



## Discussion Paper for the development of the CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) - Traditional Knowledge

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### Synopsis

**Target 18** of the Biodiversity Convention Global Strategic Plan states that: By 2020, the traditional knowledge (TK), innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

This target thus emphasises accessing and utilising TK, but at the same time protecting the rights of the holders of TK. This thrust is further articulated in **Aichi Target 16**: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) is in force. The region has seen significant work already on ABS. This includes capacity building workshops executed by agencies such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity. There is also a current Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region”. Some countries like Guyana have already implemented ABS policies and legislation.

Given their heavy dependence on natural resources many communities in the Caribbean do in fact possess significant TK useful for the conservation of biodiversity resources. This TK is generally based on long term observation at a specific site and can be especially useful if scientific data or fine scale data are lacking. TK is particularly useful in on the ground site specific biodiversity conservation actions. Accessing this knowledge can be challenging however and can benefit from tools like participatory three-dimensional modelling (P3DM), participatory video and photo journaling. A further challenge is ensuring that the TK once accessed is incorporated into decision making and management strategies.

**Taking into consideration the issues outlined above as well as other issues you may be aware of, stakeholders are asked to consider:**

What should the CBS showcase, say, highlight on the topic of traditional/local knowledge to best address:

- your organisation’s needs
- your country’s needs – where national capacity and resources could benefit from additional regional support
- regional needs

Stakeholders are also asked to consider:

- How can the CBS help protect the rights of civil society groups, especially indigenous people who possess significant biodiversity TK?
- Apart from some of the mechanisms outlined above, how can the CBS promote capture of TK?
- How can the CBS support scientific research but also research, documentation and utilisation of traditional knowledge?
- How can the CBS promote and share TK in relevant regional, national and international invasive species databases?

Finally: any additional issues, ideas or points you would like to highlight for inclusion or consideration in the development of the Strategy?

### **Bibliography**

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