

## **9<sup>th</sup> Access and Benefit-sharing Open-ended Working Group Meeting Cali, Colombia, 22 to 28 March 2010**

### **DFG Side-event on 23 March 2010**

#### **Side-event Summary**

#### **“Benefit-sharing by joint research, education and knowledge transfer – a success story of biodiversity research in southern Ecuador”**

The German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) presented the case of the German Research Unit “Biodiversity and sustainable management of a megadiverse mountain ecosystem in South Ecuador” as an opportunity to place an emphasis on benefits arising from basic biodiversity and ecosystem research and a chance to show the non-commercial benefits for Ecuador as country of origin. The Ecuadorian national counterparts Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) and Universidad Nacional de Loja (UNL) and the non-governmental organization Nature and Culture International, N&C, the owner of the Scientific Research Station San Francisco, were invited by DFG to Colombia to take part in the side-event and to present their views, experiences and perspectives.

Information about the, aims and main findings of the project, and about benefits arising from the collaboration with the German research group respective of capacity building, training of scientific staff and implementation of research structures was presented by 2 speakers from Germany, and 3 from Ecuador to an audience of more than forty participants. Emphasis was put on the development and use of joint research infrastructure and on the importance for the local universities and research in Ecuador, but also on information about the licensing process in this country. The importance of the Guidelines provided by the German research Foundation for application of research projects within the Scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was discussed and their usefulness as an instrument to comply with the spirit of ABS was shown.

In the following vivid discussion the speakers were asked about (1) negotiations and official agreements or memorandums between the Ecuadorian and German partners in the project; (2) a possible impact of traditional knowledge, TK on that type of basic research; (3) the experiences respective of the return of Ecuadorian PhD students in their home country after having received their PhD in Germany; (4) Modes of transferring new knowledge/information to the local community; (5) Intellectual property of processes developed in Ecuadorian universities in collaboration with the project; (6) licensing system and legal alternatives to perform tracking and monitoring.

Some congratulations were expressed to the Project team and it was recognized that the benefits arising from non-commercial research should become a key message for the ongoing negotiators of the Parties and delegates in their endeavour to produce an ABS International Regime.

During the side-event several materials of information were offered: flyers about the German Research Foundation (DFG) and about the Research project in Ecuador (English and Spanish), the DFG CBD-guidelines, a Biodiversity Research pamphlet, and a Project article. All the materials were well accepted by the participants of the side-event, mainly the article “Benefit sharing by research, education and knowledge transfer – a success story of biodiversity research in southern Ecuador”; which was written by the speakers of the Research Unit their Ecuadorian counterparts, and the DFG Life Science team.