

Programme Promotion of Economic Potential of Biodiversity in an Equitable and Sustainable Way in Central America and Dominican Republic (ABS/CCAD-GIZ)

Guidelines for mainstreaming gender within the framework of policies for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources (ABS)

Promoting the economic value of biological resources and gender equality

Background

One of the fundamental pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that may result from the use of genetic resources (ABS), which is also the core principle of the Nagoya Protocol (NP). Although the NP as an instrument recognizes the value of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and women in the use of genetic resources and biodiversity, as in Articles 12, 22 and 25, in practice measures must be implemented to ensure that the use of these resources happen only upon prior informed consent (PIC) being given and with the full and equitable participation of those involved.

The situation of women in relation to men in Central American show evidence of greater gender gaps linked to access to education and poverty conditions. The lack of access to own resources, limited political participation and access to decision-making in or-ganizational structures, among other aspects are pointed to be at the origin of this gender gap, as highlighted in the measures linked to "Women and the Environment" on the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action..

The Nagoya Protocol and Gender

In the Nagoya Protocol, the detrimental situation of women in general is highlighted especially in relation to issues such as the lack of regulations to facilitate their access, use and control of resources (biodiversity, land, credit, technical assistance, information, etc.), even though it is recognized the role women play is an important role in the conservation and transmission of traditional knowledge and food security.

In this context, promoting actions for gender equality will be key when lobbying for the ratification and implementation of the NP. In the CBD, parties emphasized the importance of gender equality and equity in the thirteenth preambular paragraph of the convention. The NP recognizes and highlights the value of the role women play in biodiversity management and conservation, in its core, integrating elements aimed at enhancing the role of women in the use and conservation of biodiversity, especially in the preservation of traditional knowledge; building women's capacities; and access to financial resources.

To promote gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the NP, four areas of intervention are proposed:

- a) political-regulatory;
- (b) institutional;
- (c) access to biodiversity and other resources;
- (d) economic empowerment and decision-making.



Policy and regulation framework

- Link the NP to the already existing regional and national policies and strategies on gender and include actions aimed at strengthening and implementing ABS, such as SICA's Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (PRIEG).
- Review legal instruments and strengthen the capacity of countries to enforce regulations that guarantee the prior informed consent (PIC) of states that possess biological and genetic resources, creating equal conditions for indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and women's organizations.
- Encourage the development of dynamic consultation processes, with indigenous peoples and rural women's associations, to define national and regional strategies aimed at the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the sustainable use of genetic resources and the traditional knowledge associated with these resources.
- Promote greater participation of women in decision-making bodies and in the definition of actions to be undertaken related to policies, programs, projects and spaces for interinstitutional coordination for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Institutional resources

- Recognize in policies and regulatory frameworks the different roles and contributions of women and men in the conservation and use of genetic resources.
- Incorporate measures to promote gender equality in the advocacy plan for the ratification of the NP in those countries of the region that have not ratified it.
- Create mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination among agencies promoting gender equality, for the exchange of experiences, training and analysis of existing problems in ABS-related policies and programs.
- Establish within the requirements for the selection of national focal points their participation on trainings in gender issues.



Access to biodiversity and other resources

- Systematize traditional knowledge and practices, disaggregated by sex, on the genetic resources and biodiversity of women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants to identify and value the social, economic, political and cultural benefits derived from their knowledge in relation to these resources.
- Create lines of financing, training courses, awareness, empowerment and incidence of women, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants in the access, use and control of biodiversity resources and their benefits, within the framework of the actions for the implementation of the Protocol.
- Develop methodologies for the valuation, monetary and non-monetary, of the traditional knowledge of women, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants derived from the utilization and conservation of genetic resources, seeking a fair and equitable distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits.

Economic empowerment and decision-making process

Strengthen technical, organizational and local governance capacities of women, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants in anticipation of negotiation processes of mutually agreed terms (MAT) for the equitable and equitable use of biodiversity resources.

- Develop technological innovation programs that integrate women's knowledge, traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge for an adequate and comprehensive management of knowledge.
- Connecting women's groups with regulatory bodies that oversee land tenure issues to promote access to land, a necessary step towards their empowerment and full participation in development processes.
- Strengthen the associative processes and the creation of new leaderships in women's organizations that allow for their representation in decision-making and improve women's and indigenous peoples' access to genetic resources for the implementation of the Protocol.



Our Program

The program provides support to the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic, in implementing initial measures to promote the fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits - Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) – derived from the sustainable use of genetic and/or biological resources and the traditional knowledge associated with them.

Name of program	Promoting the economic potential of biodiversity and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Central America and the Dominican Republic
Commissioning parties	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – Energy and Climate Fund (EKF) of the German Government
Program region	Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Dominican Republic (member states of the Central American Integration System SICA) with focus on El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Overall term	December 2014 to March 2019

Contacts

Secretaria Técnica de la Mujer del Consejo de Ministras de la Mujer de Centroamérica y República Dominicana (STM-COMMCA),
Email: jennifer.flores@sica.int and sgaldamez@sica.int
Tel. +503 2248 6926



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices in Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Programme Equitable and sustainable promotion of the economic potential of biodiversity to implement the Nagoya Protocol in Central America – *Access and (Benefit Sharing) ABS*

Boulevard Orden de Malta, Casa de la Cooperación Alemana
Urbanización Santa Elena,
Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad
El Salvador, C.A.
T +503 2121-5100
F +503 2121-5101
E abs@giz.de
Responsible: sebastian.meurer@giz.de
www.giz.de

Director Sebastian Meurer

Author Miriam Monterrosa

Technical review Bárbara Gonçalves

Date November 2018

Responsible for technical content: GIZ

In cooperation with CCAD:



Commissioned by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division Regional Development Policy, Central America, Caribbean, Mexico

Address

BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstrasse 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstrasse 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501
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poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de