



Development of the five-year CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy for the implementation of the Biodiversity Cluster of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Introduction

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is leading the development of the regional Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Biodiversity Strategy (CBS). The CBS is an output under the Caribbean Hub sub-component of Phase II of the Programme for Capacity-Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The programme is supported by the European Union (EU) and UN Environment and aims to assist CARICOM countries in their implementation of MEAs. The regional CBS will specifically address the national and wider regional implementation of biodiversity MEAs such as the:



- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) to the Cartagena Convention

While the CARICOM Secretariat is executing this initiative, the UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission also have similar directives. As such all these agencies are collaborating with the CARICOM Secretariat, serving as project steering committee members and supporting the project's communication and stakeholder engagement strategy.

Goal and objectives

The goal of this initiative is to **“develop a five-year CARICOM strategy for the implementation of the biodiversity cluster of MEAs, with emphasis on the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets”**.

The strategy will serve as “a framework to guide CARICOM member countries, as well as donors and development partners, towards coherent and harmonised action for the management, conservation and fair and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity resources. The strategy does not aim to establish new commitments for member countries, but to consolidate key priorities and goals that have previously been identified and endorsed at the national and/or regional levels, and that are of common/shared interest for CARICOM member countries. Specific attention will be placed on goals related to resources that are of community-wide concern or that have a community-wide dimension, for example transboundary resources”¹.

¹Terms of Reference for the Development of the CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy.

Approach and activities



This project strongly emphasises a participatory approach to secure valuable stakeholder input into content of the strategy, negotiate consensus on priorities and build ownership for implementation.

This aligns strongly with CANARI's mission of *"Promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved"*.

In particular, CANARI views this technical assistance project as a key regional opportunity for civil society and other stakeholders to directly develop natural resources policy, and participate in decision making and governance processes.

Project deliverables include:

- Synthesis report of key regional issues
- Regional participatory stakeholder workshop in early 2018
- Finalised CBS

Upon completion, the CBS will be presented at an upcoming meeting of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) for regional endorsement.

Outputs

The main output project output is the five-year Biodiversity Strategy for the CARICOM.

Project duration

July 2017 –May 2018

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