

The Blue BioTrade Story

A new approach for sustainable use of marine biodiversity

Side event to the Thirty-second meeting of the CITES Animals
Committee

19 June 2023



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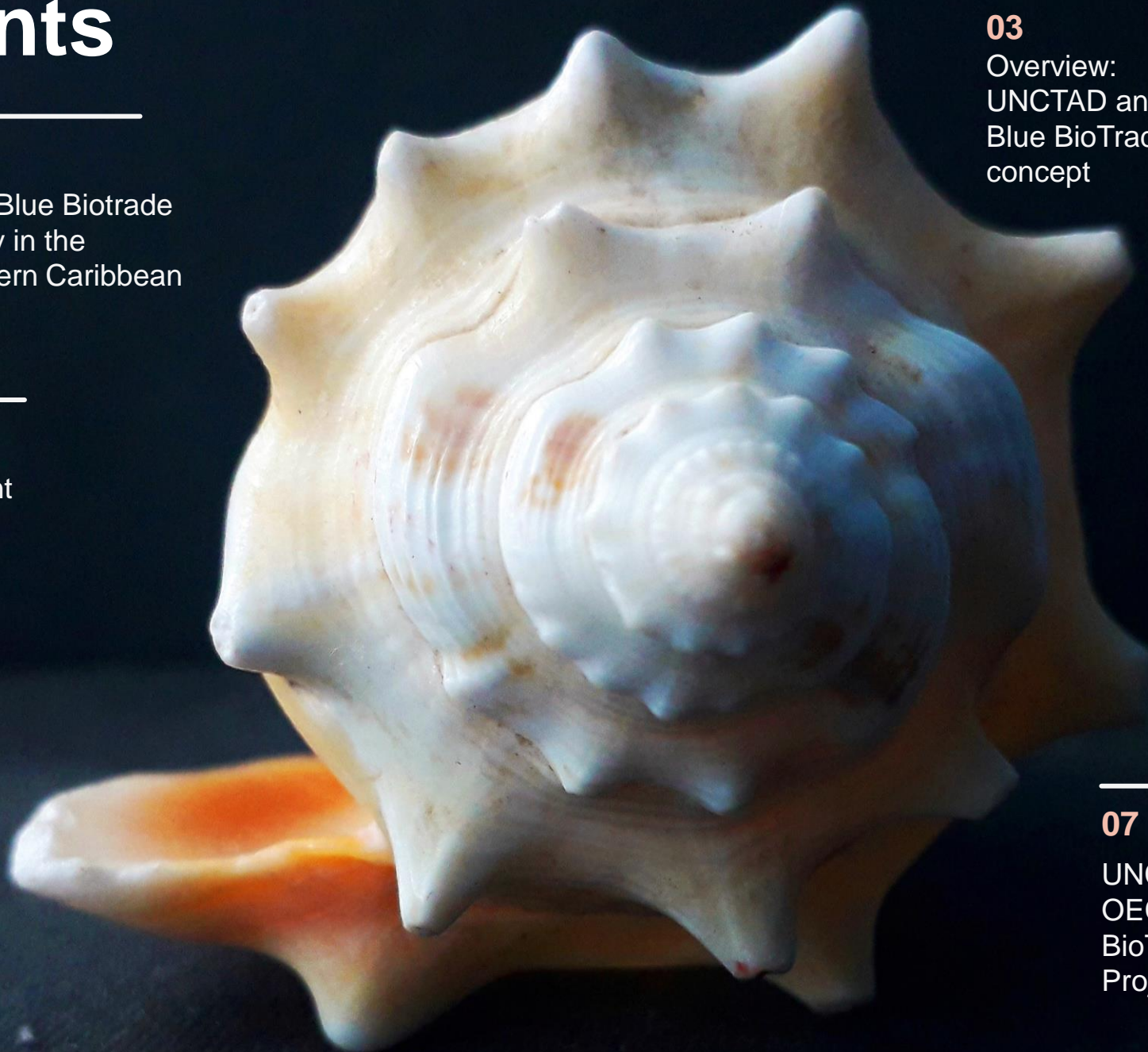
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Queen conch
(*Strombus
gigas*)

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UNCTAD-
OECS Blue
BioTrade
Project





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

Dedicated to promoting the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the global 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 advance sustainable development and CBD objectives



2017

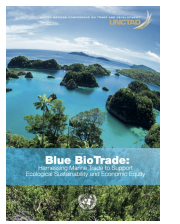
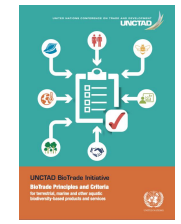




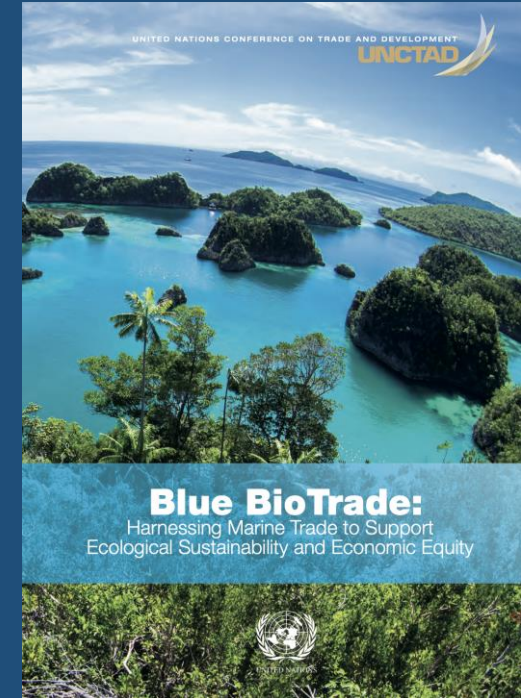
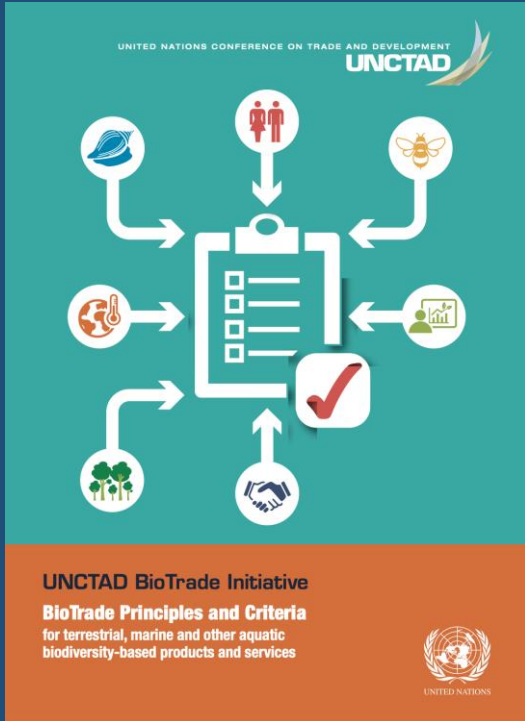
What is



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



Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Meat
(Food &
culinary arts)

**Conch
trimmings**
(Bait and
fertilisers)

Shells
(Handicrafts,
instruments &
decorations)

Pearls (Jewellery)



**Genes &
biochemical**
S (Aquaculture,
biotechnology)

Eco-tourism
(Non-intrusive
diving)

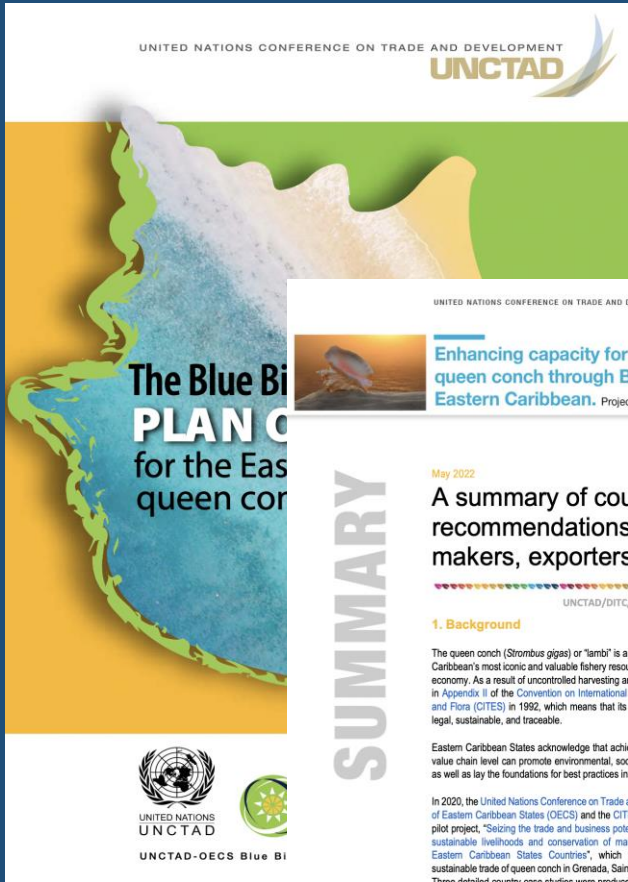
About \$74 million annually in regulated trade




“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 chain



CRITERIA	SUSTAINABILITY ACTION
	<p>Conducting stock assessments to determine thresholds for sustainable queen conch fishing</p> <p>Managing queen conch fishing, such as closed seasons during spawning, no-catch zones, quotas, and a monitoring programme of juvenile conch</p> <p>Organising regular queen conch fisher association meetings to promote associativity and coordination amongst actors</p>
<p>Monitoring stocks by building a nursery</p>	<p>Assessing and adopting best practices for sustainable conservation of resources, using the UNCTAD Blue BioTrade Self-Assessment tool</p> <p>Regulating land-based activities for environmental protection by reducing water pollution, regulating coastal developments, and promoting sustainable consumption</p>
<p>Investing in data collection to obtain further information on queen conch value chain actors and their needs</p> <p>Regulating for social sustainability, including ensuring safety protocols for diving are respected</p> <p>Training divers on safety protocols for scuba-diving, investing in certifications of social sustainability</p> <p>Requiring health insurance schemes for divers and other vulnerable actors in the value chain</p>	<p>Assessing export markets by complying with CITES requirements</p> <p>Collaborating with CITES, the OECS and UNCTAD to address the trade suspensions, including by drafting and implementing new legislation</p> <p>Improving enforcement: Enforcement of regulations and compliance capabilities are essential to reduce illegal trade but must be combined with incentives for legal trade</p>
<p>Reducing seafood waste and adding value</p> <p>Building processing & export infrastructure (Already well underway in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)</p>	



Lessons:

- **Sustainability has a cost (implementation, sector actors, consumers)**
 - BUT regional approaches could reduce it
- **Local ownership enables greater impact**
 - There is a need to organise stakeholders
 - Partners and focal points are key
- **You cannot protect what you do not measure**
 - Value stock assessments
- **CITES & CBD implementation should not be disregarded**
 - Conservation, sustainable use, restoration measures + benefit-sharing are essential
- **Match efforts**
 - Technical assistance will not be there forever
- **Awareness raising across stakeholder groups and project visibility should be prioritised too**





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Thank you!