The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House

Chris Lyal
http://absch.cbd.int

Participate in the testing of the **pilot phase** of the ABS-CH

Login and start publishing records and providing feedback on how we can improve it.

Sign in

Forgot password?

registered email address

password

Sign in  Forgot password?

No account?

Get started.
Create your ABS-CH account.

Sign up

What is the ABS-CH?

The ABS-CH is a platform for exchanging information on ABS and a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by enhancing transparency on procedures for access and on the utilization of genetic resources, and in this way increasing the opportunities for benefit-sharing.

Participate.

The value of the ABS-CH lies in the information published by Parties and others. For the ABS-CH to become an important tool for implementing the Protocol and enhancing transparency, certainty and clarity on access and benefit-sharing, information published by Parties and others needs to be comprehensive and reliable.

Development of the pilot phase

The ABS-CH is currently in its pilot phase and needs your participation and feedback so that it can be fully operational by the time of entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.

Follow our development [blog here]
The ABSCH – what is it for?

- Information resource for materials provided by non-Government sources
  - Information relevant to ABS
- An information resource for materials provided by Governments (‘National Records’)
  - Information on Legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS
  - Information on National Websites and Databases
  - Internationally-Recognised Certificates of Compliance
  - Information on Government contacts
    - National Focal Points
    - Competent National Authorities
    - Checkpoints
- A communication tool for Governments
  - Checkpoint Communiqués
Who can use it?

- Anyone can search its contents
- Anything placed on the ABSCH is openly published and visible to everyone
- Any registered user can submit a ‘Virtual Library Record’
  - CBD Secretariat will review for appropriateness and publish
- Only Government appointees can submit a National Record
  - All national submissions have to be approved by a single National Publishing Authority
Creating a Virtual Library Record

- Any registered user can submit a ‘Virtual Library Record’
- These will be very broad in their scope, although can be grouped according to type
- To submit:
  - Create a CBD Account and sign in
  - Select “Reference Records” – “Virtual Library record” and a form allowing addition of a resource is presented
  - Once completed it can be saved and submitted for publication
Register Information

Requests
Your pending requests 3
Your completed requests 3

National Entities
CNA
Competent National Authority

CP
Checkpoint

National Records
MSR
Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing

IRCC
Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance

CPC
Information for the Checkpoint Communiqué

NDB
ABS National Website or Database

Reference Records
VLRL
Virtual Library Record

VLR Virtual Library Record

General information
Title *

Author(s) *
Name of the person who has authored the publication or information resource.

Author’s contact information

Publication year *

Organization(s) involved in the publication of this resource

Add a reference

Cover image(s)
Search Information

Keyword

National Records
- Legislative, administrative or policy measures
- National Focal Points
- Competent National Authorities
- National Websites and Databases
- Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance
- Checkpoints
- Checkpoint Communiqués

Reference Records
- Virtual Library Records
- Meetings & Meeting Outcomes
- Notifications
- Press Releases
- Statements

Virtual Library Resource

Report from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft "Supplementary instructions for funding proposals concerning research projects within the scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity"


REPORT / REVIEW / FACT SHEET / NOTES | GERMANY, EUROPE - ALL COUNTRIES

Virtual Library Resource


Legislative background impact on medicinal products of herbal origin Particularities of medicinal products of herbal origin Application of the provisions of the Commission proposal for a Regulation on Access to Genetic Resources on the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union on medicinal products of herbal origin Article 4 Obligations of users vs. existing standards Conclusion

MANUAL / TUTORIAL / FAQ / DICTIONARY | EUROPE - ALL COUNTRIES

Virtual Library Resource

European Culture Collections' Organisation core Material Transfer Agreement for the supply of samples of biological material from the public collection

This agreement relates to the use, handling, distribution and any disposition of the material supplied by the collection, and addresses the identified key points: - traceability - fair and equitable benefit sharing - intellectual property rights - quality - safety and security

MANUAL / TUTORIAL / FAQ / DICTIONARY | EUROPE - ALL COUNTRIES

Virtual Library Resource

Proposal for a Best Practice Guide of the European Herbal Industry in the framework of the implementation of the Nagoya protocol

Legislative background impact on medicinal products of herbal origin Particularities of medicinal products of herbal origin Application of the provisions of the Commission proposal for a Regulation on Access to Genetic Resources on the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union on medicinal products of herbal origin Article 4 Obligations of users vs. existing standards Conclusion

MANUAL / TUTORIAL / FAQ / DICTIONARY | EUROPE - ALL COUNTRIES
**Virtual Library Record**

**Title:**
European Culture Collections' Organisation core Material Transfer Agreement for the supply of samples of biological material from the public collection

**Summary:**
This agreement allays the use, handling, distribution and any disposition of the material supplied by the collection, and addresses the identified key points:
- traceability
- fair and equitable benefit sharing
- intellectual property rights
- quality
- safety and security

**Link to the Resource(s):**
- ECCO_core-MTA_V1_Febr09.pdf
- ECCO core Material Transfer Agreement (http://www.eccosite.org/docs/ECCO_core-MTA_V1_Febr09.pdf)

**How to Obtain the Resource:**
ECCO Secretary
Dr. Marijke Hendrickx

BCCM/IHEM Fungal Collection
Mycology & Aerobiology
Scientific Institute of Public Health
Juliette Wytsmansstraat 14
B-1050 Brussels
BELGIUM

Tel +32-2 642 55 09
Fax +32-2 642 55 41
Email marijke.hendrickx@wiv-isp.be
National Records

- National Records created and edited in private workspace visible only to National Authorized Users
  - Legislative, administrative or policy measures
  - National Websites and Databases
  - Permit or its equivalent constituting an Internationally-recognized Certificate of Compliance
  - Checkpoint Communiqué
  - Government contacts (Competent National Authorities; Checkpoints)

- Behaviour similar to Virtual Library Records, although published Nationally
- Countries can publish what they want, and documents can be in any language.
How is ABSCH of use during access of GR *IN Situ*?

1. **Prior to access**
   - User employs Search Information facility to identify the Competent National Authority to contact for permit information and issuance
   - User employs Search Information facility to locate national legislation or policy measures on ABS

2. **After Access**
   - Competent National Authority published permit or its equivalent, which becomes an *Internationally Recognised Certificate of Compliance*
     - This may not include all the information on the permit / MAT
       - Some may be agreed to be confidential
       - The CNA may not have the capacity (time) to enter all the information if it is not needed
Arranging to collect samples in providing countries: PIC, MAT and the Internationally-Recognised Certificate of Compliance

User checks Country Records on ABSCH

Finds relevant legislation or other resources

Finds National Competent Authority

User works with CNA (and local counterparts) to determine requirements

Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT)

Permit

User Accesses GR

CNA submits permit or equivalent to ABSCH and generates Internationally-Recognised Certificate of Compliance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Field type</th>
<th>Mandatory</th>
<th>Confidentiality possible?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuing Authority</td>
<td>Selection</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference number of permit or its equivalent.</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional national references or identifiers field (national identifiers).</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of issuance of permit or its equivalent.</td>
<td>calendar</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of expiry of permit or its equivalent.</td>
<td>calendar</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The provider.</td>
<td>Contact details</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation that PIC was obtained or granted.</td>
<td>Must be ‘yes’</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional information about PIC</td>
<td>Free text. Can attach document.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person or entity to whom PIC was granted.</td>
<td>In CNA database.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation that MAT were established.</td>
<td>Must be ‘yes’</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional information about the MAT.</td>
<td>upload / link to document</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject-matter or GR covered by permit</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen data.</td>
<td>Link to specimen record</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxonomy</td>
<td>Link to GBIF, CoL etc</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic coordinates of access</td>
<td>Geojson file</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords to describe the subject-matter or GR.</td>
<td>drop-down box</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does permit cover commercial and/or non-commercial use.</td>
<td>Menu</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional information about the specified uses covered by permit or use restrictions.</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for third party transfer.</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of permit or equivalent, or other relevant open-access document.</td>
<td>upload / link to document</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compliance and Checkpoints

- Each country will identify methods of monitoring compliance by users within its jurisdiction
  - E.g. when GR ‘utilized’ or submitted to the market
- This may involve one or more ‘Checkpoints’ who will collect appropriate information
- Once Checkpoint has information it will notify Providing Country through ‘Checkpoint Communique’
- This does not replace any communication required between the user and the Providing Country
Compliance and Checkpoints

- **Notification of use to Checkpoint required**
- GR Utilizations falls under Nagoya Protocol
  - Yes: Checkpoint has no role
  - No: IRCC issued and user has number
- User provides Checkpoint with IRCC number
  - Yes: User provides Checkpoint with information on the Utilization of the GR
    - No: User has PIC and MAT
      - Yes: Checkpoint generates Checkpoint Communiqué
      - No: Compliance managed under national legislation
  - No: User provides Checkpoint with: 1. Source of GR (Country) 2. Subject-matter of GR (name, collection, GUID etc)
The Checkpoint Communiqué

• When the Checkpoint publishes information on the ABSCH about utilization:
• Information required includes a similar set to that required for the IRCC
• User will have to supply the Mandatory information
• This will be needed in a minimum data set retained with samples
• The information includes optional links to specimen record, name etc
  – This could include the GUID if a suitable model is developed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Field type</th>
<th>Mandatory?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference number(s) of IRCC</td>
<td>lookup</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of the genetic resource.</td>
<td>Select country</td>
<td>Y if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject-matter or genetic resources relevant to the information collected or received.</td>
<td>free-text</td>
<td>Y if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen data.</td>
<td>Link to voucher</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxonomy.</td>
<td>Link to GBIF, CoL etc</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic coordinates.</td>
<td>Geojson file</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference or evidence of PIC.</td>
<td>free text</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority responsible for granting prior informed consent (PIC)</td>
<td>Select a reference</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person or entity to whom PIC was granted.</td>
<td>Enter details</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference or evidence of establishment of MAT.</td>
<td>free text</td>
<td>N if no IRCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on the utilization of the GR</td>
<td>free text</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person or entity utilizing the GR.</td>
<td>Enter details</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date information started being collected.</td>
<td>Date field</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date information was received.</td>
<td>Date field</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upload a copy of relevant document.</td>
<td>Link to URL or upload</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Checkpoint Communiqué

• The Current format does not require (as mandatory) all the information necessary to identify the original permit if there is no IRCC!
  – i.e. does not require the name of the original permit recipient, or the permit number!
• However, notification that an unknown GR accessed at an unknown time by an unknown person is being utilized may not be sufficient for the providing country ....
• Who may ask for more precise information, which users will need to retain.
The Checkpoint Communiqué

The EU Regulation requires users to keep information and relevant documents on:

(i) the date and place of access of genetic resources or of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;

(ii) the description of the genetic resources or of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources utilised;

(iii) the source from which the genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources were directly obtained, as well as subsequent users of genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;

(iv) the presence or absence of rights and obligations relating to access and benefit-sharing including rights and obligations regarding subsequent applications and commercialisation;

(v) access permits, where applicable;

(vi) mutually agreed terms, including benefit-sharing arrangements, where applicable.
What the ABSCH does and does not do

• It does provide links to valuable information
• It does enable legal surety to be associated with GR
• It does facilitate communication on Compliance
• It does allow any user to provide relevant information

Although
• It does not support all likely workflows
• It does not provide a communication tool for users within a country
• It does not provide a ‘guide to obtaining PIC’

• It is still in development, and even though it should be operational next month, there will inevitably be changes
Current situation

- Full functionality still being developed
- Pilot Phase has been under way since March
  - Countries trying to understand functionality and workflows
  - Opportunity to consider how to incorporate it in sectorial workflows
- Also opportunity to develop and publicize Codes of Conduct, Standard Clauses etc
Questions?