

Global ABS Project

**ABS**

ACHIEVEMENTS  
CHALLENGES &  
OPPORTUNITIES

FINAL  
WORKSHOP

“MAKING ABS  
**WORK**  
#ABSworkforALL  
FOR ALL”



RWANDA

Three large, solid green circles are positioned on the right side of the slide. One is at the top right, one is below it and to the right, and one is at the bottom right.

# COMPONENT 1: ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEVELOPING NATIONAL ABS FRAMEWORKS

# National ABS regime before the project and current status in Rwanda

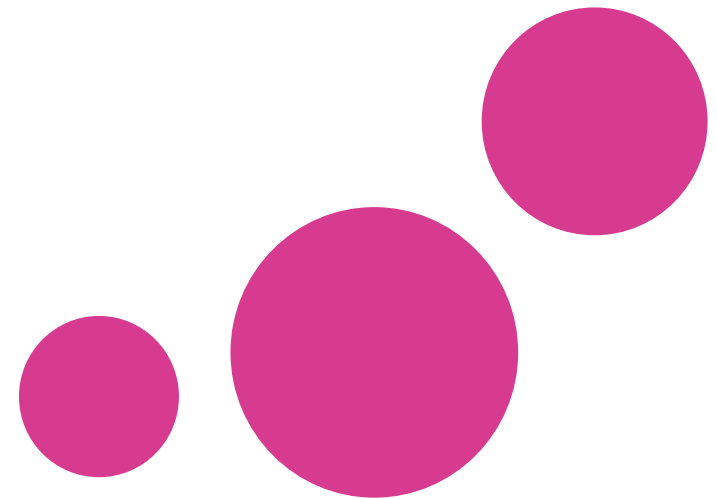
- Before the project, there was no regulation related to ABS nor coordination mechanism
- The project reviewed the national Law on Biodiversity and National Law of wildlife, now the two separate laws were reviewed to include ABS principles and become one combined law to guide the Biodiversity conservation in Rwanda. Now we have:
- The project provided improved the coordination of ABS initiatives and other similar initiative implemented in Rwanda, it provided a clear differentiation between ABS and Bio trade products.
- It raised awareness on ABS by the national scientific, research community as well as private sector.

# National ABS regime before the project and current status

- The project facilitated the following:
  - Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing on Genetic Resources and Atk
  - Methodology of accessing information on aTK
  - Inventory of Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources (aTK) in the country.

A vertical pink line is positioned to the left of the section header.

## **COMPONENT 2: ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN USERS AND PROVIDERS OF GR TOWARDS BIO- DISCOVERY EFFORTS**



# Impact of ABS Project on SDGs and national efforts

- Biodiversity, environment and climate change considerations were fully mainstreamed into policies, strategies, plans and budgets at national and local levels.
- Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) was introduced in Rwanda and is conducted once in two years.
- The budget allocation to biodiversity conservation, environment & natural resources sector and climate change was increased from 2.6% in 2017 to 2.9% in 2019.
- Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) which worked hands in hands with the ABS project.
- In last three years , much progress was made in integrating Biodiversity into national, sectoral and District development plans, budget, strategies and polies.

## Achievements

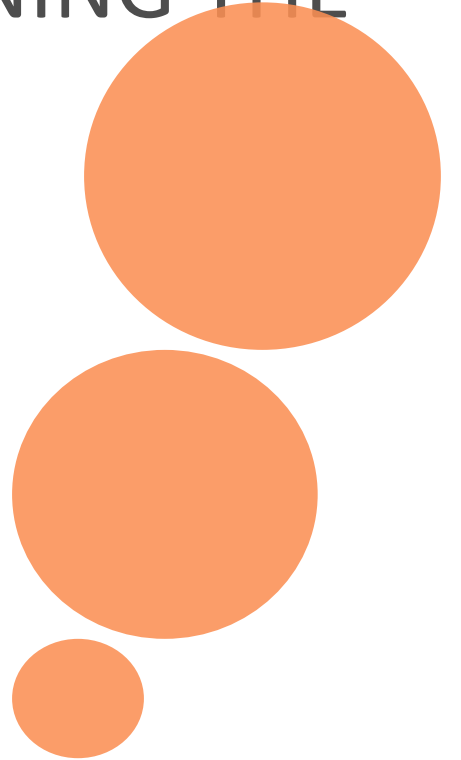
- The two exchange visits have informed the development of GR valorisation strategy
- Developed a Mainstreaming ABS in value chains to increase the local socio-economic impacts
- Developed a Strategy for initiating research and bio discovery partnerships and engaging the private sector in ABS compliant value chains
- The level of awareness among GR users and providers and aTK (government officials, population of researchers, local communities, and relevant industry) improved from insignificant to more than 50%

## Achievements

- Guideline and Toolkit for Access and Benefit Sharing of Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources in Rwanda - information for users, providers and regulatory institutions accessible to general public, readily available online was developed and contributed in Change in knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) among researchers, local communities, and relevant industry that use or benefit from ABS with respect to national ABS frameworks, the CBD, and Nagoya Protocol.
- The project increased capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in ABS in Rwanda. It improved sustainability and ownership of the ABS strategies, it improved the trust between indigenous knowledge from communities, modern laboratories and policy makers. It increased the trust between indigenous knowledge of local communities and policy makers.



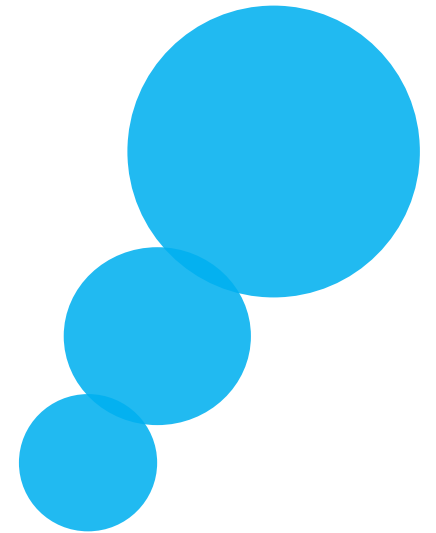
# COMPONENT 3: ACHIEVEMENTS IN STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF IPLCs



# Main achievements

- Rwanda does have Indigenous communities – the project addressed this component with LCs
- LCs were fully & effectively engaged in the process ABS regulations & BCP development
- LCs expect the facilitation by government as far as PICs & MAT negotiations are concerned.
- Two workshops conducted and targeted traditional healers, research institutions & academia, private sector and non governmental organisations involved in biodiversity management and conservation

## COMPONENT 4: ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AND GLOBAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK ON ABS



# Main achievements & suggestions

- We are aware and familiar with online communities of practice though there is a little involvement by LCs who are really more concerned with GR ABS
- Main advantages of the CoP include: Creating a support network for members, Sharing knowledge and building better practice, building capability, Meeting regularly,
- The project produced and shared lessons learned, best practices and challenges faced with other country through South-South cooperation.
- Besides, the project learned from other countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa etc. that Implemented ABS project to expedite its implementation in Rwanda.

# Main achievements & suggestions

- The project's results contributed to the global objective of the ABS project to increase/strengthen the access of community (local and international) to Genetic Resources and promote the Fair and Equitable sharing of Benefits Arising from the utilization of the convention on Biological Diversity.
- Learning from COVID19 impact, Online CoP should be strengthened to facilitate the flow of information on Access and benefit sharing of GR
- Awareness should be raised so that CoPs evolve around a group of core members actively engaged in its activities, such as regular participation in meetings, the inflow of fresh ideas, and support provided to other members on problem solving

# CHALLENGES



- **Generalization:** ABS Global project, being global in the beginning, tended to generalize activities and did not consider countries differences eg, capitalizing the concept around indigenous people, yet, not all countries have IP
- **Financial constraints:** the project had a limited budget enough to start and trigger the engagement of all concerned stakeholders, but no sufficient to implement impactful activities on the ground (eg pilot/demo activity within the community)
- **Limited capacities:** relying on international expertise - given the nature of the project with new concept – was the cause of some delays – most of the time international experts with different concepts from the local realities

# ABS

ACHIEVEMENTS  
CHALLENGES &  
OPPORTUNITIES

FINAL  
WORKSHOP



MURAKOZE - THANK YOU



ABS is genetic resources for sustainable development  
[abs-sustainabledevelopment.net](http://abs-sustainabledevelopment.net)