REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

ABS CAPACITY NEEDS FOR UGANDA

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION X/1 ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

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1. BRIEF BACKGROUND

Uganda signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in June 1992 and September 1993 respectively. Uganda also signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 24 May 2000 and ratified it on 30th November 2001. Uganda is actively involved in the implementation of the various Articles of the Convention and Biosafety Protocol. Uganda has enacted several laws to regulate management of its environment and natural resources.

Concerning access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS), National Environment (Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing) Regulations was enacted in 2005. The regulations are the most comprehensive instrument in as far as fulfilling the requirements as set in the CBD and the Bonn guidelines as well, as addressing key access to genetic resources and benefit sharing issues in Uganda. The regulations were developed under the National Environment Act Cap 153 to:

(a) Prescribe the procedures for access to genetic resources for scientific research, commercial purposes, bio-prospecting, conservation or industrial application.

(b) Provide for the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources; and to

(c) Promote the sustainable management and utilisation of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological resources of Uganda.

The regulations apply to access to genetic resources or parts of genetic resources, whether naturally occurring or naturalised, including genetic resources bred for or intended for commercial purposes within Uganda or for export, whether in *in-situ* conditions or *ex-situ* conditions. The regulations provide for a licence to be granted for the use or export of genetic resources under any other law provided it takes into full consideration the provisions of the regulations.

2. ABS CAPACITY NEEDS FOR UGANDA

Capacity building relevant to ABS processes is very important especially for developing countries. Without capacity building, it will be an uphill task for not only Indigenous and Local Communities but also government officials to negotiate and enforce Accessory Agreement/ Material Transfer Agreements, participate effectively in collaborative research, estimate precisely the commensurate benefits to expect from access to and use of GRs and negotiate PIC and MATs on a fair and equitable basis. The capacity building for Uganda should include, but not limited to:

a. Valuation of genetic and biological resources and their associated derivatives,
b. Valuation and documentation of Traditional Knowledge associated to Genetic Resources and traditional Innovations,
c. Negotiations of legal contracts on Access and benefit-sharing,
d. Arbitration and conflict resolution
e. Management of a multilateral fund in cases of trans-boundary Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge
f. Information sharing and the ABS-Clearing House Mechanism

g. Bio-prospecting/ associated research methods and relevant equipment for such research
h. Taxonomic studies of relevance to Bio-prospecting and product development, Conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and inventorying/ documentation of genetic resources
i. Tracking and Monitoring of genetic resources and their derivatives.
j. Intellectual Property Right issues of relevance to innovations and inventions resulting from Genetic Resources and associated derivatives

The capacity building efforts should target both government employees and relevant non-governmental organizations and Indigenous and Local Communities that are involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and therefore who are likely to get involved in the granting of PIC at either national or sub-national levels. In cases of inadequate resources, capacity building initiatives target training of trainers in relevant institutions base on nationally identified priority institutions and individuals. Training institutions could also be targeted in order to get ABS issues incorporated in training curriculums at different levels at national level.