



PRESS RELEASE



Subregional exchange for the Caribbean on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems

- *Workshop to discuss ecosystem restoration targets and their implementation.*
- *Aim is to support Parties in planning and carrying out national plans on ecosystem restoration.*
- *Expected outcomes include getting better understanding of the distinction between the related concepts of ecological restoration, ecosystem restoration and forest landscape restoration.*

9 March 2020 – Representatives from 12 Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago) will gather 9-13 March in Castries, Saint Lucia for a workshop to discuss ecosystem restoration targets and their implementation.

The workshop is one of a series organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as part of the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) with the generous financial assistance of the Korea Forest Service of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The CBD is the main global agreement to protect biodiversity, with near-universal membership. Later this year in Kunming, China, at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020, CBD Parties will agree a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is achieved.

The overall aim of the workshop is to support Parties in planning and carrying out national plans on ecosystem restoration, guided by the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration adopted in 2016, with a focus on efforts taken in forest and other ecosystems to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Expected outcomes of the meeting include participants gaining a better understanding of the distinction between the related concepts of ecological restoration, ecosystem restoration and forest landscape restoration and their potential to contribute to environmental and socio-economic national objectives; greater awareness of the various international frameworks, goals and targets related to restoration; and, ensuring that they understand the value and process for setting Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Bound (SMART) goals on forest ecosystem restoration that provide a clear and quantifiable contribution to international goals and targets.



It is also expected that a regional understanding emerges from exchange between participants with regards to common barriers, challenges and bottlenecks to forest ecosystem and forest landscape restoration among countries of the region and the benefits of ecosystem restoration to ecological, social and economic sustainability.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 172 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 124 Parties.

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