



Supporting the Implementation of CARICOM'S BBNJ Preparatory Work Programme: An Integrated Approach to Regional Engagement

Project summary

Project in Brief

Goal: This project aims to ensure that CARICOM negotiators are well informed of the interests, rights and views of stakeholders throughout the region to be able to more effectively negotiate on the sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Main activities: Identify likely impacts of BBNJ on regional stakeholders | Analyse stakeholder rights interests and responsibilities and develop stakeholder Engagement Strategy | Support national stakeholder engagement and Synthesise stakeholder feedback | Communicate stakeholder views for an enhanced negotiating platform

Duration: July 2019 – August 2020

The members of the United Nations are currently negotiating an international legally binding instrument under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the **conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**. This instrument will provide the legal framework which will guide economic activity in the world's oceans under the blue economy agenda. Some of the key issues that the ILBI will address include:

- marine genetic resources (MGRs), including questions on benefit-sharing
- environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- area-based management tools (ABMTs) including those for marine protected areas (MPAs)
- capacity building and marine technology transfer (CBTT)

CARICOM, with its many Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and 'large ocean' states, recognises the importance of advocating for a legal instrument that considers our unique vulnerabilities and contributes meaningfully to Caribbean sustainable development. The aim of this project is to ensure that CARICOM negotiators are well informed of the interests, rights and views of stakeholders throughout the region to better inform their negotiations. The project will also give the Caribbean stakeholders who will be most impacted by the BBNJ Agreement the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of a structured, inclusive and unified position for the region at the negotiations.



The project methodology to maximise the inclusion of stakeholder views in CARICOM'S BBNJ negotiation position.



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