

Towards a more equitable and sustainable use of biodiversity

Impacts achieved by equitable access and distribution Program of the economic potential of biodiversity in Central America and the Dominican Republic (ABS/CCAD-GIZ)

There is high biological diversity and associated traditional knowledge in Central America and the Dominican Republic that are important to the world. Some are so valuable that are currently being commercialized. The owners, holders and bearers of such resources and traditional knowledge are entitled to participate in the benefits that may derive from their commercialization.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992) contain as principles (i) the conservation of of biological diversity, (ii) sustainable use and (iii) access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits (ABS). In 2014, The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force. Germany ratified this protocol in 2016.

The Program "Equitable Access and Distribution of the Economic Potential of Biodiversity in Central America And The Dominican Republic" supported the region Between 2014 and 2018 to strengthen their capacities, to establish efficient and effective standards, and to implement practical experiences for ABS. Today the region is better prepared to respond to the challenges that these international agreements demand.



*Dando valor a la
diversidad biológica*

How did the ABS/CCADGIZ Program contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030

The principles guiding Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization (ABS), when properly implemented contribute to countries achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030 in the following way :

SDG 2 “Zero hunger”

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target 2.5



“By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.”

SDG 15 “Life on land”

Protect, restore and sustainably manage use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.6



“Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed”.

SDG 16. “Peace and justice, strong institutions”

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.3



“Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.” (in the context of the SICA region, by promoting dialogue between indigenous peoples, local communities and governments, it contributes to the promotion of peace, the strengthening of more fairer societies and Stronger institutions).

Impacts achieved between 2014-2018



2.147 decision-makers, public officials, users, providers, indigenous people and local community representatives (50% women) have participated in capacity building events promoted by the ABS/CCAD.GIZ Programme and are knowledgeable about ABS and use it in their context. Additionally 89% of the participants of the events have said to have applied the knowledge in their daily tasks and activities.

The region now withholds general guidelines on how to include the gender dimension in the process of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Dominican Republic included this dimension in its recently approved National ABS Policy (Regulation No. 0002/2018).



The region has improved its ABS processes by adopting user-friendly formats. For example, in Costa Rica, the Virtual Platform of the Technical Office of the National Commission for Biodiversity Management (CONAGEBIO) makes it easier for users to handle their access requests..

Legal certainty has improved. First international companies receive ABS permits, examples: in Costa Rica the French company CHANEL for green coffee resources, in the Dominican Republic the California pharmaceutical company Medolife for the use of blue scorpion and in Panama the British company Indigena Biodiversity Limited for the use of Simaba Cedron. In total Guatemala, Panama and the Dominican Republic have granted 18 International Certificates of Compliance..



Four model value chains: for (i) *Crescentia alata* (Morro) in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala(ii) *Cocus nucifera* (coconut) oil and (iii) Simada cedron in Punta Patiño, Panama and (iv) a syrup with extract of natural products in Costa Rica ensure benefit sharing and protection of traditional knowledge.

The third Community Protocol of the world was developed in Panama with the Ngäbe-Bugle indigenous people, and the active participation from women, and is published in the Access and Benefit Sharing Clearing-House.





The participation of 1,000 people from indigenous peoples and local communities in 24 municipalities of Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica, have facilitated the dialogue between the Government and the holders of traditional knowledge.

The creation of an ABS commercial national symbol in Costa Rica contributes to raise the awareness of consumers when buying pharmaceutical, cosmetic and/or food products.



Guatemala Guatemala prepared the first funding grant in the region to support projects that promote ABS initiatives with national funds. The Trust Fund for Administration and Investment of the National Fund for Nature Conservation (FONACON) administers this grant.

The Central American Region was positioned as a territory, which offers opportunities for biodiversity-based businesses and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Company Domicile: Bonn y Eschborn, Alemania

Program for the fair and sustainable promotion of the economic potential of biodiversity to implement the Nagoya Protocol in Central America (Access and Benefit Sharing, ABS)

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Date January 2019

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

In cooperation with CCAD:



COMISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO



Support From: The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Department Regional Development Policy: Central America, Caribbean, Mexico

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