



**NGO and Local community Engagement in Biodiversity in
Antigua and Barbuda through the GEF Small Grants Program partnering
with the Department of the Environment, the Community Development
Division and the Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust**

Date: 27-29 November 2017

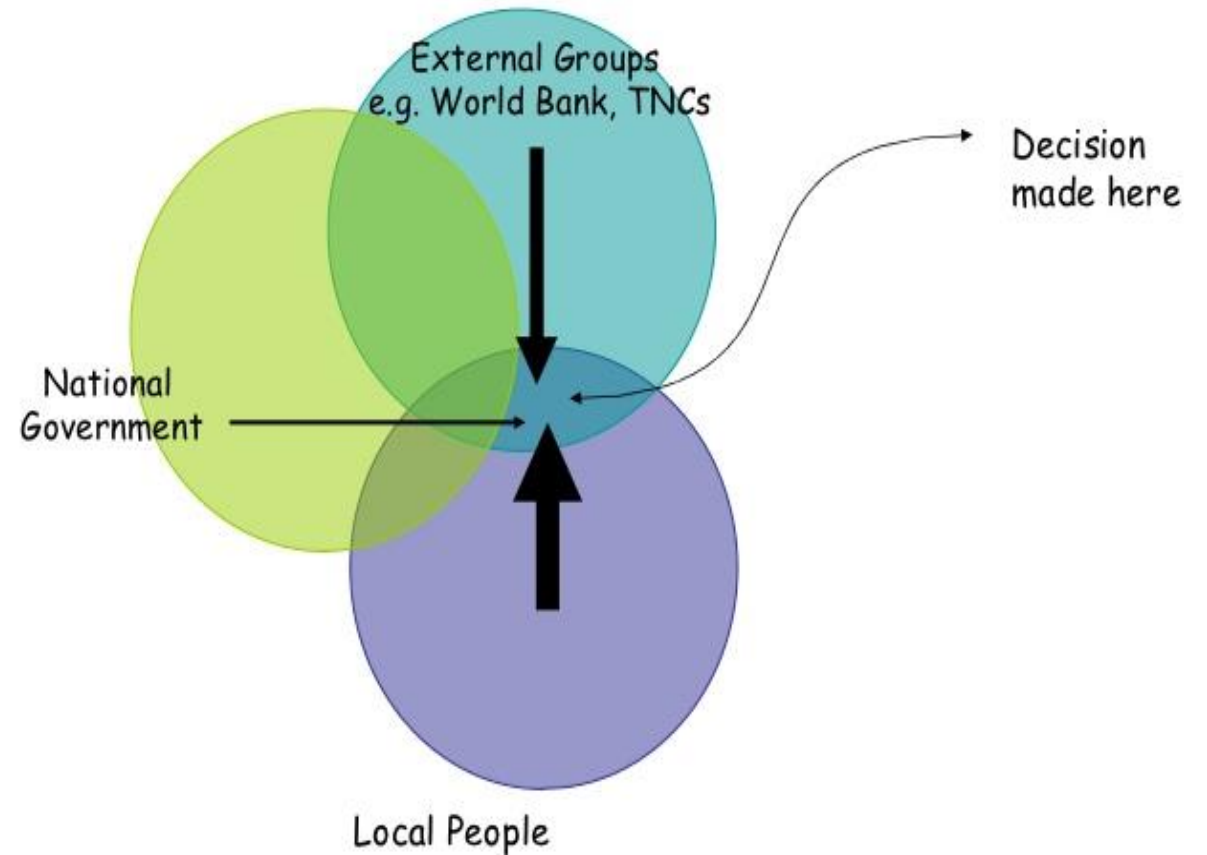
Presented at: The LAC Bio Bridge Initiative

Antigua and Barbuda takes a country driven approach when implementing Programs and Projects that ensures local buyin and ownership

Strong Legislative support

- Environment Protection and Management Act 2015 – NGOs, Local Communities, CSOs, Private Sector, Youths and the Government must be involved in project and policy consultations
- Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund - 15% of funds generated through the SIRF Fund including GEF Star allocation will be allocated to NGOs
- Antigua and Barbuda signed on to Principle 10

Bottom Up Decision Making



Community Groups Involvement and implementation of community programs

1. **NGO's and local community groups are on the GEF Technical Advisory Committee: Influence Decision Making**
2. **Antigua and Barbuda hosted the Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for the Caribbean Region on Traditional Knowledge and Customary sustainable use under the Convention for Bio Diversity Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 14–18 December 2015**
3. **Antigua has ratified the ABS Nagoya protocol and local community groups are contact points and have inputs into the legislation currently being developed through the regional IUCN project.**
4. **Empowerment of local groups: Assisting in legally registering them at no cost, provide technical and financial assistance, training and capacity building in proposal writing, knowledge sharing on all projects and programs for their input**



Key biodiversity Activities

5. Empowerment and gender equality: All projects have the participation of man, woman and youth, vulnerable and disabled individuals
6. Program and Project Level Monitoring ongoing since local community groups are the “watch Dogs in our protected areas where there are funding gaps, limited enforcement and limitations on effective management.
7. community group meetings where learning and sharing of best practices and planning of national training in TK linking culture and heritage to Biodiversity.
8. Many of the local activities have a community tourism component where village as a business is integrated through community hubs.



Use of TK in Biodiversity Project



Why Youths?

The Involvement of youth in environment and development decision-making and implementation is critical for the long term success

Because decisions affect their lives and it has implications for their future

They bring innovative and unique perspectives

To Empower them to meaningfully contribute to decision making

Thank you!



Convention on
Biological Diversity

