



Third Pacific Webinar on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) (02 December 2020 @2pm-4pm Samoa)

PNG'S COUNTRY UPDATE

- Hello everyone! HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY! It's good to meet you all through this webinar.
- Before I go on to share PNG's efforts and experiences in progressing ABS work in the country, PNG would like to commend the SPREP ABS Team for the remarkable work and on-going technical and financial support in progressing the ABS work in the Pacific region
- We would also like to extend our gratitude to Prof. Daniel Robinson of UNSW, and Dr. Andreas Drews from the ABS Initiative for the technical support provided to us in our partnership with the GIZ ABS Initiative
- Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work down by Ms. Ofa Kaisamy, on ABS implementation in the region and wish her the very best in her new post.

BACKGROUND

- Initial discussions and work on ABS in PNG started in 2006/2008, prior to the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol at the CBD CoP10. The review done then discovered that there is no single national, provincial or local policy on ABS and that there is no existing law on ABS.
- The review then recommended that a national ABS Policy be developed immediately; and an ABS Bill be formulated and enacted soon.
- In 2010, PNG was part of the delegations (as shown in Rahul's presentation), that adopted the Nagoya Protocol at the CBD CoP10. However, no work has been done to push for ratification/accession and implementation in the country. And PNG still is yet to accede to the Protocol.
- PNG government through CEPA started working on ABS again in 2013 and 2014 after we attended various capacity building workshops organized by SPREP and partners.
- Progress has been slow since then, because the government has listed ABS as one of it's least priority development agenda and has been ignoring ABS for a while...

PROGRESS UPDATE

Progress made

- Setting up of ABS desk within CEPA
- registration of NFP in the ABSCHM - 2017
- Identification of various CNAs
- Interim inter-government agencies team established to meet and discuss on ad hoc basis

GIZ ABS Initiative and CEPA Partnership agreement:

Early in 2019, CEPA and GIZ ABS Initiative signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for funding support from GIZ to assist CEPA in (1) Capacity Building trainings & workshops on ABS, (2) development of ABS policy framework and (3) Institutional set up for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in PNG

National Capacity building Workshop with technical and financial support from SPREP Regional ABS project.

- Wide range of participants (35 altogether) from government departments, private sector, NGOs, academia, research institutions and churches.
- A workshop was an eye opener for most people and has raised a lot of interests from key agencies, being aware of the importance of the protocol and the benefits that can arise from it if properly implemented in the country
- Critical analysis done on the general situations in the country since the last work done in 2008 in terms of ratification process, legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS. Discussions were also on the establishment of institutional arrangements, adoption on measures and permitting systems.
- Priority Actions and recommendations: More capacity building workshops, Constant communication, resources mobilization, administrative arrangements, establishment of ABS steering committee

CHALLENGES FACED

- ▶ There is no funding available for the ABS desk within the CEPA, hence, making it a bit difficult to move things.
- ▶ ABS remains last or below the list of priorities for the government. Maybe due to the lack of awareness by the decision making authorities.
- ▶ The permitting systems in PNG relating to GRs are fragmented right now under various legislations. And it is a huge task to bring them all together by a one man team here in CEPA.
- ▶ GIZ administrative process is cumbersome, and has been challenging.
- ▶ CoVID19 also added on to delaying the process of us setting up a separate account to implement to access the funds. Several lock downs and also changes in the government and cabinet ministers. Between 2019 - 2020, we have had three Ministers for the Environment and Climate Change Ministry alone. However, work is still in progress on this
- ▶ No full time officer to work on ABS recommendations highlighted at the workshop and in the road map. There are currently two of us (Nicho and I) trying our best to do what we can apart from our other roles.
- ▶ Again there is no funding available for the engagement of a part time or short term ABS assistant/officer.
- ▶ Again COVID19 has greatly disturbed the progress of some of the immediate actions identified in the road map

PROPOSAL FOR WAYS GOING FORWARD

- ▶ Engagement of a ABS assistant/officer to assist with the administrative work and also other technical work
 - ▶ To have follow up capacity building workshop on specific areas, especially legal trainings.
 - ▶ Hire of a part time consultant to develop national ABS policy and law. Also guidelines.
 - ▶ Formalize the ABS technical working committee
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- We definitely will need SPREP's assistance with the first three points listed above. We are also hoping that we can access the GIZ funds by the first quarter of 2021 to move things forward.
 - THANK YOU.