

# The Blue BioTrade Story

Practical lessons on implementing CITES

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Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



Organisation of  
Eastern Caribbean States





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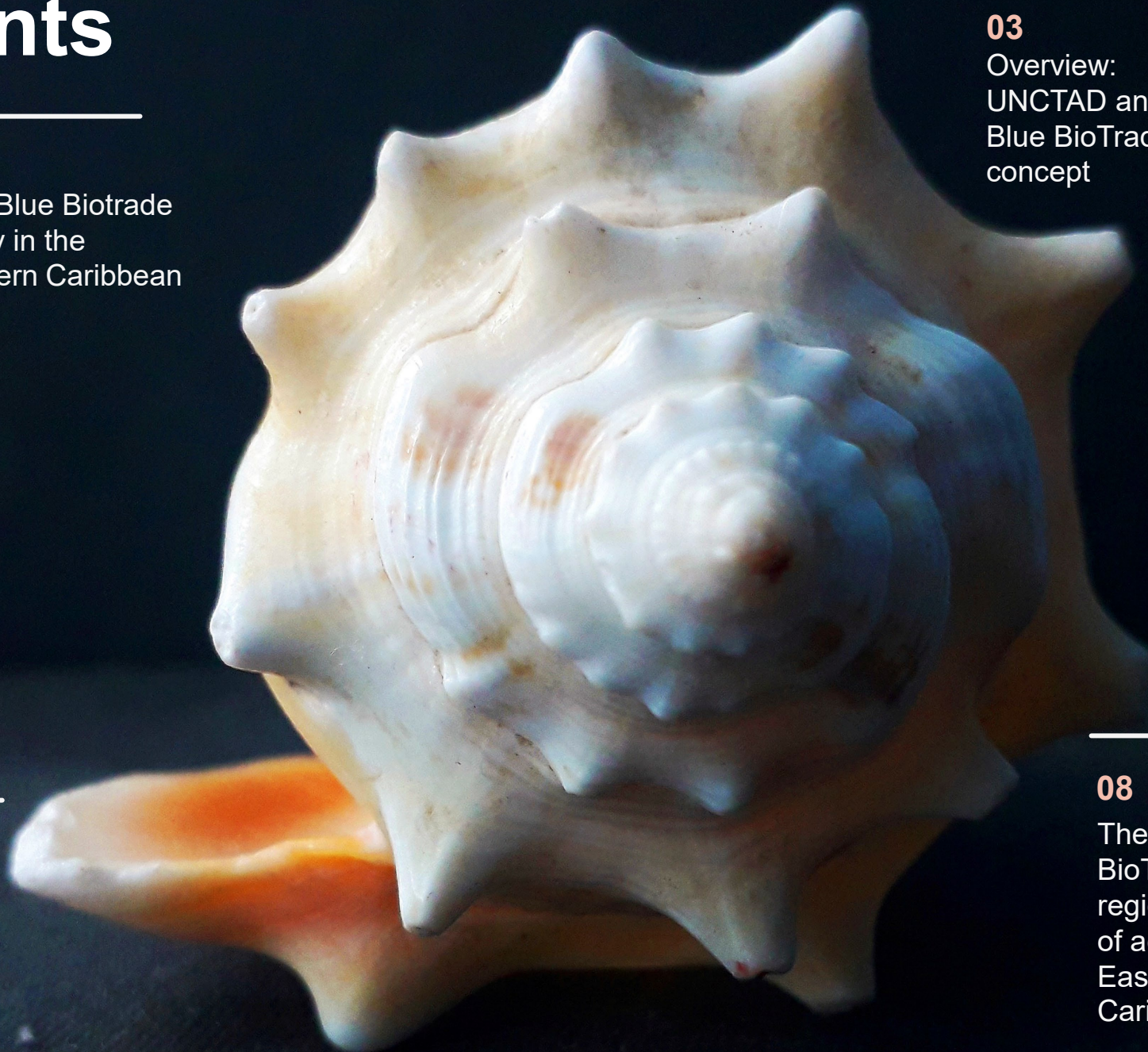
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Main organ of the **United Nations dealing with trade, investment and development** issues

*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



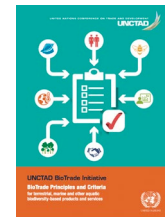
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# What is Blue BioTrade?

Harvesting/catching/cultivating (e.g., seaweed and queen conch), transforming and commercializing products & services derived from marine and coastal and biodiversity under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability (*BioTrade Principles & Criteria 2007 – revised in 2020*)



# UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



# Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

**Meat**  
(Food &  
culinary arts)

**Pearls (Jewellery)**



**Conch trimmings**  
(Bait and  
fertilisers)

**Genes &  
biochemical**

**S (Aquaculture,  
biotechnology)**

**Shells**  
(Handicrafts,  
instruments &  
decorations)

**Eco-tourism**  
(Non-intrusive  
diving)

**About \$74 million annually in regulated trade**

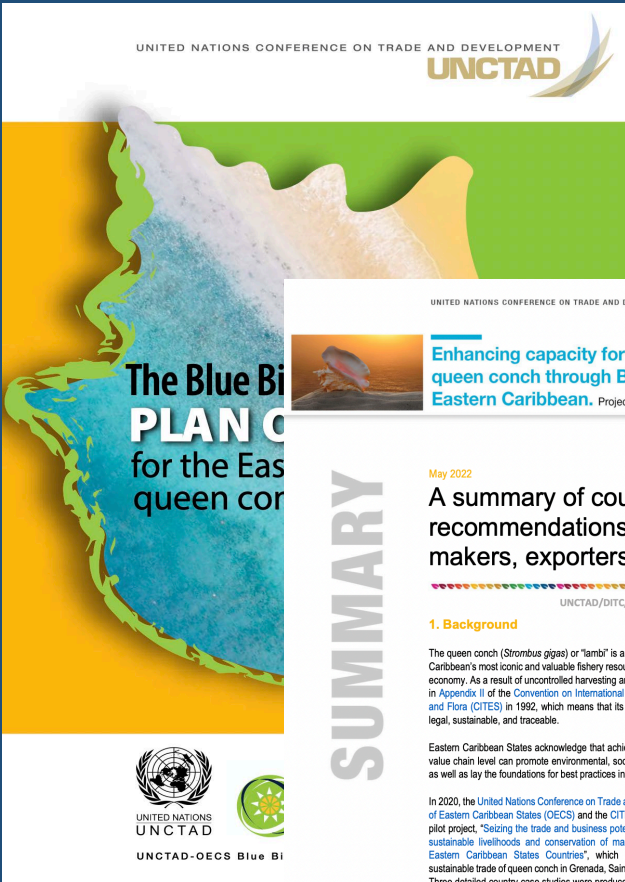




**“Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Countries”**



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



## 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

**Monitoring stocks by building a nursery**

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

**Regulating land-based activities for environmental protection** by reducing water pollution, regulating coastal developments, and promoting sustainable consumption

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

**Regulating for social sustainability**, including ensuring safety protocols for diving are respected

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

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

**Accessing export markets by complying with CITES requirements**

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

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

**Reducing seafood waste and adding value**

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







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# The way forward





# The Blue BioTrade regional **PLAN OF ACTION** for the Eastern Caribbean queen conch value chain

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.

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**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.**

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# 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**







# Thank you!



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EUROPEAN UNION



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

