

Summary of the Swiss Awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing

The biotechnology section of the Federal office for the environment (FOEN) elaborated an awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing following the entry into force of the Protocol and the adoption of Decision NP-1/9. The strategy guides awareness raising activities of the competent national authority and national focal point to the Nagoya Protocol for the period 2016-2017 and is available in German only. The strategy is summarized as follows:

Background: Switzerland conducted national awareness-raising activities on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization (ABS) since the adoption of the Bonn Guidelines (2002). Activities included the implementation of an awareness-raising programme for non-commercial research, collaboration with the national association of horticulturists and support of the International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN), as well as the organisation of information events in cooperation with the Federal office for agriculture.

The awareness strategy was elaborated based on a situation analysis composed of an analysis of the experiences made through the awareness-raising activities implemented so far as well as using the findings from the of public consultations for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and for the legislative amendments for its implementation.

Objective of the national awareness-raising strategy (2016-2017): The national awareness-raising programme aims at informing all groups of users of genetic resources about their new statutory obligations and to enable users to comply with them.

Analysis of target audience: The strategy addresses two distinct target groups, i.e.: non-commercial research by the academic community and commercial activities by the private sector. The strategy lists the groups and enterprises to be addressed as well as further key actors such as e.g. associations, federal and cantonal authorities.

Communication goals, key questions and tasks: The strategy defines for each target audience a set of communication goals in the form of key questions related, among others, to the new legislation, notification processes and sources of information in Switzerland and abroad or also regarding the role of the competent national authority. The set of goals and questions is completed by concrete tasks assigned to the competent national authority.

Information channels and materials: The strategy lists relevant information channels such as the website of the Federal office for the environment (www.bafu.admin.ch) or the Swiss InformationSystem Biodiversity (www.sib.admin.ch) and materials alike the Good Practice Tool elaborated by the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

Monitoring implementation: The impact of the strategy is assessed using indicators such as the number of visitors to websites; the number of requests to the NFP (including an assessment of the issues) or the number of notifications received.

The strategy will be further developed based on an assessment of implementation during the years 2016-2017 and an updated situation analysis.