



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE  
INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON  
THE CBD, INCLUDING ARTICLE 8(j) AND  
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Eighth meeting: Caribbean Region  
Georgetown, Guyana, 16-18 March 2011

### **REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY INCLUDING ISSUES RELEVANT TO ARTICLE 8(j) TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **A. Background**

1. Under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties undertake to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

2. Furthermore the Convention has a rich history of decisions, requesting capacity-building for indigenous and local communities to ensure their effective participation in Convention processes. The more recent decisions include:

(a) Decision VII/16 E, annex (Elements of a Plan of Action), paragraph 26 (Capacity-building, education and training), indicating that “Specific capacity-building activities should be targeted at indigenous women and women in rural or otherwise marginal communities, and at traditional knowledge, innovations and practices”;

(b) Decision VIII/5 B, paragraph 13, Elements of a Plan of Action for the Retention of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices Embodying Traditional Lifestyles Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary “to collaborate with Parties in convening, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional and subregional workshops to assist indigenous and local communities in capacity-building, education and training, with particular emphasis on the participation of women from indigenous and local communities”;

(c) Decision IX/13 D concerning the plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in which Parties decided that the priority for future work on the plan of action should focus on capacity-building;

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(d) Decision IX 13 E, paragraph 7, Participatory Mechanisms, which requested the Executive Secretary to: “(a) Convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, further regional and sub-regional workshops on community-friendly communication tools on traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, to assist local and indigenous communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks, noting the need for adapting them to local languages and for involving trainers from indigenous and local communities”;

(e) Decision VIII/5 C, paragraph 6 (c) concerning the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing, which invited Parties, Governments, donor countries and organizations to “facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities in preparatory processes for the meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions”;

(f) Decision X/40 A, concerning the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention which Welcomes with appreciation the capacity-building efforts for indigenous and local communities by the Secretariat, in partnership with the Government of Spain and the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network of the Latin American and Caribbean region, on issues relevant to Article 8(j) and related provisions and Article 15 on access and benefit-sharing, especially in anticipation of the adoption and post-2010 implementation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, and encourages Parties to continue such efforts;

3. In accordance with these decisions and thanks to the generosity of the Governments of Spain and Japan the Executive Secretary convened a Capacity-building Workshop for indigenous and local community representatives from the Latin American and Caribbean region, with a focus on indigenous and local community women, on effective participation in Convention processes and specifically on the Convention on Biological Diversity including issues relevant to Article 8(j), traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing. The purpose of the workshop was to improve the capacity of the ILC representatives from the LAC region to effectively participate in Convention processes.

4. This workshop was held in Georgetown, Guyana from 16 to 18 March. Indigenous and local communities were invited by the Executive Secretary on 9 November 2010 through notification 2010-74312, to nominate participants for this meeting. Through notification 2010-74364 of 3 February 2011, the Executive Secretary informed Parties of the list of participants for the Workshop.

5. A list of documents and resources used for the workshop is available in annex I of the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/WSCB/ILC/LAC/8/2).

### ***B. Attendance***

6. A total of 31 indigenous and local community representatives (24 women and 7 men) participated in the workshop. The complete list of participants is available in annex I to this report.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

7. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 March, by Mr. John Scott, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla. He welcomed the participants and attracted due attention to this critical moment in the life of Article 8(j) and the Convention itself, after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing and in implementing post 2010 commitments.

8. The representative of the Guyanese Ministry of Amerindian affairs, Mr Collin Croal, a representative of Amerindian affairs at the Congress, Dr George Norton, the representative of the Amerindian Peoples Association, Ms. Jeanne La Rose, the co-directors of the Justice Institute, Ms Melinda Janki and Mr. Gino Persaud all welcomed participants and wished the success of the workshop.

9. After the opening of the meeting, the participants were asked to introduce themselves and outline their expectations of the workshop.

10. The Coordinator of the Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network of the LAC Region, Ms. Florina Lopez, also officially welcomed the participants on behalf of the network and offered some words of encouragement to the indigenous of the English speaking countries of the region and expressed her interest in working with them, many of them were interested in become members of the Network.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Agenda***

11. Participants adopted the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/ILC/LAC/8/1) prepared by the Executive Secretary and circulated in advance of the meeting.

### ***2.2. Organization of work***

12. At the first session, on 16 March 2011, the proposed programme of work was approved as contained in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WSCB/ILC/LAC/8/2).

### ***2.3 Objectives of the workshop***

13. Mr. John Scott, the programme officer for Article 8(j), took the participants through the objectives of this capacity-building workshop in the context of decisions IX/13 E, VIII/5 B and C of the Conference of the Parties. The main objective was to enhance the capacity of the indigenous and local community representatives to effectively participate in Convention process with a focus on Article 8(j) and Article 15 (ABS).

14. In addition, the workshop provided an opportunity to exchange relevant national and regional experiences within the Latin America and the Caribbean region. By seeing how others had addressed similar challenges, indigenous and local communities could learn new approaches, which could potentially become best practices.

15. The major expected outputs of this workshop were capacity-building which directly assisted the participants in understanding the Convention processes, the drafting of position papers, and feedback to improve future workshops. Given the Workshop was the first one organized for the English speaking indigenous communities, it provided the Secretariat with contacts and created very important bridges with the Convention on Biological Diversity and between ILCs of this subregion.

## **ITEM 3. OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

16. Under this item, the programme officer presented an overview of the Convention and its subsidiary bodies. Participants expressed particular interest in mechanisms that dealt with traditional knowledge, ABS, protected areas and future strategic directions. The presentation consisted of three parts. The first one was a general background on the Convention, its goals and subsidiary bodies (structure of the Convention). The second part was an overview of mechanisms dealing with particular issues such as protected areas, forests and climate change. The last part provided an overview of the Secretariat and its divisions and unit, including thematic areas and cross-cutting issues.

17. Participants also expressed interest in the politic groups of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the reporting mechanisms such as the national reports.

## **ITEM 4. MECHANISMS FOR THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ILCS IN THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

18. The programme officer then presented on ways and means to effectively engage in Convention processes, which included how to use the website of the Convention, documentation system, the national reports and the operation of the voluntary fund for ILC participation in meetings held under the Convention. In particular participants were familiarized with the Article 8(j) webpage and the traditional knowledge information portal.

19. Participants were provided with opportunities to use the webpage and find information on various issues, as well as how to locate meetings and documents.

**ITEM 5. OVERVIEW OF ARTICLE 15 – ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR USE, WITH A FOCUS ON THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ABS**

20. Decision VIII/5 C, paragraph 6(c) concerning the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing, stresses the importance of indigenous and local community participation in processes of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and to Genetic Resources and the Sharing of Benefit Arising from their Utilization and the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. This particular agenda item provided an overview of the new Nagoya Protocol and indigenous and local communities. A case-study on access and benefit sharing associated with traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities was presented.

**ITEM 6. OVERVIEW OF ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS AND WORK TO DATE**

21. Participants were provided with an overview of Article 8(j) and its nature as a cross-cutting issue under the Convention. Participants spoke at length of the value of traditional knowledge to other parts of the Convention with a focus on thematic areas, including the ecosystem approach and protected areas, as well as sustainable use (Article 10(c)).

**ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

22. Under this theme, participants could propose to include the treatment of other issues related to the workshop's objective. About twenty of them requested time to make presentations about their villages or their work. Through their presentations we could see that the workshop answered to a need that was supposed to be addressed long ago.

**ITEM 8. EVALUATION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

23. Under this agenda item, Djessy Monnier, the programme assistant asked participants to complete an evaluation form for the workshop. He explained that the evaluations would be collated and analyzed to assist the SCBD in improving the organization and delivery of future workshops. The evaluation revealed that regarding "Expectations", most of the participants rated the workshop as very good and that all the issues treated in the workshop were applicable to their daily activities and life. They also liked the content and would like to get access to the handouts distributed during the workshop for their communities. They suggested having more similar workshops and more participants as they would like to continue the discussions about the Convention and the role of ILCs. One other suggestion would be to have more case studies from ILCs of other regions and countries.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

24. An expected output of this workshop was that participating ILCs had their capacity built to participate in Convention processes, with a focus on traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing, as well as the Working Group meeting on Article 8(j) to be held in October 2011. In closing, participants expressed that they felt better prepared to work with other indigenous and local community members of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, as well as more knowledgeable about the process of the Convention and how to effectively participate to influence the outcomes. They also felt they had acquired a better understanding of the agenda and issues currently being addressed by the Convention.

25. The meeting was closed by the programme officer on behalf of the Executive Secretary at 5 pm on Friday 18 March 2009.

*Annex I***PARTICIPANTS LIST**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
Belize	Belize National Indigenous Council: U Kuxtal Masewal	Ms. Olga Minerva Tzec
Belize	Belize National Indigenous Council: Osh Muul Ka Agro-process	Ms Aguida Minerva Thompson
Grenada	Youth Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd, Clozier, St. John's,	Ms. Iva Williams
Guyana	Rupinian Village Council	Ms. Katy Harley
Guyana	S.Rupunumi Conservation	Ms. Kayla de Freitas
Guyana	Dadanawa Ranch of wapishana village	Ms. Allison Aguilar-Achmeriwau
Guyana	Dadanawa Ranch	Ms. Sherill Xavier
Guyana	South Central Peoples Development Association (SCPDA),	Ms. Faye Fredericks
Guyana	South Central Peoples Development Association	Mr. Kid James (Aishalton)
Guyana	South Central Peoples Development Association (SCPDA),	Ms. Claudine La Rose
Guyana	WaiWai community	Mr. Anthony Shushu
Guyana	WaiWai community	Mr. Felix Yamochi
Guyana	Napi Village, Central Rupununi, Montains Community Rep. Group	Ms. Eleanor Abraham
Guyana	Napi Village, Central Rupununi, Montains Community Rep. Group	Mr. Patrick Gomes
Guyana	North Rupununi District Development Board	Ms. Jacqueline Allicock
Guyana	North Rupununi District Development Board	Ms. Patricia Fredericks
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Ms. Doreen Jacobis
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Ms. Dianne Clekien
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Ms Melena Pollard
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Ms. Karen Williams
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Mr. Derrick John
Guyana	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Mr. Anil Roberts
Guyana	Amerindian People Association	Ms. Laura George
Guyana	Ind. People Commission	Mr. David James
Guyana	EPA	Ms Dominique Saheed
Guyana	Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Mr. Peter Persaud
Saint Lucia	Folk Research Centre, P.O. Box MF 7041, Morne Fortune Castries, ST. LUCIA	Ms. Lindy-Ann Alexander
Suriname	Organization of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname (OIS),	Ms. Cindy Asha York
Suriname	Organization of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname (OIS),	Ms. Eveline Moesijem Monsanto
Suriname	Kalima and Lokomo Indeginous People of the Lower Marowijne	Mr.Biswane Louis Elberto
Suriname	Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)	Ms Loreen Jubitana

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