# Request for information from National Focal Points (NFP)

Below is a suggested text for use when requesting information from National Focal Points (NFP) about what laws and regulations may apply to the collection and utilization of genetic resources (i.e., more or less all types of biological samples) in their country.

The text is of course a general suggestion, and in addition to the text in square brackets [] also other parts of the text may have to be adopted to any specific case. In particular the part on benefit sharing should be considered well, to show all benefits that may accrue for the providing country.

NB! Remember to include the NHM ABS team (nhm-abs@nhm.uio.no) in the CC field for documentation of the communication.

Dear [NAME OF RECEIVER],

I am a researcher at the Natural History Museum (NHM), University of Oslo, Norway, working with [ORGANISM GROUP OR SIMILAR].

During a collecting trip to [DESTINATION] during [PERIOD], I and/or colleagues from [COUNTRY NAME] collected samples of [SPECIES/SPECIES GROUP OR SIMILAR], for the purpose of basic biological research, including genetic analyses, and for inclusion in the NHM collections.

The samples were collected and brought back to Norway under the following collecting and export permits (attached with this e-mail):

* [COLLECTING & EXPORT PERMIT DETAILS OF ALL RELEVANT PERMITS]

However, given the new regulations associated with the Nagoya Protocol, and the fact that Norway [and [COUNTRY NAME]] [has/have] ratified this Protocol, I realize that there may also be additional [COUNTRY NAME] laws and regulations that may apply to these collections.

Hence, I would very much appreciate your guidance in relation to these new regulations. Specifically, can you tell me if I need to obtain any further permits or do any other paperwork for these samples to be in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol regulations?

The NHM is a member of [CETAF](http://cetaf.org/) (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) and follows their [Code of Conduct and Best Practice](http://cetaf.org/sites/default/files/final_cetaf_abs_coc.pdf) regarding ABS. NHM is a not-for-profit institution and is rarely involved in commercialisation of collection-based genetic resources. However, as part of its mission, NHM investigates genomic samples and their constituents for taxonomic and other scientific research. This research may lead to the discovery of potential commercial uses of certain genetic resources. In such cases, if not already covered by the terms and conditions agreed with the Provider, NHM will initiate renegotiation of the terms and conditions.

Sharing of the following benefits can be expected as a result of the collection and utilization of these genetic resources:

* Scientific training of students and/or staff
* Co-authorship for collaborators from [COUNTRY NAME]
* Acknowledgement of the Provider institution when publishing research results
* Increased knowledge of [COUNTRY NAME] biodiversity, with associated occurrence data made available through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).
* [OTHER BENEFITS THAT APPLIES]