

Republic of Cameroon
Peace - Work - Fatherland



Ministry of Environment,
Protection of Nature and
Sustainable Development

**ABS ACTION PLAN FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL
STRATEGY ON ACCESS TO GENETIC
RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE
SHARING OF THE BENEFITS
ARISING FROM THEIR USE (ABS)
(2016 - 2019)**



MINEPDED

July 2016



IN COLLABORATION WITH



giz



Contact:

ABS Project coordination unit

P.O. BOX : 320 Yaounde Tel:+23722228735 / +237674736326 - Fax:+23722236051
E-mail:absminep@yahoo.com/lemnyuy@yahoo.com

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PREFACE

August 2012 - August 2017, this is the duration of the National Strategy on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Use (ABS). The development of an action plan, the implementation document of the strategy, had become a dire necessity with regard to Cameroon's commitment to the ABS process. Certainly, concrete actions have been carried out, but without a real document for planning of actions and activities.

This Action Plan, which contains achievable results, objectively verifiable indicators, concrete actions with a reasonable budget estimate and specific timeframes, constitutes, alongside the Strategy, a real compass for stakeholders in the field of ABS in Cameroon. It devotes an entire chapter on the modalities of its implementation which integrate the actors of implementation as well as the elements to be taken into account for the implementation of the action plan.

The implementing actors are diverse and varied. These include institutional actors, civil society actors, private sector actors and technical and financial partners. It is therefore understandable that the ABS process is not solely within the domain of the Ministry in charge of the environment. It takes into account all sectors of national life and therefore all stakeholders are called upon to take ownership of this action plan for the mainstreaming of the ABS process in all sectoral strategies.

The preparation of this Plan of Action was carried out through the participation of several actors. I wish therefore to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all our technical and financial partners who supported the completion of this process, including GIZ through its ABS COMIFAC project, as well as UNDP and UNEP. Our thanks also go to the experts and member of the ABS Committee who contributed during the consultation workshops as well as to the various partners and all those who contributed to the realization of this Plan d ' Action.

Finally, I invite all partners in this process to find in this document, Cameroon's needs for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Use which will be reviewed and revised as need arises based on comments received and during the revision of the National ABS Strategy.

**The Minister of Environment,
Protection of Nature and
Sustainable Development**



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ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

CNA : Competent National Authority

ABS : Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization

ATK : Associated Traditional knowledge

MAT: Mutually Agreed Terms

CBD : Convention on Biological Diversity

COP: Conference of the Parties

CESP : Communication, Education and Public Awareness

CHM : Clearinghouse Mechanism of the CBD

CITES : Convention on International Trade in Endangered fauna and flora Species

NAC: National Advisory Committee

NP: Nagoya Protocole

ILC : Indegenious Local Communities

COMIFAC : Central Africa Forests Commission

PIC: Prior Informed Consent

FAO : United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

MINFOF : Ministry of Forestry and Wild life

MINEPDED : Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development

OAPI : African Organization on Intellectual Property Rights

ABS-MT : ABS Management Tool

NFP : National Focal Point

NGO : Non Governmental Organization

UNO: United Nations Organization

CSO : Civil Society Organization

OAU : Organization of African Union

IP : Indigenous People

GR : Genetic Resources

ITPGRFA : International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



Cameroon possesses an impressive diversity of flora, fauna and eco-system. It is among the richest countries in biodiversity in Africa. She ranks fourth after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Madagascar. This rich biodiversity is of considerable importance for its people particularly in the socio-economic, scientific and medicinal domain. Aware of the importance of preserving this wealth, Cameroon has taken steps both at international and national levels to protect and enhance its biological and genetic resources.

At the international level, Cameroon has ratified several legal texts relating to the protection of biodiversity, the largest of which remains the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The third objective of the Convention, which is access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use, was the subject of a protocol in 2010, the Nagoya Protocol, adopted in the same year as the strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets for biodiversity.

To comply with its commitments at international level, Cameroon has taken internal legislative, administrative and regulatory measures, for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. It is within this framework that the Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Act 1994^[1] and the Environmental Management Framework Act of 1996^[2] were promulgated in Cameroon. More specifically, in a bid to honor its obligations under the provisions of the CBD, Cameroon, in 1999, developed its first National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (NBSAP), which was officially approved in 2000 and revised in 2012. In a bid to create linkages with other programs and state commitments and in particular the Strategic Document for Growth and Employment (ECSD), the new version of the NBSAP has incorporated in its vision requirements relating to benefits sharing.

^[1]Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries in Cameroon and its implementing regulations.

^[2]Law No. 96/12 of 5 August 1996 on the Framework Law on environmental management in Cameroon.

As part of the implementation of the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in order to comply with the COMIFAC countries Strategy on access to biological / genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use, Cameroon adopted in August 2012, a National Strategy on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (ABS), whose assessment and revision is scheduled for every 5 years. With the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use in 2014 and the adhesion of Cameroon to this treaty in 2016, it is urgent and imperative that the Cameroon put together a Plan of action for the implementation of its strategy.

Although many Genetic Resources users are knocking at the door, there is still an absence of legal provisions governing the ABS process in Cameroon. These legal provisions and other actions can only be set up in an orderly manner if a real action plan of the Strategy is available. This plan allows for priority and urgent actions on ABS to be planned and implemented. Hence, the document does not seek to reproduce ideas already existing in the Strategy but rather seeks to complete them.

The purpose of this Action Plan, which covers the period 2016-2019, revolves around the following points :

- A brief reminder of the strategy,
- Action Plan
- Implementation modalities.



CHAPTER II

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR USE

Adopted in August 2012, the Strategy on National Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (ABS) revolves around key elements that are: A vision, a goal, an overall objective and five strategic axes.

Its vision is as follows : *By the year 2020, access to Genetic Resources (GR) is regulated and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization contributes to the improvement of the livelihood of the populations as well as public revenue.*

Its strategic goal is to enable Cameroon to *have a policy and a specific law on ABS in order to contribute to the improvement of the incomes of populations and their welfare, the development of enterprises, the creation of jobs and the increase in the public revenue.*

The overall objective of the Strategy *is to give orientations for developing a national ABS framework law in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.*

The five strategic areas addressed by the strategy are :

- Area 1: Strengthening/capacity building as regards on ABS;
- Area 2: Putting in place the legal and institutional framework;
- Area 3: Definition of administrative measures;
- Area 4: Reinforcement of mechanisms for stakeholder participation;
- Area 5: Promotion and valorization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to such resources.



ACTION PLAN

III.1 - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The logical framework of the action plan includes nine interdependent and interrelated elements. For practical reasons, these elements appear in two interrelated matrices: The matrix of activities to be implemented and a timeframe matrix.

III.1.1- THE MATRIX OF ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

The matrix activities to be implemented is a logical framework of 7 elements which are :

- The Strategic area: This is the area as defined by the Strategy ;
- Objectives : These are the objectives as defined by the Strategy ;
- The expected results : These are the results to be achieved in the context of the implementation of the priority actions ;
- The Indicators: these are indicators to ensure that the results were achieved ;
- Sources of verification : They indicate the origin and the form in which information on the results are collected;
- The activities : These are concrete actions to be taken to achieve the results
- The budget : It presents the estimated budget for implementing the activities.

III.1.2- THE MATRIX OF TIMEFRAME

The matrix is a key timeframe table consists of three columns that are :

- The strategic area: This column shows the abbreviation of the corresponding Strategic Axis ;
- The activities: This column contains activities of the strategic areas in the log framework table;
- The period of implementation: This is the work schedule divided into three months and extending over a period of three years.

III.2. MATRIX OF ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

The activities are presented as a function of the strategic areas of the National Strategy in five different tables.

III.2.1. STRATEGIC AREA 1 (AS1): ABS CAPACITY BUILDING / DEVELOPMENT

The expected results of the actions to be carried out for this axis are two : Awareness-raising and training of institutions, community and individuals through awareness-raising and training workshops.

Strategic Axis 1 (SA1) STRENGTHENING / CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF ABS				
Goal : Facilitate and support the development and capacity-building of individuals, institutions and communities in access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing				
RESULTS	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET

R.1.1. The stakeholders are sensitized	I.1.1.1. Number of actors and groups of actors sensitized	Awareness Workshop Reports	A.1.1.1.1. Develop a communication plan	11 700 000
			A.1.1.1.2. Inventory of capacity at local and national level	5 000 000
			A.1.1.1.3. Develop awareness raising tools ¹	30 000 000
			A.1.1.1.4. Organize awareness raising workshops	50 000 000
R.1.2. Stakeholders are formed	I.1.2.1. Number of actors and groups of actors trained	Report of training workshops	A.1.2.1.1. Establish ABS data information on ABS Experts in Cameroon	6 000 000
			A.1.2.1.2. An analysis of training needs	7 500 000
			A.1.2.1.3. Develop a training plan	6 100 000
			A.1.2.1.4. Develop training manuals	19 500 000
			A.1.2.1.5. Organise training or capacity building workshops n ABS	80 000 000

III.2.2. STRATEGIC AREA 2 (SA2): ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

For the establishment of a legal and institutional framework, 3 results are expected : An overview of relevant legal and institutional arrangements for ABS is updated and disseminated, a draft specific legislation on ABS and regulations are available and Cameroon is party to the Nagoya protocol.

STRATEGIC AXIS 2 (SA2) : DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Goal : Orientate parliament and regulatory power in the process which will lead to the development of legal instruments (laws and regulations) specific to ABS tailored to the Cameroonian context.

RESULT S	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
R.2.1. A draft specific legislation on ABS and regulations are available	I.2.1 .1. The draft law on ABS and at least one proposed regulatory text.	Workshop Reports	A.2.1.1.1. Develop a draft specific legislation on ABS and regulatory texts	30 0 00 000
			A.2.1.1.2. Organize five (05) workshops review and validation of the draft law on ABS and at least one regulatory text	25,000 000
			A.2.2.1.3. Organize a workshop for LC and other stakeholders to present and explain the ABS law to	30 000,000

3] *The educational tools include : a glossary of terms related to the APA, in local languages of communication media, ...*

<p>R.2.2. Cameroon is party to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and effectively participate in the activities of the COP PN ABS</p>	<p>I.2. 2 .1. Notification of the deposit of instruments of ratification by the United Nations Secretariat</p>	<p>List of States Parties (CBD website)</p>	<p>A.2.2 .1.1. Organize a parallel session to strengthen the delegation of Cameroon for better participation in the COP 14 negotiations and the 3rd MOP NP ABS</p>	<p>10 000,000</p>
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III.2.3. STRATEGIC AREA 3 (SA3): DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

After three years, the definition of administrative measures will result in four outcomes, namely a competent national authority with clear role is designated and operational, administrative procedures as well as monitoring, control and sanctions are defined.

STRATEGIC AXIS 3 (SA3) : DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Goal Define administrative measures to enable the supplier (State) to arrange access and monitor the use and sharing of benefits on the one hand and allow users (applicants) to have secure access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge on the other.

RESULTS	INDICATORS	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
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R.3.1. Administrative procedures are defined	I.3.1 .1. Number of administrative procedures developed	Available Contracts	A.3.1 .1.1. Contractualise consultants for the development of administrative procedures on ABS	10 000 000
		administrative procedures Document	A.3.1.1.1. Produce application forms for access to GR and TK A	26 750 00
			A.3.1.1.2. Develop models of PIC	10 000 000
			A.3.1.1.3 Develop MAT (Models of ABS agreements associated with TK) and community protocols	15 000 000
			A .3.1.1 .4. Develop a specific guide to monitoring and compliance procedures for the ABS	8 000 000

R.3.2. The information is centralized and distributed	I.3.2 .1. Placing checkpoints	Checkpoint Directory	A. 3.2. 1.1. Study on identification of checkpoints (Control Post) at all stages of the value chain of the GR ²	6 500 000
			A.3.2 .1.2. Establish checkpoints	10 000 000
		ABS CHM webpage Cameroon	A.3.2 .1.3. Establish a clearing house mechanism for ABS in Cameroon	2 000 000

III.2.4. STRATEGIC 4 (SA4): DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS OF STAKEHOLDERS

To facilitate stakeholder participation, two outcomes are expected : The establishment of a National Consultative Committee and the establishment of mechanisms for stakeholder participation. These results will be verified through the creation text of the Committee and the Reports of activity.

STRATEGIC AXIS 4 (SA4) : DEVELOPMENT OF STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS

Goal : Ensure the effective participation of stakeholders at all stages of the process in Cameroon ABS.

RESULTS	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
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R.4.1. A National Advisory Committee (NAC) on ABS is established	I.4.1.1. The operational ABS National Advisory Committee	Text creation of the National Advisory Committee	A.4.1.1.1. Develop the draft text creating and operationalising the ABS NAC	2 250,000
		Reports of meetings	A.4.1.1.2. Organize meetings of the TNC	30 000 000
R.4.2. Stakeholder participation mechanisms are in place	I.4.2.1. Operational stakeholder participation mechanisms	Reports	A.4.2.1.1. Inventory and strengthening of existing stakeholders platforms (indigenous LC, traditional healers, women's association ...)	25 000 000
			A.4.2.1.2. Encourage the setting up of platforms for relevant stakeholder groups (researchers, businesses ...)	25 000 000

			A.4.2.1.3. Develop a guide to genetic resources access procedures for the different stakeholders	15 00 0000

III.2.5. STRATEGIC AREA 5 (SA5): PROMOTION AND VALUATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

To ensure the promotion and valorization of GR and aTK, three results are strained at this strategic area : Valorization of GR by national and local actors, valorisation of aTCs by aTC holders and a plan for the mobilization of financial resources.

Strategic Area 5 (SA5) : Promotion and development of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Goal : Identify the measures to be taken by Cameroon to better know and make known the quantity, quality and value in its genetic resources from plants, animals and microorganisms and associated traditional knowledge that is overwhelming.

RESULTS	INDICATORS	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
R.5.1. The GR are quantified and valued	I.5.1.1. The national and local actors that valorize GR are identified and recorded	Inventory reports	A.5.1.1.1. Inventory of actors of valorization of GR	6,500,000

R.5.1. The GR are quantified and valued	I.5.1.1. The national and local actors that valorize GR are identified and recorded	Inventory reports	A .5.1.1.2. Develop tools for the promotional and utilization of GR	10 0 00 000
			A.5.1.1.3. Define the inventory requirements GR	6,500,000
			A.5.1.1.4. conduct Inventory and set up a data bank of GR of high potential value	18,000,000
			A.5.1.1. 6 evaluate NTFP value chains in order to identify those which will be subject to the ABS process	25 000 000
			A.5.1.1.7 Assess the application of the Nagoya Protocol in NTFPs	5 000 000
			A.5.1.1.8. Making economic studies identified GR	7,500,000
	I.5.1.2. At least 2 RG valued	ABS Clearing House	A.5.1.2.1. Identify ecological zones with strong potential for GR of high value (<i>e.g Echinops giganteus mondia whitei, etc.</i>)	8 0 00 000
			A.5.1.2.2. define Intellectual Property protection mechanism (Geographic indication) for identified GR	15 000,000

R.5.2. aTKs are valorised	I.5.2.1. An appraisal of the valorization of available aTK	Appraisal report	A.5.1. 2.3. Establish incentives for the development of the GR for processing companies at the local level (see Law on ABS)	PM
			A.5.2.1.1. Inventory and archive holders of traditional knowledge on ABS in in pilot sites	100 00 000
			A.5.2.1.2. Make an inventory on the valorization of the aTK	5 000 000
			A.5.2.1.3. Develop Biocultural Community protocols in pilot sites	12 000 000
			A.5.2.1.4. Develop an aTK action plan	8 000 000
R.5.3. A financial resource mobilization plan is available	1.5.3.1. The available resource mobilization plan	Validation reports	A.5.3.1. 1. Develop and validate a financial resource mobilization plan	5 000 000
			A.5.3. 1. 2. Organize exchanges with different donors on areas of interest	5 000 000

III.3. TIMEFRAME MATRIX (2016-2019)

Axis	Activities	Period of completion															
		2016				2017				2018				2019			
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	
SAI	A.1.1.1.1. Develop a communication plan																
	A.1.1.1.2. Inventory of capacity at local and national level																
	A.1.1.1.3. Develop awareness raising tools ³																
	A.1.1.1.4. Organize awareness raising workshops																
	A.1.2.1.1. Establish ABS data information on ABS Experts in Cameroon																
	A.1.2.1.2. An analysis of training needs																
	A.1.2.1.3. Develop a training plan																
	A.1.2.1.4. Develop training manuals																
	A.1.2.1.5. Organise training or capacity building workshops n.ABS																

Axis	Activities	Period of completion															
		2016				2017				2018				2019			
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4
SA2	A.2.1.1.1. Develop a draft specific legislation on ABS and regulatory texts																
	A.2.1.1.2. Organize five (05) workshops review and validation of the draft law on ABS and at least one regulatory text																
	A.2.2.1.3. Organize a workshop for LC and other stakeholders to present and explain the ABS law to																
	A.2.2.1.1. Organize a parallel session to strengthen the delegation of Cameroon for better a participation in the COP 14 negotiations and the 3rd MOP NP ABS																

Axis	Activities	Period of completion																
		2016			2017			2018			2019							
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3		
	A.5.1.1.4. conduct Inventory and set up a data bank of GR of high potential value																	
	A.5.1.1.6 evaluate NTFP value chains in order to identify those which will be subject to the ABS process																	
	A.5.1.1.7 Assess the application of the Nagoya Protocol in NTFPs																	
	A.5.1.1.8. Making economic studies identified GR																	
	A.5.1.2.1. Identify ecological zones with strong potential for GR of high value (e.g <i>Echinops giganteus mondia whitei</i> , etc.)																	
	A.5.1.2.2. define Intellectual Property protection mechanism (Geographic indication) for identified GR																	

Axis	Activities	Period of completion															
		2016				2017				2018				2019			
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	
	A.5.1.2.3. Establish incentives for the development of the GR for processing companies at the local level (see Law on ABS)																
	A.5.2.1.1. Inventory and archive holders of traditional knowledge on ABS in in pilot sites																
	A.5.2.1.2. Make an inventory on the valorization of the aTK																
	A.5.2.1.3. Develop Biocultural Community protocols in pilot sites																
	A.5.2.1.4. Develop an aTK action plan																
	A.5.3.1. 1. Develop and validate a financial resource mobilization plan																
	A.5.3. 1. 2. Organize exchanges with different donors on areas of interest																
	A.5.1.1.1. Inventory of actors of valorization of GR																
	A.5.1.1.2. Develop tools for the promotional and utilization of GR																



IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES FOR THE ACTION PLAN

The implementation modalities of the action plan include the common rules to all areas and specific rules of each strategic area.

IV.1. TERMS COMMON TO THE ALL THE STRATEGIC AREAS

Common detailed rules for all areas concern the technical and financial partners, the implementing stakeholders as well as modalities for financing and revision of the National ABS Strategy.

IV.1. 1. POTENTIAL PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

These include institutional partners and the countries involved in supporting the implementation of the ABS process in Cameroon. MINEPDED and her partners, through its ABS National Focal Point would need to mobilize domestic, external and innovative financial resources, necessary for the implementation of the action Plan.

An open ended list of financial and technical partners for the ABS process in Cameroon will include but not limited to:

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) ;
- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);
- The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) ;
- The African Development Bank (ADB) ;
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH (GIZ) ;
- The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) ;
- The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) ;
- The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) ;
- The African Organization of Intellectual Property ;

- The World Bank (WB) ;
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ;
- ABS Initiative for Capacity Development
- Etc.

IV.1. 2. ACTORS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement this plan of Action, stakeholders such as government institutions, civil societies and the private sector will have to be involved. Some of these stakeholders could be the main actor responsible for the implementation of the activity depending on their area of competence. This will of course vary from one strategic area to the other.

An open ended list of these stakeholders include but not limited the :

- Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and regional development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER);
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA);
- Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT);
- Ministry of Commerce (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of Culture (MINCULTURE);
- Ministry of Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- Institute for Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);
- Institute of Medical Research and Studies of Medicinal Plants (IMPM);
- National Herbarium;
- Biotechnology Center;
- Research Laboratories of the Universities of Cameroon;
- Botanical and / or zoological gardens;
- Parliamentarians;

- Mayors ;
- Environmental NGOs working in the field of biological and genetic resources;
- Associations and Unions of Non-Timber Forest Products Operators;
- Associations of Tradi-practitioners;
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- Private sector ;
- Religious authorities ;

IV.1.3. THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS AND REVISION

To implement this Action Plan, MINEPDED is expected to seek funding from technical and financial partners, and to prepare the revision of the Strategy and its Action Plan, in collaboration with the ABS Committee.

IV.2. THE MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFIC TO EACH STRATEGIC AXIS

In each strategic area, we shall present the implementating of actors and other implementation elements as appropriate.

IV.2. 1. STRATEGIC AREA 1

Implementing actors

Key Stakeholders for the implementation activities under strategic area 1:

- Ministry of Environment, the Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) ;
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP) ;
- Universities;
- Research institutes ;
- The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) ;
- Traditional Heads ;
- Civil Society Organization (CSO) ;
- Research Laboratories ;
- Tradi-practitioners.

The main elements to consider

In addition to the elements included in the Strategy, the other elements to consider in the area of capacity building are :

- capacity building of the NFP and the taskforce to manage administrative procedures;
- ability of ILC and LC to assess, make an inventory and monitor genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in area, with their approval and consent, through the Global Taxonomy Initiative and other relevant initiatives;
- ability to negotiate Mutually Agreed Terms by mutual agreement;
- bio-prospecting, selection, DNA sequencing, characterization, manufacturing, packaging and marketing of products;

IV.2.2. STRATEGIC AREA 2

As in the previous area, we must distinguish the implementing actors or stakeholders from issues to consider during implementation.

The actors of implementation

The key players or stakeholders who will take responsibility for implementation include :

- Ministry of Environment, protection of the nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) ;
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife,
- Prime Minister's Office .

The implementation elements or issues to consider during implementation

In addition to the elements contained in the Strategy, the draft law on ABS must include among others the following :

- inventory and case studies of success stories on policies of existing legislation and policy and an appropriate legislation;
- better knowledge of conventions, norms and policies relating to intellectual property rights and trade and their interrelationship with genetic resources and the s traditional knowledge.

IV.2.3. STRATEGIC AREA 3

For the implementation of Strategic area 3 of the definition of administrative measures, the key actors will include but not limited to : the Prime Minister’s Office, MINEPDED and MINFOF.

IV.2.4. STRATEGIC AREA 4

For the implementation of this strategic area on the development of stakeholder participation mechanisms, it would be necessary to consider the actors and elements below.

Key stakeholders for the implementation

Key actors here for the implementation of this axis will include but not limited to MINEPDED, MINFOF, the Prime Minister.

Issues to consider here will include strengthen inter-institutional mechanisms to ensure smooth coordination of activities.

IV.2.5. STRATEGIC AREA 5

For the promotion and valorization of genetic resources and aTK, Key Stakeholders for the implementation of this area will include but not limited to include :

- The MINEPDED,
- MINFOF,
- MINRESI,
- Local communities and indigenous peoples,
- Traditional practitioners,
- Traditional authorities,
- Private laboratories,
- Genetic resources of producers,
- Industries,
- Consumers .

CONCLUSION AND COMMENDATIONS

The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 is a major landmark for the global governance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The way in which it will be translated into practice will however depend on the concrete implementation in national country legislation across the world. In this regards, one could say the ABS process has gone a long way so far in Cameroon.

After the adoption of the National Strategy on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (ABS), the Action Plan stand as a necessary tool to monitor Cameroon's commitment in implementing this Protocole at national level. The successful implementation of this action plan will however not only depend on the political commitment but certainly on how all the stakeholder would be ready to collaborate in a coordinated manner to achieve expected goal laid down by the ABS strategy.

Although the concept is relatively new for many and the whole process yet to be understood clearly by the major stakeholders, it is expected that all activities that will be implemented in the first edition of this action plan will go a long way to resolve all the gaps and weaknesses associated with this process in our country.

This will nevertheless require the constant support of financial and technical partners and above all the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in general and ABS process in particular in all strategic and legal instruments for their consideration in sectoral strategies.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to revise this action plan each time the National ABS strategy is being revised and preferably after every three years. This must however always precede an assessment of the level of its implementation and capitalization of lesson learnt which will facilitate a review of activities adopted for this phase.

Finally, all will depend on how the lead institution (MINEPDED) will take the process as a priority action and mobilize necessary human and financial resources for the implementation of the action plan.

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