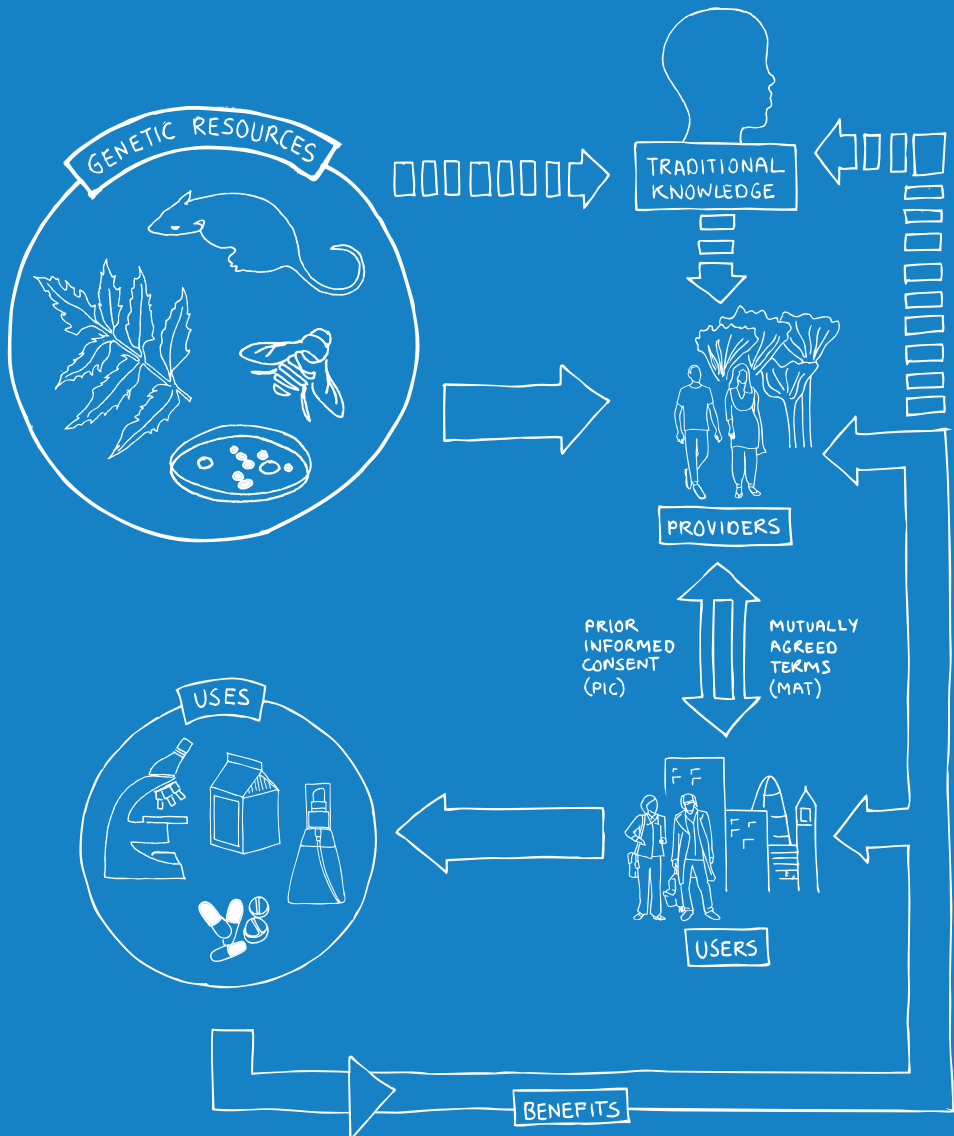


Convention on Biological Diversity: ABS

THEME

The Bonn Guidelines





The Bonn Guidelines were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in 2002

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What are the Bonn Guidelines?

The Bonn Guidelines are intended to assist governments in the adoption of measures to govern access and benefit-sharing in their countries. They were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2002.

Their purpose is to help countries, as providers and users of genetic resources, to implement access and benefit-sharing (ABS) procedures effectively. Despite being voluntary, the Guidelines are recognized as an important first step for the implementation of the ABS provisions of the CBD.

Why are the Bonn Guidelines important?

The Guidelines assist in the development and implementation of national measures to ensure a transparent framework that facilitates access to genetic resources, and ensures that the benefits arising from their use are shared fairly and equitably.

The Guidelines have two main aims:

1. To guide countries as providers in setting up their own national legislative, administrative or policy measures for access and benefit-sharing, such as recommending the elements that should make up a prior informed consent (PIC) procedure
2. To assist providers and users in the negotiation of mutually agreed terms (MAT), by providing examples of what elements should be included in these agreements

Who are the Bonn Guidelines relevant for?

The Bonn Guidelines are for users and providers of genetic resources on two levels:

- 1. As governments:** Developing their national access and benefit-sharing measures
- 2. As institutions and individuals:** Looking to negotiate access and benefit-sharing agreements such as PIC and MAT

Contents and use of the Bonn Guidelines

Contents

The Guidelines outline key steps in the ABS process, which includes identifying the basic elements required for PIC and MAT. They also outline the main roles and responsibilities of users and providers, and include a list of monetary and non-monetary benefits that can arise from the use of genetic resources.

Basic principles and elements of prior informed consent (PIC)

The Guidelines stress the need for any potential user of genetic resources to seek the PIC of the resource provider.

Basic principles of an effective PIC system should include:

- Legal certainty and clarity
- Access to genetic resources should be facilitated at a minimum cost
- Restrictions on access to genetic resources should be transparent, based on legal grounds, and not run counter to the objectives of the Convention

Basic elements of an effective PIC system may include:

- The clear establishment of Competent National Authorities (CNAs) who can grant PIC
- Procedures for obtaining PIC from the CNAs
- Clearly specified timing and deadlines
- Specifications of use
- Mechanism for consultation of relevant stakeholders

Basic principles and elements of mutually agreed terms (MAT)

The Guidelines outline principles and basic requirements to be considered in the development of MAT, including:

- Legal certainty and clarity
- Facilitating the transaction through clear information and formal procedures
- Reasonable periods of time for negotiations
- Terms set out in a written agreement

The Guidelines provide an indicative list of MAT, which include:

- Type and quantity of genetic resources, and the geographical/ecological area of activity
- Any limitations on the possible use of material
- Whether the genetic resources can be transferred to third parties and under what conditions
- Recognition of the sovereign rights of the country of origin
- Capacity-building in various areas to be identified in the agreement

Find out more

The Bonn Guidelines can be downloaded from the Convention's website at:
<http://www.cbd.int/abs/bonn.shtml>

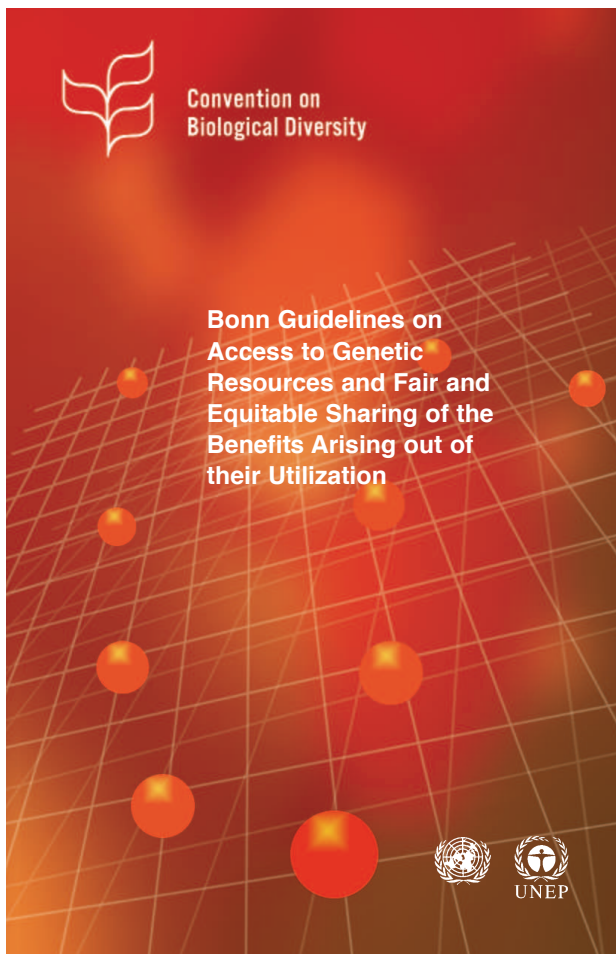


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Factsheets in the ABS series

Access and benefit-sharing

Uses of genetic resources

Traditional knowledge

The Bonn Guidelines

National implementation

The Nagoya Protocol

The ABS series can be downloaded at www.cbd.int/abs

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