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SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION FOR CARICOM MEMBER STATES
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 18–21 May 2015

REPORT OF THE SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR CARICOM MEMBER STATES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Subregional Capacity-building Workshop on Sustainable Finance and Resource Mobilization for CARICOM Member States was held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 18 to 21 May 2015.
2. The workshop, financially supported by the European Union, was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC). It was hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda at the Conference Centre of the City View Hotel in St. John's.
3. The workshop was organized pursuant to paragraph 32(a) of decision XII/3, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twelfth meeting requested the Executive Secretary "to continue and further strengthen cooperation with relevant organizations and initiatives, with a view to catalysing and supporting the provision of technical guidance and capacity-building on financial reporting, the identification of funding needs, gaps, and priorities, and the development of national resource mobilization strategies, and, in line with the programme of work on incentive measures, on the implementation of the milestones for the full operationalization of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3, including, subject to the availability of financial resources, by organizing workshops on these matters."
4. The workshop brought together government-nominated officials with expertise and experience in biodiversity financing and planning, including the development of national resource mobilization strategies for the implementation of revised national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs). The following Governments were represented: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and, through Montserrat, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In attendance were also experts and representatives from regional and subregional organizations, as well as international, non-governmental and non-profit organizations: the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC), the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI), the World Resource Institute (WRI), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations. The list of participants is annexed to the present report.
5. With a focus on relevant methodologies and technical guidance, the workshop pursued three objectives: (a) to enhance participants' understanding on available biodiversity finance options, as

identified in the CBD strategy for resource mobilization, and to give consideration to the use of these options in the Caribbean context; (b) to support, encourage and facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the integration of biodiversity values into national accounting, planning processes and national development strategies, as a critical precondition for the effective mobilization of resources; and (c) to enhance countries' capacity to meet the targets for resource mobilization adopted in paragraph 1 of decision XII/3.

6. Accordingly, the workshop format featured a mix of keynote addresses, introduction of training modules on relevant concepts, tools and mechanisms, combined with a series of presentations on statistical studies and regional success stories. It also included several exercises, work sessions and plenary discussions, with a view to generate an interactive dynamic of mutual learning among participants. Presentations and other meeting documents are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RMWS-2015-01>. The Workshop was conducted in English.

ITEM 1. OPENING AND SETTING THE STAGE OF THE WORKSHOP

Opening

7. The Workshop was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 18 May 2015 by Ms. Nneka Nicholas, Environment Officer from the Ministry of Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, who welcomed the participants and invited the keynote speakers to address the workshop.

8. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Markus Lehmann, Programme Officer Economics, welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its hospitality, to the European Union for the financial support provided, and also to the co-organizers and facilitators for the technical and logistical support provided. Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by COP-10 in Nagoya, Japan, and the financial targets adopted by COP-12 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, Mr. Lehmann briefly reported on the Secretariat's ongoing activities to support Parties in mainstreaming biodiversity into their national planning processes and in developing national resource mobilization strategies, including the different capacity-building workshops organized towards this end.

9. Mr. Lehmann further emphasized the need for building closer cooperation between finance and environment ministries with an aim to articulate the link between investments in biodiversity conservation and the economic and social benefits arising from these investments. Closing his statement, Mr. Lehmann stressed that national governments needed to translate the global Strategic Plan into national policies through the integration of biodiversity into their budgetary exercises, in particular in the context of the review and update of their NBSAPs. Pertinent technical capacity needs to be strengthened in order to substantially increase the scope of resource mobilization for biodiversity.

10. In her keynote address, Ms. Therese Yarde, Project Officer from the CARICOM Secretariat, welcomed the participants and expressed the CARICOM Secretariat's enthusiasm in co-organizing the workshop, which fed into the Caribbean Hub – Capacity-building related to the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, an initiative funded by the European Union to support resource mobilization for biodiversity. She noted the timeliness of CARICOM's engagement in this field as it concurred with the recent work of the United Nations towards the post-2015 development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adding to Mr. Lehmann's remarks, she underlined the critical importance of biodiversity to socioeconomic progress and, in closing, expressed the hope that the workshop would equip participants with the necessary tools to identify resource streams for conservation and management of the ecosystem, and to make the case for biodiversity.

11. Ms. Hildred Simpsons, Permanent Secretary and representative of H.E. Mr. Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health and Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, conveyed the apologies of the Minister for being unable to attend the workshop. Noting the timeliness of the workshop as Antigua and Barbuda had

just passed its Environment Protection Bill, she provided an overview of the Ministry's efforts towards biodiversity conservation, including the work under the Environment Legacy Fund established to address environmental issues. Recognizing that most Caribbean countries' economy depended on tourism and ecosystem benefits, Ms. Simpsons pointed to the common regional challenges, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, invasive species, habitat loss and climate change issues, in a context where physical environment was taken for granted and where insignificant financial plans were established to stem the biodiversity crisis. Referring to Antigua and Barbuda's experience, she noted that accessing funding for biodiversity could be difficult and frustrating. She therefore called for a proactive exchange of knowledge and success stories among participants with an expectation of getting concrete suggestions on how to access other available financial resources.

12. Mr. Troy Torrington, Minister Counsellor, speaking on behalf of the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations and co-chair of the Third United Nations Conference of Financing for Development, H.E. Mr. George Talbot, commended the organizers for convening the workshop and underlined the important linkages to major global processes and related forthcoming conferences to be held throughout the year, such as the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, the SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Trade Organization Ministerial in Nairobi. Particular attention was drawn to the SDGs, given their significant role in replacing the Millennium Development Goals. Torrington further used the acrostic U-N-I-T (Universal-New-Integrated-Transformational) to summarize the SDGs as a critical driver which would be cumulatively producing change and result in a new paradigm premised on sustainability.

13. In closing, Mr. Torrington highlighted the following finance trends: (a) Fierce competition for resources: concessional resources are being prioritized for poor countries and those in conflicts; (b) mobilization of resources from all sources: new avenues for funding are to be explored through innovations with the necessary safeguards and the development of partnerships with different stakeholders as the Official Development Assistance (ODA) cannot stand alone; (c) new ways of looking at finance: the need to go beyond the traditional way to make financing respond to the imperative of sustainability through the effective use of data, long-term perspective and greater accountability; (d) crystallizing Synergies: ministries and agencies should work together in order to move beyond the silo approaches in financing, raise awareness at the national level about the positive impacts and contributions of biodiversity and to also identify the domestic financing framework that lend to this holistic approach; (e) Contribution of Biodiversity: in 2013 for instance, about 95 per cent of the earnings of Guyana's economy resulted from the benefits of natural resources and biodiversity/ecosystem services. Therefore, the contribution of biodiversity should be acknowledged and strengthened at all levels and lessons should be learned from the approaches and mechanisms used in biodiversity investments in support of the SDGs.

14. Following this set of keynotes, the participants introduced themselves, highlighted their affiliation and expertise with respect to the preparation of their countries' resource mobilization plans, national reports, and updated NBSAPs. They also expressed their expectations for the Workshop.

15. Mr. Lehmann subsequently briefed the participants on the processes and mandate of the workshop. Pointing on the items outlined in the agenda, he urged participants to capitalize on the diverse lessons learned and expertise gained throughout as they share their respective knowledge and experience in the implementation of the biodiversity agenda. The agenda of the meeting is provided in annex I to this report.

Setting the stage for the workshop

16. Setting the stage for the workshop, Mr. Mark Griffith, Senior Programme Officer with UNEP/ROLAC, outlined the different strategies for biodiversity used within the Caribbean region, centred around protected areas/systems, national parks, wildlife, land resources, nature reserves, etc. He

noted the need to broaden perceptions of biodiversity and its relevance. A corresponding exploration of other critical components, such as plant genetic resources, agrobiodiversity, marine and aquatic ecosystems, indigenous knowledge, biosafety and biotechnology, ecotourism, forestry, etc., could lead to identifying and opening up additional sources of funding.

17. Mr. Griffith also recalled the various financial mechanisms that were established in support of biodiversity conservation and protection in the Caribbean, both at regional and national levels, and concluded that missing funds as such money did not always appear to be the most critical bottleneck, as many funding mechanisms and legislations were made available in the region, but rather in the fact that ministries dealt only with a very insignificant portion of the resources, which was sometimes further compounded by funds being returned to funding entities because projects were not being implemented accordingly.

18. Building on his presentation, participants engaged in a lively discussion highlighting most common regional challenges. Although they acknowledged the availability of the resources, participants also pointed that most funded projects did not take into account national circumstances and short-term priorities. In addition, most countries had inadequate capacity to implement the activities for which certain funds were being established. The mismatch therefore laid on personal interest and the negotiation abilities of key actors.

19. In response, Mr. Griffith stressed that one of the key challenges was the growing recognition that some technical work needed to be done to facilitate the implementation of funded projects. It was imperative that Member States focussed on a more comprehensive approach and effective biodiversity strategies, requiring a broader exploration of all biodiversity components and seeking for opportunities to mobilize funding from all sources. He also mentioned two regional funding mechanisms which were worthy of consideration: the UNICEF Change for better Environment Fund, established to support NGOs and the Regional Sustainability Fund.

ITEM 2. MAKING THE CASE: IDENTIFYING AND INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS AND VALUES

20. Mr. Markus Lehmann introduced the concept of valuation by referring to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 and the related paragraph 9 (b) (ii) of decision X/3, which provided the broader conceptualization of biodiversity values used under the Convention, ranging from intrinsic value to ecological, social, educational, and economic values. He drew a clear distinction between commercial value versus economic value, the latter of which represented the “willingness-to-pay” some amount or something of value for the stream of services expected from biodiversity/ecosystem, and also noted that valuation was different from monetization of biodiversity or ecosystem services, as other “payment vessels” were possible which could include a combination of qualitative or semi-qualitative measurement methods revolving around biodiversity’s contribution to life support functions, or its role in providing various services that benefit humans.

21. Mr. Richard Waite, expert consultant from the World Resources Institute (WRI), underlined the importance of ecosystem valuation in informing decision-making around use of natural resources. He noted that many important economic sectors in the Caribbean, such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and water, while central to countries’ economies, relied on healthy ecosystems that were often under severe threat. The benefits from these ecosystems often did not appear on balance sheets, leading to under-investment in their protection. He recalled the existence of a variety of possible measures to protect and manage the ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and forests, and shared the success stories of the economic valuation studies conducted by WRI in five countries of the region between 2005 and 2011. For the Coastal Capital studies, adjustments were made to focus values depending on country context. In Saint Lucia, Tobago, and Belize, tourism values focused on ecotourism (e.g., diving, snorkelling) while in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, tourism values focused on “sun and sand” beach tourism. The policy impact of these studies (e.g., tightening fishing regulations in Belize, suing a ship owner for a grounding on the Belize Barrier Reef, establishing diving fees in the Dominican Republic) was enabled

through extensive engagement and interactive communication with stakeholders, Governments, decision makers, community groups, valuation experts and users; through a participatory scenario development approach, and through a clear linkage, established from the outset, to practical policy questions.

22. Mr. Waite subsequently presented the WRI Coastal Capital Guidebook, which detailed the steps in conducting a coastal ecosystem valuation to inform decision-making in the Caribbean. It guides valuation practitioners—both economists and non-economists—through the three phases of a valuation effort: (a) scoping and engagement: identification of policy question, engagement of stakeholders and decision makers, communication strategy; (b) analysis: development of scenarios, data collection and analysis, decision support tools and reports; and (c) outreach and use of results: synthesis products for decision makers, sharing studies and results with decision makers, and monitoring impact. More details are provided on the meeting webpage.

23. Drawing on their respective countries' experiences, participants expressed concerns as regards the possible policy conclusions resulting from ecosystem valuation studies in a context where the economy depends mainly on tourism. One should be aware and realistic about the consequences of constantly putting pressure on the pocket of the tourists, by increasing the fees for ecosystem-based services, as these costs might drive away tourists or cruise companies and put the economy of the countries at risk. Participants also sought information on the availability of studies highlighting sustainable tourism development strategies and the adverse consequences of invasive species, fisheries, increased natural disasters and damages to hotels in the coastal zone.

24. In response, Mr. Waite and other facilitators emphasized that a participatory approach to valuation — which took all stakeholders' concerns into account, including those involved in tourism — should help mitigate concerns that the results of a study would lead to decisions that harmed the tourism industry. Indeed, tourists often expressed a willingness to pay higher fees than they already were —especially if they were confident that any additional revenue would be used effectively to safeguard the natural resources they would enjoy into the future. This concern underscores that it was not only important to get the analysis right — but also to get the process by which the results were derived right too. The three above-outlined steps were designed to ensure a participatory process yielding policy conclusions appropriate to the country context.

25. Despite these challenges, the Minister also underlined the Government's ongoing efforts to conserve biodiversity and sustain ecosystem services. He announced that the country's Environmental Protection Bill, drafted since 2002 and passed early May 2015, would earmark for preservation six watersheds, fourteen wetlands, six marine parks as well as other protected areas of the island and coastal water. He identified a need to enhance academic valuation studies to better reflect the Caribbean context and, in this context, proposed to: (a) identify the highest value sites and protected them up front; (b) maximize the earnings from ecosystems (tourism, bird watching, boating, diving fees, etc.); (c) pick up political campaigns focusing on ecosystem conservation plans; (d) publish valuation reports that reflect the country's potentials and needs; (e) implement limits and safeguards reflecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems as well as available mitigation and replacement methods to minimize damage to the ecosystem; (f) develop good environment policies and strengthen existing safeguards through stronger legal frameworks; (g) create synergies among economic and environment communities; and (h) plan for ecosystem service flows to generate their own finance to support the environment.

26. In a subsequent discussion, participants addressed how to bridge the gap between environment conservation challenges and socioeconomic development priorities, with some scepticism expressed regarding monetary valuation: while it may be relevant to national policymakers seeking to compare biodiversity conservation with projects generating monetary revenues, some ecosystem services are not visible on a short-term period and their values could be undermined. It was pointed out, therefore, that the institutional and political interest weighing on the ecosystem exploitation and its conservation needed to

be balanced by strong legal frameworks, the engagement of stakeholders and the political will of decision makers, as a high focus on the monetary benefits alone can also lead to the ecosystem devaluation.

27. Ms. Samantha S. Miller, Environmental Officer from the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission, presented statistical data on the contribution of ecosystem valuation to the Bahamas. She explained that the country depended essentially on natural resources-based industries such as tourism and fisheries as well as oil trans-shipment and aragonite mining, among others. The Bahamas valuation methodology used benefit transfer, and the ecosystem was conserved through the creation and expansion of national parks, marine protected areas, reserves, as well as through public awareness and educational initiatives. Ms. Miller also briefed on the environmental tax imposed on imported items, the National Bahamas Trust, the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund legally established in 2014 to ensure sustainable financing of the protected areas and to support the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and the objectives of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.

28. Ms. Maxine Monsanto, Acting Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Belize, briefed on the Coastal Capital studies on the economic contribution of Belize's coral reefs and mangroves, conducted by the WRI in 2009. In the context of the integration and acknowledgement of ecosystem valuation benefits in Belize, the Government established, in cooperation with relevant national and international partners such as the Belize Audubon Society (BAS), the Belize Nature Conservation Foundation (BNCF), the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), TNC, the Government of the United States of America, the Debt for Nature Swap, a forest conservation agreement signed in September 2001 focusing on the re-direction of external debt service through the re-amortization of Government loan over a 10-year period. The Government of Belize also established an endowment fund to ensure the efficient management of funds and to review financial and technical reports on an annual basis, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust legally established in 1995 which imposed related protected areas fees and grants (cruise ship fee 20%; departure fees: BZD\$7.50).

29. Participants sought, and received, clarifications on the effectiveness of the different methodologies used by the Bahamas and Belize. Comments provided in response to the briefings from Belize Debt for Nature Swap methodology in particular included the means by which the funds were spent, how to come to an agreement at the negotiation stage, and the involvement of NGOs in managing the funds.

30. Building on the methodologies laid out in the session, participants were invited to break into four groups in order to engage in an exercise to develop scenarios under a hypothetical case, with a view to assessing, in semi-quantitative manner, prospective changes in key ecosystem services under the different scenarios in order to identify the preferred scenario. The purpose of this exercise was to enable participants to relate ecosystem valuation methodologies to their national context and to enable its possible implementation at the domestic level.

31. Accordingly, during the reporting back session, each group presented a case scenario through its rapporteur and shared their views and suggestions on how the issues highlighted in the case might be resolved. A compilation of the results of this exercise is contained in annexes II and III to the present report. Participants emphasized how the exercise in particular had been useful in expanding their understanding of the issues arising from and in connection with the ecosystem valuation concept/methodologies and suggested that more similar exercises be considered throughout the workshop.

32. Mr. Jean-Louis Weber, Expert Consultant in economic and accounting, provided a comprehensive presentation on the main principles of, and framework for, ecosystem capital accounting. Emphasis was particularly put on the importance of this concept which aimed to measure and balance ecosystem sustainable capacity, resilience and economic benefits through accounting standards, reliable data and statistics in order to link the environment to the economy and vice versa, and to physical accounts to national, corporate or government accounts. Emphasis was also put on the multiple approaches to environmental accounting for ecosystem services and the associated measures of natural capital, building upon the statistical foundation knowledge provided in the United Nations System of

Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) and System of National Accounts (SNA). He also reported the findings of pilot work being undertaken in Mauritius, noting the feasibility of implementing the concept within a reasonable timeframe. Additional details were also provided on the data flows and the five steps to compile and implement ecosystem natural capital accounts, based on the 'Quick Start' methodology presented in CBD Technical Series 77.

33. One particular point that received much attention in the discussion was the considerable challenge associated with reliable data collection and the associated technical analysis, in the light of prevalent data gaps, lack of expertise, and inadequate training, as well as of the methodological ambiguities on how to include natural resources in the natural accounting process. Although some countries in the region were already using pertinent approaches (Bahamas, Dominica...), it was suggested that the CARICOM Secretariat could build on the Mauritius experience to establish one common systematic structure/database for environmental data collection, with the intent of creating synergies among the different entities and countries in the region.

34. It was noted that funds for pertinent work were available from NGOs, national agencies, cooperation agencies and GEF, etc. Another option would be to consider a coalition among countries in the region to make funding more effective. With regard to the critical role of CARICOM Secretariat, Ms. Yarde emphasized that the objective of the CARICOM Secretariat was to bring all countries in the region at the core level and to facilitate interregional exchange between them, including on statistical work for which a formal system could be put in place to facilitate such efforts.

35. Mr. Weber added that, despite the challenges, a feasible step-wise approach was to start with a simple system of accounts using available data, which provided systematic geographical references and provided information on critical assets needed to persuade the policymakers. How to ensure continuity of data collection efforts given political instability and constant changes in Governments was, however, an ongoing challenge.

Assessing resource needs and gaps: towards national resource mobilization plans

36. Mr. Markus Lehmann provided an overview of the global context of developing the national resource mobilization plans, making particular reference to Article 20 of the Convention and Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and, based on the BIOFIN methodology, presented the key steps in developing a national resource mobilization strategy: (a) review broader context: identify sectoral drivers of biodiversity loss, target sectoral institutions and actors, review biodiversity expenditures; (b) assess costs and gaps: evaluate the costs related to applicable strategies and actions, and calculate the financial gap; and (c) mobilize financial resources: identify finance actors (public, market, donor and private sector actors), tools and mechanisms and develop resource mobilization plan which takes into account ecosystem valuation, legal and policy frameworks. Mr. Lehmann referred to the costing example in Dominica's NBSAP as a concrete example from the region.

37. In the subsequent discussion, some participants shared their countries' success in collaborating with and engaging institutional and key finance actors, while others mentioned that this process remained onerous in their countries given the incoherent level of priority of their resource needs and gaps. Views were also expressed on the complexity of gathering information when reporting on biodiversity domestic expenditures as some actors might be reluctant to divulge financial related information. Additional comments were also made on broader context of the provisions and mandate of Aichi Biodiversity Target 20, especially for Governments that did not have the capacity to increase or implement their current levels of resources by 2020.

38. In response to various points of views, Mr. Lehmann and other co-facilitators noted that focus should be given to the priorities identified in the revised NBSAPs, and on creating cooperative relationships with the key actors. As regards Aichi Biodiversity Target 20, it was noted that the target was

part of a flexible framework that looked at priorities as they were identified at national level to develop a resource mobilization plan that was useful for implementation of the NBSAP and reflected national circumstances, including by defining financial targets that reflected the national context, or by starting with the accessible financial information and means.

39. Participants were invited to continue their work in the breakout groups by fleshing out the identified policy scenarios and assessed resource needs to implement the preferred scenario. More details are available in annex III to the report.

ITEM 3. CLOSING THE FINANCE GAP: BIODIVERSITY FINANCING MECHANISMS

40. This item was introduced drawing on Belize's financial gap analysis for protected areas. Recalling pertinent guidance developed by COP¹ with regard to sources of funding, Mr. Lehmann pointed to a wide range of available options for finance mechanisms which included: (a) costing gaps as investments; (b) using environment taxation models (green tax, fiscal reform); (c) establishment of positive incentives to reduce pressure on biodiversity and the harmful incentives; (d) reduction of funding needs by removing or reforming harmful incentives including subsidies; (e) payment for ecosystem services schemes; (vi) creating enabling conditions for biodiversity offset or compensation schemes; (f) eco-labelling and (g) domestic environmental funds, regional cooperation, etc. Based on relevant examples from the region, he also stressed that safeguards needed to reflect both opportunities and risks and financial mechanisms options should be aligned with country's respective contexts in order to promote positive effects and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity and livelihoods. He also pointed to guidance on how to address obstacles in working on harmful incentives, through increased transparency, challenging misconception; seeking to harness new opportunities arising from policy reforms, legal and international obligations, implementing transitional measures.

41. The extensive discussion session that followed the presentation brought clarifications on the different challenges stressed by the participants, in particular the application of private biodiversity offset schemes. It was pointed out that the absence of regional cohesion was an important obstacle to access funding from diverse individual sources with incoherent or conflicting priorities. It was noted that consolidated funds were disbursed to serve the region but are not used for environment/ecosystem services purposes. There was unanimous recognition of the importance of corporate social responsibility and the need of a paradigm shift in addressing biodiversity finance gaps/resource mobilization under a regional framework.

42. Mr. Mark Zimsky, Senior Biodiversity Specialist and Coordinator for Biodiversity for the Latin American and Caribbean Region with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), presented the GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy. Mr. Zimsky recalled the COP core mandate and indicated the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that were targeted by the individual programmes under the Strategy. He also explained how the GEF-6 integrated approaches would make significant contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and invited participants to also explore other GEF-6 focal areas and associated programmes that could also contribute to meeting the Aichi Targets. As regards the biodiversity strategy, he pointed in particular to programmes 10 and 11, which provided opportunities for funding activities that sought to integrate biodiversity and ecosystems into development and financing planning. He underlined that significant opportunities resided in working outside of protected areas, seeking to achieve the sustainable use of landscapes and seascapes as well as better natural resource management through redirecting sectorial policies such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and water. In concluding, Mr. Zimsky emphasized GEF-6's efforts to target biodiversity investments more strategically in a spatial way.

¹ COP decision IX/3 and annex IV of decision XII/3

43. Participants recognized the significant contribution of GEF in assisting countries in implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but also noted its limitations. The high latency of countries in using the GEF allocated budget for project or in presenting viable projects was also noted. Comments provided in response to the GEF briefing noted the importance of exhausting available national biodiversity resources, of presenting viable projects, and of looking at other biodiversity financing options beyond the scope of the GEF STAR allocation.

44. The subsequent session featured a series of presentations of cases studies on different resource mobilization strategies and corresponding mechanisms in the Caribbean.

45. Ms. Diann Black-Layne, Chief Environment Officer from the Ministry of Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, provided a detailed introduction into the Sustainable Island Resource Management Framework Fund (SIRF) of Antigua and Barbuda. The Fund, governed by the OECS model environment legislation, provided NGOs and the private sector with the necessary means to ensure compliance with environmental legislation. Financial mechanisms of the Fund included investments in renewable energy (solar and wind); processing of sewage; biofuel and recycled fuel; watershed management; and micro-financing and loans; environment management and insurance against climate change. The Fund had developed ongoing strategies to reduce the cost of electricity through negotiations with key actors: Japan, Germany, the United States of America and France for renewable energy technology. The fund anticipated an in \$10-15M per year in fund and an additional \$4M revolving fund for low-interest loans.

46. Mr. Trevor Thompson, Land Use Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment of Grenada presented the Grenada's Ecosystem-based Adaptation project. This project was funded by UNEP and the European Commission and aimed to create sustainable livelihoods and to reduce poverty by protecting coastal ecosystems and developing partnerships with coastal communities including the private sector and landowners. The project sought to incorporate coastal ecosystem-based adaptation principles into national planning and development processes, thereby sustaining the ecosystem services that they provided to the county. Key financial mechanisms identified included, among others, partnerships with hotels, tourism associations, communities and users; reduction of sea level rise impacts, and establishment of basic infrastructure for future funding.

47. Mr. Eavin Parry, Environment Officer with the Ministry of Sustainable Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis, briefed the workshop on his country's perspectives on biodiversity financing towards the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Emphasizing the high dependence on donor funding, he provided an overview of the different bi- and multilateral funding agreements, such as the eco-park and agro-biodiversity initiatives with Taiwan, as well as the \$3.3 million GEF project on Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Habitat Degradation in Protected Areas. He also noted the importance of the Green Climate Fund, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and the national protected Area Trust Fund. Challenges included accessing the funds in a timely manner, the need to move beyond project-based funding towards long-term financial sustainability, the reinforcement of national environmental legislation and to position biodiversity as a high priority in the political agenda.

48. Commenting on the high dependence on donors' funding of Saint Kitts and Nevis, participants discussed other avenues that could be explored at the national level and which were likely to generate additional funds, such as the implementation or reinforcement of user fees for recreational activities, tax holidays, debt-for-nature swaps agreements, etc.

49. Mr. Augustine Dominique, Protected Areas Manager, Saint Lucia, presented on National Conservation Trust Fund in Saint-Lucia's. The fund was established in 2003 under the Saint Lucia Companies Act, and is used to align protected areas management as much as possible with economic benefits. Different matching mechanisms were in place in support of the Fund, through the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (\$150K per year), national endowments, park entrance fees/permits (Soufriere and Pitons collect user fees), moorage, diving/fishing licenses, travel philanthropy, national travellers fees, product sales, marketing, debt-for-nature swaps, developers fees (e.g., restoration), resource extraction

fees, land acquisition/sales transactions, “opt out” donation built into airline tickets purchased by non-CARICOM travellers, internet-based credit card permit purchase for accessing protected areas in Saint Lucia (blue cruising passport and blue marina berthing for yachters). Communications and public relations campaigns were also a key component.

50. Building on Mr. Dominique’s presentation, Ms. Shirlene Simmons, Conservation Manager, Saint Lucia, briefed the workshop on the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), established by an Act of Parliament on 26 September 1975 to manage protected areas and provide recreational and educational opportunities within these areas. The trust focused on the facilitation, coordination and conservation of natural heritage, education and advocacy, membership activities, corporate and business services and events. In addition, Ms. Simmons highlighted the main sources of revenues: venue rental to host events, educational tours, gate receipts, annual subvention from Government and through the implementation of projects from donors. Financial and technical funding sources included: national budget, international Governments, regional and international organizations, universities, financial institutions and private sector companies, as well as local Government agencies.

51. Participants expressed their appreciation to Saint Lucia representatives for sharing their country’s experience and further sought and received clarification on a number of technical questions. It was also noted that among the relatively long list of available mechanisms, those that were most successful were those which did not require too much interaction for their implementation. The need to enhance communication and create synergies among the different actors and stakeholders on environmental issues and the importance of creating a sustainable finance plan for the effective management of the protected areas were also recognized.

52. Ms. Anna Hadeed from the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) provided the workshop with a comprehensive overview of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The Fund, operated in partnership of the French Development Agency, the GEF, the World Bank, the European Union, Japanese Government, the MacArthur Foundation, and Conservation International, provided grants to civil society organizations to support their work and projects related to biodiversity conservation. CANARI, as a non-profit and technical institute, played a significant role in influencing the CEPF strategy’s through strategic leadership and planning, successful implementation of projects, development of strategic partnerships and the leveraging of additional resources, evaluation and monitoring, as well as capacity-building and communication of CEPF objectives, results, and lessons learned. Ms. Hadeed also shared the example of the Dominican Republic in achieving sustainable financing by establishing private reserves for biodiversity, and highlighted several project components and key enabling factors that could be seen as best practices.

53. Looking at the lessons learned from the case study of Dominican Republic, discussions were specially focused on the contribution and involvement of key actors at the national and international levels. Participants noted that a transnational partnership between business entities could create innovative mechanisms to finance biodiversity protection. They further shared their views and sought additional clarifications on strategies to better approach potential donors.

54. Mr. Robbie Bovino, Policy Adviser, presented the core goals and timeline of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), standing as a coalition of Governments, companies and partners, working towards the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment in the Caribbean. Mr. Bovino presented the “Leaders Declaration”, which included a strong commitment to achieving the 20 by 20 Goal and a commitment to take action on six specific themes such as sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries and coastal adaptation to climate change. Mr. Bovino provided an overview of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund representing the regional endowment fund whose objective was to provide a sustainable flow of funds to support activities that contributed substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity within the national protected areas systems or any other areas of environmental significance of its participating countries.

55. Following his presentation, participants engaged in a lively discussion focussing in particular on the limit of the matching approaches and sought additional clarifications on methodologies to create matches and how to reallocate the funds when a specific match cannot be identified.

Roundtable discussion: Towards resource mobilization mechanisms for the Caribbean

56. Mr. Mark Griffith from UNEP-ROLAC facilitated a roundtable discussion that sought to achieve a collective reflection on a possible design of a regional system for resource mobilization taking into account the various existing funding mechanisms, such as the various national, semi-regional and regional biodiversity funds, and to also identify among these mechanisms one that could perform the role of a regional mobilizer of financial resources. In this regard, participants highlighted the importance of overcoming certain regional barriers such as the lack of synchronisation between different national biodiversity fees and, in particular, the fact that the islands compete in various tourism market segments.

57. Mr. Clement Humes from the CARICOM presented insights on the mandate and achievements of the CARICOM Secretariat in mobilizing resources to meet the needs of the community. He noted that the CARICOM Secretariat was not in a position to provide a scientific evaluation of financial gaps and needs of the region. It was the responsibility of every Member State to combine efforts in order to maximize the available resources through information sharing, networking and capacity-building. The fragmented status of regional projects, the inefficiency in managing donor's funds and late delivery of project outcomes, political barriers and socioeconomic challenges were identified as main causes of the deficiency in implementing approved projects or activities.

Field trip

58. A half-day courtesy field trip on the afternoon of 20 May was organized by the Ministry of Environment of Antigua and Barbuda.

ITEM 4. SHAPING POLICY: THE COMMUNICATIONS SIDE

59. Participants were invited to a role play exercise, in form of making the case to national finance ministers for their preferred scenario, under the mock cases developed in earlier break-out sessions, including showcasing the benefits arising from the scenario and its financial viability. The purpose of the role play was to enable participants to relate the provisions of the methodologies and lessons learned throughout the workshop and to measure their understanding in the context of their possible application or concrete implementation at the domestic level. After discussions within the groups, each group presented, through its rapporteur, its arguments and/or strategic plan on how the preferred scenario might be implemented.

60. In the concluding session, participants emphasized that the exercises had been very useful in deepening their understanding of concepts and methodologies presented, and suggested that similar exercises at national level could be undertaken to facilitate the application of these tools at national and regional level.

Evaluation and closure

61. Participants completed a workshop evaluation questionnaire. An analysis and summary of the evaluation is provided in annex IV of the report.

62. Participants agreed to the following set of conclusions and recommendations to be taken into account in future resource mobilization activities:

(a) There is an urgent need to develop practical finance plans for the implementation of the next round of NBSAPs, including by linking or integrating them into national financial planning frameworks;

(b) Such a process needs to be based on a partnership-driven approach, including existing funding mechanisms such as the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF);

(c) There is an important ongoing need to provide capacity-building and technical support on approaches, such as economic valuation and national accounting methods, for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into national planning processes, in particular national financial planning processes;

(d) Economic valuation and national accounting methods need to be applied in a participatory manner and their finding and implications clearly communicated;

(e) This could be undertaken by integrating a programme element on valuation and accounting into the project on environmental information, currently under development coordinated by CARICOM/UNEP;

(f) A regional approach to resource mobilization is desirable. Consideration could be given to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund as a possible hosting institution for such a mechanism. The mechanism should provide a window for non-governmental institutions;

(g) Completing the CBD financial reporting framework could provide elements of such a finance plan (in form of an “early harvest”).

CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

63. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the workshop closed at 4.40 p.m. on Thursday, 21 May 2015.

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
18 May 2015		
I.	OPENING AND SETTING THE STAGE	
8:45 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and opening Opening remarks: The post-2015 development agenda and the financing for development process	Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD) Ms. Therese Yarde (CARICOM) Mr. Troy Torrington, Minister Counsellor, on behalf of Ambassador George Wilfried Talbot, Co-chair of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations H. E. Mr. Molwyn Joseph, Hon. Minister of Health and Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
9:30 a.m.	Expectations and self-introductions by participants Overview of workshop objectives and process	All Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD) Ms. Therese Yarde (CARICOM)
10:00 a.m.	Setting the stage for the workshop Resource mobilization for biodiversity in the Caribbean	Mr. Mark Griffith (UNEP/ROLAC)
10:30 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
II.	MAKING THE CASE: IDENTIFYING AND INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY VALUES	
11:00 a.m.	Introduction: why and what values? Ecosystem valuation for better decision-making: the WRI Guidebook Q&A; discussion	Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD) Mr. Richard Waite (World Resources Institute)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m.	Ecosystem valuation for better decision-making: national experiences Economic evaluation of natural resources in Antigua and Barbuda Ecosystems valuation in the Bahamas Ecosystem services valuation: examples in Belize Q&A; discussion	Ministry of Finance, Antigua and Barbuda (tbc) Ms. Samantha Miller (Bahamas) Ms. Maxine Monsanto (Belize)
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
3:30 p.m.	Ecosystem valuation for better decision-making: (continued) Introduction to group work Group work (Groups agree on mock case, develop policy scenarios, and undertake a semi-quantitative assessment of changes in ecosystem services)	Mr. Richard Waite (WRI) Participants
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	
19 May 2015		
9:00 p.m.	Ecosystems Capital Accounts Principles and framework data needs and sources institutional preconditions and partnerships needed needs for awareness raising; technical training needs	Mr. Jean-Louis Weber (EEA)

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
	Q&A; discussion	
10:30 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
11:00 p.m.	Ecosystems Capital Accounts The ENCA quick start package and implementation experience in Mauritius	Mr. Jean-Louis Weber (EEA)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m.	Assessing resource needs and gaps: towards national resource mobilization plans Q&A Assessing finance gaps: group work Based on mock cases, groups flesh out identified policy scenarios and assess resource needs to implement the preferred scenario	Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD)
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
III.	CLOSING THE FINANCE GAP: BIODIVERSITY FINANCING MECHANISMS	
3:30 p.m.	General introduction, including criteria for selecting BFM and safeguards for their use Mainstreaming and biodiversity financing mechanisms under GEF-6	Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD) Mr. Mark Zimsky (GEF Secretariat)
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	
20 May 2015		
9:00 a.m.	Biodiversity Finance Mechanisms and their applicability in the Caribbean: Cases from the region Antigua and Barbuda: Sustainable Island Resource Fund Grenada: Biodiversity and climate-change funding – Grenada's ecosystem-based adaptation project	Mr. Mark Griffith UNEP-ROLAC Ms. Diann Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda) Mr. Trevor Thompson (Grenada)
10:30 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
10:45 a.m.	Biodiversity Finance Mechanisms and their applicability in the Caribbean: cases from the region (continued) St Kitts and Nevis: Resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation in Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia: Establishment of the Saint Lucia National Conservation Trust Fund	Mr. Eavin Parry (Saint Kitts and Nevis) Mr. Augustine Dominique (Saint Lucia)
12:00 noon	Lunch	
12:50 p.m.	Departure for field trip	Government of Antigua and Barbuda
21 MAY 2015		
9:00 a.m.	Biodiversity Finance Mechanisms and their applicability in the Caribbean: Cases from the region (continued) Saint Lucia National Trust: Financing for biodiversity conservation Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI): The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund The Nature Conservancy: The Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	Ms. Shirlene Simmons (Saint Lucia National Trust) Ms. Anna Hadeed (CANARI) Mr. Robbie Bovino (TNC)
10:30 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
11:00 a.m.	Towards resource mobilization mechanisms for the Caribbean Round-table discussion	Mr. Mark Griffith (UNEP-ROLAC)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
IV.	SHAPING POLICY: THE COMMUNICATIONS SIDE	
1:30 p.m.	Introduction to group work Group work: Based on mock cases, groups develop concrete	Mr. Markus Lehmann (SCBD) participants

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
	policy proposals and a three-minute pitch talk for ministers	
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
3:30 p.m.	Presentation of pitch talks and final discussion	Participants
4:45 p.m.	Evaluation and closure	All
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	

Annex II. RESULTS FROM THE SCENARIO BUILDING EXERCISE

GROUP 1: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA and THE BAHAMAS					
Scenario 1: Business as usual	Scenario 2: Building or developing within and Marine Protected Area in an environmental manner	Ecosystem services offered	No Development	Sustainable development	Unsustainable development
Scenario description: Building of a resort in a MARINE PROTECTED AREA It would cause for the reduction in fish stocks and marine species No access for Tour Operators and locals Loss of coastal protection and destruction of the coastal ecosystems	Positive impact of fish stock further growth of fish populations and marine habitats, providing for further food security. Managing the marine area in an effective manner. Further utilization of the Marine protected area to enhance business for tour operators and provide access to locals within the area. Further protect the coastal systems and enhance a positive effect for climate change.	1. Fishing	+++	++	-
		2. Eco-tourism	++	++	+
		3. Coastal protection	+++	+	-
Sustainable financial mechanism - Tourism revenue from resort Budget USD 5 million: 2.5 million at a percentage of business/hotels net profit. Yach users as mooring fees (1 million) park wardens (1 million; EIA/Emp (1million; replanting coral 500 k)					
GROUP 2: SAINT LUCIA; SAINT KITTS; OESC/SAINT LUCIA					
Scenario 1: Business as Usual	Scenario 2: Allow some Economic Activity (Low Footprint)	Ecosystem services offered	No Development	Sustainable development	Unsustainable development
Scenario description: FOREST RESERVE How to facilitate development within the forest reserve without compromising watershed protection and management and biodiversity? Acknowledge interest in Forest Reserve Acknowledge the Governments interest in Eco-Tourism Development Communicate the real value of the forest reserve	DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SPECIFIC BOUNDARIES FOR EXAMPLE: Sustainable livelihoods: Hiking; Bird watching; Hunting of agouti and serving as a delicacy by a community group; Hunting of feral pigs; Light camping; Hunting of monkeys: Boutique eco-tourism Sustainable use of Forest products: Latanye, produce incense DELIVERABLES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative/policy provisions/enabling environment Undertake Scoping/Baseline Study including stakeholder engagement Environmental and Social Impact Assessment low footprint economic activity in the forested area Updated Legislation/Regulations/Management Plan and Associated Financing Plan Provide alternative livelihoods Compensated Land Owners Operational Governance Framework Investment portfolio Green Infrastructure Development ACTIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine land ownership patterns and economic activity/livelihood generation Review of existing relevant legislation Undertake Ecosystem Health Assessment & environmental and social impact assessment Update existing or develop new legislation Develop Management Plan and Finance/Resource Mobilisation Plan Identify alternative livelihood options Construction 	1. Water supply	++	+++	-
		2. Purification	++	+++	-
		3. Nutrient cycling	++	+++	0
		4. Forest products	++	+++	0
		5. Erosion Control	++	+++	-
		6. Recreation	++	+++	- +
		7. Carbon sequestering	++	+++	-
Sustainable financial mechanism – Revenue : Budget USD 3,500,000: Funding sources: (User Fees: USD 100,000; Lease Agreement:100,000; UNEP: 2,000,000; Public Sector: 150,000) CRRMF: USD: 1,000,000 Addressing funding Gap: Access USD: 1,000,000 from CARICOM					

GROUP 3: BARBADOS, BELIZE, DOMINICA, SURINAME, MONTSERRAT					
Scenario 1: Business as usual	Scenario 2: Building or developing within and Marine Protected Area in an environmental manner	Ecosystem services offered	No Development	Sustainable development	Unsustainable development
<p>Scenario description: NOWHERE LAND Building of a resort in marine protected area</p> <p>The issue identified is the protected Areas Legislation: Circa 1953.</p> <p>The legislation is obsolete and requires update/modernisation Present situation: (a) Encroachment into Protected Areas and (b) Legislation does not allow for sustainable management</p>	<p>Preferred scenario: All-inclusive policy, legislation developed and multi-use management Multi-use/ managed resources/ Budget funded activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy: USD 800,000: Consultation; Feasibility studies, etc. • Legislation: USD 750,000: Consultation; drafting • Multi-use Management plan: 1.5 millions: Consultation; Feasibility studies, etc.; System of environmental economic accounts; Cost-benefit analysis • Public Awareness campaign: USD500,000 <p>Total estimated cost: 3,55 million Gap identified: 32 k</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps: New legislation +regulatory • Stakeholder engagement • Develop: land use /zoning in the forested area • Address/Identify alternative • Sources of livelihoods for affected populations 	1. Water resources	-	++	---
		2. Forestry	0	++	+
		3. Fisheries	-	++	+
		4. Tourism	0	+++	+
		5. Genetic Resources	-	+	--
		6. Energy Generation	0	+	0
<p>Sustainable financial mechanism Total estimated cost: USD 3,55 million Responsibility: Gov.; 2 years; Potentials sources: IADB 20%; GEF: 30%; CIF 30%; World Bank 20%</p>					
GROUP 4: CANARI, GRENADA, SAINT- VINCENT					
Scenario 1: Business as usual, full-scale development	Scenario 2: Scaled-down development restricted	Ecosystem services offered	No Development	Sustainable development	Unsustainable development
<p>Scenario description: MARINA BOUTIQUE HOTEL An actor is proposing to develop a hotel project and Marina (boating activities) in Grenada – Marina Boutique Hotel.</p> <p>The proposed site is a proposed Marine protected Area and an adjacent to a bird century.</p>	<p>DELIVERABLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA, other site assessments including land-use (SIA): USD 500,000 • Ecosystem valuation: USD 100,000 • Re-design of Marina plan: USD 100,000 • Waste Management system: USD 2M • Solar energy system: USD 1.5M • Livelihoods resource plan: USD 500,000 • Social safeguard policy: USD: 400,000 • Mitigation measures: USD: 2M • Construction : USD 6M • Operational cost : USD: 1.5 M <p>COSTS BENEFITS ANALYSIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation; Post development employed by Green Marina associated jobs; • Enhanced long-term livelihoods for local fisher folk with protection of marine protected area • Reduction of CO2; demonstration effect; Feedback to grid and community • Reduction in electricity costs; reduction of dependency on importing diesel and stress from hydro plant • Health benefits: human health and ecosystem health 	1. Mangroves • Nurseries for fisheries • Filtration system • Storm surge • Coastal protection	+	-+	----
		2. Livelihoods • Fishing • Ecotourism • Arts and craft	-	++	+ -
		3. Tourism recreation • Bird Watching • Diving/snowboarding • Sailing	+	++	+ -
		4. Coral reef* *Same as mangroves • Diving	+	+	--
<p>Sustainable financial mechanism Total estimated costs: USD 16 million Government contribution: USD 3.5 million; Developers 12.5 million</p>					

*Annex III***WORKSHOP EVALUATION****Pre-workshop evaluation**

A total of 25 participants completed pre-workshop evaluation forms. Of these 25, 56% were female, 44% male. The majority of participants were from the environment sector, with 48% representing Ministries responsible for the environment, and 24% from national/regional/international NGOs with an environmental mandate. Six participants (24%) were from Ministries with responsibility for Finance and/or Economic Affairs, and one participant (4%) was from a regional inter-governmental organization.

Participants were asked to self-assess their knowledge prior to the workshop of four key subject areas:

- Ecosystems valuation;
- Design and implementation of biodiversity financing mechanisms;
- Available biodiversity finance options, as identified in the CBD strategy for resource mobilization; and
- Approaches to mainstreaming/integrating biodiversity values into national accounting, planning processes and development strategies.

The assessment was done on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represented the lowest level of knowledge and 5 the highest. The overall average level of knowledge, according to participants' self-rating was 2.12. Average ratings for each of the individual subject areas are presented in the table below.

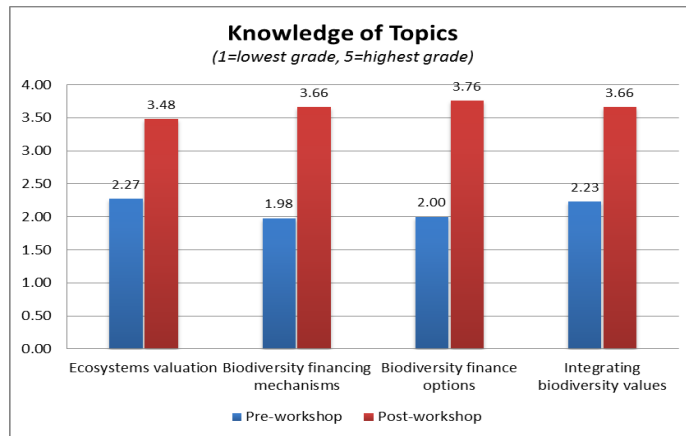
Subject area	Average self-assessed knowledge level <i>(1=lowest grade; 5=highest grade)</i>
Ecosystems valuation	2.27
Design and implementation of biodiversity financing mechanisms	1.98
Available biodiversity finance options, as identified in the CBD strategy for resource mobilization	2.00
Approaches to mainstreaming/integrating biodiversity values into national accounting, planning processes and development strategies	2.23

Post-workshop evaluation

Participant responses to the post-workshop evaluation indicated that the workshop improved their understanding of the four central subject areas (see figure below), from an overall average of 2.12 pre-workshop to an average of 3.64.

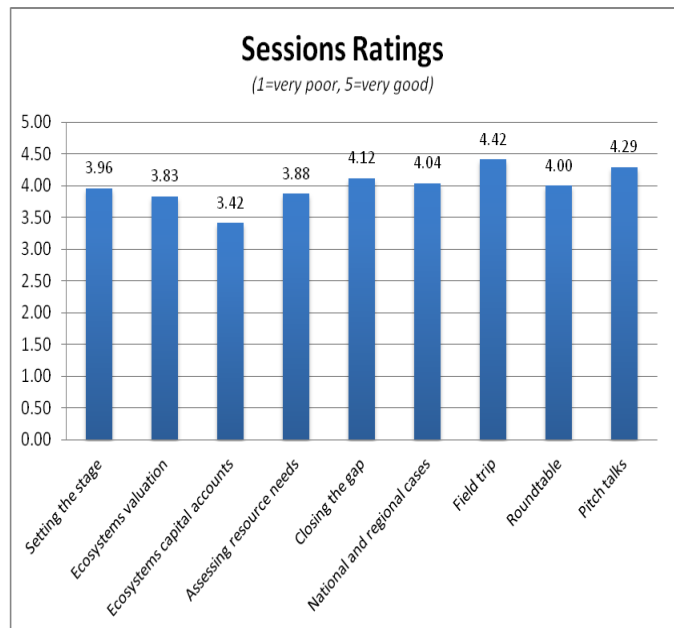
Of the 25 participants who completed the post-workshop questionnaire, 22 indicated that the workshop had met their expectations, one did not respond to the question, and two gave qualified responses. These qualified responses indicated that the workshop had met some expectations, but that the respondents had hoped for greater coverage of some specific subject areas (those mentioned were ecosystems valuation, ecological accounting, and biodiversity finance mechanisms and options). All

participants indicated that the information presented at the workshop would be beneficial to them in their jobs and future work.



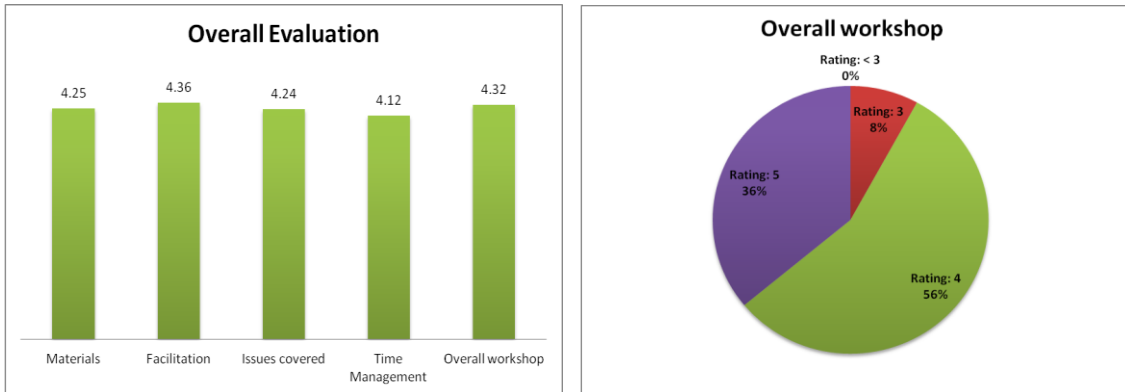
Respondents were asked to rate the workshop sessions on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 representing a rating of “very poor” and 5 representing a rating of “very good” (see table below). The average session rating was 3.99. The field trip was the most highly rated session; its score of 4.42 was reflected by written comments which indicated that it was one of the aspects of the workshop that participants enjoyed the most. It was expressed that the field trip provided an informative opportunity to see how some of the issues discussed at the workshop, e.g. with respect to protected areas management, play out in real life. The second most highly rated aspect of the workshop was the session *Shaping policy: the communications side*, followed by the sessions on *Closing the finance gap* and the presentations of national and regional cases.

Workshop sessions	Rating
Field trip	4.42
Shaping policy: the communications side	4.29
Closing the finance gap: biodiversity financing mechanisms	4.12
Biodiversity finance mechanisms and their applicability in the Caribbean (national and regional cases)	4.04
Towards resource mobilization mechanisms for the Caribbean (roundtable)	4.00
Setting the stage: resource mobilization for biodiversity in the Caribbean	3.96
Assessing resource needs and gaps	3.88
Ecosystems valuation for better decision-making	3.83
Ecosystems capital accounts	3.42



Using the same 1 to 5 scale, respondents also rated four aspects of the delivery of the workshop, along with the workshop overall (see table below). All aspects received an average rating greater than 4, with facilitation being most highly rated at 4.36 and time management receiving the lowest average rating of 4.12. These scorings were reflected by participants’ responses to the open-ended questions about what they liked most about the workshop and what they thought could be improved. Several participants praised

the facilitators as being skilled and knowledgeable. With respect to improvement, a frequent recommendation was that the workshop could have been longer to allow for more time to be given to in-depth coverage of the subject matter and the key concepts presented.

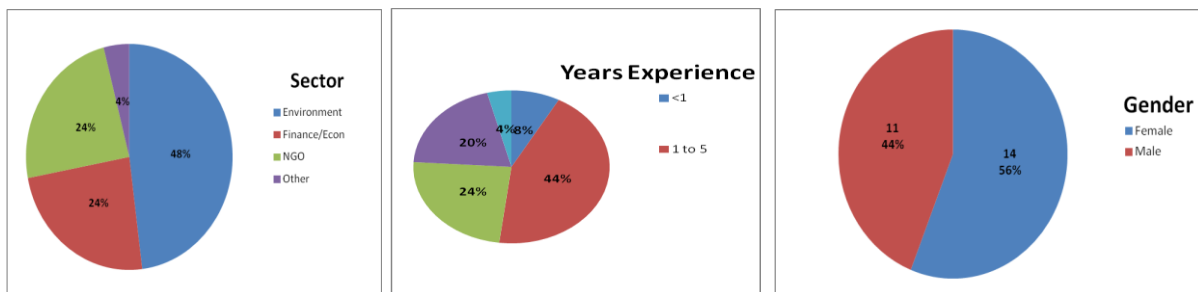


The final portion of the post-workshop questionnaire allowed participants to list the three things they liked most about the workshop and to make three recommendations for improvement. The most liked aspects of the workshop (apart from the field trip, which was uniformly popular) related to (a) the sharing of information and experiences between countries via cases studies and discussion; (b) the group work and participatory learning aspects of the workshop; and (c) the workshop facilitation.

The most common recommendation for improvement, as alluded to previously, was that the workshop should be longer, in order to allow for more thorough coverage of some of the key subject areas, in particular ecosystems valuation, natural capital accounting, and available biodiversity financing options and sources of funding. Two other areas proposed for additional coverage were financial reporting under the CBD and guidance for preparation of national resource mobilization strategies.

Composition of the group

The workshop brought together government-nominated officials from different ministries of environment and finance from the CARICOM Member States, experts and representatives from regional and subregional organizations, as well as international, non-governmental and non-profit organizations represented as follows:



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