



Discussion Paper for the development of the CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy- Transboundary Issues

April 2018

Synopsis

Transboundary biodiversity issues can occur for example where species move across country borders, or where pollutants from one country are deposited within the borders of another, leading to species death or habitat degradation within the recipient country's borders. Transboundary concerns also occur where there is a shared common space or common biodiversity resource utilised by multiple countries. An applicable adage in this context is that "nature knows no boundaries". Transboundary concerns can be complex involving multiple stakeholders (e.g. businesses, governments, communities) within each country.

In the Caribbean, biodiversity transboundary matters most often arise from the shared use of the Caribbean Sea and its marine biodiversity resources. This is of particular concern given the high dependence on these resources for livelihoods and food security. As such, a number of projects and programmes have been designed to address the transboundary nature of this resource and inherent environmental threats.

Regional activities and initiatives to address transboundary marine environmental problems include the 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME + SAP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, which is focused on "a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region". The CLME+ has initiated activities to help manage pollution, unsustainable fisheries and habitat degradation across marine borders. This has included brokering formal cooperation agreement amongst the various national and regional agencies and establishing and harmonising sub-regional compliance measure e.g. with regards to fish takes. Activities have also included strengthening the capacity of regional fisheries bodies and an overall coordination role of conservation efforts across the region.

Another regional initiative which in part addresses transboundary issues is the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM). This is a network for enhancing the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Wider Caribbean by building the capacity of marine protected area managers, practitioners and fishers in the Wider Caribbean and promoting the application of best marine management practices for the transboundary coordination of ecologically-connected areas. CaMPAM provides a platform for capacity building through training activities, communication tools and grant awarding to expedite transfer of knowledge and lessons learned, as well as financial resources across the Wider Caribbean region.

Terrestrial or riverine transboundary issues generally only apply to the largest islands and continental CARICOM member states. Initiatives like the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) initiative, which began

are applicable in these contexts. The CBC is an initiative that Haiti and Dominican Republic are involved in, which seeks to rationalise and best manage biological corridors between these two countries.

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

What would you like the CBS to showcase, state or highlight on transboundary issues, to best address:

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

Participants are also asked to consider:

- How can the CBS provide support for the management of transboundary biodiversity issues in the region?

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

Bibliography

Caribbean Community. 2017. *Draft Synthesis Report for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) strategy for the implementation of the biodiversity cluster of MEAs.*

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