



and competency development to be able to access different markets and promote innovation. It is for this purpose that there is cooperation with the private sector in this and other countries in order to promote the exchange and creation of competencies.

Main counterpart in Mexico:

National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)

Commissioning agency:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

German Contribution:

6 million Euro

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Project Governance of Biodiversity: Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use and management of biological diversity

Current status: Fairer benefit sharing for biodiversity users and managers

Mexico is one of the richest countries in the world in biological and cultural diversity. In addition, Mexico is one of the first countries worldwide and the first country in Latin America to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in May 2012.

The Nagoya Protocol emerged in response to the lack of regulation and the scarce or null sharing of the benefits derived from the utilization of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, i.e., from the implementation of the third objective of the Biological Diversity Convention. This instrument sets forth that in exercising their sovereign rights, national governments are responsible for establishing legislative, administrative and policy measures to make sure that there is informed consent before granting access to their genetic resources and ensure any benefits derived from their utilization are fairly and equitably shared. The competent authorities involved in implementing named Protocol in Mexico include the Foreign Affairs Department (*Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, SRE*), the Environment and Natural Resources Department (*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT*), the Forestry National Commission (*Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR*), the Protected Natural Areas National Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas,*

CONANP), the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (*Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y el Uso de la Biodiversidad, CONABIO*) –the General Coordination for Biological Resources and Corridors has been acting until the present time as the National Focal Point for the Nagoya Protocol Inter-governmental Committee-, the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (*Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas, CDI*), the Industrial Property Mexican Institute (*Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial, IMPI*), the Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food Department (*Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA*) and the Health Department (*Secretaría de Salud, SSA*).



To ensure legal access to the genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization (Access and Benefit Sharing, ABS), it is necessary to develop the appropriate multilateral legal and institutional framework where genetic and biological resources users and providers make a commitment to comply with such framework. This framework must also



protect the traditional knowledge associated to the biological resources. It is also necessary to strengthen the capacities of the stakeholders involved. For Mexico, access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing is a much broader issue than what the Nagoya Protocol establishes, i.e., to merely be a provider of biological and genetic resources. The goal should be for the different actors in the country to be the users of these resources by strengthening, and thus adding value, to their capacities, using their knowledge in innovative ways.

The Project: Mexico in the first place around the world

Within the framework of the Mexico-Germany bilateral cooperation, CONABIO and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) are implementing the Project “Governance of Biodiversity: Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use and management of biological diversity”.

The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its purpose is for the key actors, government agencies, indigenous and local communities, civil society, the academia and the private sector, to comply with the standards and guidelines for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use and management of biological diversity. It is one of the first projects in the world with this theme approach and involving bilateral cooperation. The project highlights the innovative role played by Mexico in the world. It is much broader than the Nagoya Protocol and seeks to create the necessary competencies in Mexico for its implementation. It also seeks to create incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of resources and, therefore, to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

Approach: Empowering indigenous and local communities

The main targets of the project are the indigenous and local communities. However, there is no doubt this project aims to benefit all sectors, including the federal and state governments, the academia, the organized civil sector and corporations. It will also contribute to the consolidation of competencies in government agencies, civil society, the academia and the private sector and aims at the harmonized involvement of these actors. The development of competencies will strengthen the targets

in ensuring fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use and management of biological diversity, as well as to protect the traditional knowledge associated with it.

The methodological approach of the project is based on a structured exchange of international, regional and national experiences between and among the groups of relevant actors. They will identify and systematize good practices as well as develop and implement strategies that will make it possible to multiply the development of competencies in other scales. The project will be developed with three major working areas:

■ **Simple rules for a complex biodiversity**

The objective of the ABS Governance line of action is to apply governance models for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use and management of biological diversity. There are plans to develop the competencies of institutions and the various actors, as well as to disseminate and exchange experiences for implementing the Nagoya Protocol and to develop other competencies to empower indigenous and local communities in the management and sustainable use of biological resources.

■ **Building new conservation partnerships**

The objective of the *in situ* conservation line of action is to promote the integration of themes related to the access and sharing of the biodiversity benefits while managing protected areas and other forms of *in situ* conservation. The goal is to make sure the *in situ* conservation of the biodiversity policy maintains increasingly effective mechanisms that respect the rights of the indigenous and local communities in the use and management of biological diversity, thus creating incentives for its conservation. The project will help creating the necessary

conditions to make the best use of the possibilities of access and benefit-sharing as an innovative financing mechanism.



■ **Biodiversity as the driver of local development and human well-being**

The objective of the incentives for sustainable use line of action is to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits as an integral part of the incentives for the sustainable use of biological resources. The project seeks to create the necessary mechanisms for sustainable use where the fair benefit-sharing rules come together with an approach in which the main users of the biological and genetic resources are the guardians of biodiversity and live in the areas where that biodiversity is found. In other words, indigenous and local communities must have the necessary competencies to make use of and benefit from their natural capital. In addition, emphasis is made on valuing biodiversity and the traditional knowledge associated to it, as well as the importance of biodiversity conservation. The goal is to support the organizational development of local and regional producer associations

