



Ministry of Environment, Forest
& Climate Change



VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEME
FOR
INCENTIVIZATION OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING
(VCS-I-ABS)



National Biodiversity Authority
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

Concept and Illustration: VCS-I-ABS

Access and Benefit Sharing or ABS Logo symbolizes the legal framework for the effective implementation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. In addition to the compliance obligations, the ABS logo reflects the new initiative to incentivize the ABS process for both the users and conservers of the biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

THE LOTUS



= The graphic of a plant depicts the biological/medicinal values and the lotus leaf symbolizes both enlightenment and deep-rooted Indian cultural ethos.

THE HANDS AND FINGERS



= The hands and fingers reflect both care and protection provided by the users and conservers of the biological resource. They also reflect progress, innovation and resource sustainability.

THE CIRCLE



= The circle or circular shape highlights the 360-degree holistic approach in the ABS process besides stressing on inherent fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

THE ACRONYM ABS

ABS

= The acronym ABS provides support and balance to the overall logo. It also contributes to the 'recall value' of the Access and Benefit Sharing process, as it is also widely known by this acronym.

VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR INCENTIVISATION OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (VCS-I-ABS)

1. The voluntary certification scheme for incentivization of ABS is a step towards creating a brand for the business entities, through an award of a logo and a certificate to those entities that have already complied with the ABS requirements under the Biological Diversity Act, Biological Diversity Rules, Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations and its subsequent amendments
2. VCS-I-ABS aims:
 - i. To create a market differentiator for entities that are certified as per the scheme and assist them in gaining market leadership as well as to gain access to newer markets.
 - ii. To provide option for the consumers to purchase commodities from the business entities that have assisted communities from where they have procured the biological resources.
 - iii. To make India a hub of ABS compliant entities by certification of businesses and grant them with the ABS logo.
 - iv. To bring non-compliant bio-resource users back within the ABS ambit.
3. The scheme is inclusive by design, engaging four pillars: communities, institutions (BMCs/SBBs), businesses, and consumers, aligned with India's three-tier ABS governance structure where 2,76,653 BMCs operate at the grassroots.
4. The scheme is validated by seven core principles; Bio-Resource Sustainability, Traceability, Traditional Knowledge Protection, Community Development and Benefits Accrued, Gender Inclusion, Responsible Business, and Compliance.
5. VCS-I-ABS is a strategic instrument to unlock the full potential of ABS as a biodiversity finance mechanism and make India a hub of ABS-certified, globally competitive, bio-compliant enterprises.



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt.

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003, India.



National Biodiversity Authority,

5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR, Road, Taramani, Chennai 600 113, India.



Quality Council of India

2nd Floor, Institutions of Engineers Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002, India



United Nations Development Programme

55, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi 110003, India.