



German  
**Nagoya  
Protocol  
HuB**

# Web-based resources and direct user support for academic researchers

EU ABS Networking Event, Monday 14 June 2021

Elizabeth Karger, German Nagoya Protocol HuB, Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH



# German Nagoya Protocol HuB –for the academic research sector

The project is led and managed by:



**Leibniz Institute**  
DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH

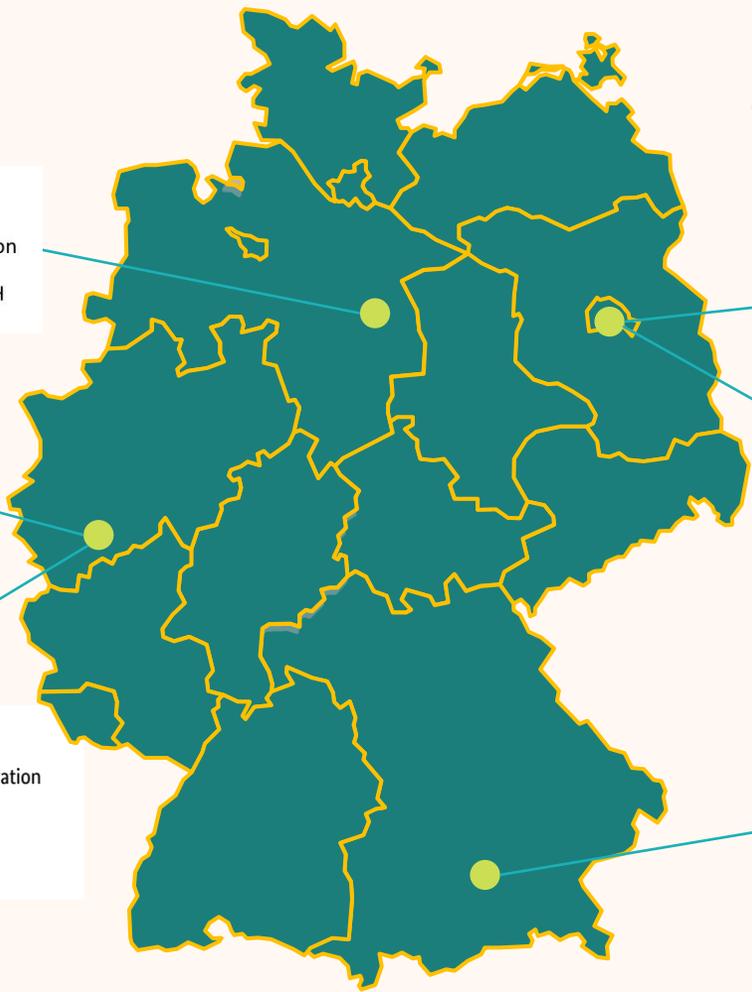
German Nagoya Protocol HuB“ is financed through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).



**BfN**  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



Our partners are:



Leibniz  
Biodiversity



**VBIO**  
Verband | Biologie, Biowissenschaften & Biomedizin in Deutschland



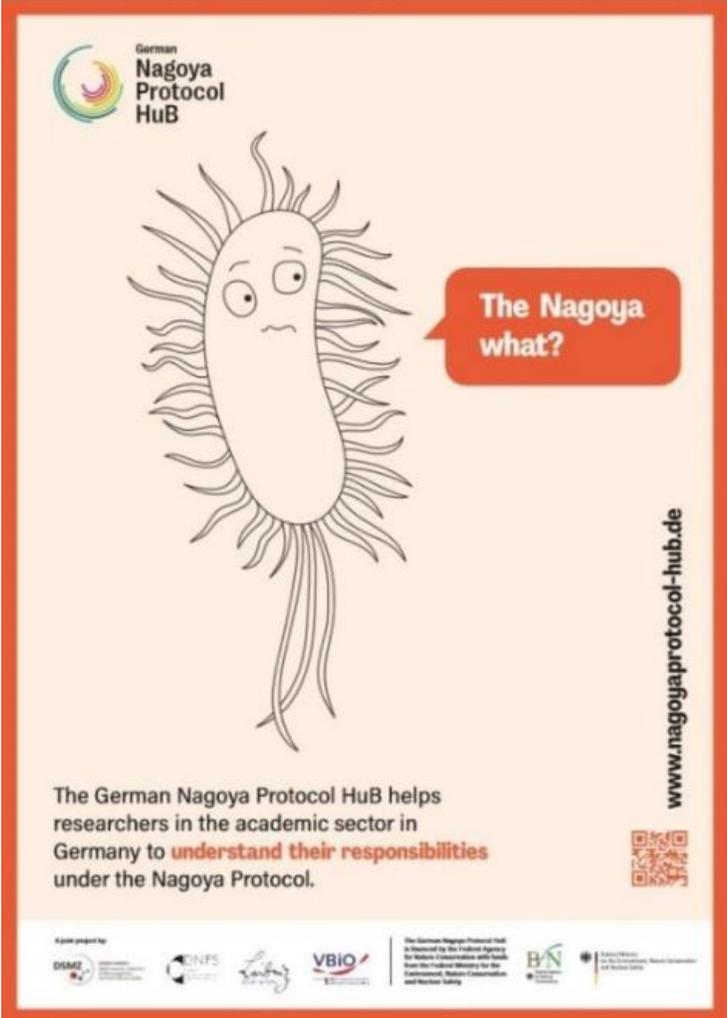
**DNFS**  
Deutsche naturwissenschaftliche Forschungssammlungen e.V.

# German Nagoya Protocol HuB

Start April 2020

## What we are doing?

- **Website**
- **Contact point/Help Desk**
- **Network**
- **Awareness-raising and education**



German Nagoya Protocol HuB

The Nagoya what?

[www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de](http://www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de)

The German Nagoya Protocol HuB helps researchers in the academic sector in Germany to **understand their responsibilities** under the Nagoya Protocol.

A joint project by:

- DSMZ
- INFS
- VBIO
- The German Nagoya Protocol HuB is financed by the Federal Agency for Biological Conservation and Biodiversity from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- B+N
- German Research Foundation

# German Nagoya Protocol HuB Website ([www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de](http://www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de))



Central communication instrument - first port of call, should answer most (basic) questions

Corporate image is **friendly, inviting** and **informal**

**Pragmatic**, based on **experience**

**22 pages** (more under construction)



GNP HuB ▾ ABS ▾ Compliance ▾ FAQs and more ▾ Contact  

A screenshot of the website's main content area. It features a light gray background with a central text block and a speech bubble. The text block explains the purpose of the GNP HuB. The speech bubble explains the acronym 'HuB'. To the right is a cartoon sun character.

The German Nagoya Protocol HuB, or GNP HuB for short, helps people in the academic research sector in Germany with understanding their obligations arising from the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

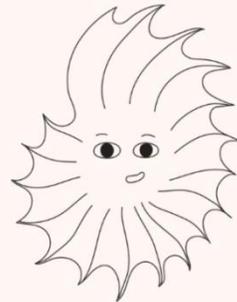
Why 'HuB'? HuB stands for 'Hilfe und Beratung' - help and guidance in English.



Based on experiences, lessons learned, real questions ...

## Learn from experience – ABS Stories

ABS works -  
we'll show you!



**Benin**

Fungi

**Cameroon**

Agricultural plants and  
soil microorganisms

**Costa Rica**

Microorganisms

**France**

Marine invertebrate

**France**

Algae

**Greenland**

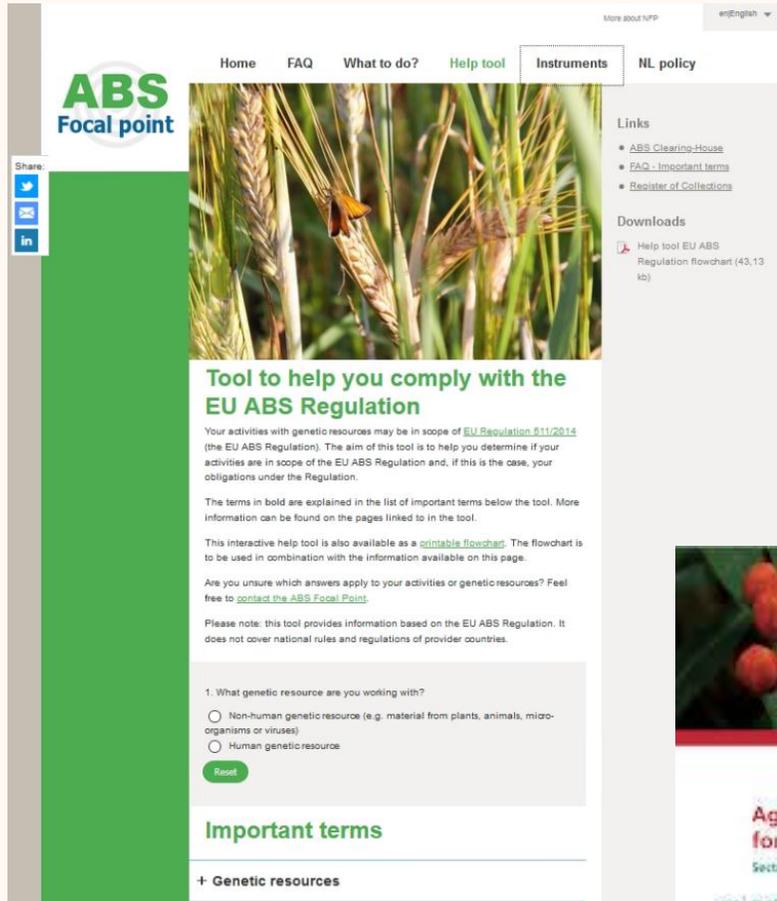
Plankton

**Kenya**

**Myanmar**

**Pakistan**

# Linking to existing resources → this way!



Home FAQ What to do? Help tool Instruments NL policy

**ABS Focal point**

More about NPP en|English

Links

- [ABS Clearing-House](#)
- [FAQ - Important terms](#)
- [Register of Collections](#)

Downloads

- [Help tool EU ABS Regulation flowchart \(43,13 kb\)](#)

**Tool to help you comply with the EU ABS Regulation**

Your activities with genetic resources may be in scope of [EU Regulation 811/2014](#) (the EU ABS Regulation). The aim of this tool is to help you determine if your activities are in scope of the EU ABS Regulation and, if this is the case, your obligations under the Regulation.

The terms in bold are explained in the list of important terms below the tool. More information can be found on the pages linked to in the tool.

This interactive help tool is also available as a [printable flowchart](#). The flowchart is to be used in combination with the information available on this page.

Are you unsure which answers apply to your activities or genetic resources? Feel free to [contact the ABS Focal Point](#).

Please note: this tool provides information based on the EU ABS Regulation. It does not cover national rules and regulations of provider countries.

1. What genetic resource are you working with?

Non-human genetic resource (e.g. material from plants, animals, micro-organisms or viruses)

Human genetic resource

[Reset](#)

**Important terms**

+ Genetic resources

**CHECK-LIST FOR EU ABS REGULATION FOR RESEARCHERS AT KIEL UNIVERSITY**

If all answers are "YES" then your work is within the scope of the EU ABS regulation and you will be obliged to submit a due diligence declaration. You should contact the Nagoya Protocol Compliance Officer for further guidance (Dr. Scarlett Setz, [0431.923.2222.sc@kiel.de](mailto:0431.923.2222.sc@kiel.de)). Even if your work does not fall within the scope of the regulation (i.e. one of your answers is "NO") you still have to obey national ABS regulations of the Providing Country of the genetic resources.

System	Are you working with any material of plant, animal, microbial or other (non-human) origin containing functional units of heredity (i.e. genes), including derivatives (i.e. proteins, enzymes, metabolites)?	YES	NO
Material	Anything containing DNA, dead or alive, and its derivatives. This excludes organisms covered by specialized treaties (e.g. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness) and any type of human material but includes human pathogens. See definitions 1, 2 & 3.		
Information	Are you conducting research AND/OR development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition (or derivative*) of a genetic resource? (including the application of biotechnology)		
Information	This category assumes that the research is being conducted at Kiel University. See definitions 3, 5 & 7.		
Information	Was the genetic material accessed in the Provider Country (country of its <i>in situ</i> collection) ON or AFTER the 12 <sup>th</sup> of October 2014?		
Information	See definition 4.		
Information	Is the Providing Country of the genetic resources party to the Nagoya Protocol?		
Information	To check for this use: <a href="#">ABS Clearing House website</a>		
Information	Does the Providing Country of the genetic resources have national ABS regulation?		
Information	To check for this use: <a href="#">ABS Clearing House website</a>		
Information	If information about this is not clear or even missing on the ABS Clearing House website then contact the National Focal Point (NFP) of the Providing Country of the genetic resources asking for clarification (contact the <a href="#">Nagoya Protocol Compliance Officer</a> for an email template).		



**Agreement on Access and Benefit Sharing for Non-Commercial Research**

Sector specific approach containing Model Clauses

sc|nat

Joint Publishing of scientific publications, the publications of the National Focal Point of the Nagoya Protocol

Suhel al-Janabi, Ute Feit, Eva Fenster, Thomas Greiber and Peter Schauerer (Eds.)

**Vilm ABS Dialogue 2017 – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources**

Final Report

Presenting Countries: Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa and Viet Nam



BN  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

**BN-Skripten 485**

2018



**ABS IN INDIA**

Rules | Specific requirements | Practical considerations | Contacts

**Introduction**

India is a megadiverse country, which harbors nearly 8% of all recorded species – as well as 10% of the global population – on less than 2.5% of world's land. Integrating ecological, economic and social goals has been described as a "delicate balance". India is also recognized as one of the planet's main centers of origin for the agricultural crops, and local farmers still play an important role in conserving traditional varieties, as well as in breeding new ones. Moreover, India has a vast heritage of traditional knowledge associated to the properties and applications of biological resources. For example, 8000 species of Indian medicinal plants have been recorded across codified systems such as Ayurveda and the folk traditions of local communities.

India has been an active participant in international efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of resulting benefits. It is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol. It has also governed efforts such as the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, a digital database developed to prevent misappropriation of traditional knowledge by providing access to related information to patent offices around the world.

**Disclaimer:** This document is for information purposes only. The information provided is not legal advice. UNP aims to ensure its accuracy, but provides no guarantee in this regard. Official information on the law and regulations on ABS is available through national focal points in the ABS Clearing House ([abs.coh.int](http://abs.coh.int)).

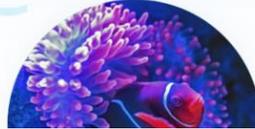
The competent national authority on access and benefit sharing (ABS) has issued over 300 authorizations for research, commercial utilization and other activities linked to biological resources. Nevertheless, the level of awareness and compliance among companies in India and abroad remains limited. There are uncertainties on how basic concepts are interpreted and how requirements work in practice. This note summarizes key points on Indian ABS rules and their practical implications – particularly for companies innovating on and sourcing natural ingredients for food, cosmetics and natural pharmaceuticals.

© UNP for Vilm Dialogue (2017) | India ABS Note

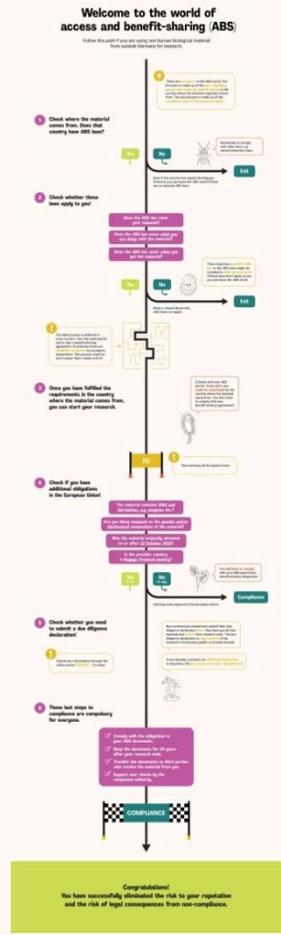
**Access & benefit-sharing**

**ABS & biological resources**

The Nagoya Protocol (NP) is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Since its entry into force on 12 October 2014, it provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources (i) referred to as 'genetic resources' in the



# New products: ABS World, Build your ABS strategy, Nagoya Bites!



## Build your ABS strategy

### A CHECKLIST FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

Use this checklist **before** engaging in the ABS process or any negotiations on benefit-sharing. It should help to **define what should be covered** by your ABS permit and benefit-sharing agreement. This checklist does not constitute legal advice and cannot be used as a substitute for such advice.

**Suggestions on how to use this checklist:**

1. Read this checklist **before** you start developing a new grant/project proposal.
2. Put a line through anything which you have thought about and consider irrelevant for you.
3. Tick the boxes as you go if they are relevant to you and/or have been addressed.
4. Highlight items e.g. using different colours, to identify their relative levels of importance. Clearly mark those items which are essential to your proposed research project.

**Let's begin!**

Start with ABS **before** your research project officially begins.

You need time! It can take anywhere from several weeks through to many months to finalise negotiations about benefit-sharing and obtain an ABS permit.

**Start early!**

**Don't delay to being prepared!**

Waiting to start with the ABS process until after your project funding has been approved can lead to **long delays!**

## 1. What to do before starting with the ABS process

### Get information

- Check the ABS Clearing House (<https://abschd.org/>) for information about ABS and the contact details of the national authorities.
- Read the information available and understand the ABS requirements, e.g. forms to be filled, supporting documents required, language requirements, applicable fees etc.
- Check whether researchers/institutions in the provider country must be involved in the research.
- Ask colleagues and collaboration partners about their experiences with ABS in the provider country.

### Check for model agreements

- Check whether there are model/standard agreements that can be used from:
  - your institution,
  - the country where the material comes from,
  - other sources, e.g. professional associations.
- Consider whether model agreements need to be adapted.

### Take care of formalities

The benefit sharing agreement is a contract. Determine which legal obligations will be created:

- in a personal capacity,
- on behalf of your institution. Clarify who is authorized to obtain/sign documents (it may not be you!).

Determine who will be the recipient of the ABS permit (it could be more than one. Tick all relevant):

- you personally,
- your institution,
- collaboration partner/s.

Obtain all documents which are a pre-condition to your ABS permit:

- other permits, e.g. collection, research, CITES, phyto-sanitary permits. (These permits might be issued independently of your ABS permit after the ABS process is finished)
- other agreements, e.g. with collaboration partners etc.

### Get help and advice

- Know where to find help and/or advice if needed, including legal advice.
- Ask your collaboration partner/s in the provider country whether they can support the ABS process.

## 2. Define your needs and make your research possible

Researchers' needs vary depending on the type of research, the cooperation partners and the material used.

Think about all the things that are **essential** to making your research a reality - this will help you to **define your red line** and what needs to be in your ABS permit and benefit sharing agreement.

**Define your needs before you start with the ABS process or any negotiations!**

**What types of benefits can you share?**

Check to see whether:

- Collaborator and your research with local researchers
- Providing funding for your local colleagues, covering travel costs
- Sharing results (and/or data, publications and reports)
- Providing equipment, infrastructure etc.
- Co-authorship of papers, writing for publication and databases
- Training, linking for study exchanges and joint workshops, local capacity building
- Equipping/covering expenses in being engaged
- Sharing academic expertise with institutions in the provider country
- Providing information to support conservation, education, planning and management
- Technology transfer
- Joint ownership of intellectual property rights

**Don't forget to:**

- Check whether the proposed benefits are consistent with your grant agreement
- Define who receives the benefits. This could be the provider country, local researchers, universities and institutions, museums, regional parks and local communities etc.
- Define the timing and extent of any benefit sharing arrangements, including whether the benefits should apply to the provider country.
- Have a record of all the benefits shared
- Define if and how benefit sharing obligations will be passed on to third parties if the material is shared
- Include a dispute resolution clause in the benefit sharing agreement and to cover how a disagreement about benefit sharing obligations in the future.

**Do I have the option to negotiate with the provider about the using the material or transferring it to other researchers in the future?**

**Exploring options for future research can, possibly, avoid time-consuming re negotiations.**

## 3. Determine which benefits you can potentially share

Do I have the option to negotiate with the provider about the using the material or transferring it to other researchers in the future?

**Let's look into the future**

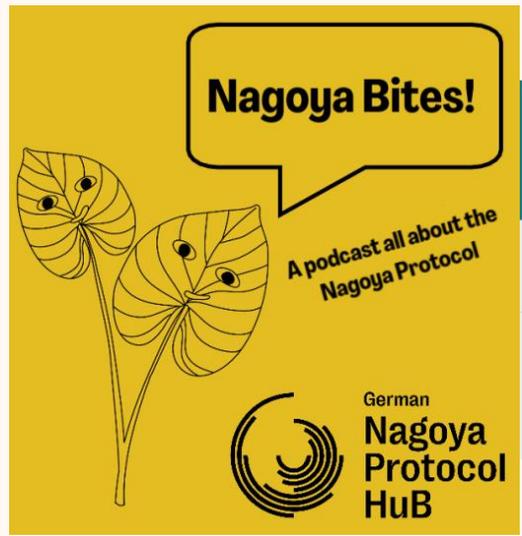
- Can the material be reused for other non-commercial research without obtaining a new ABS permit or renegotiating benefit sharing? This may include, for example, reanalysis, deposition and publication.
- If yes, who can reuse the material?
  - Me
  - My institution
  - My collaborators at other institutions
  - Other third parties
- What needs to happen when the material is reused?
  - The provider country must be notified

## 4. What happens beyond the current research project?

Do I have the option to negotiate with the provider about the using the material or transferring it to other researchers in the future?

**Let's look into the future**

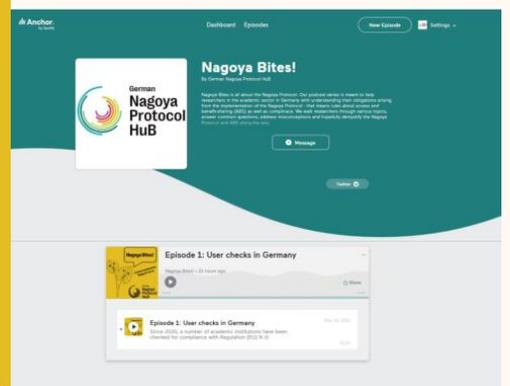
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- If yes, who can reuse the material?
  - Me
  - My institution
  - My collaborators at other institutions
  - Other third parties
- What needs to happen when the material is reused?
  - The provider country must be notified



**Nagoya Bites!**

A podcast all about the Nagoya Protocol

German Nagoya Protocol HuB



**Nagoya Bites!**

Episode 1: User checks in Germany

Episode 1: User checks in Germany

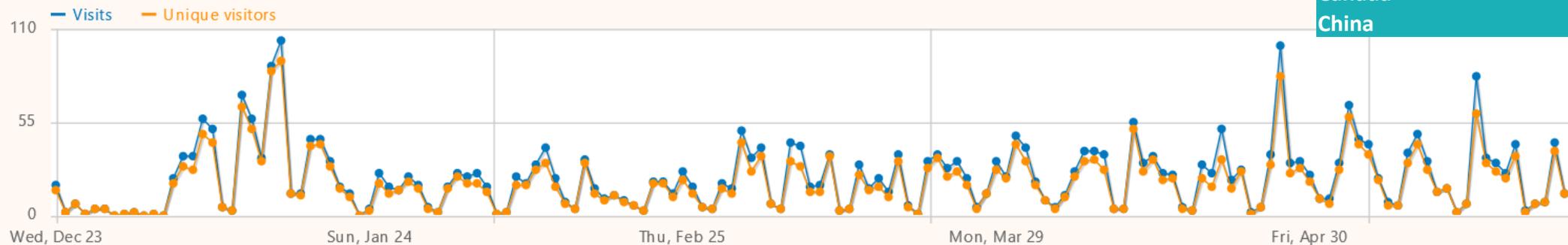
# People are hungry for information!

## GNP Hub website usage

- English version online since 23 December 2020 (approx. 6 months)
- **2,342** unique visitors (as of today), 3,963 total visits
- Mostly used by the German community, also worldwide

German version online since 31 May 2021

	Unique visitors
Germany	1648
United States	937
United Kingdom	150
Japan	125
South Korea	62
France	61
Spain	51
Italy	44
Sweden	26
Denmark	23
Netherlands	23
Portugal	14
Brazil	13
Switzerland	11
Canada	10
China	10



# HuB stands for “Hilfe und Beratung” – Help and Guidance

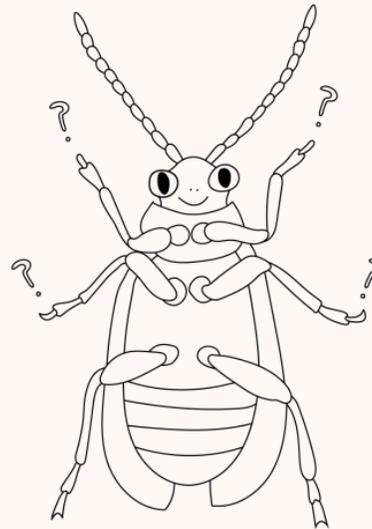
Contact point/“Help desk“ for academic researchers in Germany

- diverse questions – ABS, documentation, scope of EU Regulation, utilization, user checks etc.
- provide **general** information only
- **safe space** to ask questions, i.e. GNP HuB is not the regulator

**73 enquiries** in 2021/ average 15 per month

How do people find us?

- Website
- Information sessions
- GNP HuB network
- Referrals, e.g. through German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation



Send us a message

Give us feedback

Subscribe to our mailing list

## Send us a message

Your questions and feedback are essential for helping us to continually grow and improve the website and we look forward to hearing from you.

I work in

Germany

Please note the German Nagoya Protocol HuB is intended to help the academic research community in Germany.

Subject of your enquiry \*

I have a question

Have you already checked the GNP-HuB website and the ABS Clearing House (<https://absch.cbd.int/>) for the answer?

How would describe your level of experience with the Nagoya Protocol and/or access and benefit-sharing:



## A few observations to finish off...

Expectations

Certainty

Complexity

Lack of institutional support for researchers

 Keep in touch!



@GermanNagoyaHuB

### Subscribe to GNP HuB mailing list

Subscribers will receive GNP HuB project updates and news as well as information about upcoming GNP activities.

Email address \*

Email

Confirm Email

**Data protection: I agree to the processing of my following personal data (name, e-mail address) by the Leibniz-Institut-DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH. The data processing will be carried out exclusively for the purposes expressly requested by me. My data will be treated confidentially and will not be passed on to third parties. My consent is given on a voluntary basis and I can withdraw it at any time with effect for the future. After receipt of the revocation notice, my data may not be further processed. They are to be deleted immediately. The revocation does not affect the legality of the processing that has taken place up to that point. I can send the declaration of revocation by e-mail at any time to [info@nagoyaprotocol-hub.de](mailto:info@nagoyaprotocol-hub.de).**

I agree

I do not agree

I am human  hCaptcha  
Privacy - Terms

[www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de/contact-forms/](http://www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de/contact-forms/)

## Contact

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