



## **Biodiversity Information Sharing and Infrastructure Development for Islands and Neighboring Countries in the Caribbean**

### **Proposed IABIN and IWCAM Caribbean Workshop**

#### **Background**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> IABIN (Inter American Biodiversity information Network) Council Meeting in 2005, the Focal Points from the Greater Caribbean Region discussed how to advance the involvement of Caribbean countries within IABIN and better identify specific gaps and needs related to biodiversity informatics. It was concluded that a regional workshop could help to address those issues.

It was agreed that the workshop should be carried out with participants of various sectors (Government, academic, NGOs and others) in the Greater Caribbean to discuss specific issues related to biodiversity information sharing and infrastructure development for islands and neighboring countries in the Caribbean, within the context of IABIN.

In March 2007, the GS/OAS/DSD attended the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project meeting along with the “Integrating Watershed & Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWCAM)” project. As a result discussions were held about a possible collaborative effort for information gathering on a unified Caribbean strategy, mechanisms of collaboration, and training.

#### **Workshop Concept**

Specific biodiversity topics that have been identified as priorities for the Caribbean sub-region and that intersect with IABIN areas of work are:

- Marine species and valuation of marine ecosystems
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities
- Marine protected areas/coral reefs
- Ecosystem recovery
- Invasive species
- Biodiversity and climate change

#### **Potential Talks / Training activities:**

- 1) IABIN and IWCAM General Presentation
- 2) Presentation and training on metadata and standards and protocols adopted by IABIN



3) Presentation of a Capability Assessment of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities of countries participating in the IWCAM Project

4) How to share data through IABIN?

- Sharing data: Contributing to IABIN Thematic Networks
- Sharing data on marine species and protected areas - Contributing to OBIS and IABIN
- This could also build on the work to be conducted between the Secretariat, WB and IDB on a toolkit for projects implemented by these two financing institutions.

5) What is the IABIN Catalog and what will it do

Training on IABIN Catalog

6) How IABIN can address biodiversity informatics issues in the Caribbean?

- a. Integrating IABIN & Caribbean informatics initiatives – CariNet, OECS, UNEP-Caribbean Program, and projects “Integrating Watershed & Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWCAM)”, White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW), Mesoamerican and Caribbean Herbariums Network (Red de Herbarios de Mesoamérica y el Caribe)
- b. Biodiversity Informatics and Climate Change
- c. Natural Disasters Ecosystem Recovery (hurricane impacts) and biodiversity informatics
- d. I3N database training

### **Potential Partners / Invitees**

- a. UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme
- b. International Coral Reef Action Network (ICARN)
- c. TNC Caribbean program – conducts work in Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean and Jamaica
- d. BirdLife International
- e. OECS Secretariat
- f. OBIS
- g. CariNet member
- h. Birdlife International
- i. University of West Indies
- j. Country report updates could help in deciding which institutions should be invited.

### **Suggested Dates:**

Workshop is recommended to be held after the IEC / Secretariat / CIs meeting planned for October 2007. This CI / IEC / Secretariat meeting is expected to provide guidance on how the TNs will work with each other and the Secretariat.

### **Greater Caribbean Countries:**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Bahamas



Barbados  
Belize  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Trinidad & Tobago.