

Biosafety Regulations Under the Cartagena Protocol: The Jamaican Case*

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Abstract

Jamaica is an island with delicately balanced biodiversity and high endemism. It also relies heavily on trade. Biosafety therefore is high on the island's agenda, and the nation has been active in the **Cartagena Protocol** negotiations. Jamaica's biotechnological competence allows the island to import as well as export transgenics. Nevertheless, to safely identify, test, handle, transport, store and use such organisms and their products, the island recognizes the importance of improving these capabilities. Additionally, to satisfy the obligations of the protocol a comprehensive legislation was also deemed necessary. Furthermore, to reduce costs and improve scientific coverage and efficiency, Jamaica feels that a Caribbean institutional approach to the implementation of the Protocol is essential.

Introduction

