Convention on Biological Diversity

THE ABS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

L'INITIATIVE DE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES POUR L'APA

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Regional Workshop

2nd Caribbean Access and Benefit Sharing Workshop

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REPORT

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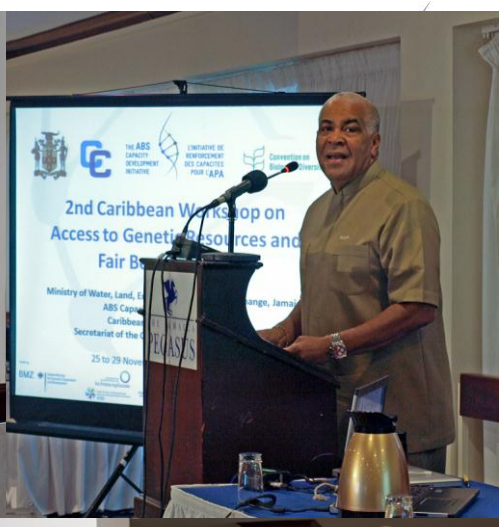

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Background

Since 2006, the Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative) has convened numerous regional or issue-based workshops and training courses, playing a critical role in building capacity on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) issues. In 2011, the ABS Initiative extended its initial scope of work focussing on Africa to include the Caribbean and Pacific countries, member states of the Cotonou Agreement. With the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Utilisation arising from their Utilisation in October 2010, the ABS Initiative consolidated its mission to support relevant stakeholders in these countries in developing and implementing national ABS regulations, and more particularly ratifying and implementing the Protocol.

The Second Caribbean ABS Workshop took place after a very productive year committed to address the challenges of a coherent and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the region. The first Caribbean ABS workshop, organised in cooperation with the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM Secretariat) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), was held in Port-of Prince, Trinidad and Tobago in September 2012 and shortly followed by the second Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plan and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP 11 convened by the SCBD and the CARICOM Secretariat respectively. Further, in June 2013, the CARICOM Secretariat, supported by the ABS Initiative, organised in Dominica a Regional Training Workshop on Drafting Legislation to Support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Objectives

Building on this background, the second edition of the Caribbean Workshop was designed to bring together relevant stakeholders from the Caribbean countries to exchange views on the different topics and share lessons learnt or best practices of ABS implementation. More specifically the objectives of the workshop were to:

- Discuss strategic approaches for initiating national processes for the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to develop basic mechanisms and instruments for effective implementation of ABS systems;
- Exchange information, experiences and lessons learnt regarding the rights of indigenous and local communities over genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as mechanism for their involvement in decision making processes; and
- Share information and experiences with regard to existing permit systems for biodiversity research and appropriate monitoring instruments for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge used in Research &Development and commercialisation.

Participants

Up to two national delegates from each of the 16 Caribbean ACP Member States were invited by the co-organisers. Support for one delegate from each of the Caribbean Overseas territories was also provided. Further, selected regional and national representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities, academia, NGOs, industry and the private sector were also invited to attend the workshop. Resource persons of the Secretariat of the CBD, the CARICOM Secretariat and the ABS Initiative were present to support and facilitate the discussions. The workshop was conducted in English.

Outcome

The Second Caribbean ABS Workshop gathered 44 participants from 13 Caribbean countries to discuss the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from research and development activities and commercialisation of derived products. Over the five-day workshop, participants were introduced to various strategic themes and specific topics with a view to develop a roadmap for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for Caribbean countries. While sessions on strategic issues provided a space for participants to discuss key elements worth considering in the development of comprehensive ABS strategies in Caribbean countries for the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, sessions on specific issues allowed them to focus on critical concerns that had high relevance to national ABS implementation processes. Participants hence exchanged views and national experiences in relation to the protection of traditional knowledge, the rights of indigenous people, institutional arrangements for permitting and monitoring the access and use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge as well as opportunities for valorisation of Caribbean genetic resources and their economic potential. In cooperation with the University of the West Indies Mona Campus in Jamaica, participants were exposed to several case studies showing how medicinally relevant properties of genetic resources, especially from marine ecosystems, and local traditional knowledge are investigated in scientific research. One of the main conclusions of the discussions was that without adequate knowledge and experience in negotiating contracts with mostly commercial partners, the wealth of existing research couldn't be translated into economic opportunities. Participants concluded that the creation of national laws on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing are of crucial importance.

Proceedings of the workshop, constructive exchanges, group exercises and activities contributed to:

- An enhanced understanding of strategic approaches to support ratification and national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- A deeper knowledge on how to integrate ABS issues in existing systems of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and income creation for local communities;
- A better awareness and knowledge of ABS related economic opportunities in the Caribbean such as marine bioprospecting that could impact on political will to support ABS implementation in the region;
- A better awareness on the various approaches to recognise rights of indigenous peoples and local communities over their genetic resources and associated knowledge and the importance to define critical terms such as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ILCs), traditional knowledge and derivatives within national laws;
- Identifications of specific bioprospecting and utilisation cases that can be further elaborated as model cases in the context of the ABS Initiative;

Based on the above, recommendations on regional ABS issues and tasks that could be addressed by the ABS Initiative and the CARICOM Secretariat were formulated. Further, the workshop adopted elements of a roadmap towards the ratification and national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean region

Process

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

Key Features of the Nagoya Protocol

This first session served as an introduction to the various thematic sessions of the workshop. It also provided a brief but comprehensive overview of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), its vision, concepts and key features while at the same time highlighting the obligations of Parties, as both users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The key features reviewed were, among others:

- Access to genetic resources that is subject to Prior Informed Consent (PIC) of the provider country and the obligation to establish ABS measures at national level;
- The roles and responsibilities of National Focal Points and Competent National Authorities;
- Sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and subsequent utilisations by establishing of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and related measures to be taken at national level;
- Compliance and monitoring, including the designation of checkpoints and the establishment of internationally recognised certificate of compliance;
- The protection and promotion of traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources held by ILCs and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation;
- A global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism dealing with transboundary situation and where a PIC cannot be granted; and
- Supportive measures for information sharing such as the ABS Clearing House and the recognition that different users and sectors have different ABS practices or way of using genetic resources (e.g. through support for the development of model contractual clauses, guidelines, best practices and standards).

Overall the Nagoya Protocol provides for legal certainty and transparency for users and providers of genetic resources.

Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol – Caribbean Perspectives

Introduction and Key Elements to Support National Processes towards the Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol

To enable the elaboration of a practical and comprehensive roadmap for ABS implementation in the Caribbean countries, this first session provided the participants with a basic overview of the step-by-step process and key elements to support national processes towards ratification of the Nagoya Protocol while at the same time highlighting the benefits of ratifying the Protocol. Examples of countries taking steps towards ratification of the Protocol were presented to the participants as a way to illustrate key activities and milestones to be implemented in order to advance this process. These were among others, the initiation of the ratification process by a lead ministry (generally the Ministry of the Environment); the preparation and collection of all relevant information and documentation (cabinet memo, legal implication analysis, etc.); a review of existing relevant legislation or ABS measures and development of new legislation or amendment of the existing measures to meet the obligations set out in the Protocol; national legislation with key stakeholders

and relevant government agencies or entities; formal endorsement for ratification through parliament or government cabinet and deposition of the instrument of ratification with the Depository at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

ABS Status Quo in the Caribbean

Information on CBD and ABS Issues and Policies in the Caribbean Community

Participants were provided with a brief overview of four specific articles under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas[1] that could be brought to bear on matters related to the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. These Articles are Articles 15, 58 (2), 64, 64 (6), 66 and 66 (c)). Their objectives are strongly aligned with the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol with regard to (i) the preservation and the sound management of the environment and natural resources; (ii) the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially those biological resources of important medicinal and traditional use; (iii) research and development; (iv) economic development; (v) intellectual property and the protection of local traditional knowledge. Participants' attention was also drawn to Article 11 of the Nagoya Protocol on transboundary cooperation, which addresses the issues of common genetic resources and/or of a shared body of traditional knowledge between different countries. The complementarities and similarities between the two instruments suggest what kind of facilitation and cooperation role of the CARICOM Secretariat could play in relation to the implementation of Nagoya Protocol in the Member States. The region's vast biological variety, traditional knowledge and other capabilities were showcased to illustrate the tremendous untapped potential and value of genetic resources in the CARICOM Member States. It is therefore crucial for Member States to develop ABS national legal frameworks and procedures, as well as build national legal and negotiating capacity to harvest the benefits of such wealth.

Outcomes of the Regional ABS Workshops in Trinidad & Tobago and Dominica

Since 2012, CARICOM Secretariat, in cooperation with the ABS Initiative, has been working to build awareness and capacity on ABS related issues in the region to enable Member States to take the necessary step to implement the Nagoya Protocol. This presentation informed the participants on the background, objectives and outcomes of both the 1st Regional ABS Workshop, which took place in Trinidad & Tobago in September 2012 and the Regional ABS Training Workshop on Drafting Legislation for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol organised in Dominica in June 2013. The major outcomes from both workshops reported were essentially the development of a programme of work for the ABS Initiative in the Caribbean and possible support and activities that could be rendered by the ABS Initiative, the SCBD and the CARICOM Secretariat as well as the creation of a Steering Group to give guidance to the ABS Initiative's work in the Caribbean. An emphasis was also put on common issues that both workshops touched upon such as, among others, the multifaceted and complex nature of ABS related issues often due to the wide range of stakeholders involved; the need for awareness raising and capacity building in the region; the potential of marine genetic resources and marine bioprospecting; the potential of research and development and of the valorisation of genetic resources; the protection of traditional knowledge and the rights of ILCs, including issues related to ownership of the genetic resources and intellectual property rights and; the importance of cooperation as well as information and experience sharing across the region.

[1] The Treaty of Chaguaramas initially signed in 1973 established the Caribbean Community and Common Market, later known as CARICOM. In addition to economic issues, the Treaty addressed issues of foreign policy coordination and functional cooperation. A revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy was signed in 2001.

Activities of the ABS Initiative, State of ABS Development in the Caribbean and Opportunities concerning Caribbean Genetic Resources

This last presentation of this first thematic session provided the participants with a comprehensive summary of the activities the ABS Initiative carried out in the region since 2012 in relation to eight fields of action.[2] The presentation also reported on the progress of ratification and latest ABS developments in the different countries of the Caribbean, including the numbers of these countries being parties to international treaties and conventions relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (e.g. the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)). Lastly, the presentation provided a brief outlook on the activities of the ABS Initiative planned for 2014, and the establishment of marine bioprospecting as a regional topic in cooperation with relevant research institutions and corporations utilising Caribbean marine genetic resources.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Following this first series of presentations, participants inquired whether the ABS Initiative could provide them with additional and more detailed examples of countries that have ratified and implemented the Nagoya Protocol so as to advise them on their own national processes. Participants were informed that the ABS Initiative was currently working with India, Brazil and South Africa to carry out national studies on their respective experiences with ABS implementation, which could provide useful lessons learned for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. However, it was highlighted that there was no single model for ABS implementation due to the need to adapt national strategies and processes to different national circumstances and needs. Participants further inquired about the role and status of the CARICOM Secretariat on ABS issues and implementation in the Caribbean. They were informed that, although ABS was recognised as an important matter by the CARICOM Secretariat, it was still too early to develop a regional position on this issue or to discuss a regional approach. The issue of defining what is meant by ILCs in the absence of an internationally recognised definition was highlighted. It was suggested that countries in the region should consider this issue in light of their specific national and local context. The importance of recognising the rights of ILCs over their genetic resources and traditional knowledge was also underscored. Participants then discussed the issue of access and sovereign rights over common/migrating genetic resources, more particularly marine genetic resources and the need for cooperation between the different countries in the region. Access to these resources and benefit-sharing arising from their utilisation will both depend on the legislation of the country where these resources have been accessed. It was therefore felt that further consideration should be given to a regional approach in order to address such transboundary issues. Lastly, some participants suggested also the need to consider the development of ABS guidelines for the Caribbean countries, which could link ABS implementation with agricultural and other relevant programmes.

Towards the Development of ABS Strategies in Caribbean Countries

Elements for Consideration in the Development of an ABS Strategy

This presentation introduced the participants to ideas and elements worth considering when developing an ABS Strategy, taking into account the eight fields of action. Once an ABS policy/strategy is implemented, an appropriate legal framework and procedures can be established which will provide greater clarity and legal certainty for ABS implementation.

[2] The eight fields of action are: the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol; defining overall ABS policies/strategies; putting in place domestic ABS legislation; establishing institutional arrangements; dealing with Traditional Knowledge, dealing with transboundary issues; valorisation strategy and stakeholder engagement. The eight fields of action have no particular order. They are interrelated and together result in a national ABS system (Strategic Communication for ABS: A Conceptual Guide and Toolkit for practitioners, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, 2012, p11).

Group Work

The participants were divided in 8 groups. Each group was asked to reflect on one of the selected fields of action as if they were in the context of developing a national ABS strategy. Each group was provided with a set of guiding questions. The selected fields of action were (i) putting in place domestic ABS legislation; (ii) establishing institutional arrangements; (iii) dealing with traditional knowledge; (iv) dealing with transboundary issues; (v) valorisation strategy and (vi) stakeholder involvement. The results of each group were presented and discussed in plenary.

The various set of questions pertaining to each selected field of action enabled each group to identify the main actors, ministries, institutions or authorities that should be involved in the development of a national ABS strategy and what their role could be. Altogether, the exercise highlighted the remarkable wealth and potential of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the Caribbean region. However, the majority of groups reported that no ABS legal framework was currently in place, although few indicated that the development of ABS legislation was in process. Additionally, most groups pointed out that various existing law or institutional arrangements such as permitting systems could be adapted to serve the purpose of ABS. Group discussions also revealed that, in a number of countries, genetic resources are generally owned by the state. Indeed, few countries recognise the rights of ILCs over their genetic resources. Most groups also reported that no measures are generally in place to protect traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. They noted that because of the lack of appropriate measures to access genetic resources and traditional knowledge such as PIC, MAT or research permits; very little benefits come back to the communities or the state for that matter. Nonetheless, few countries reported that some types of access procedures had been development at local level (e.g. the Maroon Local Council in Jamaica), although such procedures needed to be strengthened. Finally, issues and challenges in relation to shared resources and traditional knowledge were highlighted. Overall, groups emphasised the limited capacity of their countries to address ABS issues adequately.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Some participants raised the issue that permit procedures in the context of ABS could be an inhibitor for academic research while others reported that it has not been the case and emphasised that there was no other way to track the results of this type of research. For example, the Dominican Republic offers three different processes to apply and obtain a permit depending on the nature of the research. However and regardless of the type of research permit granted, all researchers have the obligation to report to the Dominican Republic on the results of their research. Furthering this discussion, some participants drew attention to the issue of traditional knowledge often being put in the public domain once research results are published, alienating any prospect for obtaining any intellectual property right that relate to the traditional knowledge in question. Participants were informed that in the Dominican Republic, any issue raised in relation to intellectual property in ABS permits will depend on the kind of research and the nature of results. If any traditional knowledge is involved, it is acknowledged and respected. The recognition of customary laws in national legislation was then discussed at length. For example, the Maroon legal system is recognised by the government of Jamaica within Maroon territory. Debating on countries' sovereign rights over genetic resources accessed under their jurisdiction, some participants pointed out the relevance of other treaties or conventions such as the SPAW Protocol[3] for identifying common resources in the region. Finally, some participants advocated the need for better research cooperation in the region while others suggested assessing the benefits of a regional approach to implement the Nagoya Protocol and the potential role the CARICOM Secretariat could play in this regard.

[3] The protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) was adopted in Kingston, Jamaica by the member governments of the Caribbean Environmental Programme on 18th January 1990 and entered into force on 18th June 2000.

Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Indigenous Communities and the Nagoya Protocol

The first presentation of this second thematic session provided a comprehensive overview of the provisions relevant to traditional knowledge and ILCs in the Nagoya Protocol while emphasising how the application and understanding of Article 8(j) of the CBD has evolved over the years. The presentation then focussed on the several obligations established under the Nagoya Protocol and what measures Member States need to take in domestic law to address them. Some of these obligations relate to the following:

- Prior Informed Consent of ILCs for access to genetic resources (when they have established rights over these resources) and Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;
- Measures for the sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge set out in Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT);
- Compliance with domestic law to ensure that users will respect PIC and MAT obligations as required;
- Taking into consideration customary laws, community protocols and procedures with respect to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;
- Not to restrict the customary use and exchange of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge within and among ILCs; and
- Establish mechanisms to inform potential users about their obligations for access to and the sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge;
- Support the development by ILCs of community protocols, minimum requirements for MAT, model contractual clauses for benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Indigenous Communities in the Caribbean and the Nagoya Protocol

During the second part of this session, a series of presentations focussed on the current status of legislation in Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname in relation to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the participation of ILCs in the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Representatives of the Maroon Community reported on a case of how traditional knowledge on plants sourced from the Maroon communities have been documented without the communities' consent or knowledge of it and further emphasised the need to develop comprehensive ABS legislation to address these issues. A representative of the Organisation of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname offered an extensive overview of the meaning of traditional knowledge. For the indigenous peoples of Suriname, traditional knowledge is collective in nature, intergenerational (transmitted orally and practice from generation to the next) and is highly dependent on the culture of the people and the natural environment. Traditional knowledge is therefore not just about medicinal plants and practices. It also includes, among others, knowledge on ecosystems and the weather, sustainable hunting or fishing techniques, sustainable forestry and farming. The presentation also insisted on the rights of Indigenous Peoples over their knowledge systems, including collective ownership of their collective knowledge and on their rights to protect these against theft and misappropriation. Due to weaknesses in conventional intellectual property right systems, there is a need for developing other innovative *sui generis* systems that will allow for and accommodate the particular needs of collective knowledge. The presentation also emphasised the significance for Surinam to develop clear national policies on these issues. Such policies and legislation should be designed with the full and active participation of the indigenous peoples and maroons of Suriname. Last, a participant from Guyana presented on the Indigenous Peoples Commission and the Amerindian Act of 2006 providing participants with an example of very advanced legislation in relation to the recognition of the collective nature of indigenous peoples' rights, their system of governance and ABS issues.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants furthered the discussion on what is meant by ILCs and noted the absence of definitions for ILCs in the Nagoya Protocol. It was pointed out that a definition of ILCs was included in the International Labour Organisation Convention 169. However, due to the contentious nature of this issue, many countries have not ratified the Convention. Participants emphasised the importance of such a definition in national law. Participants also discussed the indigenous system of governance in place in Guyana and the various threats (development projects, tourism, and mining) to indigenous way of life so important to the preservation and generation of traditional knowledge. Lastly, participants highlighted the critical role of the ILCs as the guardians of very important pool of genes and (e.g. seeds from traditional crops and plants).

Group Work

Participants were divided in the same eight groups mentioned above. The first four groups reflected on a set of questions related to steps to be taken at national level for the establishment of procedures for access to genetic resources (when communities have established rights over them) and traditional knowledge and to ensure benefit-sharing (e.g. community protocols, model contracts and ABS minimum requirements). The final four groups focussed on a second set of questions pertaining to the benefit of exchanging national experiences with respect to ABS as it relates to traditional knowledge and genetic resources and in what ways can the traditional use of biological resources provide useful leads to the development of commercial products. The results of each group were presented and discussed extensively in plenary.

The first four groups identified several steps and procedures related to access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge that could be implemented at country level. Most groups suggested, among others, mapping genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and developing an electronic inventory to be updated regularly; awareness raising at all levels and capacity building of the ILCs in legal matters and negotiation skills. Some groups highlighted the importance of designing national legislation that recognises the rights of ILCs and promotes the protection of traditional knowledge. Others recommended developing community protocols and developing guidelines on how to establish ABS agreements or contracts.

In relation to the second set of questions, groups indicated that genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge were widely used in their respective countries in different sectors such as the food, cosmetics, health care industries, etc. A majority of these uses are being developed into commercial products by small, medium or large-scale companies. For example, lever Bros, (large scale); Eden Herbs, Biotech R&D (Medium) and local enterprises; and cottage industries (road side, for small scale production). However, most groups emphasised that intellectual property rights needed to be kept in the country of origin in order to enhance financial returns in the local economy. Some participants suggested creating partnerships and collaboration between Caribbean countries, especially countries, which have common genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Overall, most groups advocated for an enabling environment with better regulation, practices and monitoring systems which would allow this local industry to thrive by linking genetic resources, traditional knowledge, research and technology and the private sector in a way that would not dispossess ILCs from their own knowledge.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants deliberated at length on community procedures and systems of documentation to record access to ILCs' genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. They advanced that such procedures and systems would support the establishment of agreements such as PIC and MAT and enable to track the utilisations of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The

discussion then moved on the issue of documenting traditional knowledge to prevent biopiracy and misappropriation. Some participants also raised the importance to keep in mind the interplay between the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol, especially when designing an ABS national legislative framework. Other participants highlighted the fact that if countries had different levels of requirements for ABS, this could become an issue in terms of competitiveness as some countries may lower their standards to attract more economic opportunities. For such reason, they suggested considering a regional approach.

Using Existing Permit and Monitoring Systems to Support Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS

Authorities, Monitoring and the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House

The first presentation of this thematic session provided an overview of the ABS system established by the Nagoya Protocol in relation to monitoring and permits as well as the roles and responsibilities of relevant authorities to be established such as ABS National Focal Points and Competent National Authorities. The presentation also focussed on the ABS Clearing House established by the CBD which is to facilitate the exchange of ABS relevant information, such as ABS legislative, administrative and policy measures from countries Party to the Nagoya Protocol; national focal points and competent national authorities; and permits issues at the time of access as evidence of the decision to grant PIC and of the establishment of MAT. Additional information to be made available on the ABS Clearing House may include relevant competent authorities of ILCs, model contractual clauses, methods and tools developed to monitor genetic resources and codes of conduct and best practices. The ABS Clearing House has also an important role to play in the monitoring of genetic resources. When a permit is granted by the competent national authority of a provider country as evidence that PIC was obtained and MAT established, the permit is to be made available to the ABS Clearing House in order to be recognised as an internationally recognised certificate of compliance. Additionally, obligations established by the Protocol to monitor utilisation of genetic resources were presented such as the designation of one or more checkpoints (e.g. research publishing house, patents examination offices, authorities providing regulatory or marketing approval of products, etc.), and reporting requirements to be included in MATs.

National Permit Systems in Jamaica for Biodiversity Research & CITES and the Relationship with Access and Benefit-Sharing

The presentation provided an overview of the existing legislation constituting Jamaica's permitting system. The first pillar of this legal framework is the Endangered Species (Protection Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act, which provides for the conservation, protection and regulation of trade of endangered and indigenous species, incorporating Jamaica's obligation as signatory to the Convention on the international Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Act determines the permitting process and establishes the Management Authority in charge of overseeing applications and granting permits with the support of the Scientific Authority. The second pillar is the Wild Life Protection Act, which provides for the protection of certain wildlife, animals, birds and fish. It is an old Act that needs to include provisions in relation to plants. Anyone who would like to access any species protected under this Act and/or conduct research will need an exemption under Section 22 of this Act. Lastly, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act, an overarching environmental legislation, which requires permits for various activities including research within national parks, including marine parks. Other measures in place include material transfer agreements (for endemic species and specimen), breeding loan agreements (for endemic live species) and wildlife research permits. Of relevance to ABS, the above-mentioned permits systems and research permits allow Jamaica to exercise sovereignty over its terrestrial and marine genetic resources that are either classified as protected or located in national parks. The current legal and policy framework does not

specifically address ABS and does not cover all genetic resources found under Jamaica's national jurisdiction.

Note on Guyana's National Biodiversity Research Information System

A brief description of the National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS) used by Guyana was also provided. The NBRIS is an online system for research permits that provides the necessary information on the researchers and the type of research they are doing. Guyana is now aiming at integrating an ABS element in this system to address their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol. The online research system could also be used for monitoring the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge whether the resources are leaving the country or not. It was felt that such a system could provide a useful example to other countries from the region.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Following this set of presentations, which aimed to introduce the group work on monitoring and permits, participants discussed the importance for the ministry in charge of biological diversity or research to have enough political and decision making power to be able to establish a sound and functional permit system. Participants also emphasised the importance of considering all the pieces of existing legislation that could serve the purpose of ABS and to develop a step wise and transparent application review process to support the decision to grant a permit or not. Such process should take into account the type of research application before advising the competent authority on whether to grant the permit or not. Some participants stressed the importance to develop/build research capacity locally to benefit the Caribbean region and proposed to explore the potential of national and regional initiatives/partnerships to generate such research capacity. Lastly, participants discussed how existing permit systems under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CITES could provide inspiration to the ABS permit system or be adapted to address ABS issues. It was suggested by some to further explore how the CITES permit system works and what lessons could be learnt for the establishment of the ABS permit system.

Group Work

Participants were divided into the same two sets of four groups and asked to reflect on how the ABS permit system could work in their country and what could be the checkpoints. To assist them in this task, some guiding questions were provided. The first four groups reported back on the existing permit systems in place in their countries and on the different authorities that oversee or regulate the different types of resources. The second four groups reported back on which type of foreign user organisations seek access to genetic resources in their countries, for what types of resources and for what purpose. These groups also reflected on what type of measures should be considered to ensure that users respect the ABS requirements of provider countries and where checkpoints should be established.

In relation to the two first sets of questions, the groups identified and provided examples of existing permit procedures in their own countries and pointed out the different authorities to which research applications must be submitted. In general, most countries reported that existing permit systems could provide a sound basis to address ABS permits requirements. In some countries, access permits were classified per sector (e.g. fisheries, forestry, etc.). In most cases, countries had different types of permits for research. Some permit systems and requirements procedures could include, among others, databases (e.g. Suriname has a very sophisticated permit system) and similar agreements to PIC, MAT and MTA. Most countries referred to existing permit requirements under other environmental conventions such as CITES. Participants also highlighted the importance of obtaining PIC when seeking access to genetic resources owned by ILCs. Overall, groups reported that ABS regulations needed to be developed in most countries. In relation to the second set of questions,

each group provided examples of international users in their respective countries. The types of utilisation varied from food security to commercial purposes. Most groups considered establishing airport customs as the first checkpoint as they usually are both a point of entry and a point of exit. Finally, the importance of revising existing legislation to address ABS was highlighted.

Plenary Discussion Summary

In the plenary discussion that followed, participants highlighted the importance of a clear understanding of what one means when using the terms 'genetic resources' as opposed to "biological resources". It was pointed out that the Nagoya Protocol had provided further clarity on the concept of access and benefit-sharing and its application to genetic resources by defining what is meant by the "utilisation of genetic resources" under its article 2(c) as follows: "Utilisation of genetic resources" means to conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology as defined in Article 2 of the Convention. In other words, if a plant is being accessed for the purpose of carrying out research and development on its genetic and/or biochemical composition, then the access to this plant should be carried out in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and the national ABS requirements of the provider country. However, if the plant is being accessed purely for trade purposes then ABS requirements would not apply. With respect to the ABS Clearing House, participants were informed that the pilot phase had been launched and that a capacity-building workshop would be held back to back with the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, end of February in the Republic of Korea. Finally, some participants suggested once more that taking into account the fact that most states in the region do not have ABS legislation currently in place, proper consideration should be given to the harmonisation of national legislation and the development of ABS guidelines for the region. The harmonised legislation on fisheries was given as an example in this regard. Other participants however disagreed on the need for a regional approach. Participants were then informed of the possibility for the CARICOM Secretariat to assist in the development of guidelines. The plenary further discussed the mandate of the CARICOM Secretariat and the role that they expected such a regional institution to play with regard to ABS implementation. In this regard, participants debated the possibility to develop some recommendations advocating for an ABS regional approach. They were informed that the mandate of the CARICOM Secretariat could only be changed through a decision of the relevant Community Organs and Councils, e.g. the Council for Trade and Economic Development. However, it was pointed out that the CARICOM Secretariat could advise and guide the Councils and Member States on critical issues such as ABS. Additionally it was pointed out that there are other Community Institutions that could have a contributing role to play in the implementation of ABS in the region.

Valorisation of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge – Opportunities for Caribbean Economies

Valorisation of Genetic Resources and the Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol does not have any explicit provision related to valorisation. However, the entire text of the Nagoya Protocol relates to the valorisation of genetic resources. Indeed, it was pointed out that during the negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol, it was recognised that genetic resources were used by different types of users in different sectors which each have different ways of carrying out access and benefit-sharing in practice. For this reason, the Nagoya Protocol in its articles 19 and 20 establishes that Parties are to encourage the development of model contractual clauses for MAT, as well as the development, update and use of voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices/or standards on ABS, which would be adapted to the ABS practices of different types of users of genetic resources (e.g. pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, botanicals and other sectors).

The plenary discussion focussed on the issue of derivatives and how these were covered by the Nagoya Protocol. Participants were informed that although a definition of "derivatives" is included under the article of the Protocol on the "use of terms" and referred to in the definition of "utilization of genetic resources"; the term "derivative" is not included in other sections of the Protocol. However, the issue of derivatives is addressed indirectly in article 5 of the Protocol, which provides for the sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources as well as subsequent applications and commercialisation. MAT will generally determine on a case-by-case basis the type of utilisation that is permitted with respect to access to a genetic resource and related benefits to be shared.

Marine Bioprospecting

This presentation introduced the relatively new field of marine bioprospecting and emphasised the great potential of such activity in the Caribbean. Fast growing developments in the field of marine natural products in the last 30 years are illustrated by an increasing literature and publications on marine natural products and drug developments. Because marine natural products exhibit greater potential in the discovery of new drugs than their terrestrial counterparts, the marine environment has become the main area for bioprospecting in the region. Utilisation of Caribbean marine genetic resources is indeed a rapidly advancing field as illustrated through the two case studies presented on the industrial use of the soft corals *Pseudopterogorgia elisabethae* and *Plexaura homomalla*. Despite the fact that marine bioprospecting in the region is mainly carried out by foreign institutions, most Caribbean states still run research permit systems without ABS provisions. Marine bioprospecting has not yet received adequate attention in the international ABS discussion. Indeed, while most of the international legal debate focussed on sea areas beyond national jurisdiction, most of the discoveries happen in the exclusive economic zone[4] (EEZ) i.e. under national jurisdiction. Therefore, the majority of marine bioprospecting activities will fall under the Nagoya Protocol and national legislation. The EEZ coverage might be found challenging in the Caribbean region and a harmonised approach to ABS might not be possible due to the intertwined aspect of the various EEZs. The ABS Initiative plans to bring this topic under the spotlight in the next two years with the support of the countries of the Caribbean and South Pacific regions.

In the plenary discussion that followed, participants emphasised both the need for raising awareness on the potential of marine bioprospecting for the region. Participants pointed out that, marine areas are usually seen as only relevant for tourism and fisheries. Marine biodiversity is generally not the target of ministries. Marine life is complex to regulate as it involves different ministries. Participants also highlighted the challenge of protecting marine borders against research ships and their increasing occurrences. Participants were informed that because marine natural products are very difficult to reproduce, it is very likely that the demand for them will increase dramatically in the coming years. Hence, it is critical for the Caribbean countries to design national laws that will address marine genetic resources and their utilisation.

Value Chain Development in the Caribbean

This part of the session presented a few examples of value chain developments from across the Caribbean. The selected presentations focussed on how genetic resources and knowledge of biodiversity could be used to improve livelihoods from both an economic and health care perspectives. The Traditional Medicines of the Islands Program (TRAMIL) presented on five different cases illustrating different stages of the valorisation process and related ABS opportunities that could be developed by local and/or internationally bioprospectors. The second presentation introduced Eden Herbs Ltd, one of the companies under the Caribbean Association for Plant Science, Industry, Commerce and Use in Medicine (CAPSICUM) which aims to integrate herbal medicine into

[4] 200 nautical miles or 370 km out from the costal baseline

mainstream heath care and promote the combination of conventional and traditional medicine for health benefits. Eden Herbs Ltd has utilised TRAMIL research data to develop all its products (e.g. herbal drinks, teas, cream, capsules, etc.). Lastly, the Biotechnology Centre from the University of West Indies in Jamaica provided an overview of the whole value chain from natural biodiversity to high-value products and associated challenges in achieving benefits from these endeavours. The presentation demonstrated how a chain of activities adds value to genetic resources from one activity to the next. It also highlighted the importance of understanding the value and potential of the Caribbean biodiversity.

Participants discussed the issues of biopiracy and how to protect traditional knowledge. The debate highlighted the importance to also protect the environment and culture in which traditional knowledge is generated. The plenary also reflected on how the Caribbean States could collaborate together to create more economic opportunities and impacts for ILCs through ABS. Finally, some participants raised the issue of how benefit-sharing is dealt with for traditional knowledge holders when national bioprospectors are involved.

Group Work

For this exercise, the first four groups of participants were asked whether they were aware of any activities based on genetic resources (flora or fauna) and/or traditional knowledge that contribute to income creation and if so, to provide examples. They were also asked if they were aware of any national strategy or any initiatives that support the development of, or develop research capacity in relation to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and if so, to provide examples as well. The other four groups were asked to identify traditional uses of genetic and biological resources in their countries and whether these uses were commercially exploited or in what ways could these uses provide useful leads to the development of commercial products (by small, medium or large enterprises).

With regard to the first two questions, most groups reported that some small-scale activities were developing medicinal or cosmetic products based on plants. Other groups reported on existing research activities whether carried by academics under the auspices of a university or by a private sector company. A majority of groups also reported on existing national strategy/policy or few local initiatives being developed in partnership with various NGOs. All the four other groups provided wide range of examples of traditional uses of genetic or biological resources from various sectors (cosmetics, medicinal, repellent and pesticide, food, spiritual practices, etc.). Most of these uses were commercially exploited on different scales and did not necessarily relate to genetic resources as defined by the Nagoya Protocol.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants stressed the importance to cooperate to develop a system that will enable the collection and gathering of existing information on the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The development of national ABS strategy could initiate this mapping process. Some participants also emphasised the need to encourage local value chain developments on a large-scale basis where possible so as to increase benefits for local people.

Field Trip at the Centre for Marine Sciences and the Natural Products Institute of the University of the West Indies

The field trip to the Centre for Marine Science and the Natural Products Institute of the University of the West Indies provided the participants with a comprehensive picture of research and development and valorisation activities taking place in Jamaica in relation to both marine and terrestrial genetic resources. A series of presentations on current research cases illustrated different

value added steps, among others, the botanical and genetic identification of local biodiversity, the isolation of extracts, the identification of bioactive ingredients and the verification of such bioactivity. This bioactivity test was told to be critical as the value of the organism could be multiplied at this point in time. The bioactivity test is also decisive as it proves whether any traditional knowledge on a genetic resource is true or not. By doing so, it links any existing traditional knowledge to science and therefore to any potential commercialisation. Lastly, participants' attention was drawn to the wealth of marine genetic resources resulting from the rich variety of marine species found in Jamaica's vast EEZ and an emphasis was put on the potential of research off shore. Summaries of research examples presented to the participants are provided in Annex 1.

The field visit also served to highlight that while the University of West Indies had products with potential for business ventures, there was a need to raise awareness and build the legal capacity of scientists on ABS issues. Doing so will help addressing the challenges researchers from the University of West Indies in Jamaica reported encountering when developing partnerships with foreign partners. Such challenges ranged from the need to link with the private sector to develop products from research and the lack of a clear legal framework to the paucity of proper partnership agreements covering important issues such as intellectual property rights and benefit-sharing. Other concerns were raised in relation to the lack of taxonomic expertise and the difficulties researchers from the University of West Indies in Jamaica faced with regard to accessing information on on-going research as soon as the genetic resources and derived materials leave the country. Outcomes of such research are more often learnt much later through the formal publication of results in scientific journals.

The participants also attended an Opportunity Fair organised by the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica. Putting theory into practise, the Opportunity Fair allowed the participants to get a sense of what kind of business opportunities were being developed in Jamaica in relation to genetic resources and/or natural products based on local knowledge. The participants were exposed to all the dimensions of valorisation through the wide range of products being displayed (beverages, food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, soaps, candles, etc.). The fair also gave the participants the possibility to see what kind of support was provided to entrepreneurs, including information on intellectual property rights (trademarks, geographic indications, industrial designs, copyrights and patents), financing, standards, packaging and marketing.

Coming back to the plenary, participants emphasised the importance of raising awareness about ABS in the academic realm so as to establish better research agreements that include appropriate ABS considerations, especially intellectual property clauses, and investigate whether existing agreements could be amended to include ABS through constructive discussion and negotiation. Some participants conveyed their concerns about the difficulties to protect their borders against biopiracy due to lack of financial resources and appropriate training. Others stressed the urgent need to fill the legal void of marine bioprospecting in national legislation.

One major outcome of the field trip was that participants from other Caribbean countries were inspired and stimulated to explore further opportunities for building potential partnerships with each other or pull resources together. The following propositions were made:

- To link Belize to the activities carried on at the University of West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica through the University of West Indies' extension in Belize City to do research on land plants and micro-organisms with potential uses in medicine etc., including the Mayan Institute of Belize and the Belize National Indigenous Council; and
- To collaborate with Suriname on ABS and bring together the Pharmaceutical/ Medicinal, Life Sciences and Chemistry Departments, the Herbariums (taxonomy, biodiversity) as well as the Biotechnology Centre, the Centre for Marine Sciences and the Department of Law.

Towards Caribbean ABS Strategies – Connecting the Dots

National Reflection Strategies

In response to suggestions to crystallise country reflections and enable the formulation of country level strategies, the break-out groups were allocated time to discuss plans of action to further national ABS implementation.

Regional Strategies and Road Map

Participants re-convened in their original groups to reflect, first individually and then collectively, on what specific and priority actions needed to be carried out at the national and regional levels to support ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Individual views and perspectives were then combined and priority actions selected at group level to be shared with the plenary. Group contributions were then clustered under various thematic areas. These thematic areas formed the workshop recommendations. Three of these thematic areas were then selected as priority areas for action by the plenary to be followed up by the Steering Committee. This entire process led to the identification of key directives and components that will serve as the building blocks for the development of an ABS roadmap for the region.

The thematic areas for action identified were to:

- Raise awareness on ABS issues at both national and regional level (priority area for action)
- Design ABS national legal and regulatory frameworks (priority area for action)
- Establish ABS National Focal Points/Competent National Authorities (priority areas for action)
- Formulate national and regional ABS policy/strategy and develop guidelines for the region
- Put ABS on the CARICOM/Council of Trade & Economic Development (COTED) agendas for a better cooperation between Member States
- Identify funding and mobilise resources for ABS activities
- Develop model contracts
- Establish a clearing house like mechanism in the Caribbean
- Develop bilateral or multilateral agreements to mutually protect the utilisation of common genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and Memorandum of Understandings between regional universities
- Assess and review ratification process in the region (stocktaking)

The final roadmap was agreed as follows:

Topic (votes)	Suggested Activities
Awareness Raising at National & Regional Levels (19)	▪ Implementation of an awareness and perception campaign ▪ Raising awareness at country level ▪ Awareness Raising (Aichi Targets) ▪ Cabinet briefing on ABS ▪ Creating awareness at decision making levels and at stakeholder level as well as regional level (permanent secretaries, ministers, community institutions
Legal Framework (19)	▪ Align laws and regulatory regimes with the Nagoya Protocol ▪ Establish, create, strengthen legislation to enable ABS ▪ Create legislative guidelines to assist the ratification process by identifying the legislative requirements ▪ Perfect the legal framework on ABS at the national level
Establishing National & Regional Focal Points (17)	▪ Establish national & regional Focal Points ▪ Create a Focal Point in country with office, budget, timeline (calendar of activities) ▪ National coordinating Mechanism ▪ Establish leading agent for ensuring ratification, policy & legislation ▪ Establish agency for implementation
Policy: National & Regional (16)	▪ Policy formulation ▪ Need to have a regional policy about the sharing of genetic and biological resources in the region ▪ Regional guidelines: creating regional guidelines for the implementation of the protocol
CARICOM Secretariat and COTED (7)	▪ Get ABS on the CARICOM Environment Agenda ▪ ABS needs to be tabled as an agenda item for the upcoming COTED meeting/Sustainable Ministers Meeting ▪ Caribbean countries to sign a cooperation agreement on ABS
Funding Identified for ABS Activities (6)	▪ Resources mobilisation/funding to support ABS activities
Model Contract Developed (3)	▪ Develop model contract for use of resources nationally and internationally
Clearing House (3)	▪ Establish a mechanism to increase interaction between stakeholders via Information Communication Technologies (ICT) regarding ABS ▪ Clearing House model in regional coordination mechanism
Bilateral & Multilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)	▪ Regional: establish multilateral arrangements to mutually protect use of genetic resources that protect each member state and the region ▪ MoUs between regional universities ▪ Establish a regional body after the ABS Initiative Project
Stocktaking	▪ Conduct regional and sub-regional meetings for countries to review ratification progress and issues
Other	▪ For successful and effective implementation following ratification establish guided and training workshops ▪ Regional communication: display on website, encourage transparency among countries, encourage collection and dissemination of progress reports

Presentations

The full list of presentations made during the workshop is listed here for download.

Day 1

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative – Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Opening Remarks – H.E. Josef Beck, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Jamaica

Opening Statement – Hon. Robert Dixon Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change, Jamaica

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing: Key Features – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

2nd Caribbean Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing – Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol: Key Steps, Rationale and Justifications – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Conserving and Capitalising on Biodiversity and Genetic Resources in the Caribbean Community – Dr Thérèse Yarde, Caribbean Community Secretariat

1st ABS Workshop for the Caribbean – Anya Thomas, Caribbean Community Secretariat

Activities of the ABS Initiative and State of ABS in the Caribbean Region – Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Development Strategies and Opportunities concerning Caribbean Genetic Resources – Prof Leonard O'Garro, Institute for Research and Development for Large Scale Projects, University of West Indies, Barbados

The Development of an ABS Strategy: Fields of Action – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Day 2

Indigenous Peoples ad Local Communities and the Nagoya Protocol – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Buff-Bay Valley Herbs and their Traditional Uses – Colonel Frank Lumsden, Charles Town Maroon Council, Jamaica

The Amerindian Act and National Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS – Autry Haynes, Guyana

The Indigenous Peoples in Suriname and the Implementation of ABS – Stanley Hubert Liauw-Angies, Organisation of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname

Day 3

Authorities, Monitoring and the ABS Clearing House – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

National Permit Systems in Jamaica for Biodiversity Research and CITES and the Relationship with ABS – Phillip Cross, National Environmental and Planning Agency (NEPA)

Marine Bioprospecting – Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Valorisation of Genetic Resources and the Nagoya Protocol – Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Extracting and Transforming Viper Venom and other Biotoxins into Lifesaving and Livelihoods Activities in the Caribbean Region – Laurent Jean-Pierre, Traditional Medicines of the Islands Project (TRAMIL)

Integrating Eden Herbs into mainstream Health Care – Dr Gilbertha St Rose, the Caribbean Association for Plant Science, Industry, Commerce and Use in Medicine (CAPSICUM)

Value Chains in Jamaica – from Natural Biodiversity to high-value Products – and Associated Challenges in Achieving Benefits from these Endeavours – Dr Sylvia Mitchell, Biotechnology Centre, University of West Indies, Jamaica

Day 4

Adding Value to Natural Products Development – Dr Rupika Delgoda, Natural Product Institute, University of West Indies, Jamaica

Jamaica's Marine Genetic Resources: Challenges and Opportunities – Marcia Creary Ford, Centre for Marine Sciences, University of West Indies, Jamaica

Diving in! The Search for Natural Products from the Sea – Winklet A. Gallimore, PhD, Department of Chemistry, University of West Indies, Jamaica

The Genetic Variation of *Strombus gigas* (Queen Conch) in the Jamaica Artisanal Fisheries – Kimari Kitson-Walters, Biotechnology Centre, University of West Indies, Jamaica *(contact ABS Initiative for a copy – 23 MB)*

The Contemporary Use of Medicinal Plants in Jamaica & Assessment of Potential Herb-Drug Interactions of Select Plants – David Picking, Natural Products Institute & the Biotechnology Centre, University of West Indies, Jamaica

Natural Products in Cancer Treatment and their Prevention – Dr Simone Badal McCreath, University of West Indies, Jamaica

The Quest for a Novel Insecticide – Dr Francis and Dr Trevor Yee, Natural Products Institute, University of West Indies, Jamaica *(not available)*

Day 5

Summary of Presentations and Discussions Days 1-3 – Thera Edwards, Chris Beeko, Facilitators

Annotated Agenda

Monday, 25th November 2013

8h00 Arrival and Registration

High Level Session

9h00 Opening Remarks
Dr. Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
H.E. Josef Beck, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Jamaica
Opening Statements
Dr Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community Secretariat
Hon. Robert Dixon Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change, Jamaica

High Level Session – The Nagoya Protocol on ABS

10h00 The Nagoya Protocol on ABS: Vision, Concepts and Key Features
Kick-off Presentation: Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Moderated Discussion

10h45 Coffee Break

Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS – Caribbean Perspectives (1)

11h15 Introduction to the Workshop
Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Introduction of Participants
Key Elements to Support National Processes towards Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

12h20 Lunch

Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS – Caribbean Perspectives (2)

14h00 Information on CBD and ABS Issues and Policies in the Caribbean Community
Dr Thérèse Yarde, Caribbean Community Secretariat
Outcomes of the Regional ABS Workshops in Trinidad and Tobago (2012) and Dominica (2013)
Anya Thomas and Dr Thérèse Yarde, Caribbean Community Secretariat
Development Strategies and Opportunities concerning Caribbean Genetic Resources
Prof Leonard O'Garro, Institute for Research and Development for Large Scale Project, University of the West Indies, Barbados
Caribbean Activities of the ABS Initiative and State of ABS in the Caribbean
Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Discussion

Towards the Development of ABS Strategies in Caribbean Countries (1)

16h00 Coffee Break

16h30 Elements for Consideration in the Development of an ABS Strategy
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Working Groups

18h00 End of the Day and Reception

Tuesday, 26th November 2013

Towards the Development of ABS Strategies in Caribbean Countries (2)

9h00 Working Groups: Conclusion & Reporting Back to the Plenary

10h45 Coffee Break

Traditional Knowledge & Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (1)

11h15 Protecting Traditional Knowledge
Melville Curry, Accompong Maroons, Jamaica
What does the Nagoya Protocol say?
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Discussion

12h15 Lunch

Traditional Knowledge of ABS Strategies in Caribbean Countries (2)

13h45 Strengthening the Maroons Communities in Utilising their Genetic Resources and traditional knowledge
Colonel Frank Lumsden, Charles Town Maroon Council, Jamaica
The Amerindian Act and National Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS
Autry Haynes, Guyana
Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Implementation of ABS
Stanley Hubert Liauw-Angie, Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of Suriname, Suriname
Discussion

15h30 Coffee Break

Traditional Knowledge & Indigenous Peoples and the Local Communities (3)

16h00 Working Groups & Reporting Back to the Plenary

18h00 End of the Day

Wednesday, 27th November 2013

Using Permit & Monitoring Systems to Support Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (1)

9h00 What does the Nagoya Protocol say? Issues related to Sovereignty, Permits for PIC and MAT, the Role of National Focal Points and Competent National Authorities
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Presentation of the ABS Clearing House and its Pilot Phase
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
National Permit Systems for Biodiversity Research and CITES and Relation to ABS
Phillip Cross, National Environmental & Planning Agency (NEPA), Jamaica
Discussion

10h00 Coffee Break

Using Permit & Monitoring Systems to Support Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (2)

10h30 Working Groups & Reporting Back to the Plenary

12h30 Lunch

Valorisation of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge– Opportunities for Caribbean Economies (1)

13h45 Marine Bioprospecting – Examples and Opportunities
Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
What does the Nagoya Protocol Say?
Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative
Examples of Value Chain Development in the Region:
Extracting and Transforming Viper Venom and other Biotoxins into Lifesaving and Livelihoods Activities in the Caribbean Region
Laurent Jean-Pierre, Traditional Medicines of the Islands Project (TRAMIL), Saint Lucia
Integrating Eden Herbs into Mainstream Health Care

Dr Gilbertha St Rose, CAPSICUM, Saint Lucia
Value Chains in Jamaica from Natural Biodiversity to High-Value Products and associated Challenges in Achieving benefits from these endeavours
Dr Sylvia Mitchell, The Biotechnology Centre, University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Discussion

16h00 Coffee Break

Valorisation of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge – Opportunities for Caribbean Economies (2)

16h30 Working Groups

18h00 End of the Day

Thursday, 28th November 2013

Institutions and Stakeholders Day

9h00 Institution and Stakeholder Tour in Kingston
Dr Sylvia Mitchell, The Biotechnology Centre, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

9h30 Centre for Marine Sciences, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

11h15 The Natural Products Institute, University of the West Indies, Jamaica
(see Annex 1 for more information on the presentations)

13h00 Lunch at Hope Gardens, Kingston

14h30 Scientific Research Council – Opportunity Fair, Kingston

17h30 Return to Hotel

18h00 End of the Day

Friday, 29th November 2013

9h00 Plenary Discussion on the Insights and Gains from the Institutions and Stakeholders Tour

Towards Caribbean ABS Strategies – Connecting the Dots (1)

9h30 Reporting Back to Plenary from the Working groups on Valorisation of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge – Opportunities for Caribbean Economies
Recap of Key Outcomes of the Week Programme and Working Groups

10h30 Coffee Break

Towards Caribbean ABS Strategies – Connecting the Dots (2)

11h00 Country Groups Reflection on National Strategies for ABS

13h00 Lunch

Towards Caribbean ABS Strategies – Connecting the Dots (3)

14h00 Working Groups on Regional Strategies

Caribbean ABS Roadmap

15h00 Reporting to the Plenary on Working Groups on Regional Strategies

15h45 Coffee Break

16h15 Recommendations and Conclusions

17h30 Closure

List of Participants

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Annex 1

Research Case Studies Presented during the Field Trip at the Centre for Marine Sciences and the Natural Products Institute of the University of the West Indies

Adding Value to Natural Products Development, R&D Efforts at the Natural Products Institute, University of West Indies by Dr Rupika Delgoda, Acting Director, The Natural Products Institute:
The Natural Products Institute has so far studied 30 natural extracts & 50 isolated compounds. Bioactivity tests have been established for herb safety, cancer and natural pesticides and are being established for cancer cell lines, TB, malaria and dengue fever. The Natural Product Institute collaborates with other research groups at University of the West Indies and internationally. A lot of value is lost if extracts are sent away for bioactivity screening but researchers need a legal framework within which to operate in order to obtain research grants.

Jamaica's Marine Genetic Resources: Challenges and Opportunities by Mrs Marcia Creary Ford, Environmental Data Manager, Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, Centre for Marine Sciences:
These resources include 2,667 fauna sp, 760 algae and 143 genera from the deep sea but relatively unstudied. Jamaica's Exclusive Economic Zone is 161,000 Km^2 or 24 times the size of the mainland.
a) Through agreement with PharmaMar, 500 kg of the ascidians (sea squirts) were frozen and shipped. One shipment was made and an analogue of the active compound subsequently synthesised, *Ecteinascidins*. No agreement was in place for benefit sharing;
b) A preliminary grant application for 'New Drugs from Marine Natural Resources from Jamaica Reefs Project' was made between the University of Mississippi and the University of West Indies. Samples collected and exported under a Materials Transfer Agreement. Filing of a US utility patent application was made based on materials collected in Jamaica but the full grant application was unsuccessful with the reason given being the degraded status of Jamaica's reefs and competition from other locations.

Diving in! The Search for Natural Products from the Sea by Dr Winklet Gallimore, Lecturer, Department of Chemistry:
Research strategy includes species collection, identification and propagation including for sustainable exploitation. It also includes identification of novel and bioactive molecules from marine species and associated microbes. Interesting species include *Amphimedon compressa* (red sponge) and *Stypopodium zonale* (brown algae).

The Genetic Variation of Strombus gigas (Queen Conch) in the Jamaican Artisanal Fisheries by Mr Kimani Kitson-Walters, MPhil Student, The Biotechnology Centre:
Work presented highlighted the importance of genetic identification of a marine plant, which is of high economic value to Jamaica for sustainable production of this resource.

The Contemporary Use of Medicinal Plants in Jamaica & Assessment of Potential Herb-Drug Interactions of Select Plants by David Picking, PhD student, Natural Products Institute & the Biotechnology Centre:
Work presented highlighted a TRAMIL study on ethnomedicinal and herb-drug usage in three Jamaican communities which was also included in the Caribbean Pharmacopeia and the screening of some of these plants for potential drug-herb interactions by use of CYP450 assays.

Natural Products in Cancer Treatments and their Prevention By Dr Simone Badal McCreath, Natural Products Institute:
The anti-cancer properties of over 40 biochemicals from terrestrial, marine and fungal sources and synthetic derivatives have been investigated. Breast, colon and liver cancer cell lines have been used as well as CYP450 assays. Other assays used at the Natural Product Institute include antioxidant and anti-inflammatory assays. These studies have highlighted several potentially promising leads such as compounds that block activation of pro-carcinogens, inhibition of enzymes involved with cancer initiation, selective killing of cancer cells and anti-inflammatory activity, to name a few.

The Quest for a Novel Insecticide
Dr. Francis, Natural Product Institute, screened 33 natural compounds and identified potential compounds active against mosquitos.
Dr. Trevor Yee, Natural Product Institute, highlighted patented research on Bitterwood (*Picrasma excelsa*) extraction process and a *Piper amalago var amalago* (an endemic Jamaican plant) extract as a novel insecticide.