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, therapeutical 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.
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

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 and Online

26–27 May 2022

Day 1: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. AST (GMT-4)
Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. AST (GMT-4)

| DAY 1  
26 May 2022 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SESSION 1**

Chair of Proceedings: Ms. Alisha Ally, Communications Specialist, OECS

Welcoming remarks

- 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

OECS Blue BioTrade short documentary film presentation

Commentator:
Mr. Lench Fevrier, Technical Specialist, Agriculture, OECS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Moderator:&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Ms. Jacqueline Emmanuel-Flood, Director, Economic Affairs and Regional Integration, OECS&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Presentation of <em>draft</em> OECS Blue BioTrade Plan of Action and Key Recommendations&lt;br&gt;Speakers:&lt;br&gt;Mr. Alexander Girvan, Project Coordinator, UNCTAD-OECS&lt;br&gt;Mr. Mauro Gongora, Fisheries Expert, UNCTAD-OECS&lt;br&gt;With technical support by Mr. David Vivas Eugui, UNCTAD and Ms. Karen Gaynor, CITES&lt;br&gt;Q&amp;A by stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30– 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 3 (continuation)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Draft</em> OECS Blue BioTrade Plan of Action: Discussions on priority setting, expected results and implementation means</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:**

**UNCTAD, Division on International Trade and Commodities**
- **Mr. David Vivas Eugui,** Legal Officer  
david.vivaseugui@unctad.org
- **Ms. Claudia Contreras,** Economic Affairs Officer  
claudia.contreras@unctad.org
- **Ms. Maria Durleva,** Project Management Consultant  
maria.durleva@unctad.org

**OECS, Agriculture Unit**
- **Mr. Lench Fevrier,** Technical Specialist  
lench.fevrier@oecs.int
- **Ms. Natasha Deterville-Moise,** Programme Assistant  
Natasha.deterville@oecs.int

**Communications Unit**
- **Ms. Alisha Ally,** Communications Specialist  
alisha.ally@oecs.int

**CITES, Scientific Services**
- **Ms. Karen Gaynor,** Scientific Officer  
karen.gaynor@cites.org