Interview guide: Researcher

I. Biography / Attributes / Conditions

1. Can you please tell me about your research programs? [PROMPT: how funded (public research grant, industry, other?, in kind contribution)? Scale and scope]
2. Can you please describe your past and current research activities in the field of [INSERT PERSONALISED FIELD OF EXPERTISE]?

II. Research Partnership/Collaborations

3. Do you have any current and/or future research collaborations?
    i. If yes:
        a. Please describe your current collaborative projects (PROMPT: with whom you collaborate; institutions, individuals, industry)
        b. Where are they located?
        c. What is the nature of collaboration?
        d. What factors did you consider when you enter into the collaboration? (PROMP: trust, reciprocity, previous collaboration relationship, social learning)
    ii. If no:
        e. Is there any specific reason for not participating in any collaborative project?
4. Why do you collaborate with other organizations and individuals?
5. What are the costs and benefits of participating in international collaborative projects?
6. What do you expect when you enter into a collaborative research project?
7. What did you learn from your past collaborative work in terms of the management of research project and knowledge sharing?

III. Source of Genetic Resources and Equity

8. Where do you get genetic resources from? (PROMPT: Who collects and how? How the material reaches you, and in what form?)
9. What legal agreements such as Material Transfer Agreements do you enter into to access genetic resources?
10. If yes, what have your experiences been with Material Transfer Agreements (PROMPT: Positive or Negative?)
11. Do you have any framework and mechanism to share royalties with communities or organizations that provide you with genetic resources?
12. Do you have any research partnership with the communities that provide you genetic material? How do you see them and their knowledge about genetic material?

IV. IP and Marketing Strategies

13. Have you ever sought to commercialize any of your research? Please explain.
    [How did you do it? Did you go through your Technology Transfer Office? Were you successful?]

14. Have you ever been blocked in any of your research endeavors by intellectual property? Please explain.

15. Do you share genetic material with other researchers in your collaborative team? (local, national, foreign?) If yes, on what conditions? If no, why? Please explain.

V. Genetic Resources and the *Convention on Biological Diversity*

16. How do you perceive and understand regulations that govern access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity (*CBD*)?
17. What do you think of the national implementation of *CBD*, and how do you compare it with the pre-*CBD* era and its implications for your R&D activities? Please explain.

VI. The Genetic Resource Commons: Efficiency, Sustainability and Equity

18. What are your perceptions and understanding of biomaterials repositories and databases? Please explain.
19. Do you think developing large-scale, international biomaterials repositories and databases is desirable or feasible in your field of research? If yes, how? If no, why?
20. What do you think the overarching objective of a large-scale, international biomaterials repository or database should be?
21. What are the costs and benefits of large-scale, international repositories and databases to the participants? Please explain. [Prompt on whether the repositories and databases would benefit all participants equally]
22. What do you think are the main non-science challenges in setting up large-scale, international repositories and databases? Please explain (PROMPT: regulations, sustainability of funding, legal barriers, access to material, cultural barriers in terms of willingness to contribute materials or data)
23. What incentives and safeguards would you require to deposit your materials and data in large-scale international repositories and databases?
24. What kind of regulatory framework should be put in place for the effective and sustainable functioning of a biomedical repository?
    i. Who should and should not be allowed to participate? Or, what are the criteria of participation?
    ii. What kind of administrative structure should be developed?
    iii. What kind of institutions and infrastructure should be developed, and who should perform what actions for the establishment of a biomedical repository? (PROMPT: management structure, common ground/ rules, common language)
    iv. What mechanism should be developed to decide on what kind of information must, may, or must not be shared, and how?
    v. What kind of incentive and benefit-sharing model would work effectively for a biomedical repository?
    vi. What do you think are the best methods to handle differences (institutional, socio-cultural, geopolitical) among various partners?
25. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Interview Guide (Policy Makers)

I. Biography / Attributes / Conditions

1. Can you please tell me about your department/institution and its activities? [PROMPT: scale and scope of your organizational activities]
2. Can you please describe your role within your organization and your past and current activities in the field of [INSERT PERSONALISED FIELD OF EXPERTISE]?

II. The Genetic Resource Commons: Efficiency, Sustainability and Equity

3. What are your perceptions and understanding of biomaterials repositories and databases? Please explain.
4. What biomedical repositories you support? Why do you support?
5. What are the basic criteria to fund a biomedical repository?
6. What kind of measures you think would sustain biomedical repositories? What do you think are the major barriers to the sustainability of biomedical repositories?
7. What do you expect from biomedical repositories? Who do you think are the beneficiaries of biomedical repositories?
8. Do you think there should be some policies to govern data and biomaterial sharing? If yes, please explain. If not, why not? Please explain.
9. What kind of institutional mechanism you think should be developed to allow stakeholders to provide their input for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?
10. How do you perceive and understand regulations that govern access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity (*CBD*)?
11. What do you think of the national implementation of *CBD*, and how do you compare it with the pre-*CBD* era and its implications for R&D activities? Please explain.
12. Do you think developing large-scale, international biomaterials repositories and databases is desirable or feasible in your field of research? If yes, how? If no, why?
13. What do you think the overarching objective of a large-scale, international biomaterials repository or database should be?
14. What are the costs and benefits of large-scale, international repositories and databases to the participants? Please explain. [Prompt on whether the repositories and databases would benefit all participants equally]
15. What do you think are the main non-science challenges in setting up large-scale, international repositories and databases? Please explain (PROMPT: regulations, sustainability of funding, legal barriers, access to material, cultural barriers in terms of willingness to contribute materials or data)
16. What incentives and safeguards would you require to deposit your materials and data in large-scale international repositories and databases?
17. What kind of regulatory framework should be put in place for the effective and sustainable functioning of a biomedical repository?
    a. Who should and should not be allowed to participate? Or, what are the criteria of participation?
    b. What kind of administrative structure should be developed?
    c. What kind of institutions and infrastructure should be developed, and who should perform what actions for the establishment of a biomedical repository? (PROMPT: management structure, common ground/ rules, common language)

   d. What mechanism should be developed to decide on what kind of information must, may, or must not be shared, and how?
   e. What kind of incentive and benefit-sharing model would work effectively for a biomedical repository?
   f. What do you think are the best methods to handle differences (institutional, socio-cultural, geopolitical) among various partners?

18. In your opinion, what is the mission of universities and public research centres? How do you understand the public and private partnership in research and development?
19. How do you understand the co-management of resources by community, industry and researchers? Are there any best practices of co-management? Please explain.
20. Do you suggest any other mechanism or process that can strike the middle ground between commercialization and public access?

Interview Guide (Representatives of Civil Society Organizations)

I. Biography / Attributes / Conditions

1. Can you please tell me about your organization and its activities?
   PROMPT: Origin, structure, staff, funding (local, national, and international), scale and scope of your organizational activities
2. Can you please describe your role within your organization and your past and current activities related to sharing GR for research?

II. The Genetic Resource Commons: Efficiency, Sustainability and Equity

3. What are your perceptions and understanding of GR repositories and databases? Please explain.
4. What benefits do you expect from GR repositories? Who do you think are the beneficiaries of GR repositories?
5. Do you think there should be some policies to govern GR sharing? If yes, please explain. If not, why not? Please explain.
6. What kind of institutional mechanism do you think should be developed to allow stakeholders to provide their input for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?
7. How do you perceive and understand regulations that govern access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?
8. What do you think the overarching objective of a large-scale, international biomaterials repository or database should be?
9. What are the costs and benefits of large-scale, international repositories and databases to the participants? Please explain. [Prompt on whether the repositories and databases would benefit all participants equally]
10. What incentives and safeguards would you require to deposit your materials and data in large-scale international repositories and databases?
11. What kind of regulatory framework should be put in place for the effective and sustainable functioning of a biomedical repository?
    a. Who should and should not be allowed to participate? Or, what are the criteria of participation?
    b. What kind of administrative structure should be developed?
    c. What kind of institutions and infrastructure should be developed, and who should perform what actions for the establishment of a biomedical repository? (PROMPT: management structure, common ground/ rules, common language)
    d. What mechanism should be developed to decide on what kind of information must, may, or must not be shared, and how?

e. What kind of incentive and benefit-sharing model would work effectively for a biomedical repository?
f. What do you think are the best methods to handle differences (institutional, socio-cultural, geopolitical) among various partners?

12. In your opinion, what is the mission of universities and public research centres? How does your understanding relate to the mission of iBOL and DNA barcoding?
13. How do you understand the co-management of resources by community, industry and researchers? Are there any best practices of co-management? Please explain.