UEBT expands its ABS expertise

In 2019, Valérie Normand joined the UEBT team as Senior Expert on ABS. We asked her a few questions:

**What do you most look forward to in working with UEBT member companies?**

Having followed the work of UEBT for a number of years, I have been truly inspired by UEBT member companies as leaders in the implementation of sustainable sourcing practices.

After more than 20 years at the UN working on the development of international policy that supports sustainable development, I feel the urge to contribute to making a difference at ground level. I look forward to working with companies that are leaders in sustainability, to learn from them, find solutions to their challenges and support them in their continued efforts towards the implementation of ethical sourcing practices.

**What got you started in ABS?**

The principles of equity and justice behind ABS as well as my interest in issues related to the environment and development made it attractive to me. Having been at the heart of the international negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and leading efforts for its ratification and implementation, I now look forward to finding practical solutions to its implementation that both contribute to sustainable development and make business sense.

**What do you do to relax?**

Yoga, gardening, hiking and cross-country skiing are at the top of the list.

With UEBT since 2019, Valerie Normand is an expert on access and benefit sharing (ABS). She provides technical expertise on issues related to innovation and sourcing of biodiversity. For the past 19 years she worked at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat on ABS, including 6 years as the head of the Nagoya Protocol unit. She also worked for GIZ supporting the ABS Capacity Development Initiative in its activities in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Valerie is a trained lawyer with a specialisation in public international law.