

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE  
REVISION OF NBSPAS  
KIGALI, RWANDA  
27-30 JUNE, 2011**

**ROLE OF EAC IN THE EARLY RATIFICATION  
OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ABS**

**WIVINE NTAMUBANO,  
EAC SECRETARIAT**





# CONTENT

- INTRODUCTION
- THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND OBLIGATION TO RATIFY
- STATUS IN PS
- ACTION BY EAC ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS
  - ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARIAT
  - ACTION BY THE EALA
    - ✦ MEETING WITH THE SECRETARIAT
    - ✦ OBJECTIVE –OUTCOME
    - ✦ STATEMENT
    - ✦ RESOLUTION



# EAC Secretariat



- **With regard to the ratification of the Nagoya protocol**, the EAC Secretariat plans to
- encourage Partner States to ratify the Protocol and
- to develop and/or update their National ABS legislation and policies and put in place mechanisms for their effective enforcement.
- EAC Secretariat will commission a study on the Nagoya protocol to identify areas of interest for the region so as to advise Partner States as they formulate or revise their legislation and prepare to ratify

# EAC Organs and Institutions



- East African Parliamentarians have taken a concrete engagement in the implementation of the outcome of the COP 10 held in Nagoya, Japan in October, 2010, with a special focus on the Nagoya Protocol on **“Access and Benefit – sharing”**.

# mission and fonctions



- The East African Legislative Assembly (Assembly)(EALA) is an organ of the East African Community; established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.
- The Mission of the East African Legislative Assembly is: - *To legislate, do oversight and represent the people of East Africa in a bid to foster economic, social, cultural and political integration.*
- The Assembly has a cardinal **function** in the furtherance of Community objectives; this function encompasses the legislative, representative and oversight mandate. Article 49 of the Treaty stipulates that the Assembly shall be the legislative organ of the Community;



# Membership



- Under the Treaty, the Assembly has a **Membership** comprising nine members elected by each Partner State; ex-officio members consisting of the Minister or Assistant Minister responsible for the East African Community Affairs from each Partner State; the Secretary General and the Counsel to the Community. Currently, the Assembly has 45 elected Members; and 7 ex-officio Members totaling to a Membership of 52. Twenty of whom are female.



# EALA Committees



- Currently the Assembly has established the following Committees:
- the House Business Committee;
- the Accounts Committee;
- the Committee on Legal, Rules, and Privileges;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources;
- the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution;
- the Committee on Communication, Trade and
- the Committee on General Purpose.
- These Committees are charged with the responsibility of overseeing implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and the EAC Development Strategy in the special areas of cooperation that fall under their respective **ambit**. It is through these Committees that the bulk of the Assembly's work is executed. In essence, they are the technical arm of the Assembly and as such play a significant role in the final decisions taken by the Assembly
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- The Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is undertaking to promote the early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Along with its international, regional and national Partners, the CBD is organizing a series of briefings for Parliamentarians around the World.
- It is within this context that the CBD organised a one day workshop for Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources **on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania**
- The main objective of the briefing was to engage Parliamentarians on the outcome of the COP 10 held in Nagoya, Japan in October, 2010, with a special focus on the Nagoya Protocol on ***“Access and Benefit – sharing”***.





- Legislators were briefed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the status and relevance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.



## EALA Statement



- Parliamentarians serving in the East African Legislative Assembly are ready to champion the cause of raising awareness amongst legislators to the national parliaments of the five countries that comprise the East African Community (EAC).
- As a commitment to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the legislators agreed to heighten and raise awareness so as to increase appreciation of the Protocol by national parliaments through inter-parliamentary forums and meetings with individual committees of the national parliaments of EAC States charged with the mandate on environment and biodiversity



## Statement Ctn



- As a commitment to move , Legislators prepared a statement in 10 points where they committed to champion the process
- Legislators also proposed to move a resolution in the East African Legislative Assembly calling for the hastened signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by EAC partner States.
- Accordingly, they will put in place a regional legislative framework to guide access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, including a regulatory framework on the management of transboundary ecosystems.
- They will also call for the recognition of the EAC in international forums as a valuable partner in environmental matters, including biodiversity, amongst others.



# Statement Ctn



We, Members of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly,

- **Having attended** the workshop on the awareness of the Nagoya Protocol on “Access to Genetic Resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the convention on Biological Diversity”;
- Do hereby **register** our appreciation to the Secretariat for the Convention on Bio Diversity (CBD) for availing us this opportunity to enhance our knowledge on the issues related to the Access to Genetic Resources and equitable benefits arising from their utilization.
- **Recognizing** the importance of promoting equity and fairness between providers and users of genetic resources;
- **Appreciating** with thanks the ongoing briefing sessions undertaken by the Secretariat of CBD for Parliamentarians;
- **Acknowledging** that political actions and goodwill are necessary for the appreciation and signing of the Nagoya Protocol by UN member states;
- **Further appreciating** that the East African Community Partner States have committed to adopt common policies for conservation of biodiversity and common regulations for access to, management and utilization of genetic resources (Article 112, 2,n of the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community



## STATEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE WORKSHOP ON THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL



- **Recalling** that the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources is mandated to deal with issues related to conservation of Biological Biodiversity;
- We do hereby resolve to:
- Move a motion for a Resolution urging EAC Partner States to sign and ratify the Nagoya Protocol as a matter of urgency;
- Spearhead the establishment of a regional Inter-Parliamentarian Forum on issues related to Biodiversity with emphasis on issues related to the Nagoya Protocol;
- Convene Inter-Parliamentarian Meetings involving Members of Parliament from Committees on Environment from National Parliaments;
- Invite the Secretariat of CBD to facilitate us in this endeavour;
- Resolve as Members of EALA Country Chapters to take stock of the steps taken so far by individual Partner States towards the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and to report to the Committee thereof;



## Statement ctn



- Take a lead role in sensitizing regional stakeholders on Trans-Boundary Ecosystems Conservation;
- Develop a regional regulatory framework on access to and equitable benefit sharing of genetic resources and for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Seek and pursue avenues for EALA's accreditation to the CBD so as to promote and enhance EALA's participation to regional and international fora related to Biodiversity issues.
- Commit to be the regional champions in raising awareness on the Nagoya protocol and build regional interest and momentum thereto.
- Commit to supporting the awareness raising amongst national Parliamentarians on the Nagoya Protocol, starting with the one on Rwandese Parliamentarians scheduled for June, 2011.

Signed by:

- **Hon. Safina Kwekwe Tsungu**
- *Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources*
- **On behalf of the Committee.**



## Next step



- EALA Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Statement to Resolution\_ --- \_EALA **Action**
- Secretariat Recommendations+ EALA Resolution  
(**Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources**)
- **Council --Council Decision**
- **Partner States Secretariat and EALA to implement**



Thank you



