

Draft Blue BioTrade Plan of Action for the Eastern Caribbean Queen Conch Value Chain

Presentation of Draft Plan of Action

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Mr. Alexander Girvan



Purpose

This 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 peoples and those involved in the queen conch value chain.





Approach to Implementation

- 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 this plan
- In addition, the Blue BioTrade Principles and Criteria emphasise the application of the following approaches:
 - **Value-chain approach**
 - **Adaptive management approach:**
 - **Ecosystem approach:**
 - **Sustainable livelihoods:**

Principle 1. Conservation of biodiversity

- Principle 1. Conservation of biodiversity:
Conservation of biodiversity is one of the three, interrelated objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), focusing on preserving the wealth of species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity. As a principle of the UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria, the conservation of biodiversity requires framing BioTrade activities in the context of the species, habitats and ecosystems involved. It also looks not only at protecting biodiversity, but also at restoring and enhancing it.
- Plan Of Action Strategic Objectives:
 - Strengthen research to facilitate informed decision-making for sub-regional queen conch conservation measures
 - Establishment of sub-regional queen conch nursery



Principle 1. Conservation of biodiversity

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
Strengthen research to facilitate informed decision-making for sub-regional queen conch conservation measures	<p>a. Conduct participatory research to identify and inform establishment of an appropriate period for a synchronised sub-regional closed season for fishing and trading queen conch in the Eastern Caribbean region.</p> <p>Conduct research to understand the effectiveness of current marine protected areas in the eastern Caribbean on replenishment of the wild sub-regional queen conch stock and the need for expansion of MPAs where applicable.</p>	<p>Regional, sub-regional and national policy makers use research findings to inform decision-making and progress policy cycles on critical sub-regional and national conservation measures.</p>	<p>Research reports presented at/used as reference documents at meetings of regional, sub-regional and national decision-making and advisory mechanisms</p>	<p>Regional and national research organisations</p> <p>National fisheries authorities</p> <p>OECS Commission</p> <p>CRFM Secretariat</p> <p>Marine Protected Area agencies</p>	2 years	200,000	Grant based Financing
Establishment of sub-regional queen conch nursery	<p>Develop an environmental and economic plan , including a cost-benefit analysis, to determine the ecological and socio-economic impacts of establishing a queen conch aquaculture facility in the eastern Caribbean.</p> <p>Conduct a study to identify and prioritise a location for establishment of queen conch hatchery and nursery.</p> <p>Participatory development of phased queen conch aquaculture plan involving fishers, private sector actors, governments and higher level educational institutions.</p>	<p>Improved health and sustainability of current queen conch stock.</p> <p>Improved socio-economic conditions for divers.</p>	<p>Increased stock density versus pre-restorative aquaculture activities</p>	<p>Queen conch Laboratory (Puerto Rico)</p> <p>National and Regional Conservation Trust Funds (CBF)</p> <p>Fisherfolk organisations, processors and producers of value added products</p>	5 Years	600,000	Grants Investments

Principle 2. Sustainable use of biodiversity

- Strategic actions
- Strengthen capacity for stewardship of queen conch fisheries
- Improve national capacity to conduct regular queen conch population assessments, using a collaborative management approach
- Strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate sustainable management of queen conch fishery
- Strengthen participatory governance for queen conch fishery at the sub-regional and national levels



Principle 2. Sustainable use of biodiversity

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
Strengthen capacity for stewardship of queen conch fisheries	a. Design and disseminate communication products promoting sustainable and legal harvest and trade of queen conch, targeted at fisherfolk, processors, exporters and fishing communities.	Harvesters, processors and exporters are more knowledgeable about national regulations.	Knowledge, attitude and practice studies show changes in knowledge and attitudes of harvesters, processors and exporters	National fisheries authorities Fisherfolk, fisherfolk organisations Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations	6 months	20,000-30,000	Grant based financing
	a. Provide training to queen conch harvesters on how to identify mature conch based on length and lip thickness.	Harvesters, processors and exporters are complying with national regulations.	Reduced # of reports of illegal trade Reduced # of reports of harvesting of juveniles	OECS Commission CRFM Secretariat			
Improve national capacity to conduct regular queen conch population assessments, using a collaborative management approach	a. Use participatory methods to map and identify queen conch fishing grounds and habitats to facilitate regular (e.g. every 2-3 years) national survey assessments to inform management decisions including need for national total allowable catch limits.	Stock assessments for national queen conch fisheries conducted regularly every 2-3 years.	# of stock assessments conducted	CITES Fisherfolk, fisherfolk organisations OECS Commission	3 Years	200,000	Grant Financing, In-kind
	a. Train fisheries officers, fishers, MPA personnel, dive operators and relevant civil society organisations in conducting underwater surveys for queen conch for collaborative management.	Range of stakeholders collaborating to conduct underwater surveys.	# of fisheries officers, fishers, MPA personnel, dive operators and relevant civil society organisations involved in conducting underwater surveys	Belize Fisheries Division			

Principle 2. Sustainable use of biodiversity

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
Strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate sustainable management of queen conch fishery	<p>a. Review and update national legislation to include national total allowable catch and or closed seasons for the queen conch fishery, based on stock assessment findings.</p> <p>a. Develop national queen conch conservation and management action plans, using an adaptive approach</p>	National policy and regulatory frameworks enable sustainable management of queen conch fishery.	<p># of national legislation updated and approved</p> <p># of national queen conch conservation and management plans drafted and formally approved for implementation</p>	<p>CITES</p> <p>National Fisheries Advisory Committees or Ocean Governance Committees</p> <p>National queen conch sub-committee</p> <p>Regional and national research organisations</p>	1.5 Years	100,000	<p>Grant Financing</p> <p>In-kind support</p>
Strengthen participatory governance for queen conch fishery at the sub-regional and national levels	<p>a. Establish a multi-stakeholder Queen Conch Advisory Committee for the OECS sub-region.</p> <p>a. Establish multi-stakeholder (including fisherfolk) queen conch sub-committees as part of existing national intersectoral coordination mechanisms for the fisheries sector (e.g. Fisheries Advisory Committees, National Ocean Governance Committees).</p>	<p>Range of stakeholders contributing to and supporting decision-making for the queen conch fishery at the sub-regional and national levels.</p> <p>Increased buy-in and mutual understanding among stakeholders for proposed and adopted management measures.</p>	<p>Multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms for the queen conch fishery formally established and functioning at the sub-regional level</p> <p># of multi-stakeholder queen conch sub-committees established and functioning at national levels</p>	TBD	Ongoing	N/A	

Principle 3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity

- In line with the third of the CBD objectives, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources, this Principle addresses the social and economic aspects of biodiversity. It requires BioTrade activities to involve long-term partnerships along supply chains, fair prices and contributions to local sustainable development. It also requires compliance with rules and agreements on access and benefit-sharing.
- Strategic Objectives:
 - Enable legal trade between eastern Caribbean countries and Martinique
 - Strengthen sub-regional coordination to assist with deterring illegal, unreported
 - Strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate deterring IUU fishing



Principle 3. Conservation of biodiversity

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
1. Enable legal trade between eastern Caribbean countries and Martinique	a. Establish export task force focused on enabling simple mechanism for legal trade with Martinique a. Initiate discussions with the European Union and Regional Council of Martinique on actions needed to be taken to improve ease of legal trade of queen conch	Increased legal trade to high-value end markets.	Reduced reports of irregular and illegal trade Implementation of simplified mechanism to enable trade	OECS Secretariat European Union Regional Council of Martinique	1.5 Years	50,000	Grant, In-kind, and Private sector
1. Strengthen sub-regional coordination to assist with deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing	a. Convene meeting of the Ministerial Council to explore the strengthening of the fisheries protection function of the existing Regional Security System (RSS)	Improved coordination among OECS countries to assist with deterring IUU fishing National policy and regulatory frameworks for IUU fishing strengthened in OECS countries	# of National Plans of Action on IUU developed # of Bi-lateral/Multi-lateral agreements formalised and implemented # of reports of illegal trade of queen conch reduced	OECS Commission RSS CARICOM Ministries Of National Security	1 Year	N/A	N/A



Principle 4. Socio-economic sustainability (productive, financial and market management):



- For BioTrade activities to deliver on its commitments to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as to fair and equitable sharing of benefits, these activities must be based on solid business policies, procedures and practices. This Principle requires organizations involved in BioTrade activities to have the required business systems to function in line with industry and market requirements.
- Strategic objectives:
- Build capacity for processing and marketing of value-added queen conch products
- Increase utilisation and trade of queen conch by-products (i.e. trimmings, opercula and pearls)
- Apply low-cost traceability systems to improve traceability and marketability of queen conch products produced in the OECS
- Seeking local solutions tech include CITES

Principle 4. Socio-economic sustainability

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
1. Build capacity for processing and marketing of value-added queen conch products	a. Train stakeholders in the production, packaging, branding and marketing of value-added products such as frozen conch samosas, soups, curries and burgers, for export and domestic consumption a. Promote domestic use of queen conch meat via the tourism market (e.g. hotels, restaurants and culinary festivals)	Reduced waste. Increased income from exports and domestic consumption of conch and conch products.	Increase in value of exports of value-added conch products Increase in demand for value-added conch products Increase in demand for conch meat by local restaurants and hotels	Main processors and exporters in project countries Ministries of Tourism Carib Export	1 Year	50,000	Blended finance – Grant and Private Sector
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Principle 4. Socio-economic sustainability

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
Increase utilisation and trade of queen conch by-products (i.e. trimmings, opercula and pearls)	<p>a. Promote use of queen conch trimmings in value-added queen conch products for export and domestic consumption (e.g. conch burgers, samosa and soups and chowders).</p> <p>b. Identify markets for queen conch trimmings.</p> <p>c. Share processing best practice, as it relates to the production of queen conch trimmings for value added products, through the development of short video training series.</p> <p>d. Provide training to local stakeholders to appraise queen conch pearls.</p> <p>e. Develop an online queen conch pearl appraisal guide.</p> <p>f. Identify markets for queen conch opercula.</p> <p>g. Promote collection and trade of conch opercula through poster training series and identification of centralized collection points.</p> <p>h. Provide training to local stakeholders in appropriate processing for export of conch opercula.</p>	<p>Reduce discard of valuable by-products.</p> <p>Increase the income and job opportunities for value chain actors, especially processors.</p> <p>Stakeholders more knowledgeable about the retail value of queen conch pearls.</p> <p>Increase in trade and income earned from the sale of queen conch pearls.</p> <p>Stakeholders have increased interest in collecting and trading conch opercula.</p> <p>Increase in trade and income earned from the sale of queen conch opercula.</p>	<p>Increase in local demand for queen conch trimmings</p> <p>Increase in export volume of queen conch trimmings</p> <p>Increase in trade of queen conch pearls</p> <p>Increase in traded value of queen conch pearls.</p> <p>Increase in local demand for queen conch opercula.</p> <p>Increase in export volume of queen conch opercula.</p>		2 Years	100,000	Blended finance – Grant and Private Sector



Principle 5. Compliance with national and international legislation:

- Practices under the UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria do not replace, but rather build upon compliance with applicable rules under local, national, and international legislation. This Principle facilitates legal compliance by outlining the main international agreements and relevant types of national and local laws
- Strategic Objectives:
 - Designate CITES National Authorities and provide CITES with UpToDate information on National Authorities
 - Commit to submitting annual reports in timely manner
 - Develop and Test Mutually agreed simplified Non-detriment findings

Principle 6. Respect for actors' rights



- At the core of the UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria is the commitment to empower actors involved in BioTrade activities. This principle is directed to promoting and protecting the rights of these actors, including their fundamental human rights, their rights as workers and employees, and their rights as part of vulnerable groups.
- Strategic Objective:
 - Improve collection, analysis and reporting of socio-economic data for the conch fishery

Principle 6. Respect for actors' rights

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
1. Improve collection, analysis and reporting of socio-economic data for the conch fishery	<p>a. Conduct training courses with staff of fisheries authorities on fisheries socio-economic data collection, analysis and reporting</p> <p>a. Develop training manual/handbook on low-cost methods to conduct socioeconomic assessments</p>	<p>Context for making management decisions broadened.</p> <p>Role of women and vulnerable groups in value chain and impacts of management measures on women better reflected in adaptive management strategies</p> <p>Staff of national fisheries authorities more knowledgeable about socio-economic assessments and how to conduct them.</p>	<p>Socio-economic data mainstreamed into fisheries data collection programmes for the queen conch fishery</p> <p>Socio-economic assessments conducted regularly for the queen conch fishery</p> <p>Socio-economic assessments reports presented at/used as reference documents at meetings of national decision-making and advisory mechanisms.</p>	<p>UNCTAD</p> <p>OECS</p> <p>Fisheries Divisions</p> <p>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)</p>	2 Years	50,000	Grant financing

Principle 7. Right to use and access natural resources



- This principle seeks to ensure that BioTrade activities respect land tenure and rights to use of access to natural resources, as well as associated traditional knowledge. In this regard, it is important to note that the UNCTAD BioTrade Principles and Criteria consider not only the rights of actors involved in BioTrade activities, but also those of their communities.
- Strategic Objectives:
 - Formalize access to conch fishery

Principle 7. Right to use and access natural resources

Strategic objective	Actions	Desired Outcomes/ Impacts	Indicators	Partners	Time Horizon/ Duration	Cost estimate (US\$)	Financing type
1. Formalise access to conch fishery	a. Develop and implement national licensing systems for conch fishers and vessels, which require fishers and fishing vessels to provide catch and effort and biological data to the national fisheries authorities.	<p>Formalisation of the conch industry by way of licensing.</p> <p>Institutionalise collaboration of fisherfolk in data collection and co-management.</p> <p>Facilitate compliance with CITES LAF requirements.</p>	<p># National licensing systems established or strengthened</p> <p>% of conch fishers and vessels licensed</p> <p>Improved data collection for the queen conch fishery</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>National fisheries authorities</p> <p>CITES</p>	18 Months	50,000	Grant financing

Next Steps

- Discuss Strategic objectives that countries deem priority
- Discuss Actions associated with these objectives that countries consider priority
- Finalize POA and Implement!

PRESS

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Thank you!

