The Blue Bio Trade Story Practical lessons on implementing CITES **Lench Fevrier, OECS** Maria Durleva, UNCTAD













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The UNCTAD-OECS Blue BioTrade Project



Main organ of the **United Nations dealing with trade**, **investment and development** issues

Dedicated to promoting the development –friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy

Established in 1964; 195 Member States

Ocean Economy and Fisheries Programme
was launched in 2014 - Supports
countries/SIDS to develop
regional/national economic development
strategies for the conservation and
sustainable use of the ocean and its
resources

BioTrade Initiative was launched in **1996** – promotes trade and investment in biodiversity-based products and services to further sustainable development and CBD objectives

















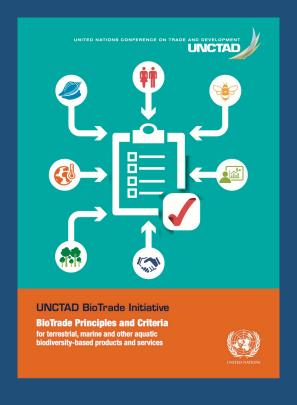




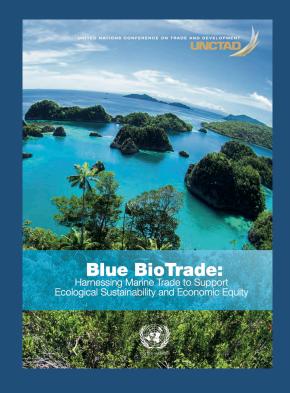




UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria











Meat

(Food & culinary arts)

Conch trimmings

(Bait and fertilisers)

Shells

(Handicrafts, instruments & decorations)

Queen conch (Strombus gigas)

Pearls (Jewellery)



Genes & biochemical

S (Aquaculture, biotechnology)

Eco-tourism

(Non-intrusive diving)

About \$74 million annually in regulated trade















"Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Countries"



The UNCTAD-OECS Blue BioTrade regional plan of action for the Eastern Caribbean queen conch value



CRITERIA

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION

Conducting stock assessments to determine thresholds for sustainable queen conch fishing

Managing queen conch fishing, such as closed seasons during spawning, no-catch zones, quotas, and a monitoring programme of juvenile conch

Organising regular queen conch fisher association meetings to promote associativity and coordination amongst actors

essing and adopting best practices for sustainable conservation of resources, using the UNCTAD Blue BioTrade Self-Assessment tool

ulating land-based activities for environmental protection by reducing water pollution, regulating coastal developments, and promoting tainable consumption

esting in data collection to obtain further information on queen conch value chain actors and their needs

gulating for social sustainability, including ensuring safety protocols for diving are respected

ining divers on safety protocols for scuba-diving, investing in certifications of social sustainability

juiring health insurance schemes for divers and other vulnerable actors in the value chain

essing export markets by complying with CITES requirements

laborating with CITES, the OECS and UNCTAD to address the trade suspensions, including by drafting and implementing new legislation

proving enforcement: Enforcement of regulations and compliance capabilities are essential to reduce illegal trade but must be combined h incentives for legal trade

Enhancing capacity for sustainable trade of queen conch through Blue BioTrade in the Eastern Caribbean, Project code T.IA.I

A summary of country case study recommendations for policy makers, exporters and investors

UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2022/1 (Version 27 May 2022)

The queen conch (Strombus gigas) or "lambi" is a large marine shellfish renowned as one of the Caribbean's most iconic and valuable fishery resources strongly linked to the region's culture and economy. As a result of uncontrolled harvesting and illegal landings, the queen conch was listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1992, which means that its international trade is regulated to ensure it is

Eastern Caribbean States acknowledge that achieving sustainable trade of queen conch at the value chain level can promote environmental, social, and economic development in the region as well as lay the foundations for best practices in other ocean economy value chains.

of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the CITES Secretariat jointly launched Phase 1 of the pilot project, "Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Countries", which aims to increase stakeholder capacity for sustainable trade of queen conch in Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Three detailed country case studies were produced to map the actors of the queen conch value chain, identify challenges and opportunities for the application of the Blue BioTrade approach, and generate momentum for action through inclusive consultation and validation with stakeholders, including national governments. The Blue BioTrade approach consists of applying a set of environmental, social and economic sustainability guidelines (based on BioTrade Principles and Criteria) to trade and investment in marine biodiversity-based value chains that benefit all actors fairly and equitably. As the project enters its second phase, a regional Blue BioTrade plan of action for gueen conch is being designed and will be consulted with stakeholders in a Regional Workshop in May 2022. It is expected that this plan is implemented by the OECS with the support of UNCTAD, CITES, and the Caribbean Biodi

for the Eas

queen cor

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keducing seafood waste and adding value

toring stocks by building a nursery

Building processing & export infrastructure (Already well underway in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)









This **Regional Plan of Action** is intended to support the sustainable development of the queen conch value chains of **Grenada**, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the **Grenadines**, in line with the BioTrade Principles and Criteria, for improved environmental sustainability alongside tangible benefits for coastal communities and those involved in the queen conch value chain.

FOCUS





Participatory and gender sensitive approaches that include actors from public sector, private sector, civil society, academia, fisherfolk, fishing communities and women are strongly encouraged in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action based on the 4 BioTrade approaches: Value chain, adaptive management, ecosystem, sustainable livelihoods.

FOCUS



Next steps:

 Discuss strategic objectives that countries deem priority

 Discuss actions associated with these objectives that countries consider priority

 Present BBT RPOA to Council of Ministers and Implement!





Next steps:

(continued)

Align priorities into the FAST

Seek funding

 Seek collaboration with key partners

Implement within FAST 3 YEARS to the **next CITES COP**

















