# Kingdom of Swaziland Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**Swaziland Environment Authority** 

Mr Bongani Zipho Nkhabindze



## **GEOGRAPHY**

- Latitude 25° and 28° S and Longitude 30° and 33° E
- Land area of 17,364 km2
- Elevation range of 60-1,860 masl
- Landlocked, bounded by RSA in the N, W and S and by Mozambique to the east.
- Characterized by a great variation in landscape, geology, soils, climate and biodiversity.



## **BACKGROUND**

- Became Party to the CBD in 1994
- Adopted the CPB on 28<sup>th</sup> January2000
- CPB entered into force on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2003
- Acceded to the CPB in 2006
- Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy was developed in 2006
- Biosafety Act passed in November 2012



## THE BIOSAFETY ACT

Has clauses addressing liability and redress issues.

#### **Article 32**

- 1. An operator shall be liable for any damage, injury or loss caused by such GMO and to make compensation therefor, and where more than one person is responsible for the damage, injury or loss, such liability shall be joint and several.
- 2. Where there has been harm to the environment or biological diversity, the party liable to pay compensation, shall also pay the costs of reinstatement, rehabilitation or clean-up measures which are actually being incurred and, where applicable, the costs of preventive measures, as well as damages for harm to individuals deriving from harm to the environment or biological diversity.

3. The right to bring any action in respect of the harm caused by a GMO or a product of a GMO shall lapse only after a reasonable period from the date on which the affected person or the community could reasonably be expected to have learned of the harm

4. Any person, group of persons or any private or state organisation may bring a claim and seek redress in respect of a breach or threatened breach of any provision of this Act causing or threatening damage to the environment or to biological diversity-



## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Having recently passed the Biosafety Act, 2012

- Embarking on public awareness campaigns to enable a common understanding of issues regarding Liability and Redress.
- The country is also engaged in capacity building workshop through UNEP GEF project that has been recently approved.

### **Activities include:**

- Debates
- Stakeholder workshops
- Media tours

- Agric. Ext. workshops
- Citizen's Jury
- etc

## **PROGRESS/STATUS OF RATIFICATION**

- Have initiated the process of ratifying these protocols.
- Matters have passed discussions in the respective programme committees, e.g. the Biodiversity Programme Implementation Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- The ratification processes is currently in Parliament for final authorization. The other Biodiversity Programmes Committees are Public Awareness and Participation Platform. The main focus of this committee is public awareness on Biosafety.



