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REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION
ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS,
MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY, AND
INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity ^{1/} requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

2. In its decisions VI/26, on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and VI/27 A, on implementation of the Convention and, most recently, in decision IX/8, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention stressed that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention. This is reflected in goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, namely, that “national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

3. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its first meeting, in September 2005, examined progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and concluded that there is little progress towards goal 2 and that this remains a major constraint on implementation. The Working

^{1/} Article 6 of the Convention states that:

“(a) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

(b) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.”

Group also noted that progress towards goal 3 is also poor. In view of this slow progress, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. This note provides a summary of the results of that review, as considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting, in July 2007 (Section II), and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity development for NBSAPs is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of NBSAPs in the Caribbean region, as a basis for further work during the workshop (see section IV below).

5. Since considering the issue of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has issued guidance on the preparation and implementation of such strategies and plans and endorsed third-party guidelines developed to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in July 2007, prepared consolidated and updated guidance (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CAR/1/3). The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in May 2008 in Bonn, adopted this guidance in Decision IX/8 (paragraph 8).

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

6. As noted above, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its ninth meeting the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (decision VIII/8). It requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on the following elements:

- (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- (b) The extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention ;
- (c) The implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); and
- (d) The provision of financial resources, capacity development, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

7. The relevant goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.

Objective 2.1: All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Objective 2.2: Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 2.5: Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity

Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Objective 3.1: Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 3.3: Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Objective 3.4: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

8. In line with decision VIII/8, the Executive Secretary synthesized and analysed information in NBSAPs, the 127 third national reports submitted by Parties by April 2007, ^{2/} and other information submitted by Parties in response to the invitation in decision VIII/8 to provide updates on the status of NBSAPs, obstacles to implementation, national reviews of implementation and the availability of resources. The Secretariat also consulted relevant academic studies and reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. The latter includes evaluations of GEF support for enabling activities, National Capacity Self-Assessment reports and analyses of environment-related issues included in poverty reduction strategies and strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The following provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review, focusing on implementation of NBSAPs and the availability of financial resources^{3/}. It reproduces the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (July 2007) presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (May 2008). Data in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) have been updated to 7 July 2008.

(a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 160 Parties (84% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Twenty Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Ten Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so;

(b) Twenty Parties have revised NBSAPs, and fourteen more have revisions in progress. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Some Parties are developing biodiversity strategies and/or action plans at the sub-national level;

^{2/} Third national reports had been received by 142 Parties by 7 July 2008.

^{3/} The full results of the Secretariat's analysis is provided in the following documents:

- Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1)
- Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/CBD/9/4)
- Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources: an overview (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2)
- Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of NBSAPs, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1)
- Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1)
- NBSAPs: a meta-analysis of earlier reviews (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9)
- Review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the Convention: a bibliography (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10).

(c) Stakeholder consultations have been a major part of NBSAP preparation. However, the range of stakeholders involved is often not adequate to ensure effective ownership of NBSAPs or to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity beyond the environment community;

(d) While most NBSAPs include goals and targets, few are quantitative and few respond directly to the 2010 biodiversity target or other targets established under the Convention. In part, this results from the fact that most NBSAPs pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Similarly, reference to the ecosystem approach is absent from most NBSAPs, and most do not include reference to all of the relevant programmes of work and thematic issues under the Convention;

(f) Most NBSAPs include action plans. However, frequently these tend to be focused on projects rather than on the fundamental issues that need to be addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Few specify domestic funding sources;

(g) Effective communication programmes are lacking from many NBSAPs;

(h) Most countries report efforts to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes. This is probably more effective with some sectors (e.g., forestry, tourism) than others. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and poverty reduction strategies and broader planning processes appears to be generally weak;

(i) Most countries have identified priorities for implementation of their NBSAPs, but few of them have indicated in their national reports whether and to what extent they have been implemented. Some countries may have comprehensive reports on implementation but these are not systematically available to the Secretariat;

(j) Parties report that the most widespread constraints to implementation of the Convention are “lack of financial, human and technical resources” and “lack of economic incentive measures”. Articles 7, 12, 8(h) and 8(a-e) are reported to be the provisions most constrained by lack of resources;

(k) While nearly all countries indicate that they provide some financial support or incentives to national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, budget cuts are a serious problem in some countries. There are many examples of private contributions and resources generated from revenue measures, but the resources are generally small at national or international levels;

(l) Several countries have begun to introduce innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, but, generally speaking, they have not yet borne fruit in generating sustainable financing. About one third of the reporting countries have adopted tax exemption status for biodiversity-related donations

(m) Most countries do not have a process to monitor financial support in their countries, and only one fifth of reporting countries have conducted a review of how their national budgets (including official development assistance) support of national biodiversity activities;

(n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) about US\$ 9 billion dollars of biodiversity-related donor assistance have been provided for the period 1998–2005. No clear long term trends in bilateral assistance can be discerned;

(o) While some positive outcomes are reported for specific activities, in general, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention appears to have been very limited;

(p) Important progress has been made with respect to the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation in general. However, the overall role of the clearing house mechanism in supporting such cooperation needs to be further elaborated. About one half of the Parties have developed a national clearing house mechanism.

10. In their third national report, Parties were asked to indicate the relative importance of various obstacles ^{4/} to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the thematic programmes of work, by ranking them as “high-level”, “medium-level”, or “low-level” challenges. Taking all reporting Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70% of Parties for the implementation of Article 6:

- Lack of financial, human, technical resources (84%);
- Lack of economic incentive measures (82%);
- Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented (76%);
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels (75%)
- Lack of effective partnerships (74%);
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders (73%);
- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns (72%);
- Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors (71%);
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness (70%);
- Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management (70%).

III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

11. Of the 16 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, 13 (81%) have completed a national biodiversity strategy, 12 (75%) have completed both a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, while 3 Parties (19%) have not yet finalized their NBSAP document (See Table 1) – a completion rate slightly below the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the country profiles on the Convention’s website. While some countries have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs, none of these countries are from the Caribbean region. These posters are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. From the Caribbean region, Cuba alone has revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan to date. However, the Secretariat is aware that Saint Lucia has completed a draft NBSAP revision and that Bahamas has begun work in this regard.

13. As part of the global analysis, summarized in section II above, Parties were invited to submit information on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. From the Caribbean region, information for this compilation, prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/7), was provided by two countries, namely, the Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia.

^{4/} See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/2/Add.1 These obstacles correspond generally, but not exactly, to the list appended to the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26).

14. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat requested each participant to the Workshop, nominated by CBD National Focal Points, to provide further information on their country's NBSAP (See UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAR/1/Add.1, Annex III).

15. A review of 152 NBSAPs reveals that only a small minority contain specific objectives or actions to link biodiversity and climate change. From the Caribbean region, this would apply to three countries (Barbados, Cuba, Dominica) only.

- Eleven Parties^{5/} address biodiversity and climate change as a strategic objective with related actions
- Five Parties^{6/} address biodiversity and climate change as a strategic objective but haven't developed related actions
- Twelve Parties^{7/} have developed actions to address biodiversity and climate change under strategic objectives dealing with research, monitoring, protected areas, forests, energy and transport sector, and carbon sequestration capacity

More information is available in the "Fact Sheet on Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Caribbean Region" contained in document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAR/1/5.

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP

16. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAR/1/Add.1), participants will be invited to discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

- (a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;
- (b) Major Features of NBSAPs;
- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

^{5/} Barbados, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Dominica, European Community, Finland, Germany, Japan, Namibia, Peru, South Africa

^{6/} Canada, Nigeria, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden

^{7/} Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Lithuania, Micronesia, Spain, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Yemen

Table 1: Status of NBSAPS and national reports in the Caribbean region

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption) *year of completion indicated where year of adoption is unknown	National reports		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Antigua and Barbuda	Not finalized (draft submitted to SCBD in 2001)	√		
Bahamas	Completed in 1998 (date of adoption unclear). Third national report received in September 2005 states that NBSAP was undergoing revision.	√	√	√
Barbados	Adopted in 2002	√	√	√
Belize	Adopted in 1998	√		
Cuba	Adopted in 1998; Revised in 2006	√	√	√
Dominica	Adopted in 2002	√	√	√
Dominican Republic	In preparation	√	√	√
Grenada	Adopted in 2000	√	√	√
Guyana	Adopted in 1999	√		
Haiti	Not finalized (NBSAP profile submitted to SCBD in 2008)	√		
Jamaica	Adopted in 2003	√	√	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Completed in 2004 (however a copy has not been submitted to the Secretariat)			
Saint Lucia	Adopted in 2000 * information received in September 2008 confirms that draft NBSAP revision has been completed	√	√	√
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Completed in 2000 (date of adoption unclear)		√	√
Suriname	Strategy completed in 2006. Action Plan in preparation.			
Trinidad and Tobago	Completed in 2001 (date of adoption unclear)	√		√

*Annex I***MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

This annex provides brief outlines of the major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as provided on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/countries/>. Those entries with a tick mark (✓) have been finalized and approved by Parties on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. For the remaining countries, the profiles have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided in the NBSAP and national reports, but have not been reviewed by the Party concerned.

Antigua and Barbuda ✓

This is a four-pronged strategy encompassing (i) the sustainable use, protection and conservation of biodiversity; (ii) the coordination of all efforts and activities involving sustainable use, protection and conservation of biodiversity; (iii) the enforcement of all policies, regulations and legislation affecting these efforts and activities; and (iv) the knowledge and understanding of the processes governing biodiversity, and the information required to guide and coordinate the activities. The four objectives of the strategy are (i) a national system for the management and conservation of biodiversity is developed and established, (ii) the capacity of natural resources management institutions to support the objectives of the plan is strengthened, (iii) the ecological legislation that provides adequate protection of biological diversity is developed, improved, enacted and enforced, and (iv) public awareness of environmental issues, ecological education and public participation in decision-making is strengthened. Each objective is defined with a set of indicators, assumptions, and required activities for achievement. To achieve this, several activities have been identified such as establishing a coordinating mechanism or entity for environmental management and the implementation of the NBSAP.

Bahamas ✓

The action plan comprises nine major actions: establishment of the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission as a legal entity; establishment of the National Biodiversity Task Force and preparation for National Consultative Process; the National Consultative Process; implementation of the recommendations of the Biodiversity Data Management Project; preparation of bioregional guidelines, position papers and policy statement; planning for a system of national parks and protected areas; protection and rehabilitation of threatened or degraded ecosystems and of threatened species; and improvement of the Botanic Gardens to enhance its capacity for ex-situ conservation.

Barbados

The 12 specific objectives of the strategy and action plan include: mobilization of financial resources; development of a human resource base and strengthening of institutional capacity; conducting research to develop sustainable use management techniques and mechanisms; revision and formulation of policy and legislation; and promoting biodiversity conservation through incentives. Each objective is associated with a strategy and specific actions for implementation. Most of these actions are not time-bound or quantitative. The strategy is preceded by a thorough description of the status of biodiversity in Barbados.

Belize

The objectives of the Belizean strategy include: to foster and enhance human and institutional capacity building; to create an awareness of the importance of biodiversity resources to Belize's development and to the welfare of its people; to promote community participation and decentralize the management and use of biodiversity; to determine, document and monitor the status and value of Belize's biodiversity; to strengthen and consolidate in-situ conservation; to promote ex-situ conservation as a complement to in-situ conservation; to promote the sustainable use, equitable access and distribution of benefits derived from biodiversity; to formulate policies on biosafety and intellectual property rights; and to amend legislation to ensure that biodiversity is developed and used sustainably. The action plan focuses on 12 themes and the activities identified are divided into the relevant sectors, such as: fisheries, coastal and marine resources; forest and wildlife management; agriculture; tourism; and environmental and land use planning.

Cuba

The National Biodiversity Strategy will contribute, through implementation of actions and jurisdictional ordinance, to the integration of environmental policies and the development, in a manner that strengthens the recognition of the value, use, rational management and conservation of the biological diversity, based on the fair and equitable distribution of the costs and benefits derived from its use. The State, in view of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international treaties, developed 12 guiding principles. The principles are broken down into 11 basic objectives, each of which has several actions and objectives to be met and implemented. These objectives include such things as: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; economic, social and regional ordinance development; and environmental education, sensitization and public participation. Cuba has revised its Biodiversity Action Plan for the period 2006-2010 through updates to the actions related to the 11 basic objectives described in the original document.

Dominica

The goals of the strategy are the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from biotechnology. The five objectives established to achieve those goals are to secure biological richness, reduce or eliminate risks from the use of biotechnology while still exploiting opportunities, minimize loss of biodiversity, ensure development is done in a sustainable manner, and ensure equitable and sustainable distribution of benefits from the use of biological resources. Strategic directions are then given for the conservation of biodiversity in different systems such as terrestrial, marine and coastal, agricultural, and human settlements. The strategy also addresses traditional knowledge and culture, climate change, and biotechnology. All actions of the plan are time bound and include the creation of a biodiversity inventory, capacity building, and several projects for the conservation of agro-biodiversity. Finally, the strategy includes a section on the monitoring and review of implementation of the strategy and action plan.

Dominican Republic

In preparation

Grenada

The strategy emphasizes the importance of peoples' participation and co-management of all aspects of biodiversity conservation cognizant of the fact that key threats to biodiversity lie with human induced behavior. The objectives of the NBSAP include: providing broad-based support for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; protecting key ecosystems from negative human induced impacts; developing and encouraging sustainable utilization of biological resources that are essential to the livelihood of local communities; maintaining, recovering and promoting genetic resources necessary for sustainable agriculture; providing information on key ecosystems for incorporation into national accounts and decisions on national development projects; and developing economic instruments to promote the sustainable use of biological resources. The document also comprises recommendations for implementation of the NBSAP in the form of project concepts, related to, for example, building awareness on biodiversity and drafting a National Land Use Policy.

Guyana

The general objectives of the National Policy on Biodiversity are: to sustainably use renewable resources, to develop institutional capacity for the management of biological resources, to integrate the conservation agenda into the national development agenda, to equitably share benefits arising from biological diversity, and to take all necessary actions to achieve these goals. On the other hand, the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan include evaluating national capacity, identifying gaps and proposing actions to close them, developing activities in priority areas, identifying roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, and increasing public awareness and stakeholder involvement. The programmes of the biodiversity action plan are divided into two phases: the foundation phase and the consolidation phase. The foundation phase stresses priority interventions that are essential in laying the foundation for sustainable biodiversity planning and management, whereas the consolidation phase will be defined based on the findings of the evaluation of phase I programmes. A total of 33 actions are outlined for these programmes, which are given a time frame of either 1-2 years, 3-5 years, or more than 5 years. Apart from these actions, 20 additional recommendations are given on topics such as the identification of the components of biodiversity, inland aquatic and marine biodiversity, and biosafety. It is specified that all planning and management efforts should be based on four approaches, which are the participatory approach, adaptive planning, the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle.

Haiti ✓

The Haitian government initiated a GEF Biodiversity Protection Enabling Activity to prepare a National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP) and establish a Clearing House Mechanism, with World Bank assistance. In order to meet obligations under the CBD, the MDE conducted a series of national and international consultations (thematic workshops on biodiversity, seminars, etc), whose major objective was to capture views on main biodiversity issues and gain a clear sense of the measures for the sustainable management and conservation of the country's biodiversity. However, the NBSAP was never completed due to the suspension of World Bank operations in the country as a result of the controversial elections of May 2000. The NBSAP profile prepared pleads for a vision that links the future of the Haitian nation with the way local population plans to use the diversity of biological resources. This future, to become sustainable, needs to integrate a management approach that reconciles Haitian people with their environment and satisfies their present needs without compromising the well-being of the future generations.

The NBSAP profile has retained five specific objectives : 1) to promote education awareness among the public and decision-makers on biodiversity issues, in order to increase their understanding on the interest to conserve Haitian biodiversity and recognize its contribution in the process of sustainable development; 2) to undertake immediate measures to stop biodiversity erosion in natural areas and ecosystems of Haiti; 3) to conserve biodiversity resources of the country; 4) to develop and implement ecological management approaches to preserve and use biodiversity on a sustainable manner; and 5) to implement institutional, legal and fiscal measures in support to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity.

Five main priority axes covering a number of sectors of activity have been identified to deal with current issues faced by sustainable management of biodiversity in Haiti:

Priority number one: Conservation of biological diversity This theme concerns the in-situ conservation, conservation and sustainable use of natural areas providing water resources and buffering natural risks and hazards, conservation and valorization of genetic resources, ex-situ conservation.

Priority number two: Education, identification and monitoring of biodiversity components: Incorporate biodiversity issues in Universities curriculum and support their integration into environmental education manuals ; Develop promotional materials, biodiversity awareness through educational campaigns to the radios in order to ensure that the Haitian public is specifically aware of biodiversity conservation issues and that they clearly understand their role in conservation; Complete or refine, under a step by step approach, local or national inventory on biodiversity to set up monitoring plans with clear objectives and indicators; Establish a data collection system on biodiversity; Publish a national report on the status of Haitian biodiversity; Establish links with biodiversity networks.

Priority number three: Sustainable use of components of biological biodiversity: Develop and promote a forestry focused on the issues of conservation; Support initiatives dedicated to develop ecotourism in Haiti; Promote management and use of halieutic (fish) resources in a manner compatible with conservation issues; Take appropriate steps to formulate a Sustainable Agriculture Plan for the country.

Priority number four: Control of alien species and management of Genetically Modified Organisms: Address the threats posed by invasive alien species on Haitian biodiversity by promoting awareness on these threats, identifying Haitian needs and priorities in this field and developing policies and legislation; Set up enabling activities to assess the status of biotechnology development in the country and create an adequate institutional framework for the management of biotechnology issues; Ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and formulate national legislation to regulate the local use of Genetically Modified Organisms ; Facilitate the access to relevant foreign technologies that have potential to conserve and use in a sustainable way biological resources.

Priority number five: Set up a new legal, regulatory and institutional framework to manage Haitian biodiversity: Implement the new institutional framework, the Office National de Gestion des Aires Protégées consecrated by the National Environmental Action Plan; Actualize the legal framework related to biodiversity issues in particular Laws on biodiversity, biosafety and access on benefits sharing.

Jamaica

The activities undertaken by Jamaica derive from seven goals, which are: to conserve Jamaica's biodiversity; to promote sustainable use of biological resources; to facilitate access to biological resources (to promote biotechnology and ensure benefit sharing); to ensure safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs; to enhance resource management capacity; to promote public awareness, education, and public empowerment; and to promote regional and international cooperation and collaboration. The action plan comprises specific projects that have been elaborated with regards to these goals.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Saint Kitts and Nevis was completed in 2004. A profile has not been prepared due to the fact that the Secretariat has not yet received a copy of the NBSAP document.

Saint Lucia

The objectives of the strategy are to (i) conserve the country's diversity, (ii) promote sustainable use of these resources (iii) encourage the equitable distribution of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity, and (iv) facilitate the participation of people and institutions in the management of biodiversity. To achieve these objectives, five broad programmes were established, which are: planning and policy formulation; research and monitoring; conservation; sustainable use; and education and awareness. Each programme has its own set of objectives and related activities to be implemented. Finally, 22 specific projects are defined, including a description of planned activities and estimated total costs. Examples of projects are: an inventory of marine and coastal biodiversity; the assessment and management of wetlands; and the designing of standards and guidelines of behavior in nature tourism sites.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was completed in 2000 and stresses the importance of working biodiversity conservation into national decision-making and planning processes. The document is based on ten guiding principles that contributed to the formulation of the following eight strategic themes and their accompanying actions: Revision, Updating and Harmonization of Environmental Legislation; Institutional Strengthening; Biodiversity Resource Inventory (Terrestrial and Marine); Development of a GIS Database; Educational Awareness; Human Resource Development; Incentives and Disincentives; and Monitoring Mechanism for Biodiversity Conservation Implementation.

Suriname

Suriname's National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) establishes the national vision, goals and strategic directions to be pursued in order to conserve and sustainably use the nation's rich biodiversity and biological resources and foster the sustainable management of its natural resources, and support the equitable sharing of the biodiversity related to services and benefits provided by the ecosystems. The NBS of Suriname provides a basis and a framework for the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which will identify the activities, tasks, outcomes, milestones and the responsible actors needed to implement the strategic directions. The use and management of biodiversity remains a critical element in the maintenance and development of traditional societies and an emerging modern economy. The seven goals of the strategy are (i) conserve biodiversity, (ii) sustainable use of biological resources, (iii) facilitate access to biological resources to promote equitable developments in biotechnology and safe handling and transport of genetic materials, (iv) regulated and monitor access to genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge and equitable benefit-sharing, (v) enhance natural resources

management capacity, (vi) public awareness, education and community empowerment, and (vii) promote local and regional cooperation and collaboration in implementation. Each goal is given a set of strategic directions, each associated with specific activities. For instance, one of the strategic directions for the biodiversity conservation goal is to manage and maintain wild species and their habitats. To achieve this, Suriname will evaluate and revise existing laws, and draft, enact and promulgate new laws and rules to ensure that policies relating to the conservation of habitat and species nationally and locally are clear and enforceable. In addition they will complete a biodiversity inventory and provide public education to local communities, the tourism sector and hunters. The action plan for the strategy should be prepared within 9-12 months of the publication of the strategy.

Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago has identified 23 priority strategies and associated actions to be executed in a three-year period. Nine of these strategies fall within the Education and Awareness category, with other categories being Legislation and Enforcement, Capacity, Information and Research, and Policy and Commitment. Extensive public consultations were carried out in the process of creating the NBSAP, which helped identify the key biodiversity-related issues the country needs to address in addition to providing solutions to these issues. The twelve immediate next steps identified in the NBSAP include holding workshops in Ministries on the value of biodiversity, identifying specific interventions to be made in sectoral policies, promoting public awareness, and conducting an economic evaluation of biodiversity.
