

RESEARCH RECIPROCITY

AND THE **A** **B** **C**'s OF ABS



Attribution, Benefit Sharing, and Capacity Building across the research lifecycle

What is Research Reciprocity?

It represents a deep commitment to partnership with communities in research collaborations. It emphasizes the need for both benefit sharing and power sharing in the data life cycle.

What is ABS?

Access and Benefit Sharing governs how genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are accessed, and how benefits from their use are shared fairly and equitably.

Why it matters

Research and commercialization have often separated biodiversity and knowledge from the peoples who sustain them. ABS addresses unequal returns.

A binding legal framework

The Nagoya Protocol legally binds its Parties. Researchers must follow applicable laws, permits and agreements, which vary by country, resource and intended use.

How ABS Typically Works

- 1

Identify authority

Check which rules apply to the resource, country and intended use. Identify the relevant national authority and Indigenous rights holders.
- 2

Consent before use

Obtain Prior Informed Consent (PIC) where required. Respect Indigenous peoples' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and their own governance processes.
- 3

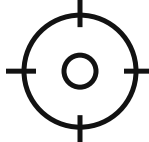
Mutually Agreed Terms

Record permitted uses and benefit commitments in Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT). Include data sharing, future transfers, and when terms need review.
- 4

Research and return

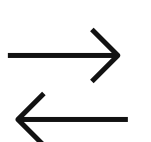
Deliver agreed monetary or non-monetary benefits. Return useful results and keep provenance and conditions for materials and data.

Some Key Mutually Agreed Term (MAT) Clauses

 Scope

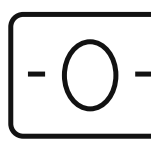
 Data governance

 Publication and attribution

 Transfer and reuse

Benefit Sharing Types

Monetary

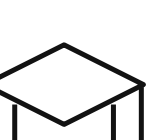
 Upfront payments

 Milestone payments

 Royalties

Non-monetary

 Shared research results

 Training and technology transfer

 Co-designed research

ABS Clearing-House

Find national ABS rules, focal points, competent authorities and published permit records. Confirm the current requirements with the relevant authority.

<https://absch.cbd.int/en/>

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The Missing Middle

Value grows after access, as samples become data, findings, and future applications. Community authority and commitments to fair and equitable benefit sharing need to travel with the data.

Attribution

Keep origins, knowledge, and labor visible. Agree on credit with partners and carry provenance and governance information into publications and datasets.

Benefit Sharing

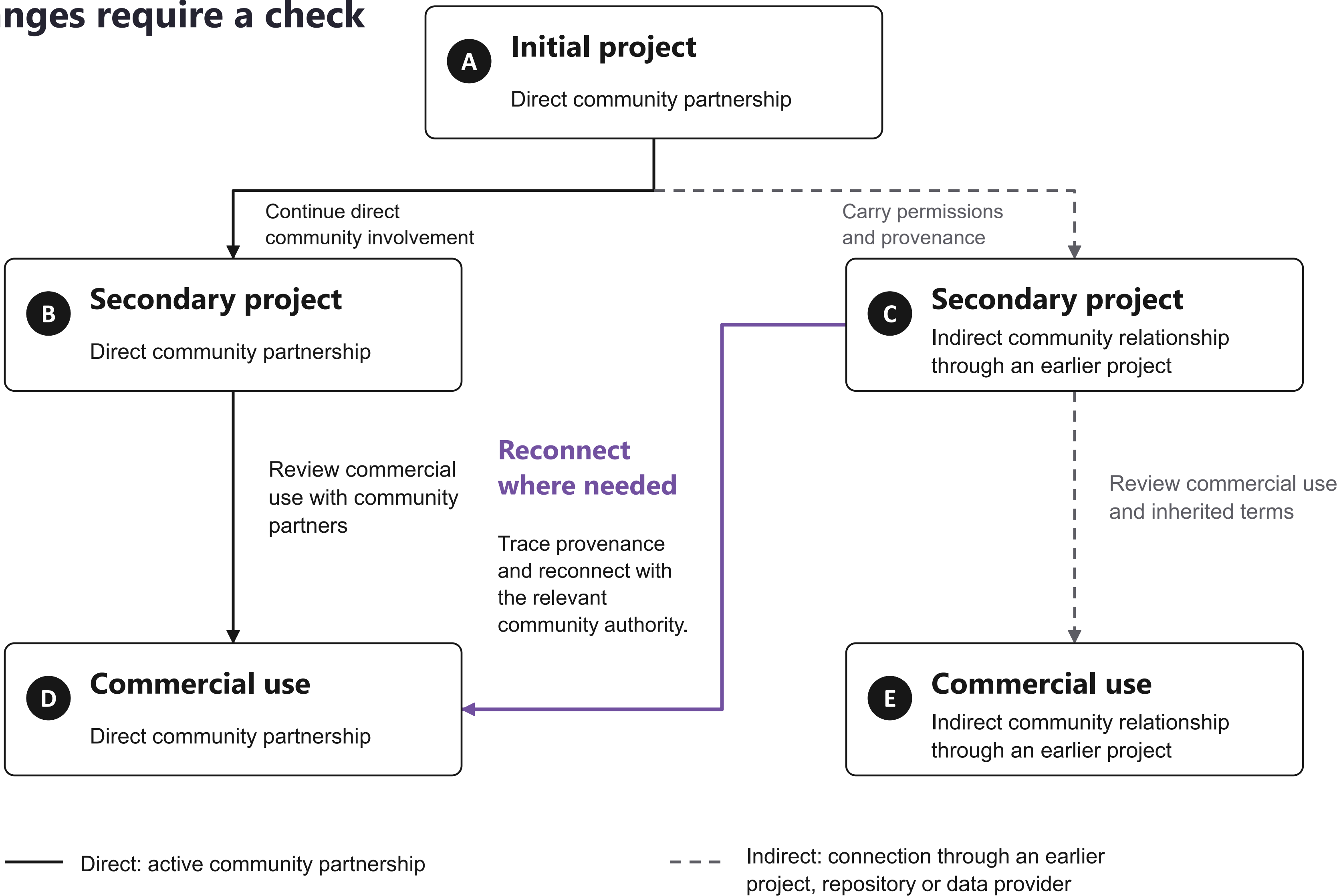
Agree on monetary and non-monetary benefits that reflect community priorities. Deliver those commitments throughout research and future reuse.

Capacity Building

Support communities' ability to participate and govern research through shared learning and lasting infrastructure. Strengthen capacity to respect community authority and sustain collaboration.

Where does your project enter?

Changes require a check



Who shares in the responsibilities and benefits?

Relationship	Attribution	Benefit Sharing	Capacity Building
Direct project partners	Agree on credit for knowledge and labour. Apply authorship criteria transparently.	Budget for paid participation and agreed benefits. Return useful results and share commercial proceeds where appropriate.	Support shared analysis and training. Provide skills and infrastructure that partners can use beyond the project.
Wider rights holders and communities of stewardship	Recognize continuing relationships to place and biodiversity. Follow guidance on naming and sensitive knowledge.	Agree how benefits reach wider rights holders and support ongoing stewardship beyond the immediate project.	Strengthen community-led governance and stewardship. Support communities to negotiate terms and guide future research.
Research and commercial systems	Preserve provenance and agreed labels through repositories, publications and products.	Contribute through pooled benefit-sharing mechanisms where applicable, including the Cali Fund for DSI.	Train staff and fund governance systems that uphold community permissions and benefit commitments through reuse.