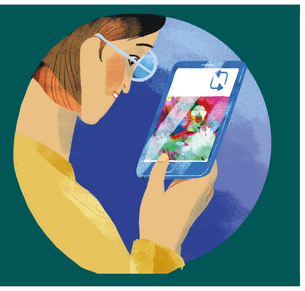
Navigating the Nagoya Protocol: A Learning Portal for Researchers

Jill Petraglia Parsons[1], Chelsea Fowler[2]

[1]Ecological Society of America, [2]Ecological Society of America and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

jill@esa.org, cfowler4@umd.edu



This poster is INTERACTIVE! Use the bookmarks bar to navigate through the poster and click on the buttons, pictures, and hyperlinks, to visit pages on learnnagoya.com

Abstract

This poster will highlight current resources available to support researchers who need to comply with Nagoya Protocol requirements in different countries, focusing on the Nagoya Protocol Learning Portal: learnnagoya.com. We will highlight the results of community discussions and planning, focusing on helpful guides and templates, example use cases, and a list of curated literature and additional resources. We invite you to join this learning community and connect with other scientists to share resources, experiences, and learn about opportunities to engage in wide-ranging discussions about the Nagoya Protocol. We hope that highlighting the results of these outreach efforts will increase awareness and enhance conversations about access, benefit-sharing, and productive international collaborations in the Ecological Society of America (ESA) community.

Introduction

'The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization' is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Protocol was adopted in 2010 and came into force in 2014. Its primary purpose is to promote the fair sharing of benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with those resources. The Protocol's legal framework aims to create transparency and generate incentives to conserve and use genetic resources sustainably.

The United States is not a party to the Nagoya Protocol, but many other countries have ratified it and are implementing regulations to enforce compliance. Any scientist conducting research involving genetic material or traditional knowledge in other countries must be aware of these regulations and the steps they must take to comply. ESA is participating in a multi-society outreach effort to help researchers effectively navigate the Protocol's legal requirements when planning and conducting international research. One outcome of this effort is the Nagoya Protocol Learning Portal.

Digital Sequence Information

The Nagoya Protocol defines a genetic resource as "any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity" of actual or potential value and to the benefits arising from their utilization. The protocol encompasses traditional knowledge about genetic resources, but it does not currently include digital sequence information, or DSI. The debate on whether to include DSI under Nagoya has recently become more prominent. This is a complicated debate with many points of view related to data access and use, benefit-sharing, monitoring and enforcement, technological feasibility, and the CBD's overarching goals to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable use. This blog covers some more information and points to additional resources on Nagoya and DSI. Ensuring scientists are aware of this debate and opportunities to contribute their opinions and expertise has been an important topic in recent USA Nagoya Protocol Action Group (USANPAG) meetings.

Join USANPAG | Submit a Use Case | Stay Up-To-Date | Ask a Question

Website Development

The Nagoya Protocol has a significant impact on the research community, yet many previously existing resources are discipline-specific, hard to navigate, and may contain outdated information. Users, such as researchers and collections managers, are often unsure of the exact steps they need to take to ensure compliance with access and benefit-sharing best practices. The website development team conducted stakeholder and targeted user interviews with students, professors, curators, industry scientists, and taxonomists with different levels of experience with the Nagoya Protocol to determine their needs and what they would want from a learning portal. Through this process we identified four goals:

- Provide curated, up-to-date resources for those working to comply with the Nagoya Protocol in their scientific research,
- Alleviate false knowledge and rumors surrounding the protocol,
- Create a community that helps one another further understand and follow the protocol, and
- Introduce Nagoya Protocol compliance earlier in the research workflow.

Access and Benefit Sharing

Nagoya provides a legal framework for equally sharing the access and benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources. Details such as Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), and Mutual Transfer Agreements (MTAs) help organize the way the provider community and the researcher will interact. They define the scope of work, access expectations, and how benefits will be shared. PIC ensures researchers communicate the purpose of their work and potential benefits to local authorities. MAT defines the process by which the information, collection, or results are shared and ensures that both parties feel they are receiving the benefits they expect. Researchers are encouraged to consider non-monetary benefits they can share with communities to create meaningful collaborations, foster mutual learning, and celebrate and honor traditional knowledge.

Use cases about collaborative international research

Use cases help researchers learn from their colleagues' experiences conducting international research and navigating Nagoya Protocol requirements. The Nagoya Protocol allows each country that is party to the agreement to develop its own regulations for utilizing genetic resources. These use cases exemplify the process of working and collaborating with international partners in order to satisfy the Nagoya Protocol regulations put into place in that particular country. Some examples provide sample permitting documentation like PIC, MAT and MTAs. The Portal currently has use cases from The Philippines, Senegal, Australia, Malaysia, and Peru. Click on the pictures below to navigate to specific use cases on our website.

Use our interactive map to view all use cases

Working with Farmers in Peru to Catalog Oca Diversity

End of an enigma: Aenigmopteris belongs in Tectaria based on a study conducted in Malaysia

Interviewing farmers about salt tolerance of African rice in Senegal

Long-term Study on the Plant Diversity of the Australian Monsoon Tropics

Fieldwork in the Philippines to assess connectivity and changes in biodiversity over the last century

Curated Resources

In addition to developing guides and use cases for researchers, students, collections managers, and research administrators, the Nagoya Protocol Learning Portal curates and links to a wide variety of resources and tools.

The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House is a platform for exchanging information and a key tool for facilitating the protocol's implementation.

The CBD website has detailed information about the Nagoya Protocol, its history, factsheets, and summaries of key protocol issues and decisions.

The Media page on the website has high-resolution posters and artwork to help the scientific community enhance outreach and communication efforts about the protocol.

An ESA webinar recording is available on "What you need to know about the Nagoya Protocol, access, and benefit-sharing."

The Nagoya Protocol Learning Portal curates a list of additional guides, handbooks, and papers from trusted sources to help the research community:

Resources

Guides

Guides housed on the Learning Portal are meant to help scientists as they consider access and benefit-sharing issues and requirements while planning their research. Guides that are currently in development include: Nagoya terminology, developing a Nagoya-compliant research workflow, drafting PIC, MTA, and MATs, and submitting a use case or story.

Nagoya Guides

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