

Guiding Principles and Features of ABS Policies in Canada

The following are proposed principles that can be used to form and to develop the basis of ABS policies. These principles are derived from the practices and practical experiences, both in Canada and other nations, as they have implemented ABS policies:

- Environment-focused - contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Practical and Economically supportive - contribute to sustainable development by establishing clarity around the issue of genetic resource ownership and certainty in the regulatory regime for the purpose of generating and sharing socio-economic benefits amongst users and providers from the utilization of genetic resources;
- Simple, Efficient and Adaptable - allowing for different but coordinated and complementary ABS policies and approaches;
- Supportive of and complementary to governmental legislation and policies - building on and respecting Canada's international commitments;
- Balanced, equitable and transparent – balancing responsibilities between users and providers of genetic resources in a manner that is clear and whose rationale is understood by all concerned;
- Inclusive - developed and implemented with the appropriate involvement of Aboriginal groups, local communities, and stakeholders;
- Respectful of jurisdictional mandates and mindful of the desirability for inter-jurisdictional co-operation in the development of ABS policies.