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2022



OECS
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Concept note

**Promoting implementation of CITES towards sustainable and traceable ocean trade:
Spotlight on the UNCTAD–OECS Blue BioTrade project**

1 July 2022

5.30–6.45 p.m.

**Interactive Dialogue Room, the Altice Arena
Lisbon, Portugal**

Organisers: UNCTAD, CITES and the OECS

Background: CITES has a long history of regulating international trade in many marine species to help ensure their survival in the wild, including clams, corals, dolphins, marine turtles, sea horses, queen conch and whales. In particular, over recent years, several new species of sharks and rays, teatfish and queen conch have been added to [Appendix II of CITES](#). This means that international trade – that is, the import, export, re-export and ‘introduction from the sea’ – involving these species is subjected to specific CITES procedural requirements. The CITES Secretariat has undertaken a range of activities in order to identify key challenges faced by Parties in implementing legal obligations around trade in listed marine species and to build Parties’ capacity to address these, promoting sustainable and traceable ocean trade. This session aims to spotlight and build awareness of the key issues for CITES Parties in implementing new marine species listings over recent years, and the important contribution that this implementation makes towards the objectives of SDG14.

One key focus of the session will be to highlight the findings and implementation of [the Blue BioTrade Project](#), an Eastern Caribbean-based project led by UNCTAD and OECS, with the collaboration of CITES and financial support from the European Union through the [OECS Regional Integration Through Growth Harmonisation and Technology \(RIGHT\) Programme](#). The first phase of the project was launched in October 2020, set to conclude in July 2022, and consisted of supply chain analyses in the

Caribbean small island developing states of St Lucia, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, focusing on queen conch, a crustacean representing most of those Parties' export revenues from fishing. The reports from phase one provided recommendations to support participating countries to manage their ocean resources sustainably and meet CITES obligations concerning sustainable trade (including providing advice on measures necessary to lift CITES trade suspensions). The project closely corresponds to 2022 UN Ocean Conference's (UNOC's) interactive dialogue on strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies for small island developing states.

Objectives: The UNOC provides an opportunity to raise awareness and provide information to the UNOC community concerning CITES legal obligations on sustainable and traceable ocean trade and the important contribution that their implementation makes to the objectives of SDG14. The UNOC also provides an apt moment with relevant political momentum for the launch of a second phase of the Blue Biotrade project, centred on implementing a regional action plan based on the conclusions of the first phase. The side-event will bring together stakeholders (CITES, UNCTAD, OECS and member states) to discuss a range of CITES ocean issues, and to brainstorm on the specifics of the regional action plan.

Moderator:

- **Mr. David Vivas**, Legal Officer, UNCTAD

Speakers:

Keynote:

- **Mr. Saboto Caesar**, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Welcome Remarks:

- **Ms. Ivonne Higuero**, Secretary General, CITES
- **Ms. Teresa Moreira**, Officer-in-Charge (Rotational), Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

SPOTLIGHT: "The Blue BioTrade Project in the Eastern Caribbean"

- **Mr. Lench Fevrier**, Technical Specialist, Agriculture, OECS
- **Mr. René Gómez-García**, Head, Green Business Unit, CAF

Open Discussion

Concluding Remarks:

- **Ms. Rachel Gaughan**, Legal Officer, CITES

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