

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
SECRETARIAT, CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
MISSION REPORT

DISTRIBUTION	NAME OF STAFF: Kristina Taboulchanas
	PERIOD (INCLUDING TRAVEL DAYS): September 8-15, 2018
	PROJECTS: Face-to-face workshop for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia course on Establishing Measures for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
	INSTITUTION(S) OR MEETING(S) AND VENUE(S): Hosted by Belarus's Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (NCC-ABS) of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology
	MAIN PERSONS CONTACTED: Participants of the workshop, IDLO, facilitators from UNDP and UEBT and officials from the government of Belarus.
FILE(S):	OBJECTIVES: represent the SCBD in the workshop and act as trainer and facilitator.

**Summary:** This course was the fifth in a series of six regional courses being undertaken in the context of the “Capacity Building Program to Support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with IDLO and funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the EU. The EECA course was also supported by UNDP.

Sixteen participants were present representing the following ten countries: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Pakistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Two Representatives from Afghanistan and one from Pakistan were not able to attend the course due to visa issues while the representative from Albania had to cancel last minute because her ministry would not release her.

Of the participating countries only 4 are not Parties to the NP: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Turkey and Turkmenistan. In terms of the national interim reports the non-Parties did not submit any and nor did Tajikistan.

The facilitators and trainers for the workshop included Caroline Monja and Anastasija Miniajeva from IDLO, Claudio Chiarolla from UNDP, Maria Julia Oliva from UEBT, and Jorge Cabrera who is a law professor from Costa Rica and ABS expert. Elena Makeyeva who is Belaru's NFP and host of the course also participated in the facilitation of sessions.

The face-to-face workshop was run in both English and Russian thanks to Elena Makeyeva who hired translators for the event. Without the translation it would be have been very difficult to run the workshop. Even though several participants had indicated they knew English in their applications this turned out to be limited and it was much more productive for them to be able to speak Russian. For any course in this region it is fundamental that simultaneous translation be provided.

The face-to-face workshop is characterized by its highly participatory approaches to learning. The more conceptual traditional learning takes place during the six-week online course which was available in both English and Russian. During the workshop exercises are designed to apply the knowledge gained during the online component and foster peer-to-peer learning.

The first day and part of the second morning of the workshop consisted of 7 pop-quizzes which acted as a refresher for the material covered in the online modules. This was followed by knowledge cafes on different issues relevant to the implementation of the Protocol. I facilitated a session on the ABS-CH which consisting of showing the ABS Monitoring video, a presentation, online navigation of the ABS-CH, role playing with the participants and an exercise. Other sessions included creating life maps of ABS processes in the participant's countries, presentation of case studies and a session on leadership and communication which included the preparation of ignite presentations by the participants. I facilitated one of the sessions on communication where exercises were carried out on asking powerful questions and active listening.

The only countries that have had more experience with ABS are Belarus and Mongolia, the rest of the group had limited experience and there were few lawyers among the participants (only 3). This situation reflects the more general challenge of limited human resources and capacities to ratify and implement Nagoya in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

During the workshop, participants mentioned that it would be useful for them to organize and develop a regional project especially for those countries with similar genetic resources and administrative systems. Belarus has offered its support and indicated they would be interested in hosting future ABS events.

Turkmenistan has requested that the SCBD help by preparing a letter to encourage ratification to the NP and the designation of an ABS Focal Point. This letter must be sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs both electronically and in hard copy. I will follow-up to get the necessary contact information.

### **Overview of the status of ratification and implementation in participating countries**

A brief was prepared by Alexandra Coelho on the status of ABS in participating countries accompanied by questions to learn more on plans for ratification and/or implementation. Below is a summary of the responses.

#### **Belarus**

Party, that has established a National Coordination Center on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing, which is one of two Competent National Authorities. Belarus has published one IRCC in the ABCH. Currently developing additional measures that consist of amendments to existing legislation. Laws pertaining to the plant and animal kingdoms and one on agriculture, would like to add some paragraphs to existing laws related to ABS. Moreover, they are planning on making some amendments to the resolution of the council of ministers that will describe the procedures relating to PIC and MAT.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Non-Party, they drafted national legislation on ABS in 2014 that has not moved forward due to concerns from the Ministry of Agriculture. Hopefully they will be able to advance after October. Once the legislation is passed they will be able to ratify.

#### **Kazakhstan**

Party, the Ministry of Agriculture will be designated as the CNA through a decree. They have reviewed all their laws and proposed amendments that incorporate ABS. These amendments have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. Once these are approved the proposed amendments will go to Parliament. They have developed a draft law on the country's flora and it includes ABS provisions. They are organizing stakeholder roundtables to raise awareness and share the results of the UNDP project.

#### **Moldova**

Party, a NFP has been designated but the proposed CNA has not been approved yet. Some measures are being discussed but will not be implemented in the short term. The country is slowly meeting its obligations.

**Mongolia**

Party, they started participating in the UNDP ABS project in 2017. They have just introduced draft policy for peer review. Hopefully the law will be passed by the end of 2018 upon which they will be able to designate the CNA and checkpoints.

**Pakistan**

Party. A draft law was reviewed by all provinces and territories. The next step involves the provinces asking the national government to proceed and make a federal law to regulate ABS. On October 2, 2018 a meeting will be held with provincial representatives to address this issue. WIPO and IUCN will be joining in these discussions.

**Serbia**

Non-Party. ABS has been integrated into the Law on Nature Protection but is expected that this will be passed in 2020. The ratification process of the NP has been happening since 2015. It was sent to parliament for final adoption in January 2018. By the end of the year it is hoped the Nagoya will be ratified.

**Tajikistan**

Party. They joined the global ABS project in 2017 and implemented activities to analyze their legal framework. In 2018 under the project they developed a ABS draft law. The first draft will go to the government in November 2018. They also plan to make amendments to existing relevant laws to ensure consistency and coherence.

**Turkey**

Non-Party. No information on ratification is available. Restructuring within the government is constantly taking place.

**Turkmenistan**

Non-Party. Answer: A letter from the CBD encouraging ratification and requesting that a NFP be designated would be very helpful. The letter should include information on the other countries in the region that have ratified the NP.

Detailed report enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>		Document(s) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>		Date: September 20, 2018	
Classification: restricted <input type="checkbox"/> unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>		Signature of staff member:		Signature of First Reporting Officer:	Signature of Second Reporting Officer: