

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

[Indicator 15.6.1: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits](#)

Institutional information

Organization(s):

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

The indicator is defined as the number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010).

The Protocol covers genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as well as the benefits arising from their utilization by setting out core obligations for its contracting Parties to take measures in relation to access, benefit-sharing and compliance.

The Protocol provides greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It helps to ensure benefit-sharing, in particular when genetic resources leave the country providing the genetic resources, and it establishes more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

By enhancing legal certainty and promoting benefit-sharing, the Nagoya Protocol encourages the advancement of research on genetic resources which could lead to new discoveries for the benefit of all. The Nagoya Protocol also creates incentives to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources, and thereby enhances the contribution of biodiversity to development and human well-being.

In addition, Parties to the Protocol are to encourage users and providers to direct benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources towards the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

Rationale:

The Nagoya Protocol, to be operational, requires that certain enabling conditions are met at the national level for its effective implementation. In particular, countries will need, depending on their specific circumstances, to revise legislative, administrative or policy measures already in place or develop new measures in order to meet the obligations set out under the Protocol.

In particular, the Nagoya Protocol provides that Parties are to take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including for genetic resources that are held by indigenous communities, and benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. The ABS Clearing-House is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by Article 14 of the Protocol, The ABS Clearing-House is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain. The Protocol requires Parties to make information on legislative, administrative and policy measures available to the ABS Clearing-House. Non-Parties are also encouraged to make this information available in the same manner. The goal is to allow users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to easily find information on the ABS Clearing-House on how to access these resources and knowledge in an organized manner, and all in one convenient location.

Indicator 15.6.1 directly measures progress made by countries in establishing legislative, administrative or policy frameworks on access and benefit-sharing (ABS). By developing their ABS frameworks, countries are contributing to the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 and to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic diversity. Progress in this indicator is assessed through measuring the increase in the number of countries that have adopted ABS legislative, administrative and policy measures and that have made available this information in the ABS Clearing-House.

Comments and limitations:

This indicator can be used to measure progress in adopting ABS legislative, administrative and policy frameworks over time.

This indicator does not assess the scope or effectiveness of ABS legislative, administrative and policy frameworks.

The notion of framework suggests that there is a complete set of rules established on access and benefit-sharing. However, it is difficult to have a predefined idea of what constitutes an ABS framework. In the context of this indicator, the publication by a country of one or more ABS legislative, administrative and policy measure in the ABS Clearing-House would be considered progress by that country on having an ABS legislative, administrative and policy framework.

Methodology

Computation Method:

Summation of information made available by each Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity related to:

- ABS legislative, administrative or policy measures made available to the ABS Clearing-House (y/n);

Disaggregation:

Data are provided by countries (or regional integration entities), and can be displayed by country, regional group, membership to a specific regional organization, and/or by their status as Parties or non-Parties to the Protocol.

Treatment of missing values:

- [At country level](#)
NA
- [At regional and global levels](#)
NA

Regional aggregates:

NA

Sources of discrepancies:

Reliability of the indicator is dependent on countries making information available to the ABS Clearing-House on ABS legislative, administrative or policy measures.

In addition to the information made available by countries to the ABS Clearing-House, the CBD Secretariat collects information from other sources: national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, national reports submitted under the CBD, the interim national reports on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (due in 2017) and official communications to the SCBD (responses to notifications, email communications, etc.). The information collected from these sources inform the Secretariat's inputs to other processes under the Protocol, in particular the consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) of national reports (Article 29) and assessment and review (Article 31). The resulting information on the number of countries with ABS legislative, administrative or and policy measures may differ from the number of countries that have made available this information in the ABS Clearing-House.

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

Please see Work Plans and Methodological Development for Tier III SDG Indicators submitted on 31 October 2016.

Please refer to reporting requirements under the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on PGRFA respectively.

Quality assurance

Please refer to reporting requirements under the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on PGRFA respectively.

Capacity building activities and guidance provided to Parties to the respective instruments.

Data Sources

Description:

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House home page: <http://absch.cbd.int>.

Collection process:

NA

Data Availability

Description:

For 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Availability of data is dependent on countries making the information on ABS legislative, administrative or and policy measures available to the ABS Clearing-House.

Calendar

Data collection:

Ongoing

Data release:

First data set can be made available by the SCBD in 2016

Data providers

Publishing authorities for the ABS Clearing-House as designated by the CBD national focal points or the ABS focal points.

Data compilers

CBD Secretariat

References

Text of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

<https://www.cbd.int/abs/text/default.shtml>

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House: <http://absch.cbd.int>

Related indicators

An indicator on numbers of permits and numbers of Material Transfer Agreements issued would provide complementary information.