

2. Define your needs and make your research possible

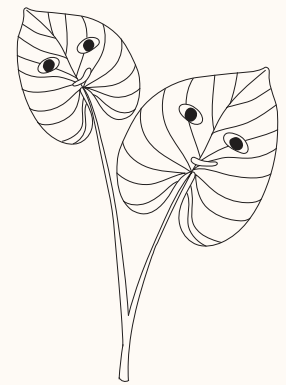
Researchers' needs vary, depending on the type of research, the cooperation partners and the material used.

Think about all the things that are **essential** to making your research a reality - this will help you to **define your red line** and what needs to be in your ABS permit and benefit-sharing agreement.

The material will be:

- collected in the field.
- obtained from an ex-situ source, e.g. collection, collaborator, commercial source.
- Associated traditional knowledge will be used as part of the research.
- The material will be exported to AND used for research in Germany.
- Some of the research will take place in the provider country.
- There will be collaboration partners in the project.
- The material will be shared with some/all of my collaborations partners.

Define your needs before you start with the ABS process or any negotiations!



Even if species are not known when you obtain the material, e.g. there are microorganisms on or in the sample, all organisms of potential interest should be covered by the ABS permit and benefit-sharing agreement.



Make sure you obtain legal "access to the genetic resource" (and associated traditional knowledge if relevant). You don't just want to obtain/export a sample - you need to be able to conduct research on its genetic and/or biochemical composition.



The legal rights and obligations of all actors (your institution, collaborators, provider etc.) must be clear, including if something changes in future.



Check that you can share the material with everyone who needs it AND that these collaborators can also do their research as planned.

The material will be sequenced.

Sequence data:

- will be shared with others, e.g. collaboration partners.
- will be published in publicly accessible databases.

Results will be published in an academic journal.

Part/all of the results will be confidential.

When the research is finished, the material will be:

- destroyed
- used up
- returned to the provider
- stored
- used as reference material
- deposited (see below)
- used for further research (see section 4)

Material deposited in a collection must be available without restriction to other researchers for non-commercial research.

Intellectual property rights will be obtained over outputs of the research.

Has this checklist covered everything you need to do in your research project?



Are you permitted to do the type of sequencing you want to do, e.g. whole genome sequencing? Some countries impose restrictions on certain types of sequencing.



Check whether there are any restrictions on data sharing.



Check that you can publish your results and data without needing additional approval. The country where the material originally came from should be acknowledged when data are published in public databases or results are published in a journal.



Are there any restrictions on the distribution and/or third party use of deposited material, e.g. a permit is required first? Such restrictions may make it difficult to deposit your material in a collection.

By defining your red line in advance, you can avoid your ABS permit and benefit-sharing agreement making essential aspects of your work impossible.