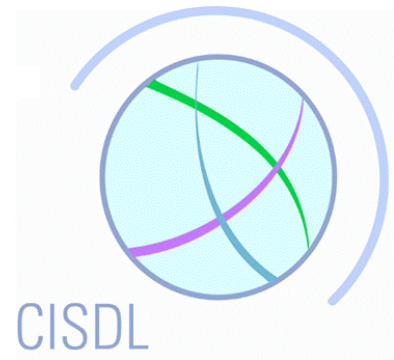


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## **South Africa's Experiences Implementing the CBD**

- **Implementation of the CBD must consider:**
  - 1) **Biodiversity conservation**
  - 2) **Economic development**
  - 3) **Social factors**

**The implementation of any of these cannot proceed while neglecting another.**
- **South Africa has an advantage because it is very biodiverse and has an extensive Western and traditional knowledge base. South Africa has a strong record in conservation but a history of poor management.**
- **The implementation of the CBD involved many stakeholders. While the multi-stakeholder process is longer, the benefits of sharing people's expertise and addressing conflicts up front far outweigh the costs. Additionally, the legislative framework and institutional forces must have broad support to be effective and this process helps to garner such support.**
- **Developing countries can and should learn approaches and applications for implementing the CBD from other developing countries.**
- **South Africa needs government financed CBD related education for all stakeholders, especially for local communities. This would teach people about the benefits that could be derived from their resources. The government must also support institutions to serve this goal and finance community involvement in the access and benefit sharing process.**
- **Lasting relationships must be created between the supplier and buyer of genetic resources to ensure that capacity is created in developing countries. Mechanisms to create such relationships must be incorporated into benefit sharing plans. Rules and legislation alone will not guarantee economic development unless they are linked to effective strategies.**