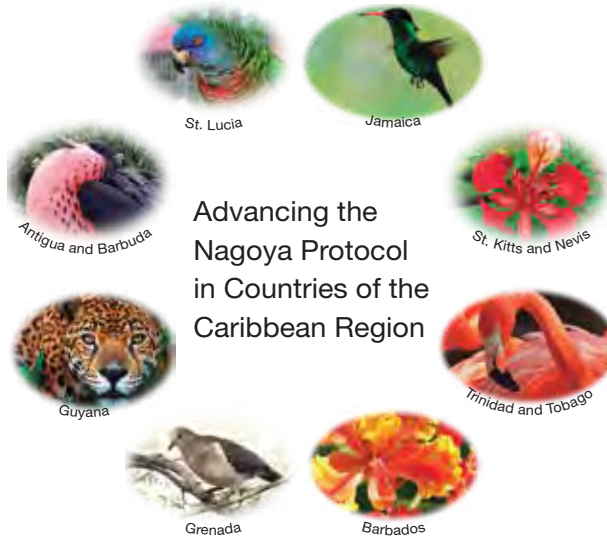


The Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol on ABS is an international agreement that seeks to provide a legal framework for the access to genetic resources and the sharing of the benefits that arise from the use of those resources in an equitable way between the user and the provider country. This protocol, which was adopted on October 29th 2010, entered into force on the 12th of October 2014. The protocol, which aims to help ensure the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity is a supplementary agreement to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. More information on the protocol may be obtained from the secretariat of the CBD at www.cbd.int.



Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region

Bio-prospecting in the Caribbean

The using of genetic resources in the Caribbean is already happening! The Fer-de-Lance (Bothrops Caribbaeus) in St. Lucia and the Salinispora tropica in the Bahamas are current examples. The properties from the latter were found to be helpful in the fight against cancer. Without proper ABS policies and legislation in place, Caribbean countries will not benefit from any of these resources once removed from the natural environment.

For more information contact:

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Saving our genetic resources for the next generations



ABS?

What is ABS? Access and Benefit Sharing refers to the accessing of genetic resources by commercial entities and the sharing of the benefits derived from that access with the country of origin from which such biological resources were obtained. The ABS also seeks to include for consideration in any community, the rights to traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.



The project, “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries in the Caribbean Region” is a 3-year project that seeks the uptake of the Nagoya Protocol and implementation of key measures to make the protocol operational in Caribbean countries. The project aims to overcome barriers linked to poor understanding of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS and the implications of protocol ratification and requirements for implementation. The project consists of four components.

Component 1 will build knowledge between countries of shared assets and generate technical information that can later be used to build cohesive policies at the national level and collaboratively at the regional level.

Component 2 will assist countries to take steps and decisions conducive to ratification of the Nagoya Protocol including support for developing the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS.

Component 3 aims to assist countries in developing the tools and guidelines required to implement the basic measures of the Nagoya Protocol. It seeks to

provide assistance to build awareness among stakeholders that are key for Nagoya Protocol implementation.

Component 4 will bring together the participating countries at least twice during the life of the project to allow for the maximum level of exchange and networking, and will allow the Executing Agency, the Implementing Agency, and the executing partners in countries and regionally to better coordinate actions to deliver assistance to the countries and come together in a coherent and united front on ABS related issues.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the project is being executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean; as well, the United Nations Environment Programme is acting as implementing agency. Project countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Other implementing partners include the OECS, CARICOM, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the GIZ.