



Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Living in harmony with nature





Access and Benefit-sharing: Background

One of the three objectives of the CBD:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- **Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources**



Access and benefit sharing: Context

Genetic resources provide a **wide range of products and services** essential to human well-being, notably in the following sectors:

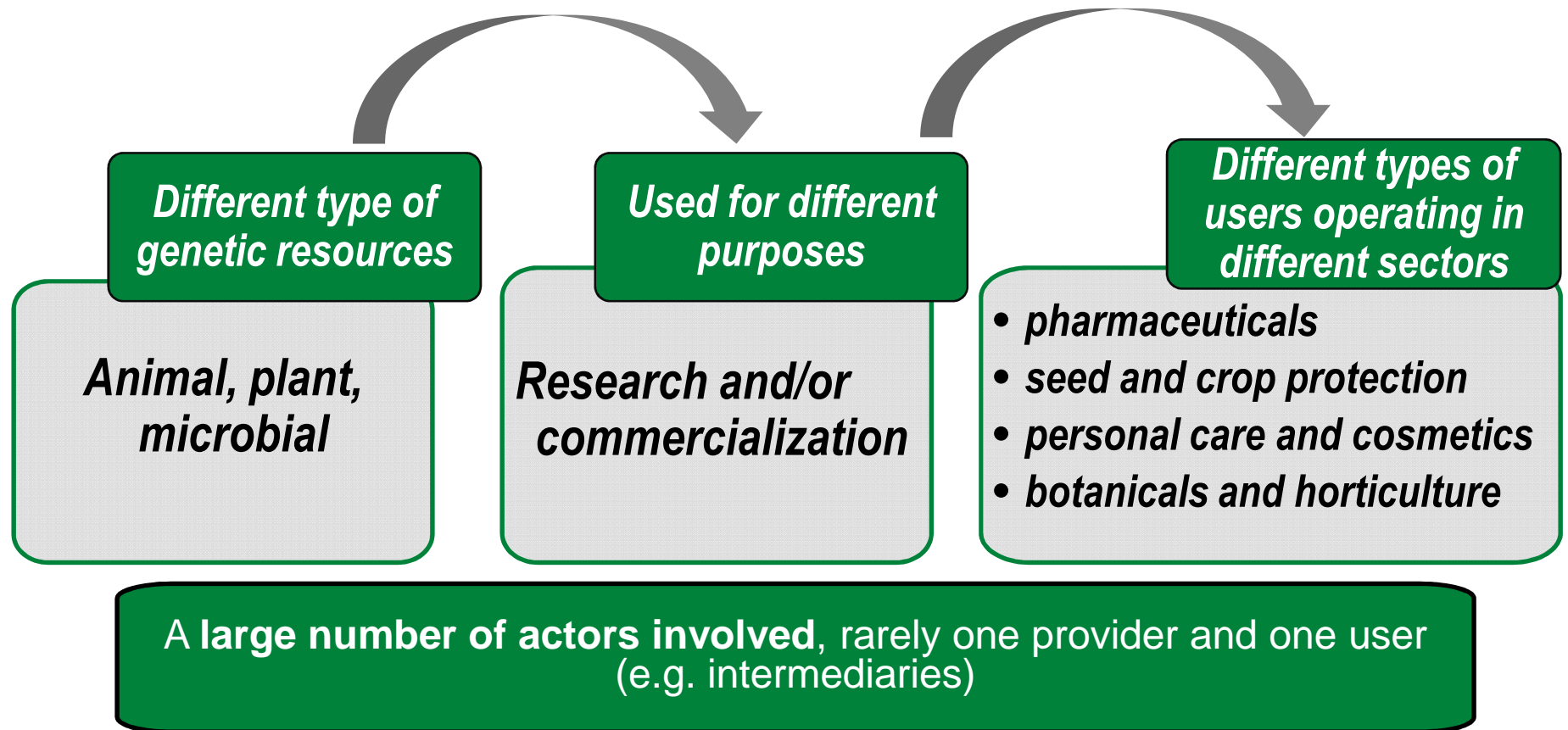
- Pharmaceuticals
- Personal care and cosmetics
- Seed and crop protection
- Botanicals and horticulture

Therefore, **countries have a shared interest** in the advancement of research on genetic resources as it leads to **new discoveries**.



Access and benefit sharing: Context

Uses of genetic resources





Access and benefit sharing: Context

Genetic resources can be put to **commercial use**:

- They can be used in crop protection, drug development, chemicals, detergents, and textiles among others
- **Examples:**
 - The development of drugs from the use of plant components, such as compounds found in resin and latex, to treat diseases
 - The commercialization of a gene sequence from wild plants to increase the resistance of food crops to agricultural pests



Access and benefit sharing: Context

**Genetic resources can be put to
non-commercial use:**

- Academic and public research institutions use genetic resources to increase our understanding of nature
- Genetic resources are a key source of information for taxonomy and ecosystem analysis



© Jeff Gynane/Shutterstock



Fundamental Principles of ABS

- **Sovereign rights** of States over their natural resources
- **Access** to genetic resources is subject to the **prior informed consent** (PIC) of the provider country
- Users and providers must reach an **agreement** (mutually agreed terms) on the **sharing of benefits** that may result from their use



Why a Protocol?

- CBD provisions not fully implemented
- Cases of misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- Need for legal certainty and transparency
 - Concern to ensure benefit-sharing once genetic resources have left the provider country
 - Need for clear procedures when accessing genetic resources



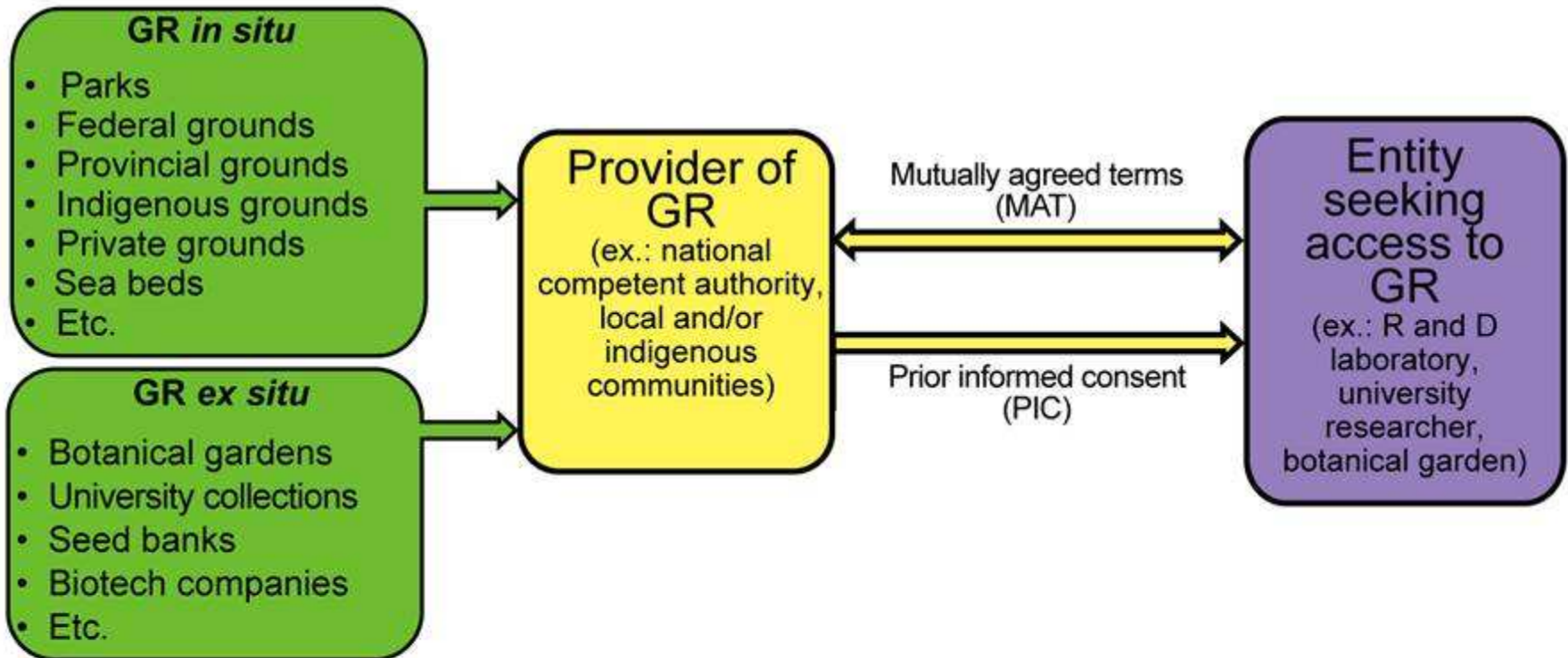
Why a Protocol?

Legal certainty through a transparent framework on ABS:

- **For providers:** to ensure benefit-sharing once genetic resources leave the provider country
 - To prevent misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- **For users:** to provide for clear procedures for access to genetic resources



ABS - The Major Steps 1) **Access** to GR



GR : Genetic resources

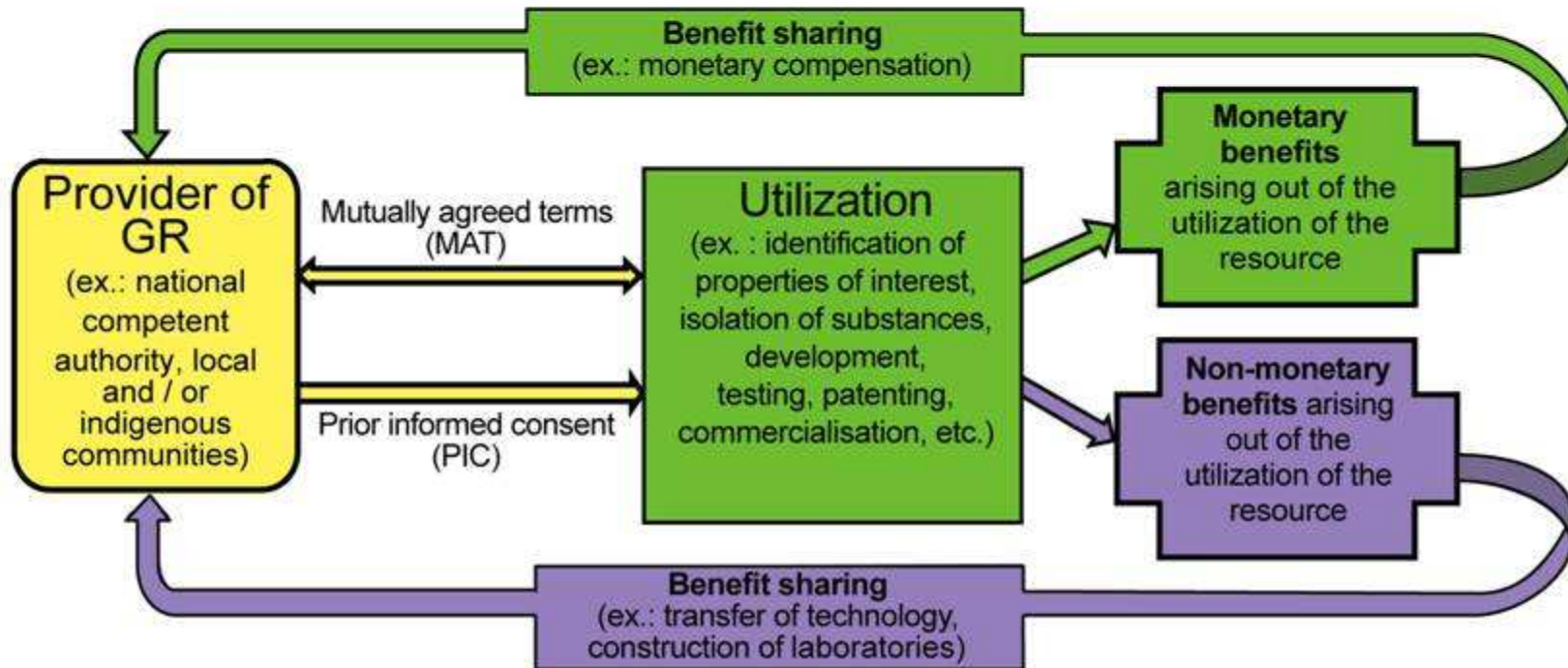


United Nations Decade on Biodiversity



ABS - The Major Steps

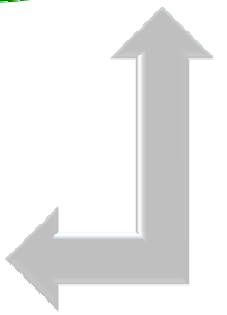
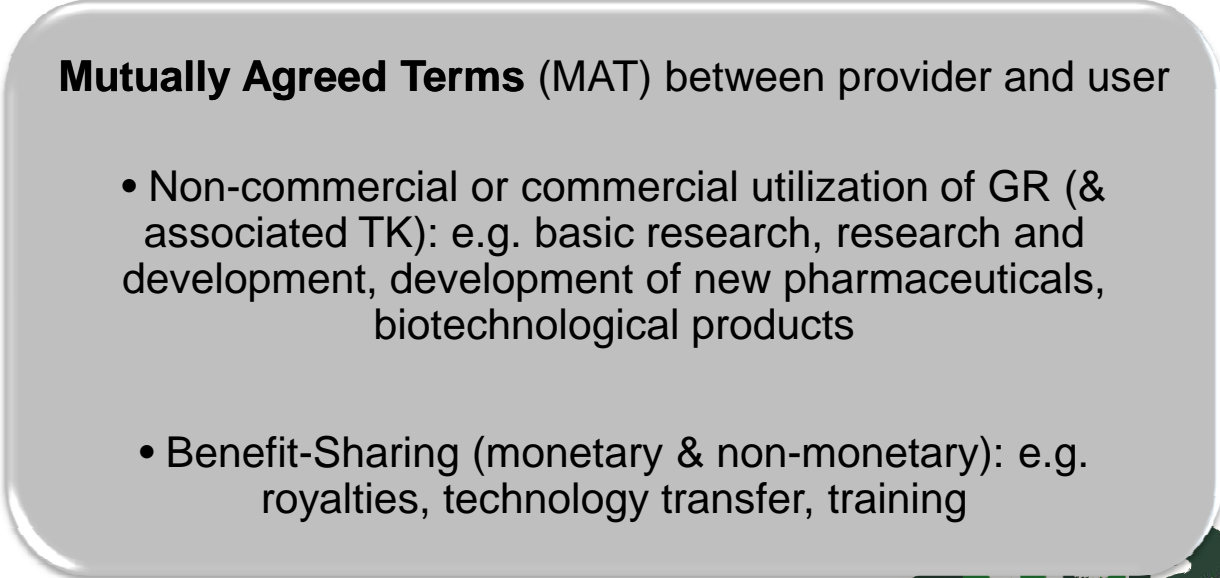
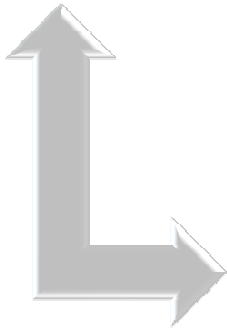
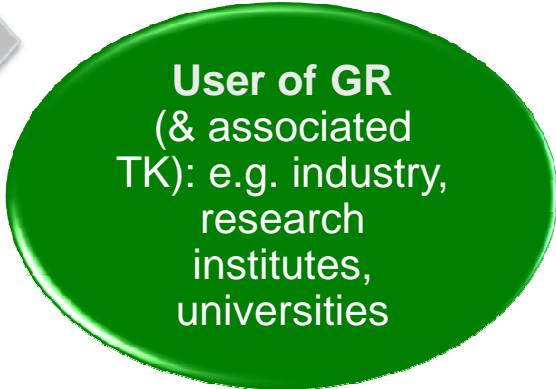
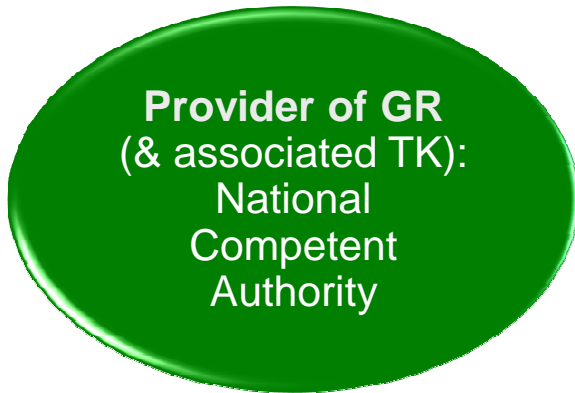
2) The **Sharing** of benefits arising out of the utilization of GR



GR: Genetic resources



Uses of Genetic Resources: ABS in practice





Thank you for your attention!

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800

Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel: +1 514 288 2220

Fax: + 1 514 288 6588

Email: secretariat@cbd.int

www.cbd.int



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ABS:

www.cbd.int/abs