

## Access and Benefit Sharing

# The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

September 2012  
First Caribbean ABS Workshop

**3 - 4 September 2012, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

**For the full report, including presentations, please click [here](#).**

## Background

On 22 October 2011, the ABS Initiative in cooperation with the SCBD convened an introductory ABS Workshop back-to-back to the NBSAP Workshop of the SCBD in Georgetown, Grenada. Delegates were informed about the new phase of the ABS Initiative covering all ACP-countries and about the status of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.

Participants gave a brief overview about the status of ratification and implementation in their countries and ABS-related issues. In some countries, the ratification process was started but still remains in an early stage. Many delegates underlined that ratification will only take place after a national ABS system has been put in place to a certain extent. Important elements of this process would be consultations with local communities and/or indigenous peoples and the proper design of institutional systems including checkpoints. Delegates were also interested in knowing more about past or ongoing bioprospection cases or commercial utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in their countries. Due to a lack of oversight and procedures, comprehensive knowledge is largely lacking. If delegates were aware of national rules and procedures for accessing genetic resources those examples related to agricultural genetic resources and the rules implementing the International Treaty of the FAO.

It was agreed upon that delegates would inform GIZ about appropriate national and regional stakeholders who could be invited for a follow-up workshop. Also the involvement of CARICOM in regional ABS issues was regarded as necessary.

## Objectives of the workshop

Building on this background, the First Caribbean Workshop is designed to gather participants from governments, indigenous peoples, academia, NGOs, and industry and to:

- provide an overview about the state of negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol after ICNP-1 and ICNP-2 in preparation for COP 11,
- exchange information and experiences with regard to ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol,
- provide examples of building national ABS systems and regulating bioprospection and utilisation based on the experiences of the ABS Initiative and to exchange information and experiences about national legislation to grant rights over genetic resources and traditional knowledge to indigenous peoples and local communities and to involve them in decision making procedures,
- share information and experiences with regard to bioprospecting cases of and commercial utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge,
- provide an overview about the CARICOM activities for supporting the implementation of MEAs, and
- develop and prioritise a list of national and stakeholder needs that can be dealt with in the context of the ABS Initiative.

## Expected Outputs

- Updated list of potential ABS activities based on the Concept Note on cooperation between CARICOM and the ABS Initiative,
- list of ABS issues and tasks that could be followed by the CARICOM Secretariat, and
- identification of specific legislation, approaches, bioprospection and utilisation cases that can be further elaborated as model cases in the context of the ABS Initiative.

## Participants

Up to two national delegates of the 16 Caribbean ACP Member States are invited. Furthermore, selected regional and national representatives of indigenous peoples, academia, NGOs and industry are invited to attend the workshop. The workshop will be convened in English. Resource persons of the Secretariat of the CBD, the CARICOM and the ABS Initiative will be present.

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