

## **What is the Nagoya Protocol and how does it affect your research on primates?**

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing is part of the international treaty known as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD was opened for signature at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, and entered into force in 1993. The Nagoya Protocol is a Supplementary Agreement to the CBD that was adopted in 2010. In spite of the 17-year gap between the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, the purpose of the Nagoya Protocol – the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources – has been one of the goals of the CBD since its inception.

**Aim and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.** The aim of the Nagoya Protocol is to ensure that the benefits associated with genetic resources, and also with traditional knowledge of biodiversity, are shared fairly and equitably. The Protocol formalizes the idea that countries in which genetic resources and traditional knowledge originate should have the option of retaining some rights over those resources and knowledge. Another underlying principle of the Nagoya Protocol is the idea that Access and Benefits Sharing is critically important for conservation and for the sustainable use of biodiversity. By providing countries with fair and equitable access to benefits from the genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, the Protocol provides incentives for both conservation and research.

The Nagoya Protocol has been ratified by nearly 100 countries, including many UN member states and the European Union. The US has not ratified the Protocol, and hence is not a party to it. However, because many countries worldwide are now parties to this treaty, scientists who export biological materials from one country to another need to be cognizant of the country-specific requirements of the protocol, whether or not their home country is a party to it. Penalties for non-compliance in the countries that are parties to the treaty can be stiff.

Most (not all) countries that are home to nonhuman primates are parties to the Nagoya Protocol. This means that in addition to the research permits, collection permits, and CITES export permits that researchers already obtain, they will also need to be compliant with the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol as implemented in the country where they conduct research.

**Resources for learning more about the Nagoya Protocol.** Researchers will find the following websites very useful in learning more about the Nagoya Protocol.

1. The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) includes valuable general information about the Nagoya Protocol, as well as detailed country-specific information. Under the 'Country Profiles' link, 198 countries are listed. Their status with respect to the Protocol is indicated (party versus non-party), as well as each country's national point of contact for information about the protocol, the national authority that oversees the implementation of the protocol, and a range of other useful information.

<https://absch.cbd.int/help/about>

2. The Convention on Biological Diversity, the umbrella treaty under which the Nagoya Protocol falls, has a comprehensive website with basic information, news links, updates, and program information.

<https://www.cbd.int/>

3. Knowledge about the Nagoya Protocol is highly variable across universities, museums, and captive primate facilities. Consider contacting the central research administration office at your institution to learn what they know, and what types of support they can offer to researchers. If they are new to the Nagoya Protocol, you can give them the information provided here, and also point them to the following link, with information on access and benefit sharing geared towards administrators.

<https://scbd.unssc.org/course/index.php?categoryid=4>

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