

BioInnovation Africa



For equitable benefit-sharing that contributes to biodiversity conservation

Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Context

The African continent is a global biodiversity hotspot, home to unique ecosystems, numerous iconic animals and over 60,000 different plants. These ecological resources are in demand around the world, often included as ingredients in food supplements, cosmetics and medicines.

Through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), the indigenous people and local communities from which these popular components originate [providers], have the opportunity to ensure adequate and rightful compensation from business partners utilising these unique resources [users]. In fact, Member State signatories to the UN Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) have pledged to share monetary

Political partners:

- **Cameroon:** Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)
- **Madagascar:** Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)
- **Namibia:** Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)
- **South Africa:** Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Implementation phase: 07/2019 – 06/2022



and non-monetary benefits deriving from the use of these indigenous materials fairly and equitably. Benefit-sharing, whether nationally sanctioned or locally agreed, creates incentives for the sustainable use of environmental assets, ensuring their availability for future generations.

However, the valorisation of biodiversity-based products in Africa has not yet fulfilled its potential and only few long-term business relations under the legally binding Nagoya Protocol on ABS currently exist.

Objectives

BioInnovation Africa, commissioned by the BMZ within the context of the *German Marshall Plan with Africa*, supports the African and European private sector in developing mutually beneficial business partnerships based on high ethical, social and environmental standards, including equitable benefit-sharing and the sustainable use of Africa's genetic resources.



Potential sectors:

Flavor and fragrance

Food supplements

Cosmetics

Biotechnology

Pharmaceuticals

The approach

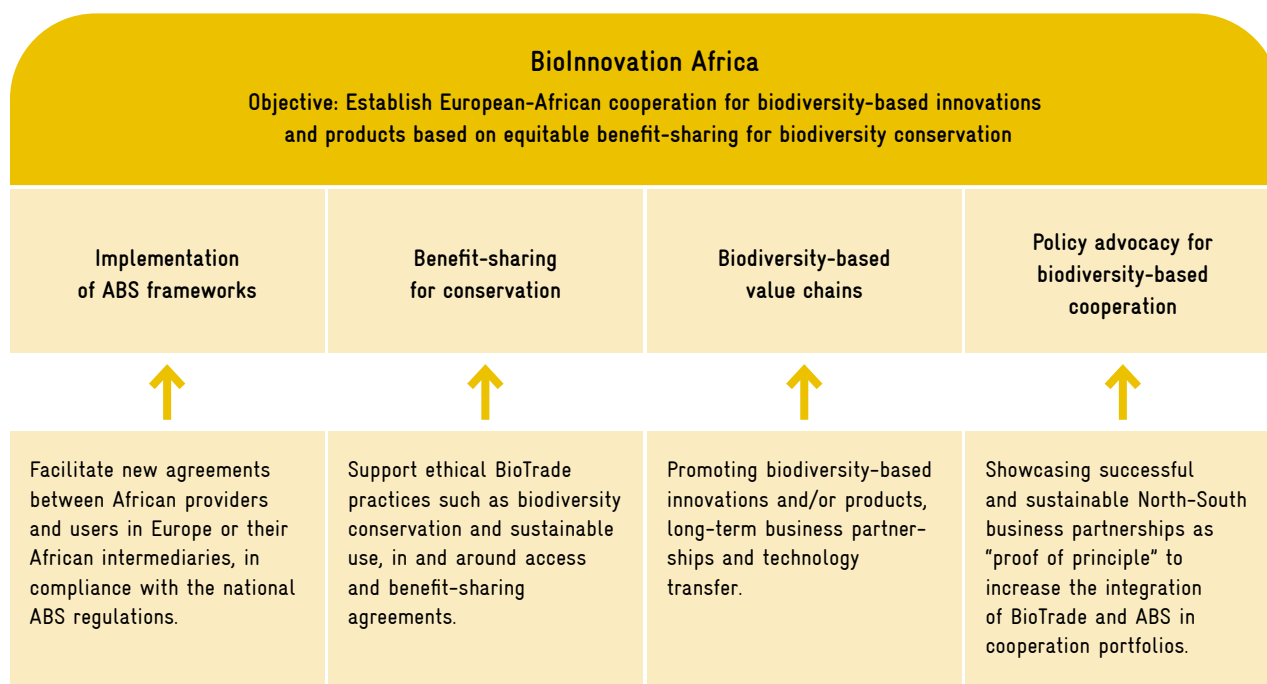
The BioInnovation Africa project strengthens partnerships for biodiversity-based innovations and products alongside environmental conservation. The target provider group are local producers, cooperatives and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia

and South Africa which supply raw biological materials and ingredients to Europe-based companies and research institutions (the target users).

There are four intervention areas (see next page).



Intervention scheme



BioInnovation Africa supports the **implementation of ABS frameworks**, strengthening stakeholder capacities in provider countries through blended learning trainings on ABS contract formulation and negotiation skill development. The project also offers both providers and users general advice on ABS contracts and facilitates the development of IT-based online systems for ABS applications, permitting and monitoring.

ABS agreements can significantly contribute to the sustainable use and protection of ecosystems, as well as to more gender-sensitive conservation measures. As part of **benefit-sharing for conservation** activities, the project mobilises national representatives and local providers to jointly develop country guidelines for benefit-sharing mechanisms and concepts for financing instruments.

In order to encourage **biodiversity-based value chains** and long-term business relations between providers and users, the project facilitates various interchange formats and matchmaking. Likewise, BioInnovation Africa promotes joint ventures and technology transfer to increase local value addition and job creation in provider communities.

As part of **policy advocacy for diversity-based cooperation**, new collaboration agreements will be publicly promoted through trade fairs, round tables, meetings and business associations.





Expected outcomes and impacts

- Conditions for implementing national ABS regulations are improved.
- Biodiversity conservation measures are implemented, knowledge and technology are transferred and new job opportunities are created.
- Market potentials of selected biodiversity-based value chains are utilised to establish long-term European-African business partnerships in line with high ethical standards.
- German development cooperation is visible as close partner.

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