



PRESS RELEASE

Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity celebrates two-year anniversary of entry into force

- *The Nagoya Protocol is a key element in the global framework for sustainable development, and contributes to the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD – the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources*
- *Entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 was a significant achievement for the international community*
- *With the accession of Bolivia and Swaziland, 87 Parties to the CBD have now joined the Protocol*
- *Countries are making the Protocol operational by putting in place ABS measures and the institutional structures required*

14 October 2016 – This week marks the two-year anniversary of the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Adopted in 2010 and entering into force on 12 October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol aims to create equity between providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. To achieve this goal, the Protocol provides a clear framework to ensure that access to genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge is granted on the basis of prior informed consent and that any benefits derived from the use of these resources or knowledge is shared fairly and equitably with the provider country and its indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate.

“The Nagoya Protocol is a ground-breaking treaty and a key element in the global framework for sustainable development. Within two years of its entry into force, the Protocol boasts 87 ratifications from around the globe, encompassing both developing and developed countries as well as the European Union” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “I also take this opportunity to congratulate the governments of Swaziland and Bolivia on their recent accession to the Protocol”.

In addition, the Protocol has benefited from global recognition in a number of international forums including the UN General Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization, among others. “The inclusion of two targets related to genetic diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development further demonstrates that ABS and the Nagoya Protocol are making an important contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable economic development for all”, said Mr. Dias



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Furthermore, the ABS Clearing-House – the main mechanism established by the Protocol for information-sharing – is now fully operational. Countries, organizations and stakeholders now refer to the ABS Clearing-House to find information on how to access genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge in specific countries and on ABS more generally. The ABS Clearing-House can also be used to monitor the utilization of genetic resources and the sharing of benefits.

Countries are also advancing in implementing the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, by adopting legislative, administrative or policy measures and establishing the institutional structures needed to manage ABS at the domestic level.

Indigenous and local communities, as well as stakeholders from the business and scientific communities, are also making headway in developing tools to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, such as community protocols, model contractual clauses, and voluntary codes of conduct or guidelines.

While significant progress has been made, further efforts are still needed to make the Protocol achieve its full potential. Going forward, it is expected that membership in the Nagoya Protocol will continue to grow, with more than 60 countries currently in the process of ratifying or planning to ratify.

Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be taking decisions on the way forward in the implementation of the treaty at their second meeting which will be held on 4-17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties so far, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 87 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
