

Annex

**GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF
THE ABS CLEARING-HOUSE BY THE SECRETARIAT**

Goal 1. Population and increased use of the ABS Clearing-House

Outreach and engagement

- (a) Provide outreach and follow-up with ABS national focal points and other ABS national authorities to assist them in understanding their information-sharing obligations under the Protocol, including their responsibility to designate publishing authority(ies) and to ensure national information is up to date, complete, reliable and sufficient;
- (b) Encourage and assist with the publication and update of available national information, particularly information such as ABS measures, including courtesy translation, internationally recognized certificates of compliance and checkpoint communiqués that contribute to measuring progress towards achieving the Target 13 and Goal C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a view to promote and increase the quality and amount of relevant information published on the ABS Clearing-House;
- (c) Encourage the publication and update of national information with the aim of supporting and guiding users to better understand and comply with their ABS obligations, such as ABS procedures and contact points (national focal points and competent national authorities) as well as checkpoints;
- (d) Engage with indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders and organizations to encourage the submission of reference records such as Community Protocols and Procedures and Customary Laws, Model Contractual Clauses, Codes of Conduct, Guidelines, Best Practices and/or Standards and capacity-building and development resources;
- (e) Provide regular ABS Clearing-House announcements on functionalities and changes as well as related information for ABS Clearing-House users.

Capacity-building and development

- (f) Provide training and technical support upon request and based on specific needs and priorities including through regional approaches to promote the use of the ABS Clearing-House;
- (g) Collaborate with capacity-building and development partners, including regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation centers, and with users of genetic resources;
- (h) Support Parties to develop and improve ABS procedures, ABS systems for managing permit information and monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, and compliance;
- (i) Profile and disseminate, including through the email alerts functionality, case studies and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Protocol, including those that contain information from the user's perspective.
- (j) Support the exchange of experiences and good practices related to publishing information on the ABS Clearing-House;
- (k) Update and improve the help articles for the use of the ABS Clearing-House found in the knowledge base;
- (l) Raise awareness of the ABS Clearing-House among indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, such as the business sector and scientific community;

Interoperability and collaboration

- (m) Improve and promote the use of the ABS Clearing-House application programming interface (API), including by supporting Parties to use the API in their national information systems;

- (n) Coordinate other efforts undertaken under the Convention to improve the interoperability of its clearing-house mechanisms and contribute to support for monitoring progress on the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other biodiversity interoperability work;
- (o) Collaborate with relevant instruments and initiatives (such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture–Global Information System, InforMEA).

Goal 2. Translation and functionality for operationalizing the ABS Clearing-House in the six official languages of the United Nations

- (a) Ensure the timely translation of the ABS Clearing-House;
- (b) Ensure that mechanisms and standard procedures remain in place to enable continuous website translation.

Goal 3. Maintenance and improvement of functionality

- (a) Maintain functionalities taking into account feedback from all users of the ABS Clearing-House;
- (b) Improve functionality to better address the concerns of users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge by taking into account advice from the informal advisory committee and other users of the ABS Clearing-House;
- (c) Improve and implement record management functionality to support Parties to efficiently publish and keep information up to date, including through the use of automated reminders;
- (d) Improve search functionality including how information is tagged with keywords to improve the organization and retrieval of information including for information in the knowledge base;
- (e) Improve flexibility in the designation of ABS Clearing-House users such as the publishing authorities and national authorized users, including by improving the “User Management” interface, taking into account advice from the Informal Advisory Committee;
- (f) Improve website data export, visualization, and analytic tools.

Goal 4. Integration with the clearing-house mechanism

- (a) Provide the option for national Bioland websites to automatically show ABS Clearing-House information in an ABS page on their Bioland website;
- (b) Support the integration of the central clearing-house of the Convention and the Biosafety Clearing-House with the ABS Clearing-House under a single platform, while maintaining the necessary and unique features of each one;
- (c) Support a coordinated approach to web development and related information technology infrastructure to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.