

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ratification by Countries

Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu are latest countries from the region to ratify the Protocol. Tonga, Niue and Kiribati are working with SPREP to submit their instrument of accession in the very near future. This brings to the total number of Parties from region as 7 which are Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu.

Capacity Building on Access and Benefit Sharing

Following capacity building needs assessment for countries, SPREP provided technical and financial support to the following countries to conduct national consultations, capacity building and training session in respective countries: Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. In addition to national capacity building workshops, SPREP collaborated with ABS Capacity Building Initiative and International Development Law Organisation to conduct ABS Regional Workshop on legal training and contract negotiation.

Legal Analysis and Drafting Instructions

SPREP provided drafting instructions for developing ABS law in the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Tonga. Furthermore, legal analysis and other technical assistance relating to ABS have been offered to all countries seeking help to accede to Nagoya Protocol, preparation of relevant national reports and legal frameworks.





National reporting Training for Vanuatu

Vanuatu took steps to implement the Nagoya Protocol at the start of 2018 with the Pacific ABS Project Team. The Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Focal Point of Vanuatu underwent training on the preparation and publishing of the Interim National Report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the island nation. Training spanned the use of the Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing House, publishing relevant information on the Clearing House as well as learning more about the common formatting for National Reports. The training was conducted by the SPREP ABS Capacity Development Officer Mr Rahul Chand from 29 January to 2 February, 2018.



Palau

Palau ratified the Nagoya Protocol on 13 June 2018 and passed its ABS Law on August 13 2018 – the first standalone ABS law for the Pacific region. This was the result of the mission and the series of training and capacity building by both the SPREP ABS Regional Project the ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

The SPREP ABS Regional team conducted a High Level Dialogue and capacity building training and workshops in the Palau from 4–9 February, 2018. The purpose of the SPREP ABS mission was to assist the Government of Palau in identifying their capacity building priorities, needs and requirements in order to successfully ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol nationally and to provide familiarisation of the basic provisions of the Protocol to key stakeholders. In order to achieve the outcomes of the mission and making the process a valuable one, the ABS technical team had one to one meetings, workshops, group discussions, technical presentations, informal discussions and formal meetings with selected representatives of government and non-government agencies.



Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)

Thanks to the financial support provided by the GEF through the regional ABS Project, a series of awareness raising and capacity building activities were carried out in the RMI. The SPREP ABS was in RMI on February 12–16 to conduct the training. The purpose of the ABS mission was to help the Government of RMI in identifying their capacity building priorities, needs and requirements for them to implement the key provisions of the Nagoya Protocol having ratified it in 2014. The mission also provided an opportunity for the technical partners and national () stakeholders for the familiarisation of the basic provisions of the Protocol. To achieve the outcomes of the mission and making the process a valuable one for the country the ABS technical team had one to one meetings, workshops, group discussions, technical presentations, informal discussions and formal meetings with selected representatives of government and non-government agencies.



Tonga

From 19–26 March, 2018 the SPREP ABS team consulted key partners and worked closely with government ministries in Tonga to prepare information on the implications of ratifying the Nagoya Protocol and to assist the government to develop a roadmap for implementation. These discussions include meetings and consultations and a national workshop to raise awareness on the ratification process, implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and carrying out assessments on capacity needs and priorities. The workshop was attended by key stakeholders including the Attorney General Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Labour and Commerce, Ministry of Tourism, and has been hosted by Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication (MEIDECC).



Solomon Islands

Ms. Ofa Kaisamy, Legal Adviser of the ABS Regional Project, and Dr. Daniel Robinson, Pacific Coordinator for ABS Initiative, were in Honiara from 1–4 May to assist the Ministry of Environment with the final rounds of consultations on the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and conduct awareness workshops for government agencies and non-government organizations. Through the ABS Initiative and the SPREP implemented GEF-UNEP funded ABS Regional Project, the countries are receiving technical support on the ratification process, drafting of legal frameworks to regulate access and to ensure benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of the country's genetic resources are shared in an equitable manner.



Fiji

The validation workshop for Fiji's National ABS Policy workshop offers the opportunity for key stakeholders, the local communities and the regional organisations to provide feedback on the draft ABS policy that supports access and benefit sharing of natural resources and legal sustainable trade. The workshop also posed opportunities for mutual learning based on national experiences in implementing the Nagoya Protocol in the different sectors. At the end of the workshop, the participants gained a better understanding of the provider-user interplay and of the role of the ABS Clearing-House in the implementation process of the Nagoya Protocol and a better understanding of the linkages between intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge, and ABS implementation in Fiji. The meeting was held at the Pearl Resort in Suva from 16–19 July 2018.



Regional Trainings on Contract Negotiations and Building Legal frameworks in the Pacific

Implementing Access and Benefit Sharing in respective countries particularly on building capacities to establishing domestic measures under the Nagoya Protocol SPREP in partnership with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS CDI), University of New South Wales and the Fritjof Nansen Institute jointly facilitated the 'Regional Training Course on Mutually Agreed Terms and Contracts to make ABS Functional' in Nadi, Fiji from 30 July – 3 August. Country participants went into depth of learning about contract negotiations and writing ABS agreements.



Capacity Building on Access and Benefit Sharing for the Pacific

SPREP in partnership with the International Law Development Organisation (IDLO), SCBD, Japan Biodiversity Fund and UNDP held a one week workshop from 23–27 July, 2018, in Nadi, Fiji. The objective of the workshop is to train policy makers and legal officers working in this area on how to build ABS legal frameworks to implement the Nagoya Protocol. The training introduced participants from 11 Pacific countries to the core requirement of the Nagoya and key considerations for the design and implementation of ABS frameworks. The training contributed to improving knowledge on implementing Access and Benefit Sharing in respective countries particularly on building capacities to establishing domestic measures under the Nagoya Protocol.



Tuvalu

The country mission by SPREP was undertaken from the 21–27 August, 2018 in Funafuti upon the invitation of the Government of Tuvalu conveyed through the National Focal Point for CBD based at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour. With the aim of implementing the Nagoya Protocol by 2018, Tuvalu began its deliberations to accede the Nagoya Protocol in 2016. Relevant authorities have conducted dialogue in association with the accession and initiatives to establish domestic measures to implement the Protocol. On 23 August 2018 Tuvalu deposited its instrument of accession to the Nagoya Protocol.



Pacific Regional Training Workshop related to national arrangements on traditional knowledge for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 and contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

The Pacific Regional Training Workshop on National Arrangements on Traditional Knowledge for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 and Contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 was held 21–25 May 2018 at the Pacific Indigenous and Local Knowledge Centre of Distinction (Whangarei Theatre Company (Inc)), Whangarei, New Zealand. The workshop was jointly hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, NZ, the He Puna Marama Trust and the United Nations Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The workshop provided an opportunity for 6–8 New Zealand representatives to join with other Pacific participants, Pacific regional organisations like SPREP to talk and learn about traditional knowledge for biodiversity and to develop actions plans on meeting objectives and targets of the CBD – a multilateral treaty focused on the global conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

For more information

ABS Regional Project

Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

P.O. Box 240, Apia, Samoa

PHONE: +685 21929 (242)

EMAIL: sprep@sprep.org; abs@sprep.org

WEB: www.sprep.org

