

The Pacific Regional Access and Benefit Sharing Project for the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific Region



What is the Nagoya Protocol and why is it important for our Pacific islands region?

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, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. Its objective is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, also known as Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS), thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In addition to the global value of Pacific genetic resources provided by their high level of endemism and uniqueness, genetic resources have a major option and use value as the source of nature-based products with the potential to contribute significantly to the production of pharmaceuticals, food supply, and cosmetics worldwide.

As an example, and hypothetically, if a pharmaceutical company from Switzerland discovered a plant in the Solomon Islands which could lead to a drug which cured cancer, then that company would now be obliged to share the profits arising with the Solomon Islands.

Helping the Pacific to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol

As of 1 June 2017, the Pacific Nagoya Protocol began. It spans the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The Pacific ABS Project comes to an end on 31 December 2020. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility and is implemented by UN Environment, executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), for which the ABS Capacity Development Initiative is a development partner. The total budget of the project is USD 2,996,557 for which USD 1,762,557 is funded by the GEF and USD 1,234,000 is co-financing.

To help ensure the Nagoya Protocol is operational at the national level this project will:

- Develop a regional guidelines and national frameworks for Access and Benefit Sharing in the Pacific islands.
- Build capacity at the national level to help implement the Nagoya Protocol.
- Develop a regional platform for sharing experiences amongst the Pacific as it works to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol.

As an example, if new laws or regulations are needed to make the Nagoya Protocol operational in your Pacific island, this project can help support the drafting of legislation.

There are four key components to the Pacific Regional ABS Project:

1. A baseline analysis will be developed to identify common assets issues and needs between countries.
2. Support will be provided to national authorities to help countries ratify the Nagoya Protocol.
3. An enabling environment will be established to help Pacific countries implement basic provisions now in place and the development or review of strategies and action plans.
4. Pacific regional coordination and technical support will be provided.

Working in partnership with the Pacific

This project will coordinate activities with the ongoing work and other projects in the Pacific region in their endeavour to ratify and effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol. The 'lessons learned' and best practices that arise during the implementation of these activities will be the leverage for the development of an ABS Regional Guidelines.

For further information please contact sprep@sprep.org

The Access and Benefits Sharing Roster of Experts for the Pacific

Pacific regional cooperation: Linking our region with experts helping to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol



Through the Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing Project, a roster of experts was developed to provide our Pacific islands with the expertise needed in their endeavour to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol.

This pool of technical expertise from the region and international will help provide support to the Pacific to progress the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing through the ABS Regional Technical Cooperation programme.



Who makes up the ABS Roster of Experts?

This consists of a range of experts who are nominated by their respective Governments through their National Focal Points to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) or Competent Authorities of the Parties under the Convention of Biological Diversity and/or the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

Experts can also be nominated by agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, specialised technical agencies, or they can directly register themselves based on their technical expertise.

How they can help?

ABS Regional Technical Cooperation is providing support to the 14 Pacific island countries using the ABS Roster of Experts.

The Pacific Regional ABS Project team at SPREP may also provide technical assistance in organising national workshops, capacity building, ABS mapping and national consultations.

If you are interested

You can request assistance to the Pacific Regional Access and Benefit Sharing Project team at SPREP through contacting them at abs@sprep.org. You can also submit an online request through the online portal at www.sprep.org/abs.

Should you be interested in being a member of the ABS Roster of Experts, you can register by submitting your details to the Pacific Regional ABS Project Team at SPREP.

For more information please email sprep@sprep.org or abs@sprep.org

