



MGR: Capacity Building & Technology Transfer

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ABS Capacity Building: CBD “Action Plan”

Key Elements

- **National Level**
 - Inventory of GRs
 - Assessment of existing capacity
 - Strengthen institutional, Administrative, Financial and technical Capacities
 - Mechanisms for monitoring and Compliance
 - Information mechanisms
- **International Level**
 - Clearing-House Mechanism (Capacity-building database)
 - Enhanced effectiveness/adequacy/coordination of financial resources
 - Use of roster of experts
 - Enhanced capacity-building synergies of international organisms

Marine Genetic Research: Current Bioprospecting Context

- Marine research funding and activities originating in both developed and developing countries
- Deep seabed research largely domain of select developed country collaborators
- Range of public and private international research collaborations have low participation rates from developing countries
- High engagement of National Marine Institutes
- Voluntary efforts at international scientific co-operation inc. to protect ecosystems (e.g. hydro-vents and InterRidge)
- Limited number of Marine ABS Contracts (e.g. Commonwealth of Australia and J. Craig Venter Institute)
- Technological Opportunities/Constraints – New deep sea technologies are both enabling but they are expensive and few countries have access to these technologies
- Institutional Framework: BBNJ bioprospecting poorly understood and governance structures under debate

Marine Research: Unique Need for International Co-operation/Capacity-building

- Potential wealth of GRs have benefits for all
- Significant international research effort necessary (ecosystems, taxonomy, genomics)
....lending itself to international collaborations
- Technological barriers (e.g. ROVs) require collaboration including international (both developed and developing countries)
- Indigenous and local coastal communities have capacity needs and have capacity and knowledge, approaches, experience to transfer

Marine Genetic Resources: Capacity-building Opportunities

- Knowledge: Global Inventory of Marine GRs (Taxonomy/Genomics)
- Networks: Information mechanisms (capacity-building database)
- Financial:
 - Need to ear-mark funds for cooperative marine genetic resource research and capacity building
 - Based on assessment of effectiveness/adequacy/coordination of current financial resources
- Institutional:
 - Strengthen institutional, administrative and technical capacities
 - Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance with new national/regional regulations and policies
- Human Resources
 - Need to develop ABS/GR expertise (e.g. marine taxonomists)

Marine Genetic Resource: Technology Transfer Opportunities

- Enhance awareness of ABS amongst marine science research community
- Ensure international governance structures adequate and appropriate for MGR exploration and use
- Improve developing country participation in international marine collaborations
- Identify sources for new funding for MGR capacity-building

