

3rd Caribbean ABS Workshop
14-27 November 2014, Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia

hosted by

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, Saint Lucia

in cooperation with

***the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the Secretariat of the CBD and
the ABS Capacity Development Initiative***

- Outline -

Background

On 25-29 November 2013, the multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CCS) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) convened the 2nd Caribbean ABS Workshop in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica and was attended by 44 participants from 13 Caribbean countries to exchanged views and national experiences in relation to the protection of traditional knowledge, the rights of indigenous people, institutional arrangements for permitting and monitoring access and utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge as well as opportunities for valorisation of Caribbean genetic resources and unfolding 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. The workshop adopted elements of a roadmap towards the ratification and national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean region, which was finalised by the subsequent meeting of the Caribbean ABS Steering Group. The Roadmap comprises activities to be undertaken or supported by the ABS Initiative and/or the CCS in 2014 in the fields of awareness raising & information sharing, cooperation with national ABS initiatives, supporting regional cooperation, and acquisition of additional funds. The Steering Group further concluded that the next Caribbean ABS workshop should focus on 1) developments in the region; 2) legal frameworks, 3) value chains, and 4) ABS case studies.

On 19-22 May 2014, the SCBD in cooperation with the CCS organised a Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop on the Nagoya Protocol for the Caribbean in Georgetown, Guyana. The objective of the workshop was to further strengthen the capacity of participating countries to take the necessary steps to ratify/accede to the Nagoya Protocol and prepare for its effective implementation, with a view to contributing to the achievement of Aichi Target 16, i.e. to have the Nagoya Protocol in force and operational, consistent with national legislation, by 2015. The participants were introduced to various topics and took part in a hands-on training on the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House. The CCS reported on the status of implementing the regional Roadmap. To complement the regional roadmap, the 11 countries at the workshop produced draft country roadmaps/action plans towards ratification/accession to the Protocol and the development or amendment of their national ABS legislative, administrative or policy measures. IUCN agreed to integrate, as appropriate, the activities identified in the country roadmaps into the UNEP-GEF Caribbean regional ABS project. The participants also agreed that the CARICOM Secretariat to play a

central role in facilitating and coordinating various capacity development initiatives on ABS in the region to foster synergy and minimise duplication of efforts among the various actors and suggested that the CARICOM Secretariat explore the possibility of preparing a Caribbean Capacity Development Strategy on ABS. The participants also discussed the idea of establishing a network of legal experts on ABS.

Objectives

Building on the previous workshops, the 3rd Caribbean ABS Workshop is designed to bring together participants from governments, indigenous peoples, local communities, academia, NGOs, and industry to further learn and share experience with the ongoing processes for ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Specific objectives for the workshop are to:

- Share experiences and exchange views on legal and institutional issues regarding the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Identify gaps, capacity needs and practical actions towards the development or amendment of national ABS legislative, administrative and policy frameworks;
- Discuss approaches for valuation of Caribbean genetic resources and to overcome bottlenecks with regard to the transfer of Caribbean research results into the development and commercialisation phase;
- Elaborate the various elements of ABS-compliant value-chains, including possibilities to negotiate benefit-sharing agreement for existing value-chains; and
- Further discuss possibilities to enhance regional cooperation.

Expected Outputs

- Updated country roadmaps/action plans indicating specific national activities for ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Development of a Caribbean ABS Roadmap for 2015;
- Suggestions for agenda items to be included in a forthcoming Caribbean conference on valuation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;
- Suggestions of elements for a common Caribbean capacity building strategy on ABS.

Participants

Up to two national delegates of the 16 Caribbean ACP Member States are invited. Invitations are also sent to the governments of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories to support the participation of one delegate each. Furthermore, selected regional and national representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities, academia, NGOs and industry are invited to attend the workshop. The workshop will be convened in English. Resource persons of the SCBD, the CCS and the ABS Initiative will be present.

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