

## Darwin Fellowship - Interim Report

(Please check guidance for submission deadlines, maximum 3 pages)

Darwin Fellowship Ref No.	EIDPS042:
Name of Darwin Fellow	Pierre du Plessis
UK organisation	Natural History Museum
Fellow's organisation(s)	CRIAA SA-DC (Namibia); African Union Commission
Fellow's role within the organisation	Senior Consultant
Start/end date of Fellowship	01/08/2015 – 31/08/2016
Location	London, Namibia, Africa
Darwin Fellowship grant value (£)	
Type of work (e.g., research, training, if other please specify)	Research
Main contact in UK organisation	Dr Chris Lyal, NHM
Author(s) and date	Pierre du Plessis, 29/02/16

### 1. Background

- Briefly describe your involvement in the Darwin project before the start of your Fellowship.

I had been working informally with NHM and Kew on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol before the Fellowship but there is no wider Darwin project yet. We are still planning to develop a proposal for a fullscale Darwin project to take this work forward after the Fellowship is over.

- Describe aim and objectives of the Fellowship, and programme of work.

The Fellowship aims to develop a detailed typology and marginal cost-benefit analysis of non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS) in ABS so as to improve shared understanding of its potential, with the objectives of identifying those types of NMBS that could make cost-effective contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to propose model contractual clauses for including NMBS in mutually agreed terms.

- Briefly describe the roles of the UK and Fellow's institutions.

NHM and Kew are helping me to identify key informants and sources of information about NMBS. NHM has also made available a work station for me in London. I anticipate that the outcomes of the Fellowship will assist the Namibian NGO that I'm associated with (CRIAA SA-DC Namibia), the Namibian Government, the African Union Commission and the wider ABS community to make better arrangements around NMBS when negotiating ABS partnerships.

### 2. Progress

- Provide a brief account of your work since the start of your Fellowship, showing progress against the programme of work.

I have started gathering examples of NMBS that are known to me and classifying them according to the Annex of the Nagoya Protocol. I prepared a Request for Information and shared that with a few key informants among my ABS contacts, who have in the main reacted positively. I have also reached out to potential sources of additional information. I have had exploratory exchanges of resource economists regarding potential methodologies for comparing costs and benefits incurred in different currencies at different times.

- Provide an account of any problems encountered and how you have or are planning to overcome them.

One problem I have encountered is that there are currently still very few examples of ABS cases *sensu strictu* to draw on for information. To overcome this I have also started collecting examples of NMBS from other/older research collaborations that are not actually ABS cases (because they are not strictly based on PIC and MAT), but could have been such cases had ABS regulations been in place at the time, or would be such cases if they were to be repeated today in a country with ABS measures. Early indications are that this approach will provide a much larger sample of cases to analyse, and therefore result in a more detailed and reliable cost-benefit analysis.

- Are there any issues you would like to raise?

For personal and family reasons the Fellowship has not started as quickly or smoothly as I would have liked. I still believe that I can complete the work in the time available, but if further delays occur I might be compelled to ask for a no-cost extension of a month or two, if that is possible. Since the main timeframe target is to present the findings at CBD COP 13 in December there would be enough time for such an extension, if needed, to be effective.

### 3. Achievements and Outcomes

- What have been the main achievements and outcomes to date, and how do they relate to the overall aim and objectives of the Fellowship?

Due to a slow start to the Fellowship it's probably too early to talk about achievements and outcomes at this stage. However, the following positive developments can be reported:

- Most of the key informants I have approached so far have reacted positively to my request for information and are open to further collaboration; a significant number of them have also pointed me at additional potential sources of information.
- I have started a framework for organising and analysing examples of NMBS which can also accommodate "non-ABS" instances.
- With the help of my supervisor at the NHM I have started work on a framework for the final report on the Fellowship.
- I was nominated by the African Group to be one of its representatives on the ad hoc working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the multilateral system (MLS) of ABS under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; since the MLS delivers most of its benefits in the form of NMBS I anticipate that my participation in this work will have the additional benefit of informing and enriching the analysis I am conducting for the Fellowship.
- In the context of my work with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative I have been made team leader on the work programme related to helping the African Union Commission to implement the African Union Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa; this work will continue for at least two years after the end of the Fellowship, placing me in a good position to ensure the findings of my research are used and translated into better ABS practices, at least in Africa.

#### **4. Next Steps**

- Briefly describe forthcoming activities, events, and milestones.

From March to June I will continue and significantly speed up my efforts to gather more examples of NMBS. I will organise this information as I receive it and use the overall picture that emerges to further refine my analytical model as required.

By June I hope to share my initial findings with ABS colleagues internationally, so as to get their feedback and further inputs.

By the end of June I hope to have gathered sufficient data to turn my full attention to analysis.

I will spend July on analysing data and writing up a first draft of my final report, which I plan to share with colleagues by the first week of August for final comments by mid-August, leaving me approximately two weeks to produce the final report for submission.