiative project mentioned above, additional activities were conducted to integrate aspects on access to and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the BCPs. In the context of that project, <u>a second BCP process was facilitated in the community of Tori Bosito</u>. The two communities exchanged local landraces based on a newly developed “community PIC and MAT”. This document served as basis for the community PIC template, developed in 2018 (see Output A.4 above). <p>Côte d’Ivoire – Baseline: na, Status: +0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, no BCP activities have been implemented yet but the partner has asked the ABS Initiative to support the elaboration of a first BCP in the 2020 – 2021. <p>Kenya – Baseline: na, Status: +1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative supported the Endorois Welfare Council in Baringo County/Rift Valley through technical support by Natural Justice in developing a biocultural community protocol on ABS and finally integrating it into the legally binding biodiversity management plan of the Lake Baringo region. The work was interrupted by a critical local situation due to extended drought periods and armed violence as well as by the 7-month spanning national election campaigns. <u>The BCP was adopted in September 2019</u> and the ABS Initiative took part in the public launch in the same month. <p>South Africa – Baseline: na, Status: +1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded by the ABS Initiative Natural Justice supported the National Khoisan Council (NKC) to finalise after several years of negotiations a rooibos tea-industry wide ABS agreement was concluded in 2019. The negotiations have been accompanied by trainings for the rooibos farming communities in the Cedarberg belt on the Nagoya Protocol and the respective South African national legislation. Furthermore, NKC is being supported to set up an ABS trust fund for this as well as
---	---



	<p>other upcoming ABS agreements and in the development of guidelines for the distribution of benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the general community protocol of the NKC proved to broad, and after the involvement of Rooibos farming communities in the negotiation process, it was decided to develop a specific BCP for the Rooibos resource. <u>This BCP was finalised at the end of 2019.</u> Furthermore, Natural Justice supported in 2017 the conclusion of two additional ABS agreements of the NKC with Parceval Pty on three plant species and with VMR Organics International Pty on Hoodia. Both companies will now proceed with their application for a permit.
--	---

4.2 Support to cooperation countries

Upon request by relevant stakeholders or project managers, the ABS Initiative is providing *ad hoc* support to cooperation countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific³ as well as to countries or projects in other regions⁴.

4.2.1 African cooperation countries with GIZ-implemented projects addressing ABS

This section gives an overview of ABS-related processes and achievements in countries supported by German DC projects. Since the ABS Initiative is acting as “service provider” to partner countries with GIZ-implemented projects addressing ABS, progress made is reported against **ABS-relevant outcome and output indicators (deliverables)**, where available, and as defined by the ongoing GIZ-implemented projects in Africa (Algeria, the COMIFAC region, Madagascar and Namibia⁵).

ALGERIA	
<p>Project title: Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Programme (GENBI)</p> <p>Project duration: 11/2014-12/2019</p>	
<p>Outcome Indicator</p> <p>The income generated from a selected product chain on the basis of the ABS principles recognised under the CBD has increased for the involved stakeholders - which include x % of women - to z % of the original income.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> x (determination of the baseline for product chain and proportion of women) occurs 6 months after project start)</p> <p><u>Target value:</u> income increased by z%, x% women are involved in the value chain.</p> <p>Status:</p>	
<p>Output 1:</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Min. of Agriculture / Forestry Ministry and relevant research sponsors use 2 instruments in a coordinated way to promote applied participatory research or R&D in the field of (agro-)biodiversity (e.g. exchange and matchmaking events,</p>	<p>The following activities are supporting the achievement of output indicator 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated matchmaking between industry and provider countries (incl. Algeria) in the framework of the annual UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and the respective jointly organised ABS Dialogue

³ Costs can be covered by the ‘flexible’ budget line for national support of the ABS Initiative.

⁴ Costs must be covered by the country or project requesting support by the ABS Initiative.

⁵ The numbering of the indicators related to the respective GIZ projects does not necessarily follow the numbering in the project documents. Information is provided in an aggregated manner. The ABS Initiative’s support activities may contribute to more than one outcome / output.



<p>promotion of international research partnerships, promotion of partnerships in industry, research and civil society. <u>Baseline: 0</u> <u>Target: 2</u></p>	<p>between users and providers that is taking place back-to-back with the UEBT conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative supported the Algerian delegation on their stand on the world's leading trade fair for organic foods "BioFach" in Nuremberg, Germany, for matchmaking between Algerian providers and international users.
<p>Output 2: The potential value –added of biodiversity while ensuring equitable access and equitable use of biological and genetic resources is analysed for 3 product chains <u>Baseline: 0</u> <u>Target: 3</u></p>	<p>The following activities are supporting the achievement of output indicator 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, the ABS Initiative supported the elaboration and negotiation of the first Algerian ABS agreement between an Algerian company and a cooperative producing lentisk oil. • In 2017, the ABS Initiative supported GENBI in facilitating a German-Algerian research project between the Bavarian Office for Forest Seeding and Planting and the Directorate General of Forests under the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries concerning the suitability for cultivation of provenances of the Algerian Atlas cedar in Germany. The Initiative is providing ongoing advice on the further elaboration of this framework agreement for a technical and scientific partnership.
<p>Output 3: Preparatory documents to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD and the meetings of subsidiary bodies (current state of affairs, explanations of conference documents, compiled national experiences concerning protection, sustainable use and assessment of biodiversity and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol) are made available to the responsible political representatives (in particular Focal Points) <u>Baseline:</u> (Determining the baseline takes place 6 months after project start) <u>Target:</u> Documents for selected meetings of the CBD (is specified with the partners approx. 6 months after project start)</p>	<p>The following activities are supporting the achievement of output indicator 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Algerian National Focal Point on ABS as well as other senior public servants participated actively in the ABS Initiative's Pan African ABS Workshop in Cape Town (September 2019) which included preparatory activities for the biodiversity year 2020, informing delegations on relevant topics and processes related to the negotiations with respect to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.
<p>Further information / comments:</p> <p>The GIZ GENBI project, that contracted the ABS Initiative for ABS specific support up to now, has come to an end. The new GIZ project "Protection of Environment and Biodiversity in Algerian Coastal Zones" does not have a specific ABS component anymore but still works on building up biodiversity-based value chains. It remains to be seen to which extend an ongoing collaboration as in the previous years can be held up.</p>	



COMIFAC	
Project title: Regional Support of COMIFAC Project duration: 01/2019 – 06/2022	
Outcome Indicator No. 5 4 biodiversity-based value chains are developed in conformity with the ABS system of the country of origin of the resources. <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 4 <u>Present Value:</u> 1 (<i>Echinops giganteus</i> , a PIC was issued, and new Mutually Agreed Terms are being negotiated following the new ABS measures in Cameroon) Status: 9 COMIFAC member countries have ratified the Nagoya Protocol.	
Output 1: 6 countries have established national decision-making mechanisms for ABS. <u>Baseline:</u> 2 (Burundi and DRC) <u>Target:</u> 6 <u>Present Value:</u> +3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameroon has put in place an ABS Committee that issues ABS permits (and gives PIC) since June 2018 The project facilitated the validation of draft texts creating National ABS Committees in Congo Brazzaville and Sao Tome & Principe in 2019 A draft text setting up the ABS decision-making Committee in DRC has been validated in 2019 and is currently awaiting signature
Output 2: 7 countries have defined regulatory ABS measures (e.g. legal, administrative) in the ABS-Clearing House <u>Baseline:</u> 3 <u>Target:</u> 7 <u>Present Value:</u> 5 (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Congo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burundi has its validated draft ABS law published in the Clearing House since 2016 Cameroon has a draft law pending adoption in parliament and defined its regulatory ABS measures in the ABS – Clearing House The Project facilitated the validation of ABS measures in Congo Brazzaville which are still to be inserted in the ABS Clearing House A decree defining access procedures to genetic resource in Gabon is in progress since 2019 and is not yet validated An ABS law for Sao Tomé & Principe and its application decree was validated but has not yet been uploaded to the ABS Clearing House DRC has reviewed its forestry environmental law taking into consideration Access to genetic resources in 2014
Further information / comments:	

MADAGASCAR
Project title: Environmental Management Support Programme (PAGE) Project duration: 2015 – 2020
Outcome Indicator The income of YY participating households from 5 climate-sensitive value chains based on the use of biological / genetic resources (including wood and non-wood products, agriculture, ecotourism) in the three intervention areas in and around selected protected areas (and natural forests with transferred rights of use) has increased to YY% of total income (underlying Z in 2015). <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 0 value chains implemented, number XX of participating households, the level and composition of the total income at household level (baseline ZZ in 2015) will take place in the areas of intervention by representative survey 6 months after the project start



<p>Target: 5 value chains lead to an increase of YY % of the total income in XX households (baseline 2015)</p> <p>Status:</p>	
<p>Output 1:</p> <p>The contractual terms for the use of Malagasy genetic resources in two value chains in two intervention areas are jointly agreed on with relevant local and national stakeholders, universities, research institutions and the private sector in compliance with the recognised ABS principles under the CBD / Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p><u>Baseline (2015):</u> 0 value chains in the intervention areas</p> <p><u>Target (2016):</u> contractual terms for 2 product chains in 2 intervention areas.</p>	<p>Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated discussions between industry and provider countries (incl. Madagascar) in the framework of the jointly organised UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and accompanying events from 2015-2019. The meeting provided an occasion for talks among Malagasy actors and private sector representatives. In particular bilateral exchanges with cosmetic / body care industry, and initial steps of negotiating ABS permits / agreements were accompanied technically and legally by the ABS initiative. • Natural Justice continued to support developing a BCP for seven communities in the Boeny region, framing the essential oil supply chain development including <i>Cinnamosma fragrans</i>. The BCP was finalised and officially launched in November 2017 and has received in 2018 the signature of all relevant administrative authorities at regional, communal and local level. Several other neighbouring local communities wish to join the BCP. Discussions are being initiated regarding the possibilities of realising this perspective.
<p>Output 2:</p> <p>National planning and / or regulation instruments in the sectors Forest and Environment / Biodiversity (e.g. national REDD + / FLEGT / ABS strategies, draft laws / decrees, ABS interim standards), coordinated among relevant stakeholders of various sectors (forest, environment, mining, energy, agriculture) at national and regional level are developed.</p> <p><u>Baseline 2015:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target 2016:</u> 4</p>	<p>Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Benin, Madagascar participated in the project on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA, funded by the Darwin Initiative and run by Bioversity International and the ABS Initiative in collaboration with partners from the two countries and with the secretariats of the two treaties. The project was concluded in June 2018. In the context of that project, and with additional financial and technical support of the ABS Initiative through Natural Justice, two BCPs were developed in two Malagasy communities (Analavory and Ampangalatsary) that include specific aspects regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and farmers rights. Both BCPs were finalised and adopted by the communities in 2018 and are available in Malagasy and French. The Analavory BCP was updated in 2019 to reflect provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. • In 2019, the ABS Initiative supported the development of the “arrêté interministériel fixant les modalités d’application du décret n°2017-066 du 31/01/2017 portant réglementation de l’accès et du partage des avantages découlant de l’utilisation des ressources génétiques » (arrêté interministeriel fixing terms and conditions for the application of decree n°2017-066 of 31/01/2017 regulating acces and benefit sharing arising from the use of genetic ressources). This text was finalized in October 2019. It will be signed by the concerned ministries in early 2020 and should receive promulgation at the level of the Prime Minister's Office. • Natural Justice support the local communities and the regional authorities in the Boeny Region on how to insert ABS disposition



	<p>in the biotrade agreements in case the ABS-relevance of <i>Cinnamosma fragrans</i> commercialisation has been determined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last years, the ABS Initiative accompanied the elaboration of the interim ABS regulation by providing technical, strategic and legal backstopping to the inter-ministerial committee responsible for overseeing the process. The ABS decree was adopted by the Cabinet and the Initiative has been requested to continue to provide support towards the development of “textes d’application” to guide the proper implementation of the Decree. This support (technical, legal backstopping and strategic backstopping) was started in 2018. Natural Justice participated in the development of this text, especially on the provision related to the right of local communities, the model contract with communities. • A first group meeting of experts on traditional knowledge was organised by Natural Justice and PAGE/GIZ in partnership with the ministry in charge of the environment. The aim was to develop a roadmap project to advance the development of the national framework for the protection and enhancement of traditional knowledge. • Natural Justice has established a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the network of local communities managing natural resources (TAFO MIHAAVO) to develop a legal/ABS awareness activities and capacity building for specific members of the network holders of TK. A discussion with the network of traditional healers in Madagascar (ANTM) has been initiated to determine how Natural Justice could support the traditional healers of this association in terms of their relationship with researchers and on the protection of their TK.
--	--

Further information / comments:

Madagascar has developed and formally adopted an ABS interim regulation in the form of a decree (adoption by cabinet). The interim regulation is meant to provide a workable framework to regulate ABS until a full-fledged ABS legislation is elaborated, validated and in force (a process which can take up to five years to complete). The interim ABS regulation contains a number of provisions which need to be detailed through specific “textes d’ application” to ensure the effective implementation of the regulation (e.g. modalities for access, the mode of operation/ specific functions and composition of the interim National Competent Authority, benefit sharing modalities etc.). The drafting of the “textes d’application” is finalised by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), final comments from other departments are being incorporated. Further to the work on the decree progress has been made in the following aspects relevant for the NP implementation: draft access demand form, definition of elements for the protection of TK including through BCPs, access provisions/ modalities for commercial and non-commercial research, roles and responsibilities for the competent national authority and other institutional functions. This work informed the elaboration of the “textes d’application”

NAMIBIA
Project title: Biodiversity management and climate change in Namibia (BMCC II)
Project duration: 01/2017 – 12/2020
Outcomes with particular relevance for ABS



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of three implementation guidelines have been prepared by DEA for the new or revised implementation regulations in the Environmental Management Act (EMA) and the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Act. <u>Baseline:</u> 0 guidelines on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and ABS. <u>Target:</u> 3 guidelines for SEA, EIA (for the EMA implementation directives) and ABS (for the ABS implementation regulations) (one set of guidelines for each directive). A results-monitoring system set up by MET and coordinated with other sector ministries confirms the successful implementation by relevant sector ministries of 3 local pilot measures relating to synergies between the three Rio Conventions. <u>Baseline:</u> 0 jointly developed and DEA-coordinated local pilot measures that simultaneously contribute to biodiversity conservation, adaptation to climate change and sustainable land management. <u>Target:</u> 3 jointly developed local pilot measures coordinated by DEA. 	
<p>From 2015-2017, experts of the ABS Initiative provided technical and legal support during the elaboration of the Namibian Bill including the parliamentary consultation process. The Bill, the “Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act” was enacted in June 2017. It will enter into force on a date to be determined, once implementing regulations have been promulgated.</p> <p>In 2019 the ABS Initiative has been providing technical and legal backstopping to the process of developing the ABS Regulations: Comments and inputs to the different stages of draft regulations including at various stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>In the second half of 2019 a revised and simplified version of the draft ABS Regulations was provisionally approved by the MET Management Committee. It is currently going through a process of legal review at the level of the attorney general (2019/20) to prepare it for gazetting.</p>	
Output C: Legal, regulatory and institutional requirements of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Act have been implemented	
Output C1: In the MET, the Office of Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge is operational (own and trained staff, budget and operational plan, function and job descriptions for staff) Baseline: 0 (no Directorate) Target: 1	Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator C1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABS Initiative assisted DEA in 2017 with the initial concept of a plan for operationalizing the Office of Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. In 2019, the existing proposal was reviewed and expanded, especially regarding the structure, required expertise and job profiles, and further information on the institutional set up.
Output C2: Two signed contracts exist between private foreign companies or scientific institutions and the Namibian Government for the ABS-compliant commercial use of biological resources Baseline: 0 (contracts) Target: 2 (signed contracts)	Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator C2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2017, the ABS Initiative organised a mission of Danish Industry representatives (cosmetic and detergent sector) to Namibia in order to explore partnerships for developing ABS compliant value chains based on Namibian plant genetic resources. Government institutions, NGOs, cooperatives and further SMEs in Windhoek as well as in North Namibia were visited. Individual follow ups were taking place in 2018 and 2019. The ABS Initiative supported mutual understanding of users and providers and facilitated matchmaking between industry and provider countries (incl. Namibia)



	<p>in the framework of the jointly organised UEBT conference “The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” and accompanying events from 2015 to 2019. In 2019, the conference offered members of Nanci to present (ABS requiring) products and ingredients based on Namibian indigenous products to international companies. In cooperation with the BioInnovation Africa project, initial letters of intent have been issued by international partners/companies regarding their interest to establishing new African-European partnerships to valorise genetic and biological resources in Namibia.</p>
<p>Output C3: Four campaigns or events through which the new Office of Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge complies with its legal obligations to provide information on the new ABS Act and its guidelines as well as on the ABS implementation process in a target-group specific manner have been carried out Baseline: 0 Target: 4 campaigns or events</p>	<p>Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator C3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABS Initiative assisted the DEA in 2017 in the initial prioritisation of target groups for information sharing. • In 2018 and 2019, in total 4 information and communication events took place in various regions in Namibia, to inform local communities and conservancies about the new ABS Act, and about the provisions it makes.
<p>Output C4: DEA provides training for 4 indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) which is made possible through the ABS Act with a view to increase the IPLC’s capacity to negotiate with foreign companies regarding access to and use of their traditional resources Baseline: 0 Target: Trainings for 4 IPLCs</p>	<p>Following activities are supporting achievement of output indicator C4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BMCC project with technical advice from the ABS Initiative / Natural Justice has been supporting since 2017 the process of engaging resident communities in the Bwabwata National Park in developing a biocultural community protocol for the governance of biological and genetic resources and to provide training to increase the communities’ negotiation capacities in the context of the implementation of the ABS Bill. Considering the current process of the development of the ABS implementing regulations – further engagement into BCP development in Namibia has been done in 2019. The drafting process of the BCP was conducted in consultation with the government of Namibia as the land on which the Khwe reside, the Bwabwata National Park, is officially designated as state land. In mid-2019, the BCP has been finalised in principle and agreed by all stakeholders, and a separate support project for its implementation has been developed in the context of the BMCC/CBNRM projects. Implementation is envisaged to start in early 2020.
<p>Further information / comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia enacted the ABS Bill, the “Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, 2017”. The objectives of this Act are to regulate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; to protect the rights of the IPLCs over genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and technologies including recognising BCPs as instrument for achieving community PIC; to provide for a fair and equitable mechanism for benefit sharing; and to establish the necessary administrative structures and processes for the 	



implementation and enforcement of such principles. The Bill was first tabled in Parliament in November 2015 for its first reading and was subsequently referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources for further scrutiny. The Standing Committee conducted extensive national consultations. The Namibian government chose to pass enabling legislation, because it is easier to amend implementing regulations – which can simply be done by the Minister publishing a notice in the Government Gazette – than it is to amend legislation. The ABS Initiative, upon request of the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism is supporting the process towards the finalisation of the ABS Regulations in close coordination with the bilateral BMCC project.

4.2.2 African cooperation countries without GIZ-implemented projects addressing ABS

Ethiopia: From March 2016 to March 2019, the ABS Initiative was member of the Steering Committee of a project implemented by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and funded by the UK Darwin Initiative. The project's focus is on stakeholder platforms for non-commercial access and utilisation and recommendations for simplified ABS measures for non-commercial users. The ABS Initiative provided input for the final policy recommendations and considers participation in the closing workshop planned for the first quarter 2019.

The ABS Initiative supported the GIZ-implemented public-private partnership (PPP) programme “develoPPP.de” in matters of ABS compliance with regards to a PPP project with the German pharmaceutical SME Repha sourcing myrrh in Ethiopia for one of their medicinal products. Repha plans to source high-quality myrrh in Ethiopia instead of relying on the widely varying quality of myrrh available through common trade channels. The project aims at developing a sustainable management plan together with the national authorities and marginalised South Ethiopian communities, guaranteeing relatively high prices for the raw material. Both partners, develoPPP.de and Repha, were not aware that the planned activities fall under the Ethiopian ABS regulations. The ABS Initiative facilitated the contact between the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and the German partners to conduct MAT negotiations during 2018 and 2019 and advised both partners on the MAT negotiations. The contract should be concluded in 2020.

The ABS Initiative raised awareness in the Ministry of Environment of incompatibilities of the Ethiopian ABS regulations with the compliance system in the EU and suggested adapting the Ethiopian regulations to the compliance system of the Nagoya Protocol. Apart from that, procedural advice was provided to the Ministry of Environment and other actors responding to their wish to re-address the unsatisfactory situation of tef utilisation in the EU – with respect to ABS, IPR and patent issues. The 2019 draft ABS Proclamation contains implementable provisions on checking compliance by researchers to Ethiopian ABS regulation by user country authorities.

Malawi: The ABS Initiative, FNI and Malawi have conducted two missions where ten contracts have been discussed, improved and processed. None of them is signed yet. The support to the negotiation of an ABS agreement with a German applied research foundation since 2016 lead to a deadlock which was not possible to resolve and did not lead to the signing of a contract. The ABS Initiative, FNI and Malawi have developed updated templates for ABS contracts on non-commercial utilization. The current state is that a standard tool for students and one for biotrade with ABS components are being developed. The ABS awareness in Malawi is growing and currently branches of government are participating in the negotiation of contract-details and implementation of the standard contract tool.

4.2.3 Caribbean (cooperation countries)

The Bahamas: Since 2014, the ABS Initiative has delivered substantive support to the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission in the project preparation phase for GEF/UNEP MSP. The support has focused on the development and implementation of an IT based ABS application and monitoring system as well as developing ABS Pilot Cases. The ABS Initiative supported



the BEST Commission in conducting the inception workshop of the national GEF ABS project in June 2016. At this workshop, the concept of the IT system was presented to a larger audience for the first time. A second workshop on planning the ABS Pilot Cases was cancelled twice in October 2016 and April 2017. After changes in government, the work of the UNEP ABS project was reconvened in late 2017. The second planning workshop was scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2018 but could not be convened due to competing obligations of key experts. Finally, a planning workshop was conducted in Feb 2019. A condensed work plan was adopted including the establishment of the ABS IT System. The Bahamas will contract the Kenyan IT company to support its national ABS project.

4.2.4 Pacific (cooperation countries)

During the reporting period support activities of the ABS Initiative focused on national implementation processes, often in close collaboration with the SPREP ABS team. The regional coordinator of the ABS Initiative, A/Prof Daniel Robinson of UNSW, participated as resource person in the SPREP organised sub-regional ABS workshop for Melanesia and Polynesia from 7 to 10 October in Fiji. Following new ratifications by countries such as Tonga, the workshop allowed NFPs and representatives of CNAs to discuss about their ABS policies, permit systems and regulations. Several exercises and role plays were undertaken to challenge the government representatives to think about different ABS scenarios. Patent landscaping results were presented and there were many questions about Pacific plant species being used by different industries. The patent landscaping methodology was explained enabling countries to utilise the respective research tools on their own.

Cook Islands: In December 2018, a national consultation was undertaken in Cook Islands with the Initiative's support. Cook Islands has developed a draft ABS policy under its UNDP-GEF ABS project. To support this process and raise further awareness, a national workshop was held in Rarotonga. SPREP introduced drafting instructions for ABS legislation in this workshop. In addition, the ABS Initiative has identified communities from several islands that are interested in the development of community protocols, which would assist with the implementation of the TK Act. Awareness raising was also held on the island of Aitutaki with the mayor and island council and traditional healers' networks, including women's networks.

Community protocol development was undertaken with ARC funding on the islands Aitutaki and Mangaia from 3-14 September 2019. In addition, the Island Council of Mangaia received awareness materials on ABS, and meetings were held with National Environment Service (NES) in Rarotonga. Unfortunately, the NES ABS policy had not advanced due to an ongoing systematic review and consolidation of environmental policies initiated by the new director at NES.

Fiji: After phasing out of the national UNDP-GEF NPIF ABS project, executed by the Fijian Government in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific (USP) since 2015, the ABS Initiative undertook country missions in August 2018 and October 2019. During the mission in 2018, the ABS Initiative advised the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (indigenous affairs) on their PIC process for engaging with local communities on ABS-relevant issues. Upon request by the Department of Environment, the ABS Initiative offered through a formal letter technical support for further developing the draft ABS policy and supporting awareness raising among stakeholders. During meetings at the side lines of COP 14 in Egypt, we were informed that due to the restructuring of the ministry a response to our letter may take some more time. It seems that the process for developing an ABS policy and regulatory procedures is waiting to be initiated by the Department of Environment and to be coordinated with other relevant ministries. It is expected that the planned joint national workshop of SPREP and the ABS Initiative workshop for government stakeholders in February 2020, followed by a 1-day 'users' workshop at the USP also involving the Fiji National University (FNU) will further the process.

Palau: Palau signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 but has not yet ratified. A draft ABS Bill was presented for the first reading by the national Parliament in November 2017. The Initiative provided comments to the Bill before the second reading which took place in December 2018 and, after the bill passed Parliament, on the draft regulations of March 2019. The Initiative continued to provide backstopping and technical advice to support this process.



Papua New Guinea: A national consultation visit was undertaken by Prof Robinson in May 2018 in his role as Academic Lead for the UNSW Institute for Global Development (IGD) in Port Moresby and at surrounding universities. Meetings were held with the Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA), the National Science and Technology Office and the University of PNG. Seeking advice and support for developing and implementing a national roadmap towards Nagoya Protocol ratification CEPA signed a MoU with ABS Initiative in December 2018 leading mid-2019 to the submission of a proposal for a financing agreement between CEPA and GIZ supporting planned consultations in government and in provincial centres, the development of an ABS policy as well as consultative national and provincial workshops. As soon as administrative hurdles have been cleared on the side of CEPA, the local subsidy contract can be finalised by GIZ.

Solomon Islands: Building on the results of the national consultation in April-May 2018 by UNSW of behalf of the ABS Initiative in collaboration with SPREP a second joint national consultation took place early July 2019. A national ABS awareness-raising and capacity-building workshop, also involving provincial outreach officers, was held in Honiara discussing the permitting process, the environmental and other research permit processes and the need to clarify the ABS-relevant provisions in the Protected Areas Act which needs to be amended to become Nagoya Protocol compliant. In several meetings with key government and NGO stakeholders, advice was provided about the Nagoya Protocol ratification process. The ratification became official at 24 October 2019.

Further support will be provided in the next year, including potential provincial-level awareness raising workshops. A TK Bill is also being developed and will be shared with the ABS Initiative for comments when the government is ready.

The Bislama/Pidgin English 'ABS Simply Explained' video – dubbed in 2018 for use in Vanuatu – was showed to provincial officers and will be disseminated in the provinces. In addition, educational materials were commissioned including two posters being translated into the local language – Pidgin.

Vanuatu: In 2018, a country visit was undertaken to meet with biotrade companies on Espiritu Santo in February 2018. In addition, educational materials were commissioned, including 2 posters and some translation work into the local language – Bislama (see below).

National consultation and ARC funded community-based protocol development work in the provinces were conducted in mid-August 2018 as well as from 1-18 April 2019, 29 October to 6 November 2019 and 24 November to 1 December 2019 – all with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade (finalizing their TK Bill). In addition, several local and provincial workshops in August 2018 and April 2019 were held with communities on the islands Malekula and Espiritu Santo to raise awareness about ABS, permit processes, to analyse biotrade value chains for ABS relevance, and to gauge interest in community protocols.

The meetings with DEPC and other agencies highlighted the need for clearer local prior informed consent processes and clarity around biotrade activities that may lead overseas to research and development of new ingredients or products. Some revision of the Environmental Management Act is likely to be needed, including the possibility of an environmental trust fund for receiving benefits, as well as development of model mutually agreed terms (MAT). However, there have been long delays progressing or even discussing any legal reform in Parliament.

There is currently one ABS agreement with a European company under negotiation on which the Abs Initiative is providing comments as requested by DEPC.

4.2.5 Asia

India: Since 2014, staff of the ABS Initiative has been engaged by the German-Indo Cooperation to support the development of the BMZ-funded ABS Partnership Project, implemented by GIZ until 2020.

During 2018, the ABS Initiative supported the strategic discussions and technical work of the project. In February 2018, the ABS Initiative participated in the planning workshop for amending the existing IT-based ABS application system of NBA by the monitoring elements developed in the context of the work on the IT-system in Kenya. The workshop initiated a cooperation with the highly skilled Indian governmental institution Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) with the aim to



develop machine-learning approaches for the ABS monitoring system. The work on the machine-learning algorithms was finalised in early 2019. The new monitoring system was officially launched by the Indian Deputy Prime Minister in May 2019.

Furthermore, the ABS Initiative is supporting the project in establishing the Indian ABS Communication Strategy. The Initiative helped conceptualize, prepare and facilitate a multi-stakeholder kick-off workshop that was held in May 2018 in Chennai, to assess communication needs of key ABS actors in India, outline communication objectives and draft main messages. In follow-up, the workshop outcomes were further developed into a communication strategy outline, which was summarised in an 8-page brochure and presented to COP 14 in Egypt. In 2019, two outreach workshops with State Biodiversity Board representatives of all Indian states took place on the application of key elements of the strategy.

In February 2019, the ABS Initiative co-organised the final Operational Planning Workshop to secure the completion of all products and outcomes until December 2019.

4.3 Support at (sub-)regional and international level

This chapter provides information about

- regional activities supporting stakeholders in partner and cooperation countries in achieving national objectives of ABS implementation and/or facilitating exchange between stakeholders of partner countries with stakeholders of other (African) countries, and
- key activities and results in relation to the auxiliary processes of the ABS Initiative's intervention logic (see [Programme Document 2015-2020](#), page 12 and Annex 1).

Table 6 – (Sub-)regional workshops and trainings supporting the core processes of the ABS Initiative

Date	Events	Core processes		
		ABS frameworks	IPLC participation	ABS agreements
20-22 May 2019	Public-private learning on ABS Implementation: company visits, UEBT BSR Conference, ABS exchange, Paris, France	X	(X)	X
9-13 Sep. 2019	12 th Pan-African ABS Workshop Cape Town, South Africa	X	X	X
30 Sep. - 2 Oct. 2019	Global Monitoring Workshop Bonn, Germany			X
4-5 Nov. 2019	Regional Marula Workshop Windhoek, Namibia			X
6-8 Nov. 2019	1 st Global DSI Dialogue Pretoria, South Africa	X		
2-6 Dec. 2019	ABS contract training for Anglophone African countries, Lilongwe, Malawi			X



4.3.1 Core implementation processes

Public-private learning on ABS Implementation: company visits, UEBT BSR Conference, ABS exchange

20 – 22 May 2019, Paris, France

A total of 16 participants supported by the ABS Initiative (3 from Benin, 5 from Kenya, 3 from Namibia, 5 from South Africa) and an additional 17 participants supported by the respective bilateral GIZ projects (3 from Cameroon, 2 from Chad, 4 from COMIFAC, 4 from Madagascar, 2 from Rwanda, 2 from Algeria) participated in the 2019 BSR Conference, the ABS exchange and the respective field trips. During the ABS exchange, representatives of Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia and South Africa presented their respective ABS procedures in the plenary and responded to the numerous clarification questions from the floor. During the field trips to the laboratories of L’Oreal and LVMH in Paris, the participants gained valuable insights in the business models and the respective production cycles of the cosmetics industry.

Global Monitoring Workshop

30 September – 02 October 2019, Bonn, Germany

In collaboration with the ABS Initiative, the CBD Secretariat organized an ABS monitoring Workshop in September 2019 in Bonn, including the participation of ABS Focal Points from 7 African countries (Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa). During the three-day-workshop, all aspects of monitoring and compliance regarding the Nagoya Protocol were intensely discussed, including an interactive session on the ABS Process simulation elaborated by the ABS Initiative. The feedback was very positive, and the African focal points underlined the need for additional training on NP monitoring and compliance, which led to the idea of the ABS Initiative to conceptualize and organize one or two capacity development activities on monitoring and compliance in the first quarter of 2021.

Regional Marula Workshop

04 – 05 November 2019, Windhoek, Namibia

More than 50 delegates from the Southern African biotrade sector gathered in Windhoek, Namibia, on 4 and 5 November 2019 to consult on a future potential sector development plan for Marula. The workshop was hosted by the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism and organized by the GIZ-executed ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa (ABioSA) project. Participants from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe included representatives of harvesters and primary producers, the development sector, government and its implementing agencies, and people involved in manufacture or trade in Marula products. It was concluded that a regional sector development strategy should be developed which needs to be aligned with national and local priorities and initiatives and requires coordination and consultation with stakeholders. Identified fields of regional cooperation were quality/standards, market access and ABS compliance

1st Global DSI Dialogue

06 -08 November 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

65 participants from 27 countries took part in the 1st Global DSI Dialogue. It offered a forum for open exchange reflecting about scientific, technical and policy issues. Some participants found it particularly encouraging to see the wide acceptance of the importance of open access, adding that there may be more acceptance of a policy change if there is no compromise on open access to DSI for non-commercial research. It was noted that countries traditionally viewed as providers are also users of data, meaning that impacts on open access could have far-reaching consequences for scientists worldwide. Participants were informed about the general patterns in production, storage and use of DSI by three international experts. Furthermore, the CBD Secretariat and five other international organisations presented on the current state of discussions on DSI in the respective fora. The main outcomes of the dialogue were:

- Five options for sharing benefits arising out of the (commercial) use of DSI



- A list of points for consideration for analysing / evaluating any benefit sharing option on DSI

ABS contract training for Anglophone African countries

02-06 December 2019, Lilongwe, Malawi

ABS Contract training for COMIFAC Countries

09-13 December 2019, Libreville, Gabon

In 2019, an updated version of the ABS Contract Tool was finalised, translated into French and the curriculum of the training course was adapted to the new content. Drawing on the content and new research undertaken in the tool, two ABS trainings were organized, one for the Anglophone region and one for COMIFAC countries. The training for the COMIFAC region was organized and funded by the COMIFAC Secretariat through the BMZ funded *Programme régional d'appui à la COMIFAC*. The ABS Initiative facilitated and delivered all the technical inputs for the training.

In terms of content, the aim of both trainings was to provide in-depth understanding of key elements of ABS contracts with respect to content as well as negotiation process. The following are some of the topics that were covered during these trainings:

- Explore the role of mutually agreed terms and ABS contracts in achieving the objectives of ABS;
- Identify and understand the various actors utilizing biological diversity and defining ways and means in which these actors can enter into ABS contracts that secure value creation and benefit sharing;
- Explore the link between potential value chains by your counterpart in ABS negotiations and how to make binding and valid obligations upon them;
- Understand the building blocks of ABS contracts, including describing the subject matter, ownership to material and outcome from use; payment clauses and benefit-sharing arrangements, links to patents as a core intellectual property right (IPR), third-party transfer and change of intent, compliance and enforcement;
- Develop negotiation skills to conclude optimal and mutually beneficial ABS agreements;
- Provide a platform for dialogue where national focal points and other representatives of relevant institutions potentially involved in ABS contracts negotiations can discuss and share concrete and practical experiences with ABS contracts and learn from each other.

A similar training for Francophone West African and Indian Ocean Island countries is planned for April 2020. It is also planned to convene the updated training on ABS contract negotiations in the Caribbean and Pacific region.

4.3.2 Auxiliary processes

4.3.2.1 Regional harmonisation and exchange

The African Union Commission's Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (DHRST) was supported to develop an **online system for coordinating African biodiversity negotiators**, with an initial focus on ABS matters. The aim of this intervention was to make innovative use of freely available communication technologies to overcome the perennial problem of insufficient resources for face-to-face coordination. A South African SME, Social Weaver, was contracted to design the system and support its initial roll out. After a small pilot phase during SBSTTA 22 and SBI 2 the system was used more extensively during COP 14 and COP-MOP 3 in Egypt, where it allowed the AUC Secretariat to communicate easily with large numbers of African delegates. The system proved especially valuable for agreeing on text-based interventions in the negotiation processes. Based on experiences so far, the online system was further refined in 2019 and more training for users initiated. The system was used by African negotiators at the 8th session of the ITPGRFA Governing Body and at SBSTTA 23 in November 2019. It is currently being used to share and further develop the African negotiating position on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Work continues on replicating and expanding the system further to cover other biodiversity-related and even broader environmental negotiations, contributing to coordinated African negotiating positions across international instruments and coherent national implementation of ABS in Africa. This process will require additional technical support during 2020.



The **12th Pan-African ABS Workshop** was aimed at providing a forum where all relevant stakeholder groups could obtain information and exchange on national experiences and discuss ABS national implementation strategies from an African perspective. Linkages were made with relevant (emerging) topics and processes such as permitting and regulatory compliance issues, the role of digital sequence information (DSI), or embedding ABS in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Specific sessions were dedicated to the elaboration of models and approaches that facilitate national ABS implementation processes. A one-day field trip in the Western Cape province was part of the workshop programme and allowed participants to engage first-hand with different ABS actors (IPLCs, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industry and research representatives) involved in emerging or existing ABS cases and valorisation processes.

Just before this workshop, the ABS Initiative supported the African Union Commission in conducting an African Strategy Meeting on DSI. This meeting allowed key negotiators and stakeholders from Africa to start developing a common understanding of the issues involved and to exchange views on how the DSI issue might eventually be resolved. As a follow up the ABS Initiative, in coordination with the SCBD and the African Union Commission, will be supporting a one-day coordination and information exchange session for African members of the expanded DSI AHTEG, to be held in Montreal in March 2020, the day before the AHTEG meeting started.

The ABS Initiative was **appointed by the European Commission as a member of the ABS Consultation Forum** established by Art. 15 of the EU ABS Regulation. The current task of the Consultation Forum is the drafting of guidance material supporting the implementation of the EU ABS Regulation. The Initiative delivered final comments on the updated general and specific EU Guidance. It also participated in the fifth meeting of the Forum in December 2019 in Brussels. The outcomes of the 1st Global Dialogue on DSI was welcomed by the EU Commission and several member states.

The ABS Initiative is member of the Steering Committee of the **GEF UNEP ABS project "Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region"** which is executed by IUCN. The Initiative participated in two Steering Committee meetings and regional workshops in April 2016 in Trinidad and Tobago and in October 2017 in Antigua and Barbuda. Various comments on public awareness material, legislative documents and the project's mid-term review were given. The ABS Initiative took part in the final project workshop in January 2019 and participated in the independent review of the project. With the availability of new funding for its work in the Caribbean region in 2018, the Initiative started consultations with the IUCN project on follow-up activities to be conducted in 2019 and building on the results of the IUCN project. The completion of the regional ABS guidelines and templates for ABS contracts as well as brainstorming on regional approaches for IT ABS systems emerged as main issues for the future work.

In the context of the above-mentioned Caribbean ABS project, the ABS Initiative established contacts with the **Organisation for Eastern Caribbean Countries (OECS) Commission** to become a cooperating partner in the coming activities in 2019-2022. In November 2018, the Initiative held a meeting with the Caribbean countries present at COP 14 in Sharm el-Sheikh to discuss and finalise the concept for collaboration. A concept for collaboration describing the main fields of activities was approved and an MoU was signed in June 2019. Due to slow institutional processes, a first workshop on regional ABS Guidelines, ABS contract templates, regional approaches on IT ABS systems and general awareness raising was postponed and should be convened in February 2020.

Furthermore, with a view to facilitating coordination and synergies between the GEF/UNEP Pacific Regional ABS Project which is executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the work of the ABS Initiative in the region a **Joint Regional Steering Committee (JRSC) for the Pacific** was created in June 2017 for the two projects. Support to countries is well coordinated and several country missions have been done jointly since then. For further details see chapters 4.2.4 and 4.4.1 respectively.

4.3.2.2 Interfaces to international processes

The ABS Initiative is member of the **Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**. It participated in the fourth meeting in October 2019, which



mainly worked on developing elements for the coming evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

The ABS Initiative was also invited to a communication expert meeting in Montreal, organised by the SCBD with the aim to develop a common outreach approach around the post 2020 framework. Together with professionals of different UN agencies, biodiversity related agreements, NGOs, IUCN and IPBES communication messages, target groups and activities for the biodiversity super year were discussed and key elements for a common “flotilla” strategy elaborated. Whereas the focus of the discussion was on conservation messages, the Initiative was able to position also ABS and development aspects as key pillar of convention in the meeting and to be reflected in the communication approach.

The ABS Initiative renewed its Letter of Intent with the **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)** in 2018 in order to further cooperate in institutional ABS issues until 2022. The partnership will contribute to the implementation of the AU ABS Guidelines, support ABS-compliance of ILRI with applicable national ABS frameworks and enable ABS-compliant research and breeding activities by ILRI and its project partners. In the context of this partnership, the Initiative participated in the following activities:

- In 2019, the ABS Initiative continued its support to negotiations between the **Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH)** – a partner of ILRI – and African provider countries on the utilisation of husbandry blood samples.
- Throughout 2018, the Initiative was cooperating with ILRI to prepare and organise an ABS Compliance Workshop to present their common work and to invite regulators and scientists from the key provider countries of ILRI’s R&D projects. The workshop took place in Jan 2019 and gathered 27 researchers, regulators and subject matter experts from Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and Malawi with additional international input from international experts. The conclusions were:
 - Continuing capacity building for all important stakeholders, transfer of technology and knowledge to country-level institutional;
 - Collaboration on standard multilateral ABS agreements and benefit sharing mechanisms;
 - Development of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) recommendations and guidelines; and
 - Resource mobilisation.

A next workshop taking up these recommendations is planned for Q1 2020.

Initiated through ILRI, the ABS Initiative started a discussion with the **Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed)** in Edinburgh (UK) to support their work on ABS issues. GALVmed is a non-profit organisation cooperating with academia, public research institutes and the commercial pharmaceutical sector to develop vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for the major livestock diseases impacting smallholders. GALVmed functions as a Product Development Partnership (PDP), it is the only veterinary PDP in existence. The result of GALVmed’s [product development work](#) will be a comprehensive portfolio of animal health products for smallholders, mainly vaccines. GALVmed received its vaccine genetic resources and digital sequence information from ILRI and other partners. In April 2019, the ABS Initiative advised the CEO, legal and scientific officers of GALVmed on the implications of ABS regulations for their commercial R&D in order to develop ABS-standards. A next workshop is planned for 2020.

As in previous years, the Initiative collaborated with the AUC to provide **technical and strategic support to African Group negotiators** at the FAO CGRFA, ITPGRFA and WIPO IGC. This support helped Africa to develop more coherent negotiating positions across various fora, offsetting to an extent the inherent disadvantage embodied in multilateral bodies sponsoring only one technical delegate per country (or even fewer). As a result, Africa has been able to effectively safeguard its interests in these negotiations, and in some cases to move multilateral ABS processes forward in a constructive manner:

- The ABS Initiative continued to provide legal advice on the re-negotiation of the **Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) of the Multilateral System under the ITPGRFA**. The Initiative through FNI provided advice based on the recent monography “Drafting Successful Access and Benefit-sharing Contracts” by Young and Tvedt. A draft study of contractual



challenges of the current SMTA was shared by FNI during GB7. The final study on challenges of the current SMTA was presented to the negotiators at GB8 in Rome in November 2019.

- In 2019, the ABS Initiative continued to support African negotiators participating in the Ad-hoc Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of ABS of the ITPGRFA, as well as related processes under the auspices of the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation.
- Leading up to GB 8 the ABS Initiative collaborated with the ITPGRFA Secretariat and the African Union Commission to support a preparatory meeting for African negotiators, which was held in Kigali in September 2019. During GB 8, held in Rome in November 2019, the online coordination system was rolled out to African ITPGRFA negotiations for the first time.
- Despite the failure at GB 8 – after six years of intense efforts – of the negotiations on enhancing the functioning of the MLS, the ABS Initiative continues to support informal efforts to find a way forward. As the negotiations had failed largely because of a lack of consensus on DSI, this support is closely related to broader efforts to resolve the DSI issue.
- Support was given to the African Group in support of international discussions on the effects of **Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** on the objective of the Nagoya Protocol, namely benefit sharing. The Initiative has continued its collaboration with Prof Margo Bagley in supporting the African Group in the DSI discussions, although her ability to do so has been somewhat curtailed by her being commissioned to lead some of the DSI studies conducted for the CBD.

To provide an input on capacities, views and concerns of ‘provider countries’ (and Africa in particular) on DSI, the ABS Initiative was invited to the 8th German Round Table on ABS, organised by the German Agency for the Conservation of Nature in Bonn, in January 2020.

4.3.2.3 Knowledge generation for human capacity development (HCD)

As in previous years, the ABS Initiative took up its role as a globally significant knowledge broker and communicator on ABS. New publications made available focused on ABS agreements, implementation options and Digital Sequence Information (DSI) as a core topic in the current preparations for the post-2020 negotiations.

Ahead of the [1st Global Dialogue on Digital Sequence Information on ABS in November 2019](#), the ABS Initiative published an [introductory guide on DSI](#) (also available in [French](#)). It aims to help African policymakers and stakeholders to understand the discussion around DSI in relation to the Nagoya Protocol and the position of various actors.

Continuing its focus on ABS agreements the ABS Initiative published the [ABS Contract Tool 2.0](#) during the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop. It is the practical legal tool that can make ABS work in practice, providing legal certainty and sufficient flexibility to cater for each individual situation. The ABS Contract Tool provides example clauses to make ABS work and is made mainly for situations where the user states that its objective is to conduct research without immediate commercial application. The ABS Contract Tool is designed as a living document which will be updated based on practical experiences in using it for the negotiation of actual ABS contracts. Work has started on version 2.1 based on feedback in contract trainings, in consultancy with countries and more insight on how ABS contracts best can work in a balanced manner between providers and users. This version should be published in 2020. Work is in progress to develop two additional Contract Tools: One for standard contracts for master- / PhD students and one for ABS-BioTrade Contracts.

The publication [ABS Implementation Options - Policy and Administrative Options for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\)](#) is the result of a team effort by experts of the ABS Initiative. The potential advantages and disadvantages that are presented for different implementation options reflect the experiences of the ABS Initiative and do not necessarily represent the views of individual countries. The document intends to provide an overview of some important options and decisions to be made when developing a strategic approach to implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS at national level.

Responding to long-time requests from IPLC stakeholders, the Initiative, in collaboration with Natural Justice and relevant partners in Africa, the Initiative is in the final stages of developing two



communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) tools specifically tailored for IPLCs with potentially low levels of formal education and limited access to technology. These tools can be adapted to local contexts and used/translated into local languages. The first tool is a set of picture cards, which will be illustrated professionally by a designer in South Africa and will be finalised by the end of July 2020. Secondly, a toolbox for the preparation of community radio shows on ABS is being developed. The radio show will consist of four scripts, which will be finalised and piloted in Q3 or Q4 2020.

The launch of the ABS Contract Tool 2.0 led to an updated curriculum of the ABS contract training. The training is now focusing on practical drafting and negotiation questions and their solution. Based on the experiences of the many face-to-face training courses on ABS contracts conducted in cooperation with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, the ABS Initiative started developing a **Blended Learning Tool**. Target groups are lawyers and ABS experts negotiating ABS agreements on behalf of providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Starting off with a planning meeting in January in 2019, the concept has been developed. With the tool, the ABS Initiative aims to make learning more effective and appealing to the target audience also allowing for peer exchange. A tender process for the development of the web-based tool in September 2019 failed because the available budget was too small for the bidding companies. After consultations with the GIZ Africa Cloud project, a second tender will be launched in Kenya in January 2020 where competent bidders exist and costs will be lower.

Addressing the fact that until now, no real practical examples of how national ABS systems share information through the ABSCH do exist yet, the ABS Initiative in a team effort developed a fictional ABS case from the ABS permit to the Checkpoint Communiqué and the respective follow-up action. The story allows to follow a hypothetical ABS case and thus to understand how the pieces of the different ABS systems fit together to enable countries to monitor utilisation. The fictional ABS case has been presented and discussed during the Pan-African ABS Workshop in Cape Town and during the monitoring workshop by SCBD and the ABS Initiative in Bonn in September 2019.

SPREP, with the support of the Initiative, published factsheets on ABS in English and Bislama. The factsheet contains basic information on ABS and some related examples.

4.3.2.4 Knowledge management and dissemination

A high number of online and offline knowledge tools and channels have been produced and revamped in 2018. In 2019 the focus of knowledge management and dissemination was on two levels: alignment with the new “sister project” BioInnovation Africa and ABioSA as a sub-project of the ABS Initiative. The projects’ approaches, activities and contents are strongly interrelated in many ways which has significant impact on communications in general.

Based on strategic discussions within the projects’ teams and external partners it was concluded that their online presence should be combined and closely coordinated. The results fed into a joint communication strategy. Here are the basic results:

- Synthesise communication of the three (sub) projects under one roof (joint website, joint Twitter account)
- Focus on the overall topic they share: “Biodiversity-based value chains with ABS component”
- Communication in process: communicating specific topics for a defined time periods with events, activities and publications as the relevant hooks.
- Bridge the generational gap: rejuvenate knowledge transfer and public awareness for a younger audience (e.g. more focus on digital and mobile tools, more multimedia, fresher form of moderation)
- Simplify access to information: more multimedia and social media tools and platforms to direct attention to the plethora of knowledge and experience
- More cases: Potential actors in ABS and BioTrade are more likely to be motivated through guiding examples. These need to be researched and presented accordingly (posters, interactive graphs, factsheets, videos). Reference points are SDGs, the Nagoya Protocol and socio-economic factors.
- Specific language and formats for the different audiences (e.g., IPLC, SME, global corporates)



This “merged” communication approach was successfully kicked off with the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop in September 2019. An agency was hired to take photos and conduct video interviews. The high-quality photos and videos were not only used for the social media dissemination but also for other products, for instance a BMZ brochure on the BioInnovation Africa project. A media release was disseminated resulting in a few media messages on the workshop. Only to name a few examples.

Similar support was provided to the first workshop on a regional marula sector development plan in November 2019, organised by the ABioSA project. Photos were taken and a media statement released which resulted in some media coverage.

Currently, the revamp of the online platform of all three projects is in the process. In 2020 the Initiative, jointly with BioInnovation Africa will continue to implement the strategy including more focused social media and multimedia activities.

As every year, the ABS Initiative ensured its presence on external platforms where suitable and useful. One of the platforms is the ITC Sustainability Map, supported by BMZ and SECO among others.

The number of users of the Twitter channel of the ABS Initiative has grown from 300 to 384 since 2018. The videos on the Initiative’s YouTube channel received about 3,643 views. The LinkedIn account had to be closed down as the ABS Initiative is not a legal entity and thus cannot have its own LinkedIn page according to the company’s rules. The potential of social media has not been fully exploited in 2019. A more strategic approach is needed.

4.4 Steering and guiding processes

4.4.1 Steering Committee

The **Regional Steering Committee for Africa** (RSCA) met on 28-29 March 2019 in Bonn. The minutes of the meeting are available for download on the ABS Initiative’s website.

Besides the discussion and approval of the work plan and budget, following key decisions were taken:

- After several rounds of exchanges, the Secretariat and the Ugandan partners eventually agreed in September 2018 to change Uganda’s status into a “cooperation country”, which will receive punctual, on-demand support in selected matters. The Secretariat recommended, based on a country assessment, that the RSCA includes Malawi or Côte d’Ivoire in the list of partner countries and increases the flexible budget. After private deliberations among the African SC members, the Côte d’Ivoire was selected as new partner country of the ABS Initiative considering the regional balance of support by the ABS Initiative.
- Typically, the annual meeting of the SC has been held back to back with the Pan-African ABS Workshops to enable the Initiative’s donors to attend the workshop and to meet with the Initiative’s partners and other stakeholders. In practice, coupling these two events has not led to the intended effects. The Secretariat proposed that the RSCA meeting be formally decoupled from the Pan-African ABS Workshops and that all future RSCA meetings are to be held in Europe. Following the deliberations, the RSCA agreed to de-linking the SC meeting and the Pan-African ABS Workshop while remaining flexible to organize the meetings back-to-back if donors are interested and able to join the Pan-African ABS workshops.
- The Secretariat prepared a document regarding the renewal of the African country representation prior to the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop in September 2019. The RSCA members discussed these options (including the role and duties of the SC members) at the margins of the workshop and prepared a concrete proposal on the way forward for the next SC meeting.

The **Regional Steering Committee for the Caribbean** for the ABS Initiative will be re-established during the first regional ABS workshop in the context of the cooperation with the Organisation of the East Caribbean States (OECS) in 2020.

The **Joint Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific**, established in June 2017 to support coordinated implementation of the GEF-UNEP regional ABS project executed by SPREP and the work



of the ABS Initiative in the Pacific region, did not meet in 2019. The third meeting of the Joint RSCP took place at 19 February 2019 as a combined online and face-to-face meeting in Apia, Samoa. The excellent cooperation between the ABS team of SPREP and the ABS Initiative enabling support to all Pacific Island States was lauded by participants. The budget reallocations proposed by SPREP to increase the travel budget of the SPREP ABS team were approved, thus allowing the continuation of the successful collaboration.

4.4.2 Project management

Regular physical team meetings – GIZ team (twice a month), core team, i.e. GIZ and GeoMedia staff (monthly) – and team meeting via skype – extended team (monthly with specific input on the work of external consultants) – ensure consistent exchange of information within the ABS Initiative team, updates on the implementation of (national) activities and coordination for joint (sub-)regional and international activities.

In order to address identified capacity gaps and implementation challenges, thematic task teams were established in 2015 to develop, as far as possible, standardised capacity building approaches, tools and instruments to be used for national level support (for details see chapter '4.3.2.3 Knowledge generation for human capacity development (HCD)

As in previous years, the ABS Initiative took up its role as a globally significant knowledge broker and communicator on ABS. New publications made available focused on ABS agreements, implementation options and Digital Sequence Information (DSI) as a core topic in the current preparations for the post-2020 negotiations.

Ahead of the 1st Global Dialogue on Digital Sequence Information on ABS in November 2019, the ABS Initiative published an introductory guide on DSI (also available in French). It aims to help African policymakers and stakeholders to understand the discussion around DSI in relation to the Nagoya Protocol and the position of various actors.

Continuing its focus on ABS agreements the ABS Initiative published the ABS Contract Tool 2.0 during the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop. It is the practical legal tool that can make ABS work in practice, providing legal certainty and sufficient flexibility to cater for each individual situation. The ABS Contract Tool provides example clauses to make ABS work and is made mainly for situations where the user states that its objective is to conduct research without immediate commercial application. The ABS Contract Tool is designed as a living document which will be updated based on practical experiences in using it for the negotiation of actual ABS contracts. Work has started on version 2.1 based on feedback in contract trainings, in consultancy with countries and more insight on how ABS contracts best can work in a balanced manner between providers and users. This version should be published in 2020. Work is in progress to develop two additional Contract Tools: One for standard contracts for master- / PhD students and one for ABS-BioTrade Contracts.

The publication ABS Implementation Options - Policy and Administrative Options for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is the result of a team effort by experts of the ABS Initiative. The potential advantages and disadvantages that are presented for different implementation options reflect the experiences of the ABS Initiative and do not necessarily represent the views of individual countries. The document intends to provide an overview of some important options and decisions to be made when developing a strategic approach to implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS at national level.

Responding to long-time requests from IPLC stakeholders, the Initiative, in collaboration with Natural Justice and relevant partners in Africa, the Initiative is in the final stages of developing two communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) tools specifically tailored for IPLCs with potentially low levels of formal education and limited access to technology. These tools can be adapted to local contexts and used/translated into local languages. The first tool is a set of picture cards, which will be illustrated professionally by a designer in South Africa and will be finalised by the end of July 2020. Secondly, a toolbox for the preparation of community radio shows on ABS is being developed. The radio show will consist of four scripts, which will be finalised and piloted in Q3 or Q4 2020.



The launch of the ABS Contract Tool 2.0 led to an updated curriculum of the ABS contract training. The training is now focusing on practical drafting and negotiation questions and their solution. Based on the experiences of the many face-to-face training courses on ABS contracts conducted in cooperation with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, the ABS Initiative started developing a **Blended Learning Tool**. Target groups are lawyers and ABS experts negotiating ABS agreements on behalf of providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Starting off with a planning meeting in January in 2019, the concept has been developed. With the tool, the ABS Initiative aims to make learning more effective and appealing to the target audience also allowing for peer exchange. A tender process for the development of the web-based tool in September 2019 failed because the available budget was too small for the bidding companies. After consultations with the GIZ Africa Cloud project, a second tender will be launched in Kenya in January 2020 where competent bidders exist and costs will be lower.

Addressing the fact that until now, no real practical examples of how national ABS systems share information through the ABSCH do exist yet, the ABS Initiative in a team effort developed a fictional ABS case from the ABS permit to the Checkpoint Communiqué and the respective follow-up action. The story allows to follow a hypothetical ABS case and thus to understand how the pieces of the different ABS systems fit together to enable countries to monitor utilisation. The fictional ABS case has been presented and discussed during the Pan-African ABS Workshop in Cape Town and during the monitoring workshop by SCBD and the ABS Initiative in Bonn in September 2019.

SPREP, with the support of the Initiative, published factsheets on ABS in English and Bislama. The factsheet contains basic information on ABS and some related examples.

4.4.2.1 Knowledge management and dissemination

A high number of online and offline knowledge tools and channels have been produced and revamped in 2018. In 2019 the focus of knowledge management and dissemination was on two levels: alignment with the new “sister project” BioInnovation Africa and ABioSA as a sub-project of the ABS Initiative. The projects’ approaches, activities and contents are strongly interrelated in many ways which has significant impact on communications in general.

Based on strategic discussions within the projects’ teams and external partners it was concluded that their online presence should be combined and closely coordinated. The results fed into a joint communication strategy. Here are the basic results:

- Synthesise communication of the three (sub) projects under one roof (joint website, joint Twitter account)
- Focus on the overall topic they share: “Biodiversity-based value chains with ABS component”
- Communication in process: communicating specific topics for a defined time periods with events, activities and publications as the relevant hooks.
- Bridge the generational gap: rejuvenate knowledge transfer and public awareness for a younger audience (e.g. more focus on digital and mobile tools, more multimedia, fresher form of moderation)
- Simplify access to information: more multimedia and social media tools and platforms to direct attention to the plethora of knowledge and experience
- More cases: Potential actors in ABS and BioTrade are more likely to be motivated through guiding examples. These need to be researched and presented accordingly (posters, interactive graphs, factsheets, videos). Reference points are SDGs, the Nagoya Protocol and socio-economic factors.
- Specific language and formats for the different audiences (e.g., IPLC, SME, global corporates)

This “merged” communication approach was successfully kicked off with the 12th Pan-African ABS Workshop in September 2019. An agency was hired to take photos and conduct video interviews. The high-quality photos and videos were not only used for the social media dissemination but also for other products, for instance a BMZ brochure on the BioInnovation Africa project. A media release was disseminated resulting in a few media messages on the workshop. Only to name a few examples.



Similar support was provided to the first workshop on a regional marula sector development plan in November 2019, organised by the ABioSA project. Photos were taken and a media statement released which resulted in some media coverage.

Currently, the revamp of the online platform of all three projects is in the process. In 2020 the Initiative, jointly with BioInnovation Africa will continue to implement the strategy including more focused social media and multimedia activities.

As every year, the ABS Initiative ensured its presence on external platforms where suitable and useful. One of the platforms is the ITC Sustainability Map, supported by BMZ and SECO among others.

The number of users of the Twitter channel of the ABS Initiative has grown from 300 to 384 since 2018. The videos on the Initiative's YouTube channel received about 3,643 views. The LinkedIn account had to be closed down as the ABS Initiative is not a legal entity and thus cannot have its own LinkedIn page according to the company's rules. The potential of social media has not been fully exploited in 2019. A more strategic approach is needed.

4.5 Steering and guiding processes

4.5.1 Steering Committee

The **Regional Steering Committee for Africa (RSCA)** met on 28-29 March 2019 in Bonn. The minutes of the meeting are available for download on the ABS Initiative's website.

'). The developed tools and instruments are utilised in the workshops and trainings of the ABS Initiative and are being made available to the ABS-CH for informing and supporting the implementation of the Strategic Framework under the CBD.

4.5.2 (Sub-)regional management

Appointed team members are responsible for coordinating support to partner and cooperation countries as well as the relevant (sub-)regional organisations in Africa and the Caribbean.

In order to reduce travel costs and to facilitate communication with stakeholders and partners in the Pacific, A/Prof Dr Daniel Robinson of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia, is acting as regional coordinator for the ABS Initiative's activities in the region based on a financing agreement with UNSW. Mr Robinson has been collaborating and working as a consultant to the ABS Initiative since 2012 and is instrumental for accessing additional funds from Australian funding agencies (see chapter 3).

4.5.3 External evaluation

The EU undertook a **Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM)** in January/February 2019. Among the identified challenges are the following: still limited awareness of ABS; gaps in legal ABS frameworks; staff shortages; lack of quantification of benefits and lack of enough funding to pursue the necessary capacity development processes. A key recommendation put forward by the assessment team was to place more emphasis on documenting / quantifying the potential benefits from ABS agreements.

Key findings and recommendations were presented to the RSCA in March 2019. The RSCA members reinforced that the quantification of benefits is necessary to convince policy makers of the relevance of ABS. Two ways of addressing this challenge were identified: (1) demonstrating linkages between ABS and the SDGs; (2) extracting relevant information on benefit-sharing from contract negotiations. The work on linkages between ABS and SDG will be undertaken by GeoMedia, the partner of the ABS Initiative, under a contract with the German CNA, the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation. The ABS Initiative started collecting comprehensive information on all ABS contract negotiations is supported. A 2-page format was developed specifically informing about the monetary and non-monetary benefits sharing which was agreed upon in the contracts. Concrete fact sheets will be produced in consultation with the providers in users during 2020.



5. Challenges and opportunities in ABS implementation

A one-size-fits-all approach for capacity development focused on national ABS implementation of the Nagoya Protocol does not exist. Situations in countries differ significantly as do the opportunities and constraints stakeholders are confronted with. In short: ABS capacity development needs to be well targeted and case specific. While being consistent in its approach, the ABS Initiative monitors the changes in the institutional and processual environment concerning ABS, assesses the challenges and opportunities, and ultimately comes up with targeted solutions. This chapter informs about:

1. **Challenges and measures taken:** Key impediments to and weaknesses in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol based on experience gained through past and current support of stakeholders and partner countries as well as experience gained at a regional and global level. Tools and activities of the ABS Initiative to address these challenges.
2. **Momentum:** Important developments and arising opportunities for more effective and efficient ABS implementation.

5.1 Key challenges

5.1.1 Designing ABS systems / regulatory frameworks

The lion's share of ACP countries has started the development and implementation of ABS measures after the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 only. Others were pre-Nagoya "early movers" developing ABS frameworks based on the ABS provisions of the CBD itself. Consequently, the current scope of national activities ranges from drafting basic regulations in order to create the bare minimum of legal certainty (e.g. Benin, Madagascar, Fiji) to revising existing pre-Nagoya ABS frameworks for increased efficiency and effectiveness (e.g. South Africa, Kenya, Vanuatu). This range, of course, causes specific challenges for ABS capacity development. Finding the right link to existing national ABS processes, and thus tailor-made support schemes, is one of the most common.

Deficiencies at institutional and individual levels: As the key drivers ABS NFPs and staff of ABS CNAs have meanwhile attained a quite good understanding of the Nagoya Protocol and its mechanism. However, the concept, role and process of monitoring, compliance, the ABS Clearing House and checkpoints is often not yet understood properly. Insufficient knowledge of valorisation steps, value chains and in which cases ABS-procedures would be triggered often leads to misconceptions and misunderstandings with users. More principal comprehension deficits regarding the ABS mechanism and implementation requirements of the Nagoya Protocol prevail in most line authorities (planning, agriculture, research, health, trade/economy, rural development). Further, officers are often overcharged with other work (e.g. overseeing several Conventions or Protocols), suffer from inadequate IT infrastructure, including unstable internet connection, and change positions too frequently in order to adequately push ABS implementation in their countries or respond to access investigations from users. In addition, the hierarchical set-up of administrations results in long decision-making processes.

Measure: Awareness raising and informing

The ABS Initiative continues using its existing multimedia products (**videos, interactive graphics, posters**) complemented by an **updated webpage**. The Initiative will make intensified use of the existing **ABS monitoring video** and plans producing a **short video on ABS and DSI – "simply explained"**. A **case compendium on ABS-SDG linkages** will provide concrete input to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and contribute to a common understanding of ABS implementation among relevant stakeholders. A new **factsheet format on concrete information on benefit sharing arrangements in ABS contracts** and their contribution to the SDGs will target decision makers and information multipliers. In the partner countries, the ABS Initiative aims at addressing such individual and institutional deficits through **direct advice and trainings**.



5.1.2 Indigenous peoples, local communities and governance

Governance structures and tenure provisions differ between countries but also at national, provincial or local level. While in some countries legal provisions for IPLC participation do not exist at all (e.g. Algeria and Morocco), they are recognised in others (e.g. Kenya; most Pacific island states). In other countries like Ethiopia, the state represents local communities in some matters. Of course, the diversity of governance structures demands distinct (legal) approaches to enable effective participation of IPLCs in ABS processes, including PIC. These different structures are equally challenging for foreign users.

IPLC governance and aTK: Land tenure and resource tenure issues are often not sufficiently defined in providing countries. Due to the inexistence of inventories the precise attribution of a genetic resource or respective aTK to indigenous people or local communities remains a key implementation challenge for ABS regulators and users. However, even if the community was identified, the question of representation arises: Who is responsible within the community? Who provides PIC? Who may negotiate? How to deal with shared aTK?

(Non-)utilisation of aTK: In many cases, aTK can help identify potential leads to be taken up by basic or commercial R&D. In some industry sectors, for instance nutraceuticals, the proof of traditional uses of a resource as foodstuff can help to pass consumer safety standards such as the EU Novel Food regulation. However, this potential is barely used as the majority of users tries to avoid conducting R&D or building products on aTK for following reasons: the legal status of aTK is often unclear, for instance if it is publicly available or in the public domain (e.g. scientific literature); aTK right holders may not have been identified; aTK is shared and may be disputed between communities; obtaining ABS permits based on aTK, PIC is very difficult and time consuming, if not impossible.

Measure: Tools for IPLCs and BCPs

Based on the results of a CEPA workshop for IPLCs, the ABS Initiative is developing **CEPA tools (radio shows, picture cards)** enabling IPLCs to become involved more effectively in ABS processes. The **establishment of BCPs and comparable instruments** leads to a better position of IPLCs in ABS negotiations. Natural Justice and the ABS Initiative intend to develop **guidelines on developing and implementing BCPs or comparable instruments** for communities, supporting organisations and governments. To reflect the special situation and needs of IPLCs regarding complex contract negotiations, a specific **training for IPLCs on ABS contract negotiations** is under development. To address aTK tenure issues, the ABS Initiative entered into a collaboration with the South African CSIR. CSIR is planning to use the National Recordal System (NRS) developed by the South African Department of Science and Technology for **identifying promising uses of indigenous plants based on aTK of IPLCs**.

5.1.3 Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

DSI was probably the most controversially discussed topic during CBD-COP 14/NP-MOP 2. Nevertheless, many regulators and relevant ABS stakeholders do not fully comprehend the nature and types of applications of DSI as well as its potential implications on ABS implementation, both in the research and commercial arena. These knowledge gaps are not only impacting the negotiations at international level. They also have the potential to slow down the regulatory process nationally as it is unclear how to cover the issue in domestic ABS frameworks.

Measure: Global DSI Dialogue and cooperation with African Union Commission

The **Global DSI Dialogues** in 2019 and 2020 including related publications (**DSI Primer, studies on commercial use and multilateral benefit sharing options (to be produced in 2020)**) provide an overview about scientific and technical topics and support an open discussion amongst all stakeholders. The activities aim to enhance the understanding of the issues, the development of approaches to consider DSI in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the negotiation of benefit sharing options. In **cooperation with the African Union Commission and through its Continental Coordination Committee for biodiversity matters**, the ABS Initiative compiles, analyses and documents the different developments relevant to the implementation of ABS and particularly DSI under the CBD/Nagoya Protocol, FAO ITPGRFA/CGRFA, WIPO IGC, and WHO PIP. In that context, the ABS Initiative supported



the African Group of Negotiators through a **communication tool** and the facilitation of **strategy meetings, focussing on matters of DSI**.

5.1.4 Developing specific regulations and procedures

Despite having basic ABS measures in place, many countries have not yet defined ABS regulations and/or clear procedures to process ABS applications. In some cases, procedures might be defined within the administration but are not at all or at least not sufficiently communicated to other stakeholders and applicants. Consequently, neither resource holders nor users know exactly where and when PIC is to be obtained, who the respective MAT negotiation partner may be or which permits are to be issued by which authority in order to be compliant with national ABS measures. Clearly defined PIC/MAT/permitting procedures are of relevance in cases where local SMEs and IPLCs – important linking elements in the value chain – are transferring and adding value to biological and genetic resources. Here, also the relation of permits and benefit sharing arrangements along one value chain, i.e. between resource providers and local SMEs on the one hand, and between those SMEs and international industry on the other hand remains a major challenge. This includes also the definition of cut-off points for benefit-sharing, especially in value chains where foreign users never enter the country but buy the biological material on the commodity markets.

In the absence of guidance, some users have defined institutional or company specific procedures according to their discretion and interpretation of the Nagoya Protocol (e.g. community-PIC, pre-PIC, ABS collaboration accords), in order to have some evidence of ABS compliance if the issue came into question later.

Scope of ABS requirements: Many ABS laws and regulations do not clearly define which specific resources and types of utilisation would fall under the national scope. Are seeds or non-indigenous resources included? Would taxonomic research trigger ABS obligations? What if the resources are used for the extraction of oils or in formulations at national level? What about export thereof? International users often delegate the responsibility to provide necessary permits or the proof that the resource in question is outside the ABS scope to the resource providers, manufacturing SMEs or exporters in the providing countries. Unfortunately, many regulators cannot provide guidance on related inquiries. As a result, business opportunities from genetic resource valorisation are missed out on, and even existing supply chains are threatened to collapse due to legal uncertainties. Particularly EU users being required to proof due diligence abstain from further engagement. In addition, such unclear scope of ABS requirements negatively impacts research cooperation with EU countries where proof of ABS compliance is a prerequisite for research funding.

Interplay with other key permits: Generally, obtaining only an ABS permit/IRCC is not sufficient to “start business” on biological and genetic resources. Additional permits, for instance regarding research, collection of material, export or phytosanitary obligations, are necessary to undertake R&D abroad and build a supply chain. At the same time, clear guidance on complementary permits for specific ABS applications are lacking. A typical question that arises: In which order are different permits to be obtained, for instance, is an ABS permit the prerequisite for a research permit or is it the other way around?

Measure: Implementation options paper

The paper presents various options for implementation of the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. The potential advantages and disadvantages are discussed. The paper is the basis for a consultative process for developing a strategic approach to implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS at national level. The paper should be used as basis for specific workshops and activities at the national level.

5.1.5 Negotiations and clauses of ABS contracts

In most countries, access to ABS and contract law expertise is insufficient. This has a negative impact on the quality and enforceability of ABS agreements. In the worst case, ABS contracts are legally void. IPLCs, but also other providers, often do not have the legal and technical support to participate in ABS negotiations at eye level. In contrast, the user side – industry and academia – avails of the necessary legal support at command.



Essential information on benefit sharing schemes: A severe lack of information about essential aspects of benefit sharing – reasonable expectations, industry-specific rates, scheduling of milestones, upfront payments vs profit shares, effective ways to use non-monetary benefit sharing measures etc. – is resulting in institutional paralysis on the part of the providers. They do not feel sufficiently knowledgeable to confidently propose, consider, evaluate, negotiate and conclude MAT. The fact that in most cases much of this information is commercially confidential and thus prevents learning from good (or bad) examples exacerbates the problem.

Measure: ABS contract support

The ABS Initiative conducts **trainings on ABS contract negotiation** at national and regional level. The underlying conceptual approach was updated (**ABS Contract Tool 2.0**). Through a blended learning approach, these face-to-face courses will be complemented by an online learning format, which will improve the learning effect in four respects: better understanding of ABS contracts; easier sharing of draft contracts; make sources available in the long term and encourage peer-to-peer exchange. In particular, the ABS Initiative **advises and comments on legal contract clauses and negotiations** in partner and cooperation countries upon request and thus facilitates the establishment of ABS contracts.

5.1.6 Monitoring of ABS contracts

With increasing numbers of ABS systems being implemented, the number of access requests and all other documents and procedures linked to a specific access request (especially PIC, MAT and Permit) is rising rapidly. With biodiversity-based value chains usually taking years from the point of access to a final product hitting the market, the urgent need for building up well adapted and long living data storage systems for the respective files. Only if, based on a checkpoint communiqué which might be emitted by a user country checkpoint many years after the initial access to the resource has occurred, the provider country is able to trace the number of the IRCC back to the original MAT of the respective dossier, monitoring of ABS contracts will be possible. Therefore, it is of high importance to support countries in setting up such data-storage systems from the early days of their ABS systems on. Such systems can be built as a simple hard-drive based storage system going all the way to a cloud-based permitting and monitoring system as in Kenya.

Measure: Tools supporting contract monitoring

The concept of the **IT-based ABS Application, Permitting and Monitoring Tool** aims at providing the user with one single entry into the necessary administrative procedures, establishing transparent and synchronised administrative procedures, central storage of all related documents, and a monitoring tool discovering scientific publications and patent applications by researchers holding PIC and MAT on national genetic resources. To address the knowledge gap concerning the international monitoring system set up by the Nagoya Protocol, the ABS Initiative, together with partners from CNAs, research, industry and the SCBD, developed a **“dummy test” through the entire monitoring system** from an ABS permit to the checkpoint communiqué.

5.1.7 ABS compliant value chain development

Various industry sectors use genetic resources in different ways but all benefit from the Nagoya Protocol as it provides clear and transparent procedures for ABS. These procedures are the backbone of ABS-compliant value chains. They link the private sector, stakeholders from R&D, governments and IPLCs. In many countries, institutional and procedural challenges slow down the emergence of ABS compliant value chains or make them merely impossible.

Public-private sector cooperation: Cooperation between public and private sector is new territory in environmental ministries of most countries. Both sectors differ in pace and principles of decision-making. In the private sector the consideration of transaction costs, including (non-productive) waiting time is key and entrepreneurial risks are basis of decision making, whereas regulators in the public sector will hardly provide guidance to a user or approve applications if processes are not clearly defined or decisions are not brought into agreement with the own hierarchy or other departments/committees in charge. As meetings for ABS decision making or of advisory bodies are often held irregularly and



travel expenses cannot be reimbursed, the process is slowed down further. Finally, yet importantly, commercial legal expertise is much stronger in the private sector.

R&D and business models: The “what and how” of the utilisation of genetic resources and aTK in different industry sectors as well as respective compliance regimes are still largely unknown to key ABS actors, such as policy makers, regulators and resource providers. Subsequently, it is almost impossible for providers to develop effective strategic and technical valorisation approaches in close conjunction with the business world. Major knowledge deficiencies can be experienced on (IP) rights in international commercial partnerships, R&D requirements and opportunities in user sectors, regulatory compliance/product approval and the definition of appropriate monetary and non-monetary benefits.

National valorisation strategies: Countries have way better chances to exploit the valorisation potential of their biological and genetic resources and aTK if they develop a national strategy. In most cases, these endeavours do not move beyond the early stage as the required in-depth understanding of the commercial potential, availability and management of national bioresources, the national R&D landscape, and the “value adding actors” in private sector and academia is only slowly developing. Moreover, governmental budget allocation for effective support schemes and collaboration between sectoral ministries, e.g. environment, commerce/trade and education/research, is hard to find.

Top-down vs. bottom-up: Also due to the lack of adequate understanding of user sectors and strategic valorisation approaches many providing countries remain rather “ABS reactive”, waiting for foreign bio-prospectors to come and request access to genetic and biological resources. Rarely, they take first steps of commercially oriented value addition and R&D, which would allow them to approach proactively international industry as potential users. In addition, African SME generally do not receive the financial and technical support necessary to access global markets with their natural ingredients and pre-processed goods.

Measure: Multiple tools and activities

The 12th **Pan-African ABS Workshop** focussed on value chains and related field trips. The ABS Initiative developed a **valorisation training** which will be piloted in 2020. As a supportive tool, a **training kit on ABS compliant value chains** on components, actors and processes with respect to R&D elements, value chain development and market access related to genetic resources was developed. The **collaboration with business support organisations, in particular with UEBT**, will be continued to better assess and promote the valorisation potential of genetic resources, aTK and processed ingredients from the ABS Initiative’s partner and cooperation countries at the international user level. The **ABioSA project** will play an amplifying role in the Southern African region in this regard.

5.2 Momentum and opportunities

Global (market) trends for the ABS compliant BioTrade sector: The consumer interest in natural products is rising, partly linked to increasing demand by aging societies and increasing levels of allergic diseases, and partly linked to changing lifestyles in which natural ways of medical treatment and cosmetic applications are high on the list of priorities. The private sector detected the stories behind sustainable sourcing and fair deals in supply chains as a marketing asset.

Another trend becomes evident: The market does not only exist on the global scale. National and regional markets are emerging. BioTrade companies from so-called “providing countries” start producing for national customers and target regional markets. To a certain degree the dichotomy between user and provider countries is dissolving.

Further, many user countries are following the Leitmotiv of Bio- and circular economies. For instance, the replacement of synthetics requires identification of suitable natural/degradable resources and specific agents, through biotechnology applications (mainly one-off access).

On the other hand, the booming natural cosmetic, phytomedicine and nutraceuticals sector rely on constant access to raw materials for their specific value chains. This requires long-term investments



Table 7 - How tools and instruments of the ABS Initiative relate to the ABS implementation challenges

Schematic overview on key instruments & approaches addressing ABS implementation challenges - excluding experience exchange formats, such as Pan-African or subregional workshops													
	Regulations & procedures	Scope of ABS requirements	Digital Sequence Information (DSI)	IPLC Governance & aTK	Non-utilization of aTK	Negotiations and clauses of ABS contracts	Interplay with other key permits	R&D and business models	National valorisation strategies	Top-down vs. bottom up	Essential information on BS schemes	Institutional deficiencies	Public-private sector co-operation
Video: DSI													
Video: Monitoring & Compliance													
"Dummy test": Monitoring system													
Compilation: ABS (relevant) cases													
CEPA Tools: IPLC													
Guide: BCP													
Guide: Policy and implementation options													
Advice & comments on ABS contracts upon request													
(Blended) Contract training incl. IPLC lawyers													
Training kit: ABS compliant value chains													
Support: Utilization/valorization of GR and aTK													
aTK tenure and inventories													
"Case compendium": ABS-SDG link and post-2020													
Inform international processes/AU													

upstream the supply chain in infrastructure, capacity and resource sustainability – which are long-term development benefits for providing countries

ABS (value chain) link to the SDGs and Agenda 2030: An increasing number of governments in user and providing countries as well as the research and industry sectors identify ABS as an instrument to support the sustainability objectives and the Agenda 2030. For the contribution of ABS compliant value chains to the SDGs please see [here](#). For instance, triggered by global market trends cooperation is emerging between African cooperatives/SMEs and international industry. If this type of cooperation is embedded in ABS compliant value chains, it contributes to socio-economic development (governance, empowerment, employment, know-how/technology transfer, taxes etc.) and, ultimately, to the fulfilment of the 2nd and 3rd objective of the CBD. Benefits flow into conservation projects – and biological/genetic resources necessary for the value chains are sustainably used in order to keep them available. On a global political level, the interplay between the three objectives of the CBD, in particular in the post-2020 discussion, becomes more relevant. ABS, and in particular ABS compliant value chains at a commercial and non-commercial level, have the potential to contribute to both: conservation and sustainable use. This interrelation was also increasingly recognised during COP 14.

Interest: Academia and Industry turn towards biodiversity: The trend is clear: There is a constantly increasing interest by industry and academia to use genetic resources, including from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, for basic and applied research with scientific and commercial intent.

Political support: Regional organisations become active: Besides national governments, also regional organisations (e.g., AU, CARICOM, COMIFAC, SADC, SPREP) are aware and willing to provide support and guidance on ABS implementation. Examples are the COMIFAC ABS coordination expert group and the [AU guidelines on a harmonised implementation of the Nagoya Protocol](#).

Trigger: EU regulations: In the EU member states, the 2014 EU regulations trigger ABS implementation with respect to user measures and, at the same time, amplify user knowledge, acceptance and compliance towards ABS. They demonstrate that regulatory frameworks in providing countries alone are not sufficient. Countries that use genetic resources need to have them as well to ensure monitoring



and compliance. In this regard, the EU regulations (but also the Swiss, Norwegian and Japanese ABS measures) were a game changer.

Industry integrating ABS: Certainly, also given a push by the EU regulations, ABS is now integrated in standard operational procedures (SOP) of several industry sectors, next to other compliance procedures. Although there are still lots of open questions, ABS is being institutionalised. This often already manifests in the definition of internal ABS “checkpoints” in relevant company sections, for instance sourcing, R&D and product approval.

Further, in many companies, ABS is not only seen as a compliance issue but instead as a possible investment in sustainability and, ultimately, in corporate social responsibility (CSR). In fact, CSR becomes increasingly important as part of the brand itself and ABS elements can play a significant role in this regard.

Research co-operations: Although the situation to obtain the necessary ABS permits for research is difficult and confusing in many countries, co-operation between universities and research institutions in North and South prevails – or expands due to new research fields and (communication) technologies. For example, programmes such as *Sud Experts Plantes Developpement Durable (SEP2D)* are particularly fostering the engagement of researchers and CNAs from providing countries for applied biodiversity-based research, such as in natural cosmetics and medicine.



Annex A: Expenditure Report 2019

The following table provides an overview on the expenditure for running the ABS Initiative Secretariat. Expenditure is attributed to implementation and management related activities based on time sheets of all staff members at GIZ and GeoMedia. Total cost for salaries of GIZ staff and remuneration of GeoMedia staff is split between 'implementation' and 'management' according to the time sheets. The resulting average percentage for GIZ staff is applied to split office related costs at GIZ headquarters. Travel cost which cannot be attributed to any other activity are assumed to be 100% 'management' related.

No.	Cost category	Costs	Implementation		Management	
			%	€	%	€
0.1	Core Staff GIZ					
0.1.1	Manager (55%)	72.087	77	55.370	23	16.716
0.1.2	Project Coordinator (70%)	82.614	80	65.898	20	16.716
0.1.3	Project Officers (3 x 100%)	218.091	58	126.700	42	91.391
0.1.4	Travel and Workshop Manager (2 x 100%)	158.869	63	100.692	37	58.177
0.1.5	Finance administrator (100%)	51.163	3	1.466	97	49.698
0.1.6	Interns	0	100	0		0
	Sub-total: Core Staff GIZ	582.824	60	350.126	40	232.698
0.3	Other costs					
0.3.1	Office rent, communication, ...	50.907	60	30.582	40	20.325
0.3.2	Travel secretariat staff	3.509	0	0	100	3.509
0.3.3	Office equipment (server, computer..)	9.111	60	5.473	40	3.638
	Sub-total: Other costs	63.527	57	36.055	43	27.472
	Sub-total: Secretariat GIZ	646.352	60	386.182	40	260.170
0.2	Consultants					
0.2.1	Core Staff GeoMedia	490.527	82	401.098	18	89.429
	Sub-total: Consultants	490.527		401.098		89.429
0	Sum Secretariat Costs	1.136.878	69	787.280	31	349.598

Income from GIZ internal service requests from other projects **not directly** related to the ABS Initiative work e.g. ABS related support to the biodiversity program in India, is directly deducted from the staff cost in the table above.

The Secretariat cost increased from 2018 to 2019 about 10% from almost 1 Mio Euro to 1.1 Mio Euro while the yearly expenditure increased 20% from 2.6 Mio Euro to 3.1 Mio Euro. The ratio between implementation and management-oriented expenditure remained almost identical with 68:32 in 2018 and 69:31 in 2019.

Income from GIZ internal service requests from other projects **directly** related to ABS implementation – specifically in Africa, but also in other regions – is listed as co-funding in the table below which provides detail about the implementation related expenditure in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. 'Management' related expenditure is listed under the heading '3 Steering and Guiding Processes'. The related sub-total is split between the three ACP regions according to the region-specific implementation expenditure. Adding the region-specific expenditure for 'steering and guiding' to the respective expenditure for 'implementation' provides the total expenditure per region.



No.	Activity	Country	ABS Initiative core funds: Expenditure by donor						Co-funding
			BMZ	OIF	Norway	ACP/EU	SECO	Sum	
0	Secretariat Cost GIZ		36.542	0	0	26.985	43.862	107.389	
0.1	Staff		315.166			267.659	38.002	620.826	
0.3	Secretariat other costs		36.542			26.985	5.860	69.387	
	Regional share of Secretariat costs								
	Secretariat other cost - Implementation		20.740	0	0	15.316	3.235	39.291	
	- share of Africa		20.158	0	0	14.607	3.235	38.000	
	- share of Caribbean (funded by BMZ and EU)		419	0	0	145	0	565	
	- share of Pacific (funded by BMZ and EU)		163	0	0	564	0	726	
	Secretariat other cost - Management		15.802	0	0	11.670	2.624	30.096	
	- share of Africa		15.359	0	0	11.129	2.624	29.112	
	- share of Caribbean (funded by BMZ and EU)		320	0	0	111	0	430	
	- share of Pacific (funded by BMZ and EU)		124	0	0	430	0	553	
0	Secretariat Cost GIZ								
1	Supporting Partner Countries								
1.0	National Support								
1.0.1	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Algeria	-188	0	0	103	0	-85	25.203
1.0.2	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Benin	13.062	0	0	64.727	0	77.789	
1.0.3	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1.0.4	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.565
1.0.5	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	DRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1.0.6	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Kenya	63.170	19	0	155.801	0	218.990	
1.0.7	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Madagascar	486	0	0	172	0	659	20.521
1.0.8	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Morocco	650	0	0	0	0	650	
1.0.9	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Namibia	-5.567	0	0	4.333	0	-1.234	4.209
1.0.10	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	South Africa	29.378	0	0	50.988	510.595	590.962	
1.0.11	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Uganda	1.490	0	0	1.409	0	2.900	
1.0.12	Flexible budget for country support		2.390	0	0	30.759	0	33.149	
1.0.13	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	COMIFAC	573	0	0	851	0	1.425	20.750
1.0.14	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Côte d'Ivoire	10.409	0	0	13.936	0	24.345	
1.1	National Institutional and Regulatory ABS Frameworks								
1.1.1	IDLO Legal Training		0	0	0	-447	0	-447	
1.1.2	Legal Helpdesk		0	0	0	3.955	0	3.955	
1.2	Effective Participation of IPLCs		606	0	0	496	0	1.102	
1.2.1	Natural Justice: Engaging with IPLC		59.903	0	0	28.017	0	87.920	
1.2.2	Contract training for community law yers		748	0	0	1.019	0	1.767	
1.3	Development of ABS Agreements		3.050	0	0	7.792	0	10.843	
1.3.1a	Contract Training EN	Namibia	11.704	0	0	34.308	0	46.012	
1.3.1b	Contract Training FR	Morocco	870	0	0	2.286	0	3.157	
1.3.2a	UEBT: Support to ABS compl. value chains		42.548	0	0	211.741	0	254.289	
1.3.2b	PTA: Support to ABS compl. value chains		201	0	0	109	0	310	
1.3.3a	Training VCs and business sectors EN		3.967	0	0	7.396	0	11.363	
1.3.3b	Training VCs and business sectors FR		561	0	0	379	0	940	
1	Sub-Total		240.015	19	0	620.130	510.595	1.370.760	77.247

Cont'd on next page



No.	Activity	Country	ABS Initiative core funds: Expenditure by donor						Co-funding
			BMZ	OIF	Norway	ACP/EU	SECO	Sum	
2	Auxiliary Processes								
2.1	Regional Harmonisation and Exchange								
2.1.1	Participation in regional fora		6.382	0	0	1.071	0	7.453	
2.1.2	Final WS UNEP/GEF 4	Kenya	0	0	0	12.000	0	12.000	
2.1.4	C2C exchange	South Africa	9.554	1.337	0	-7.207	0	3.685	
2.1.6	Pan-african WS	South Africa	125.502	30.690	0	203.591	0	359.783	
2.1.7	AU Coordination		22.405	996	0	16.157	0	39.559	
2.1.8	Pan-african WS	Ethiopia	8.356	10.252	0	8.207	0	26.814	
2.2	Interfaces to International Processes								
2.2.1	Participation in international fora		54.141	1.506	0	46.001	0	101.648	
2.2.4	Mutually supportive implementation NP & ITPGRFA		296	0	0	2.360	0	2.656	
2.2.7	3rd Global ABS Dialogue	Mexico	0	0	0	42	0	42	
2.2.9	Cooperation with CG Centers		6.042	0	0	1.071	0	7.113	
2.2.12	Cooperation with GALVmed		763	0	0	716	0	1.479	
2.2.13	Global DSI Dialogue South Africa		20.043		78.995	11.777		110.814	
2.2.14	Global DSI Dialogue Norway		272		0	233		506	
2.3	Knowledge Management & Transfer								
2.3.4	Knowledge management		87	0	0	185	0	272	
2.3.5	Updating knowledge management and transfer tools		53.952	0	0	47.898	0	101.850	
2.3.6	Publication: Lessons learned from BCPs		90	0	0	46	0	135	
2.3.7	Publication: ABS contributions to SDGs		589	0	0	15.433	0	16.022	
2.3.8	CoP ABS & BioTrade		330	0	0	267	0	597	
2.3.9	Discussion paper: Non-monetary BS and NBSAPs		22	0	0	17	0	39	
2.3.10	Primer on DSI		4.270	6.289	0	4.481	0	15.041	
2.4	Knowledge Generation for HCD Tools		670	960	0	625	0	2.255	
2.4.2	Blended learning tools for ABS		5.464	0	0	1.029	0	6.493	
2.4.3	Expert WS CEPA Tools for IPLCs	Kenya	5.721	0	0	4.479	0	10.200	
2.4.4	Inputs to COP MOP 3		3.408	0	0	378	0	3.786	
2.4.5	ABS contract templates		867	0	0	6.672	0	7.540	
2.4.6	IT-based application & monitoring system		414	0	0	385	0	799	
2.4.7	NP implementation options		539	843	0	2.631	0	4.012	
2.4.8	ABS process simulation		1.377	0	0	2.421	0	3.797	
2	Sub-Total		331.556	52.874	78.995	382.967	0	846.391	0
3	Steering and Guiding Processes								
3.0.1	Coord. & technical work with partners		13.112	0	0	12.309	0	25.421	
3.0.2	Financial management		31.017	0	0	37.724	0	68.741	
3.0.3	Concept/subst. Work (not listed above)		30.839	0	0	31.337	0	62.177	
3.0.4	Administration (GIZ/BMZ internal)		62.456	0	46	52.050	0	114.552	
3.0.5	Staff training		5.883	0	0	3.292	132	9.307	
3.1.1	Steering Committee		15.662	0	0	31.373	0	47.035	
3.2.1	Team Planning Meeting		4.486	0	0	9.781	0	14.267	
3.2.2	Team Meeting	Germany	27.874	0	0	23.540	0	51.414	
3	Sub-Total		191.330	0	46	201.406	132	392.913	0
	- share of Africa		185.961	0	46	192.080	132	378.218	
	- share of Caribbean (funded by BMZ and EU)		3.870	0	0	1.911	0	5.781	
	- share of Pacific (funded by BMZ and EU)		1.500	0	0	7.415	0	8.914	
Africa Expenditure Implementation			571.571	52.893	78.995	1.003.097	510.595	2.217.151	77.247
Africa Expenditure Implementation and Management			793.048	52.893	79.040	1.220.913	516.587	2.662.481	



No.	Activity	Country	ABS Initiative core funds: Expenditure by donor						Co-funding
			BMZ	OIF	Norway	ACP/EU	SECO	Sum	
Africa Expenditure Implementation and Management			793.048	52.893	79.040	1.220.913	516.587	2.662.481	
4	Caribbean								
4.1	National support								
4.1.1	Bahamas		1.417	0	0	7.377	0	8.794	
4.2.3	IUCN		1.439	0	0	1.364	0	2.802	
4.2.4	OECS		8.961	0	0	1.176	0	10.137	
4.2.7	Regional strategy		77	0	0	64	0	141	
4	Sum Implementation		11.894	0	0	9.980	0	21.874	
Caribbean: Expenditure Implementation and Management			16.503	0	0	12.147	0	28.650	
5	Pacific								
5.1	National support		780	0	0	103	0	884	
5.1.1	Fiji		43	0	0	34	0	78	
5.1.2	Vanuatu		196	0	0	969	0	1.165	
5.1.3	Salomonen		87	0	0	69	0	156	
5.1.4	Flexible budget		1.409	0	0	86	0	1.495	
5.1.5	Papua-Neuguinea		1.112	0	0	1.729	0	2.841	
5.2	Regional support		982	0	0	31.461	0	32.443	
5.2.1	ABS contract training		0	0	0	4.269	0	4.269	
5	Sum Implementation		4.609	0	0	38.722	0	43.331	
Pacific: Expenditure Implementation and Management			6.395	0	0	47.130	0	53.525	
Sum			815.947	52.893	79.040	1.280.191	510.727	2.738.797	77.247
Total overhead costs			133.706	6.887	11.263	159.688	66.867	378.410	
VAT			440					440	
Non eligible expenditures			117.058			-117.058		0	
Project costs			1.067.150	59.780	90.303	1.322.820	577.594	3.117.647	77.247



Annex B: Definitions for indicators as provided in the Addendum of the Progress Report 2015

Deriving from the country assessments in 2015 questions arose with respect to measuring the impact of the ABS initiative's work, i.e. what (and what not to) account for in the results matrix with respect to **legal and institutional frameworks, ABS agreements and BCPs** (see Programme Document 2015-2020, Annex 1). Following a discussion in the Steering Committee at its meeting in March 2016 in Paris, it was decided that:

- Due to limited influence of the Initiative in steering / managing ABS capacity development processes in countries where the Initiative works on the basis of GIZ internal job orders, the outcome indicators of the **ABS Initiative will only count achievements in non-GIZ supported countries⁶**.
- ABS related achievements in German DC supported countries will be reported against ABS relevant outcome indicators defined by the GIZ implemented projects⁷, in particular on those that are similar / comparable with the Initiative's indicators.
- Progress made in African cooperation countries, i.e. countries that are not directly benefitting from the Initiative's support (see Chapter 7.3), will be flagged in narrative reporting.

With respect to the relevant outcome indicators 1-3 of the Programme Document, it was agreed that:

- **Outcome indicator 1** counts the number of drafts submitted by ABS National Focal Points / Competent National Authorities to relevant decision makers for institutional and legal ABS frameworks at national level.
- The **baseline** will ascertain pre-and post-Nagoya drafts in the four (non GIZ supported) partner countries⁸ whereas the **target for outcome indicator 1** will count post-Nagoya drafts in partner countries. Here the target now reads: **in 4 (non GIZ supported) partner countries [....] drafts [....]** have been submitted. Further, it was clarified that separate drafts for the institutional and legal framework in a particular country will be counted as one draft.
- **Outcome indicators 2 and 3** count the number of ABS agreements in the four (non GIZ supported) partner countries which can be attributed to the support for capacity development provided by the Initiative and its partners to the various stakeholders.
- It was agreed that only ABS agreements
 - ❖ with a benefit-sharing component
 - ❖ that have been supported by the Initiative and its partners
 - ❖ and that are in accordance with national regulations or a defined process and / or approved by a Competent National Authority (which is defined in nat. regulations or a defined process) will count.
- Based on discussions in the SC, outcome indicators 2 and 3 will not be quantified with a baseline figure. The target for outcome indicator 2 now reads: + 10 ABS agreements in the 4 partner countries⁴; the target for outcome indicator 3 now reads: +7 ABS agreements in the 4 (non GIZ supported) countries⁵.

⁶ Benin, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda

⁷ Algeria, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia and COMIFAC

⁸ Legal and institutional ABS frameworks/enacted bills exist in 3 countries: Kenya; Uganda, South Africa. So far only South Africa has developed a (revised) regulation in the "post-Nagoya" period.



Annex C: Outline of the ABioSA sub-project

Project Summary:

Title: ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa

Timeframe: 3.5 years commencing Q1 2018, 6 months inception

Amount: CHF 3 million

Country focus: South Africa with support to regional sector (70:30)

Management: GIZ ABS Capacity Development Initiative contracting local expert/institution

Governance: ABS CDI Steering committee plus investment committee

Status: Inception phase started 02/2018, based on Inception Report implementation started 08/2018

Objective:

In line with the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS a high-growth, jobs-rich, innovative biotrade sector compliant with national ABS regulations supports sustainable development goals and contributes to livelihoods of rural people and the sustainable use of South(ern) Africa's plant biodiversity.

Project Components:

Components	Outcomes
<p><i>Component 1:</i> Provides technical assistance to South African and regional ABS compliant value chains including supporting new market access by addressing selected non-tariff barriers that bottleneck the growth of the sector, supporting the strategic and constructive role of IPLCs in these value chains, and assisting SMEs to improve their investment readiness through improved financial and business planning</p> <p><i>Sub-component 1.1: Market access and development</i></p> <p><i>Sub-component 1.2: Supporting the role of IPLCs in biotrade value chains</i></p> <p><i>Sub-component 1.3: Business planning support to SMEs</i></p>	<p><i>Outcome 1:</i> SMEs access new global markets for biotrade products based on national and transboundary value chains with strong participation of IPLCs.</p>
<p><i>Component 2:</i> Provides financial assistance to SMEs for innovation and growth through the establishment of a dedicated biotrade grant funding facility that works in coherence with, but effectively independently of, other relevant incentive schemes, and ensures financial, technical and human resources engagement by the SMEs, and will be governed with the support of an Investment Committee.</p> <p><i>Sub-component 2.1: Facility design and set up</i></p> <p><i>Sub-component 2.2: Operation of facility</i></p>	<p><i>Outcome 2:</i> SMEs use financial assistance designed specifically for biotrade innovation and growth whilst leveraging own resources and/or government incentive schemes.</p>
<p><i>Component 3:</i> Supports the development of an enabling regulatory environment through policy advice and technical support to the DEA for the revision of NEMBA and BABS, supports sector organisations to develop and implement industry best practices related to ABS, and knowledge management and sharing of best practices and lessons learned at a regional and global level including through cooperation with UNCTAD BioTrade.</p> <p><i>Sub-component 3.1: Policy improvement through NEMBA and BABS amendments</i></p> <p><i>Sub-component 3.2: Industry/sector organisation best practices and alignment</i></p> <p><i>Sub-component 3.3: Knowledge management and sharing</i></p>	<p><i>Outcome 3:</i> Improved ABS implementation framework supports the biotrade sector development in South Africa and the (sub-) region.</p>



Annex D: List of workshops, trainings and conferences (co-)organised, (co-)financed or attended by the ABS Initiative

Events not organised and financed by the Initiative are listed in italics.

Date	City, Country	Name	Role of ABS Initiative	Organisers
16.-17.01.2019	Baringo, Kenya	ABS awareness creation and capacity development for Laikipia, Baringo and Kakamega County Technical Committees on ABS	Organisation	ABS Initiative
17.-18.01.2019	Harare, Zimbabwe	ABS Symposium on ABS-compliant BioTrade	Co-organisation, co-financing	BioInnovation Zimbabwe, ABS Initiative, UEBT
22.-23.01.2019	Nairobi, Kenya	ILRI ABS Workshop for CGIAR researchers	Co-organisation	ILRI, ABS Initiative
29.-31.01.2019	<i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>Caribbean ABS Week</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>IUCN UNEP-GEF</i>
12.-14.02.2019	<i>Mbale, Uganda</i>	<i>Stakeholder Validation Workshop for a UNEP GEF Project on ABS</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>NEMA Uganda</i>
18.02.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	3 rd Biotrade Stakeholder Forum	Organisation	ABS Initiative / ABioSA
18.-22.02.2019	Chennai, India	Operation Planning Workshop under the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project	Co-organisation	GIZ India, ABS Initiative
04.-07.03.2019	Kirinyaga, Kenya	Show casing biodiversity potential in manufacturing and sector discussions on ABS contribution to manufacturing in Kenya during the 6 th Devolution Conference	Organisation	ABS Initiative
11.-12.04.2019	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	GALVmed Workshop on ABS Compliance	Co-organisation, co-financing	GalvMED, ABS Initiative
20.-21.05.2019	Paris, France	Beauty of Sourcing with Respect	Co-organisation, co-financing	UEBT, ABS Initiative
03.-06.06.2019	Berlin, Germany	FATA 2019 - Just Transition	Participation, Workshop	GIZ, ABS Initiative
10.-12.06.2019	Maanzoni, Kenya	ABS Consultation Meeting with the Key Government Institutions	Organisation	ABS Initiative
11.06.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	5 th Biotrade Stakeholder Forum meeting	Organisation	ABS Initiative / ABioSA
18.-19.06.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	HACCP/ISO SME training workshop	Organisation	ABS Initiative / ABioSA
20.-21.06.2019	<i>Nassau, The Bahamas</i>	<i>ABS Inception Workshop</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>BEST Commission</i>
02.07.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	National Marula Sector Development Plan Workshop	Organisation	ABS Initiative / ABioSA
02.-03.07.2019	Honiara, Solomon Islands	National ABS Capacity-Building and Awareness Raising Workshop	Co-organisation, co-financing	Environment Division, ABS Initiative, SRPEP
25.-26.07.2019	<i>Centurion, South Africa</i>	<i>Essential Oils producers conference</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>SAEOPA</i>
05.-06.08.2019	Nairobi, Kenya	NACOSTI Data Science Workshop	Co-organisation, co-financing	ABS Initiative, NACOSTI
08.08.2019	<i>Pretoria, South Africa</i>	<i>BioPANZA Market Access cluster meeting</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>DEFF</i>



13.08.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	6 th Biotrade Stakeholder Forum meeting	Participation	UNIDO
13.-14.08.2019	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	3 rd Meeting of the Continental Coordination Committee on Matters of Biodiversity, Biosafety and ABS	Participation	AUC-DHRST
25.08.2019	Nairobi, Kenya	Global Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in relation to ABS and the Nagoya Protocol	Participation	SCBD
27.-30.08.2019	Nairobi, Kenya	First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Participation	SCBD
30.08.2019	Baringo, Kenya	1 st Aloe biotrade stakeholder meeting with the Chinese user Zonken Biotech Company	Participation	Baringo County
31.08.2019	Baringo, Kenya	Launching of the Biocultural Community Protocol of the Endorois Welfare Council	Participation	EWC
04.-05.09.2019	Kilifi, Kenya	BAOFOOD Final Project Workshop	Participation	BAOFood Project
06.09.2019	Kilifi, Kenya	BAOFOOD Stakeholder Workshop	Participation	BAOFood Project
06.09.2019	Naivasha, Kenya	2 nd Aloe biotrade stakeholder meeting with the Chinese user Zonken Biotech Company	Participation	Baringo County
09.-13.09.2019	Cape Town, South Africa	12 th Pan-African ABS Workshop	Organisation	ABS Initiative
30.09.-02.10.2019	Bonn, Germany	Global Capacity-building Workshop on Monitoring the Utilisation of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol	Co-organisation	SCBD, BFN, ABS Initiative
04.10.2019	Baringo, Kenya	Capacity building for Aloe Biotrade Stakeholders in Baringo County on ABS and Structural Arrangements in Kenya	Organisation	ABS Initiative
07.-09.10.2019	Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire	Atelier d'opérationnalisation du Protocole de Nagoya sur l'APA en Côte d'Ivoire	Co-organisation	ABS Initiative, MINEDD
07.-10.10.2019	Nadi, Fiji	Regional ABS Workshop for Melanesia and Polynesia	Participation	SPREP
15.10.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	7 th Biotrade Stakeholder Forum	Organisation	ABS Initiative / ABioSA
25.10.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	Inception meeting for the development of a BCP for chiefdoms in Limpopo province	Participation	DEFF
29.-31.10.2019	Montreal, Canada	4 th Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Participation	SCBD
04.-05.11.2019	Windhoek, Namibia	Regional Workshop on a Marula Sector Development Plan	Co-organisation, co-financing	ABS Initiative / ABioSA, GIZ Windhoek, MET
06.-08.11.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	1 st Global Dialogue on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources	Organisation	ABS Initiative
27.11.2019	Brussels, Belgium	5 th Meeting of the EU ABS Stakeholder Forum	Participation	European Commission
02.12.2019	Pretoria, South Africa	8 th Biotrade Stakeholder Forum meeting	Participation	UNIDO
02.-06.12.2019	Lilongwe, Malawi	Capacity-building training on the negotiation of mutually agreed terms for access to genetic resources to support effective implementation of CBD and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS	Organisation	ABS Initiative
05.-06.12.2019	Laikipia, Kenya	ABS awareness creation for Laikipia County technical committee on ABS	Organisation	ABS Initiative