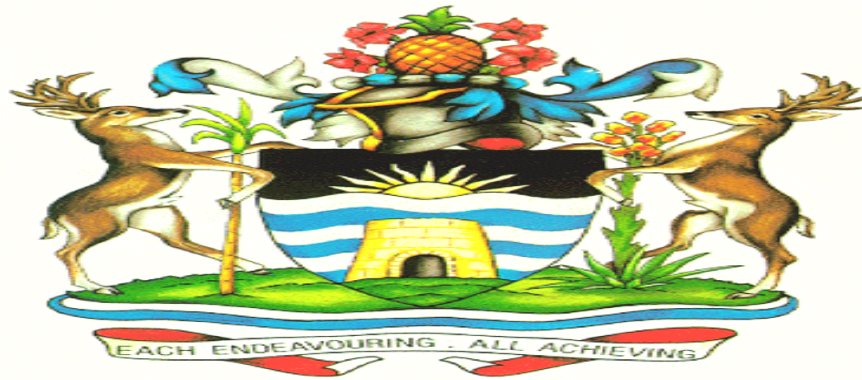




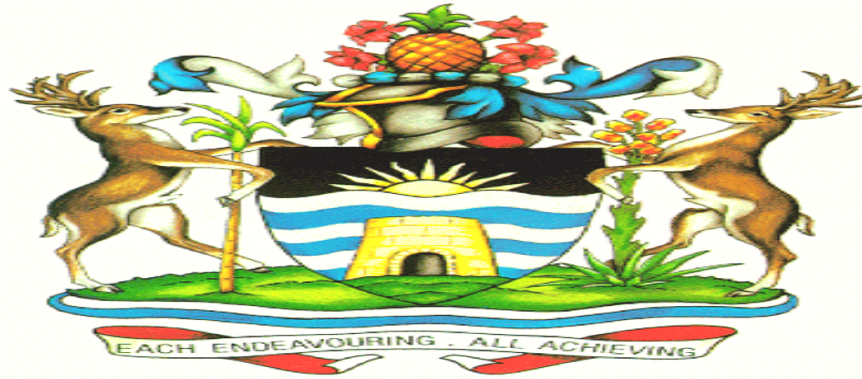
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN FOR ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



- This draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) provides an overview of the key environmental issues in Antigua and Barbuda.

Why a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)?

- Historically, most of the natural vegetation of Antigua and Barbuda was cleared for the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton, while the economy is currently dominated by tourism, a sector that is also dependent on the quality of the environment.
- Inventories of the vegetation of Antigua and Barbuda suggest that a large percentage of plant species is classified as rare and endangered. Many terrestrial animals have become rare, endangered or extinct due to the loss and/or fragmentation of natural habitats such as mangroves, sea-grass beds and coral reefs.



- Some water-birds and several species of reptiles have become extinct; sea-turtles that are endangered world-wide are declining in numbers; while over-fishing has resulted in a decline in the variety and number of reef species of fish.
- In addition, exotic species such as the mongoose have been introduced.

Documentation for developing the BSAP includes:

- Biodiversity Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information [Horwith, 1999];
- Identification and Analysis of Options for Biodiversity Management in Antigua and Barbuda [Joseph, 2000]; a
- Stakeholder Consultation for a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan [Williams, 2000];

- First draft of the Antigua and Barbuda: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared [Jeffery and Henry, 2000].
- Disseminated for discussion and feedback, and two National Consultations were convened for discussion of the draft BSAP.
- All relevant ministries, governmental departments and agencies, NGO's, business, educational institutions, advisory councils and interested individuals have been invited to participate in these consultations and to comment on the drafts of the BSAP.

THE BSAP: GOALS , OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS, ASSUMPTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Overall Goal**: The biological diversity of Antigua and Barbuda is sustainably and equitably used, protected and conserved so that it contributes positively to the social and economic development of the country.
- **Objective 1**: A national system, including protected areas, for the management and conservation of biodiversity conservation is developed and established.

- **Objective 2:** The capacity of governmental natural resources management institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to support the objectives and achieve the overall aim of the BSAP is strengthened.
- **Objective 3:** Ecological legislation that provides adequate protection of biological diversity is developed, improved, enacted and enforced.
- **Objective 4:** Public awareness of environmental issues, ecological education and public participation in decision-making.

Threats to biodiversity in Antigua and Barbuda

- **The loss of habitat** primarily through the subdivision of lands for housing, tourism development, agriculture and the mining and dredging of sand.
- **Fragmentation of natural communities** by road-ways, and other man-made features that form a barrier to the movement and dispersal of species.

- **The introduction of non-native species**, like the mongoose or lemon grass, that have a detrimental effect on native wild species by acting as predators, parasites or competitors.
- **Overgrazing by livestock** mainly goats, sheep, cattle and donkeys that pose a serious threat, particularly in upper watershed areas.

- **Pollution** as a result of excessive nutrients or sewage discharge into coastal waters, as well as the unregulated and excessive use of pesticides.
- **Natural and anthropogenic activities** that stress coral reefs through direct destruction and over-fishing and
- **Droughts and hurricanes** that have severely impacted the bird population, as well as vegetative communities and their dependent fauna.

THANK YOU

