



Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

OECS



Regional workshop and validation of the OECS Blue BioTrade Action Plan for the queen conch value chain in the Eastern Caribbean

Sunset Shores Beach Hotel, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

26-27 May 2022

Day 1, 26 May: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. AST (GMT-4)

Day 2, 27 May: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. AST (GMT-4)

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

(Version of 13 May 2022)

I. Background

The queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) is an iconic species and one of the most important fishery resources with multiple uses, including culinary, therapeutic and handicraft in the Caribbean. Globally, the demand for queen conch products has expanded and its market value has increased but in contrast, production, and trade – specifically in the Eastern Caribbean has decreased over the years. Despite unique resource endowments and local fisheries expertise, the region has not fully grasped the opportunities offered by sustainably harvested queen conch in regional and international markets. In addition, since 1992, the queen conch has been listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which denotes that it is not necessarily threatened with extinction, but its trade must be regulated to avoid utilisation that is incompatible with its survival.¹ Indeed, capitalising on the economic potential of the queen conch whilst maintaining healthy stocks will require compliance with multilateral, regional and national legal and sustainability requirements.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CITES launched the first phase of the regional project, "[Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine diversity in selected OECS countries \(Blue BioTrade project\)](#)" in October 2020. The implementation of this first phase is envisaged to promote understanding of how the Blue BioTrade environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria,² complemented by CITES compliance could empower small scale coastal operators from Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ('beneficiary countries') to produce and trade queen conch products legally and competitively whilst protecting, sustaining, and restoring this iconic species.

¹ See <https://cites.org/eng/app/index.php>.

² Further information at: www.biotrade.org and on the BioTrade Principles and Criteria at <https://unctad.org/webflyer/biotrade-principles-and-criteria-terrestrial-marine-and-other-aquatic-biodiversity-based>.

II. Objectives

Building on the findings from the three country studies produced, including [workshops](#) and [consultations](#) with national stakeholders, as outputs of the project under Phase 1 of the Blue BioTrade project, the regional validation workshop will:

- Provide a platform for awareness raising, knowledge and lessons learnt sharing of the identified and fit for purpose social and economic opportunities for value chain development as identified through the application of BioTrade Principles and Criteria in each country study in a comparative manner
- Convene key actors and stakeholders for the presentation, discussion, and validation of the OECS Blue BioTrade Regional Action Plan ('Regional Action Plan') for the queen conch value chain. This will have been the output of joint yet bespoke stakeholder formulation and validation of the three country studies
- Ensure that the Regional Action Plan supports the implementation of the [2017 Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan \(RQCFMCP\)](#) as well as CITES Decisions and Resolutions that are relevant to international trade in queen conch
- Enable a Regional Action Plan implementation process that is fair, collaborative, climate resilient, gender inclusive and representative of stakeholders' interests and has country ownership
- Gather support for the implementation of priority actions identified in the Regional Action Plan to facilitate the second phase of the Blue BioTrade project in the Caribbean.

III. Methodology

The regional validation workshop will take place on two consecutive days from 26 to 27 May 2022. Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the event will be both virtual and in-person (hybrid) with selected OECS Blue BioTrade stakeholders gathered physically. The first session of Day 1 will present a short documentary on Blue BioTrade Project on queen conch. The second session will feature the Blue BioTrade country case studies on developing value for the sustainable trade and production of queen conch in the Eastern Caribbean as presented by the Chief Fisheries Officers of respective beneficiary countries. The third session for Day 1 will be a presentation of the *draft* OECS Blue BioTrade Action Plan with key recommendations and discussions on priority setting, expected results and implementation means.

For Day 2 and as a continuation of Session 3, there will be a presentation of the *revised* Action Plan and the complementary next steps for the region for the 2nd phase of the OECS Blue BioTrade Project. Key additional partners such as the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund will be invited to expand the cooperation based on the second phase of the project.

The Action Plan will be validated by the stakeholders through the presentation/signing of joint communique by the three beneficiary countries followed by a press conference to disseminate this validation.

IV. Provisional programme

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26–27 May 2022

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Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. AST (GMT-4)

DAY 1 26 May 2022	
8:30 – 9 a.m.	Registration
9 – 10: 30 a.m.	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>Chair of Proceedings: Ms. Alisha Ally, Communications Specialist, OECS</p> <p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Yolande Bain Horsford, Minister of Sports, Culture and Arts, Cooperatives and Fisheries, Grenada (tbc, virtual) • Hon. Albert Prospere, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives, Saint Lucia (tbc, virtual) • Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Mr. Luis Maia, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Barbados, the OECS, and CARICOM/CARIFORUM (via a video link) • H.E. Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General, Economic Affairs and Regional Integration, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States • Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, UNCTAD • Ms. Karen Gaynor, Scientific Officer, CITES <p>OECS Blue BioTrade short documentary film presentation</p> <p><i>Commentator:</i> Mr. Lench Fevrier, Technical Specialist, Agriculture, OECS</p>
10:30 – 11 a.m.	Coffee break
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Moderators:</p>

	<p>Mr. David Vivas Eugui, UNCTAD Ms. Karen Gaynor, CITES</p> <p>Presentation of country case study (Grenada) <i>Speaker: Mr. George Phillip, Acting Chief Fisheries Officer, Grenada</i></p> <p>Presentation of country case study (Saint Lucia) <i>Speaker: Ms. Sarita Williams-Peter, Chief Fisheries Officer, Saint Lucia</i></p> <p>Presentation of country case study (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) <i>Speaker: Ms. Jennifer Cruickshank-Howard, Chief Fisheries Officer, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</i></p> <p>Cross-country lessons from the three country case studies: <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Alexander Girvan, Project Coordinator, UNCTAD-OECS Mr. Mauro Gongora, Fisheries Expert, UNCTAD-OECS</p> <p>Q&A by stakeholders</p>
1-2 p.m.	Lunch
2 – 3:30 p.m.	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Ms. Jacqueline Emmanuel-Flood, Director, Economic Affairs and Regional Integration, OECS</p> <p>Presentation of <i>draft</i> OECS Blue BioTrade Plan of Action and Key Recommendations <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Alexander Girvan, Project Coordinator, UNCTAD-OECS Mr. Mauro Gongora, Fisheries Expert, UNCTAD-OECS</p> <p>With technical support by Mr. David Vivas Eugui, UNCTAD and Ms. Karen Gaynor, CITES</p> <p>Q&A by stakeholders</p>
3:30– 3:45 p.m.	Coffee Break
3:45 – 5:30 p.m.	<p>SESSION 3 (continuation)</p> <p><i>Draft</i> OECS Blue BioTrade Plan of Action: Discussions on priority setting, expected results and implementation means</p>

V. Partners

Multilateral: UNCTAD, CITES, and the OECS and the financial support of the European Union (under the Regional Integration Through Growth Harmonisation and Technology (RIGHT) Programme

National:

- Grenada: Fisheries Division, Ministry of Sport, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Saint Lucia: Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

VI. Focal points

Partners:

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Ms. Claudia Contreras, Economic Affairs Officer
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