German Nagoya Protocol HuB

REPORT

7th Meeting of the German Nagoya Protocol HuB Network (7. GNP HuB Stammtisch)

30.Juni 2022, 2:00-4:00 pm (online meeting)

On June 30, 2022 the seventh regular online meeting of the GNP HuB network, the "Stammtisch", took place. This time the topic was Information Technology (IT) solutions for ABS and Compliance.

Welcome and project update

The meeting was moderated by Elizabeth Karger. The topic of this regulars' table was very much in demand.

Brief overview of the project's progress:

- Melania Muñoz is now collaborating with the GNP HuB project.
- There will be a small planning meeting on July 18 and 19.
- The section "Who is in charge at my institution?" is being expanded.
- If you are not listed yet, feel free to contact the HuB team and also send your logos for implementation on the website.

Impulse presentations on user checks

User checks – what to expect, how to prepare? – Documenting due diligence
Ellen Frederichs, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN)

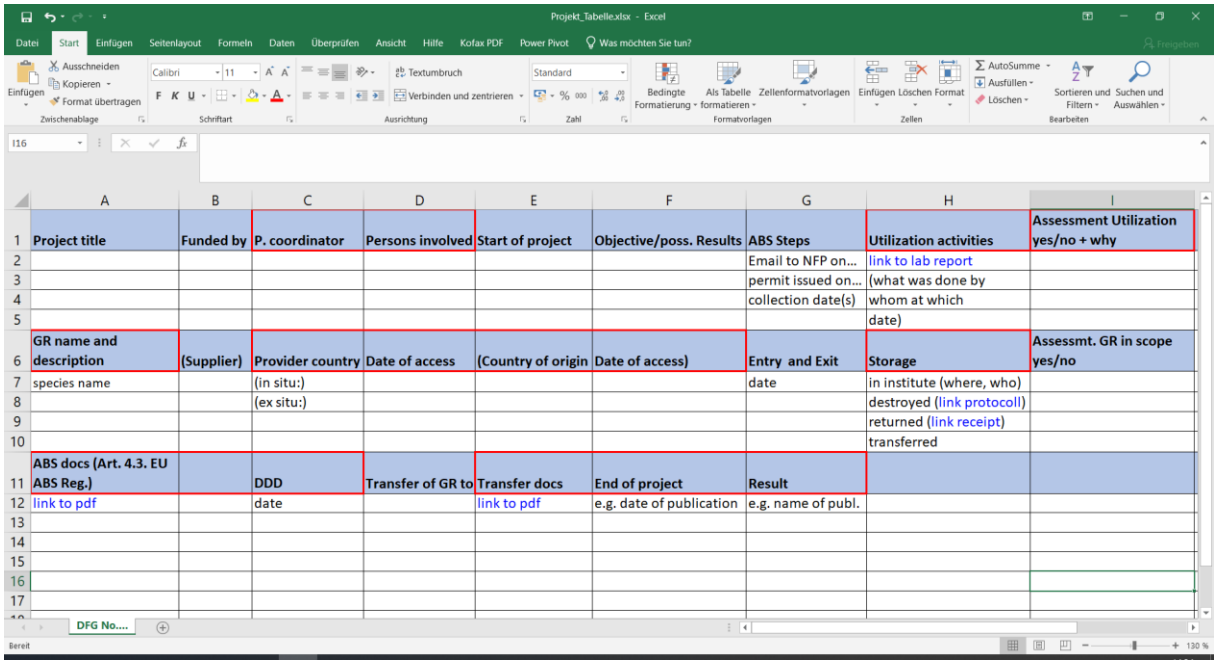
To be prepared for user checks it is necessary to understand if the material and research are under the scope of the Nagoya Protocol and the UE Regulation and then to document and prove compliance. These are the contents that you will be asked about during user inspections:

- Whether genetic resources have been obtained and when.
- Whether research falls within the EU ABS regulations (research on genetic or biochemical composition of the materials).
- Countries from which you have obtained genetic resources.
- Relevant documents related to access permits: International Recognized Certification of Compliance (IRCC) or Previously Informed Concern (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT).
- Due Diligence measures.

It is important to document all details about the research project: material (kind, origin/suppliers, dates, storing), methodology, responsible researchers, permits from the country where the material

was obtained and documentation about due diligence. It is necessary to keep this information for 20 years after the research finishes.

An example on how to systematize the documentation required for user checks was shown as an Excel table (see figure 1).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	**Project title**	**Funded by**	**P. coordinator**	**Persons involved**	**Start of project**	**Objective/poss. Results**	**ABS Steps**	**Utilization activities**	**Assessment Utilization yes/no + why**
2							Email to NFP on...	link to lab report	
3							permit issued on...	(what was done by	
4							collection date(s)	whom at which	
5								date)	
6	**GR name and description**	**(Supplier)**	**Provider country**	**Date of access**	**(Country of origin**	**Date of access)**	**Entry and Exit**	**Storage**	**Assessmt. GR in scope yes/no**
7	species name		(in situ:)				date	in institute (where, who)	
8			(ex situ:)					destroyed (link protocoll)	
9								returned (link receipt)	
10								transferred	
11	**ABS docs (Art. 4.3. EU ABS Reg.)**		**DDD**	**Transfer of GR to**	**Transfer docs**	**End of project**	**Result**		
12	link to pdf		date		link to pdf	e.g. date of publication	e.g. name of publ.		
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									

Figure 1: documentation sample. Source: BfN.

Discussion: Setting up IT systems for ABS and compliance.

One of the participants shared that a university is starting to set up an IT system. This kind of system is needed to systematize which genetic resources are being used and the associated documents. It was pointed out that this is a big and complex task if you develop it manually. Instead, there should be a database where all documentation is collected in one place. Thus, there would be standardized documentation that is anchored to the university system, where each department would be linked individually. A key aspect is the documents, with all the necessary information, could be uploaded in the system, including lab protocols and emails, and those entries can be easily found using a search tool.

Panel discussion on challenges and solutions

Jan Dierking and Felix Mittermayer, GEOMAR Kiel; China Williams, Kew Gardens; Catherine McCarthy,

DSMZ Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH · DNFS Deutsche naturwissenschaftliche Forschungssammlungen · VBIO Verbund Biologie, Biowissenschaften & Biomedizin in Deutschland · Leibniz Biodiversität · BfN Bundesamt für Naturschutz · Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit

Wellcome Sanger Institute.

Jan Dierking points out they identified an issue at GEOMAR: each scientist manages its own documentation and there is no uniform system. The development of such a system is the next step. It must be able to directly transform emails into pdf files as well as send reminders automatically. At the moment, Jan Dierking is the contact person for questions related to access and benefit-sharing (ABS), which has the advantage that one person has all contacts. However, the establishment of an ABS officer position is not common at every institution.

China Williams explained the context at Kew Gardens. Several different collections are conserved there and new materials are collected annually through fieldwork, for which she is in charge to obtain the necessary agreements. Digitizing these collections is a challenge. Some of the herbarium has already been digitized, but it will be some time before this goal is achieved. A new system to systematize benefit-sharing was also mentioned.

Catherine McCarthy recognizes many parallels with the Wellcome Sanger Institute. There, personnel training has raised awareness and it has helped to minimize risks.

During the questions and answers session there was an intense discussion about the level at which the implementation of an IT system for ABS should take place. Furthermore, the tasks of a compliance officer were discussed. It was pointed out that the implementation of IT systems cannot be the task of the compliance officer, it must be at the institutional level. Also, the level of participation and responsibility of individual researchers in the ABS processes was discussed.

As a conclusion, development of IT systems for ABS would facilitate compliance and processes for users checks at research institutions as well as the work of the compliance officers.