



Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region Project
Request for Proposals – ABS – Bio-prospecting in the Caribbean Region

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean islands are of critical importance for global biodiversity conservation as large percentages of each species group are endemic to the region and often to particular islands and levels of endemism are very high in the region: thus, 50 per cent of the plant life of the Caribbean is unique (UNEP, 2010). These high valued genetic resources in the Caribbean are under threat due to land degradation, climate change, pollution from nutrients, unsustainable use and invasive alien species. The Nagoya Protocol offers the opportunity to make the best possible use of these genetic resources, generate and share benefits derived from their utilization, and return some of the revenue generated from these activities to the protection of the resources and the development of the countries where they were sourced.

The Project Goal is to support countries of the Caribbean to facilitate access to their genetic resources and benefit sharing in a fair and equitable way, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. More specifically, the Project Objective 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 limited understanding of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS and of the implications of protocol ratification and requirements for implementation, so that countries can make progress in ABS and take an informed decision regarding its ratification.

The project consists of five components aimed at building knowledge between countries of shared assets and generating technical information that can later be used to build cohesive policies at the national level and collaboratively at the regional level, assisting countries to take steps and decisions conducive to ratification of the Nagoya Protocol assisting countries in developing the tools and guidelines required to implement the basic measures of the Nagoya Protocol and bringing together the participating countries to allow for the maximum level of exchange and networking,

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this consultancy are as follows:

1. Bio-prospecting activities, and common biological resources and traditional knowledge identified in the Caribbean region
2. Countries have a common understanding of shared assets/values, issues and needs on which to build ABS policy.
3. Countries understand their national assets/values and requirements in a regional context
4. Countries share information and gain from the experiences of other countries

SCOPE OF WORK

- Scientific Study on past and present Bio-prospecting in the participating project countries
- Identification of key common genetic resources in the eight Caribbean Project Countries that are subjected to or may be subjected to bio-prospecting
- Mapping of national and regional institutions that contribute to ABS capacity building in the project countries and regionally.
- Stocktaking of the expertise of non-regulatory organizations involved in promoting, protecting or documenting the use of biological resources and associated TK in the Caribbean
- Stock taking of ABS experts in the Caribbean region
- Establishment of standardized methodology for the creation of national registers of marine and terrestrial biological resources



- Stocktaking of Applications of Traditional Knowledge associated with biological resource in St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago
- Information Sheet(s) produced on the basis of the Regional stock-taking activity

DELIVERABLES:

1. Bio-prospecting report in the Caribbean region
2. Caribbean ABS institutional mapping report
3. Roster of ABS experts in the Caribbean Region, inclusive of the criteria for addition to the roster
4. Traditional Knowledge Stocktaking report for St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago
5. Published information sheet(s)
6. At least one regional workshop to present the results of the study and create technical capacities and awareness.

QUALIFICATION

- At least a Masters degree in Natural Resource or Environment Management or similar area
- Experience working on similar projects is an asset
- Demonstrated experience working in the area of plant genetics preferably in the Caribbean region or a region with a similar legislative system.
- Working Knowledge of the Nagoya ABS Protocol and Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Willingness to travel within the Caribbean as required for the consultancy.
- Fluency in English is a requirement.
- Computer proficiency

DURATION AND SCHEDULE OF WORK

It is anticipated the work to be completed for this consultancy will be conducted over a period of six months.

REMUNERATION

Please submit your financial expectations for this consultancy as an individual file, outlining the specific costs associated with your bid to Melesha Banhan, Melesha.Banhan@IUCN.org.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

April 30th, 2016