Using Genetic Resources in Mexico: Provital’s Experience and Recommendations
August 2017, Provital obtained the **first IRCC for a cosmetic ingredients supplier in the world.**

This was achieved in México, a country that was still, at that moment, developing the specific legal framework.

Therefore, Mexico gave the access permit with a transient procedure based on the old legislation.

*How was that possible?*
Provital had been working in a previous project of rural development in México since 2013

Working in collaboration with Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro and “Mujeres y Ambiente”, a group of women of La Carbonera
the process
In 2016 we initiated a new project under Nagoya Protocol scope. Study of traditional Mexican plants for cosmetics.

**PIC & MAT** signed with small farmers involving 3 communities of the area.

**Research** contract signed with Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro to characterize the plants, mapping their local distribution, collecting the traditional knowledge associated to the plants, training the farmers in the crop of the selected plants and helping to get official funds for the crop.
The process

<table>
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<th>Starting the process</th>
<th>June 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application for the <strong>Collecting Permit</strong> filed on</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July 2017</td>
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<td>Permit issued on</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August 2017</td>
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<td>IRCC on Clearing House website</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October 2017</td>
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how was that possible?
how was that possible?

High commitment

of local authorities and National Focal Point, Mrs. Edda Veturia Fernández Luiselli, Directora General Sector Primario y Recursos Naturales Renovables at Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)
how was that possible?

Involvement

of a group of farmers, “Mujeres y Ambiente” (able to attract and convince farmers from 3 communities, El Charape, La Joya, La Carbonera)
how was that possible?

Engagement

Long term collaboration with the communities of a strong working group at the University with already existing projects on the field
how was that possible?

Professionalism

of a local experts team on charge of the project formed by a biologist specialist on ecosystems management and a lawyer specialist on environmental regulations.
how was that possible?

Support

of the UNDP team in México, helping in the development of the project
how was that possible?

Sincere interest

of a company, Provital, that really believes in fair share in business and that had been working in that region with some of these stakeholders since 2013

SINCERE INTEREST
Some ideas for the future

Simplify

Authorities should try to simplify all regulations and all the processes to request the permit (non-commercial phase, on-line procedures...). Avoid legal uncertainties. The risk is losing any option in the future (Brazil)
Some ideas for the future

Value

Public organisms should focus on valuing ABS approach for the companies.

Increase public awareness about the Nagoya Protocol.
Some ideas for the future

Value

It has to be explained to the companies that it is *not a problem but a market opportunity.*

Some markets are more receptive (in cosmetics sustainability is a real trend)

The Nagoya Protocol has the aim of implementing the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
Some ideas for the future

Understanding

Companies should understand the implications of ABS regulations on their structures and processes. Many internal changes are needed.

Authorities and public organisms should understand the market structure.
Some ideas for the future

Partnering

Companies and authorities should understand the importance of an open collaboration with all the involved stakeholders. Companies should understand the need of local teams and partners.
Some ideas for the future

Metrics

Measuring the success and taking actions from these data. It should be mandatory to monitor the real impact on the improvement of the life of the communities. Demographic, social, economic, awareness... indicators (KPIs) of any project