
OECS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Associate Member State (Of OECS)	A State or territory admitted as an Associate Member of the OECS under the terms of the Treaty of Basseterre, 1981.
Biological Diversity	The variability among living communities and wildlife (including terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems) as well as the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
Carrying Capacity	The capacity of natural resource systems to handle development initiatives within the context of maintaining ecosystem integrity.
Civil Society	The range of community, non-governmental and other organisations not directly linked to government and not engaged in generating profits that accrue to individuals.
Climate Change	Change to the global climate that occurs in whole, or in substantial part, as a function of human activities.
Cultural Assets	Those elements of human society, or the products of human society, that are recognised to have particular value in reflecting the culture that produced those elements or products.
Environment	The components of the Earth, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) air, land and water;(b) all layers of the atmosphere(c) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms; and(d) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c).
Environmental Resources	The components of the environment that have significance to the natural viability of some other component of the environment.
Environmental Services	Natural environmental processes that provide benefits to the functioning of human society and ecological systems.
Global Warming	Increasing average temperatures of the Earth's atmosphere which has significant implications for the global climate and whose impacts are predicted to include sea level rise, and the incidence of extreme weather (including hurricanes) in the Caribbean.
Green Accounting	Financial systems that include monetary value of natural resources and environmental assets.

Hazardous Waste	A waste that is defined as "hazardous" under the <i>"Basel Convention For The Trans-boundary Movement Of Hazardous Waste And Its Management"</i> .
Hazard Mitigation	Measures which reduce loss of life, property and social dislocation due to the occurrence of natural and man-made hazards.
Integrated Coastal Area Management	Management of resources in the coastal area which takes account of all systems which relate to the coast including land-based (terrestrial) and marine processes and activities.
Integrated Development Plan	A plan to guide sustainable development that reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders and which ensures that environmental management is treated as an integral component of the planning process in pursuit of sustainable development.
Integrated Waste Management	Management of all components of liquid and solid waste in ways that maximise the economic value of those wastes as resources consistent with sound environmental management practices.
Island Systems Management	An integrated process of information gathering, planning, decision-making, allocation of resources, actions and formulation and enforcement of regulations related to the linkages in small island states between ecological systems and between these systems and human activities and incorporating terrestrial, aquatic and atmospheric environments.
Member State (Of OECS)	A State or territory admitted as a Member of the OECS under the terms of the Treaty of Basseterre, 1981.
Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreement	An formal agreement between three or more States governing the management of aspects of natural resources or the environment in those States as referenced in the agreement.
Natural Resources	The components of the environment on which a market value is, or may readily be, placed.
Polluter Pays Principle	The principle that those who cause pollution are responsible for the costs of managing the pollution they cause.
Quality Of Life	Degree of access to freedom, security, education, health, social and cultural advancement, leisure and other aspects of human life and dignity

Renewable Energy

Energy that is derived from a source that is not depleted by the extraction of energy or the process used for extraction of the energy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A holistic approach to environmental assessment that injects environmental considerations into decision-making regarding policy, programmes, national and regional development plans.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CARICOM	Caribbean Community And Common Market
CITES	Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERN	Caribbean Environmental Reporters Network
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change
ECEMS	Eastern Caribbean Environmental Management Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPC	Environmental Policy Committee
GATT	General Agreement On Tariffs And Trade
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
ISM	Island Systems Management
NAP	National Action Plan
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NRMU	Natural Resources Management Unit
OECS	Organisation Of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
POA	Programme of Action
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UN	United Nations
UWI	University of the West Indies
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

SECTION ONE:

THE OECS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

"To protect, conserve and enhance or restore, where appropriate, the quality and value of the region's natural resources in order to sustain social and economic development for present and future generations."

Vision Statement to guide implementation of The St George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS

At the Third Meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Environment Policy Committee (September 1999) OECS Ministers of The Environment requested that the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (NRMU) prepare an "OECS Charter for Environmental Management" and "a regional strategy...that will become the framework for environmental management" in the region. In accordance with the Ministers' request, OECS NRMU developed the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*, which was signed by Ministers in April 2001 and which sets out the broad framework to be pursued for environmental management in the OECS region.

The *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* has been developed within the framework of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* as the document through which that Declaration will be implemented.

State of the Environment

High levels of environmental quality are central to the well being of the OECS peoples and the economies of all OECS States. Healthy tourism, agriculture and fishing sectors - upon which the economies all OECS countries depend - cannot exist without proper management of the environmental and natural resources upon which they depend. Tourists will not come to countries perceived as "dirty" or polluted. Farmers cannot be successful if soils are depleted of nutrients or if pesticide residues in produce are higher than customers will accept. Fishers cannot be successful if reefs and other fish habitat can no longer support fish populations or if so many fish are taken that populations decline. Environmental quality is similarly important for other sectors of the economies of OECS States. Ultimately, failure to maintain high levels of environmental quality affects the well-being of people - either directly because of increased incidence of disease as a consequence of poor environmental conditions, or indirectly because economic activities are no longer capable of sustaining livelihoods.

The economic benefits of maintaining high levels of environmental quality are among the highest of any component of the OECS economies, estimated to total in excess of \$1,614 million in 2000 for the OECS States collectively¹ This amount represents approximately 25 percent of the collective annual GNP of the OECS States. Throughout the region, however - and in spite of on-going efforts in all OECS States - the quality of the environment continues to decline. The ability of some areas within the OECS to sustain the direct and indirect human stresses placed on them has already been exceeded; it is certain that in coming years the number and extent of such areas will increase if present trends continue. Notwithstanding a lack of baseline scientific data - itself a symptom of environmental management neglect - all OECS States experience some or all of the following within their jurisdictions:

- ✓ Near-shore marine areas and rivers polluted to the point of limiting and devaluing human activities.
- ✓ Continuing degradation of agricultural lands as a result of inappropriate agricultural practices, erosion and high levels of chemical use.
- ✓ Increased vulnerability to disasters as a result of inappropriate human activity.
- ✓ Declining wildlife populations as a result of human encroachment and loss of habitat.

¹ "Economic Opportunities Associated With The Environment In The Member States Of The Organisation Of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)" prepared by H. Jack Ruitenbeek and Cynthia Carter for OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (NRMU), 2000, and available from OECS-NRMU.

In spite of the critical importance of environmental quality to the OECS States, no regional strategy has previously been articulated to guide environmental management in the region.

The Challenge

The central challenge for environmental management in the OECS States is to ensure levels of environmental quality that maximise opportunity for economic and social development for present and future generations, without compromising the integrity and sustainability of biological diversity, environmental and cultural assets. The Vision for environmental management in the OECS is informed by the draft *OECS Development Strategy*, insofar as the achievement of economic growth, international competitiveness and improved quality of life are largely dependent on the appreciation and management of the environment.

Reasons for the declining level of environmental quality in the OECS States are varied, but include:

- ✓ Lack of awareness of the consequences of human activities on the environment and the extent to which economic activities depend on the environment.
- ✓ Limited data on which to base decisions affecting the environment.
- ✓ Disasters triggered by natural phenomena, but the extent of whose environmental impacts are a function of earlier environmentally inappropriate human activity.
- ✓ Desire for short-term financial benefits at the expense of greater longer term economic benefits.
- ✓ Inadequate integration of environmental costs into the economic and financial rationale for actions.

Human activity and behaviour are the common themes of these factors, at both the individual and societal levels. If initiatives to enhance environmental management are to be successful they must therefore target changed human activity and behaviour in the context of how those activities behaviours impact the environment. The challenge is great - but in all OECS countries a start has already been made. Based on the successes already achieved, it is clear that a positive outcome is achievable.

The Strategy

The fundamental challenge for the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* is to catalyse tangible enhancements in environmental management in the OECS countries. The term "tangible enhancements" refers to observable and broad improvement in environmental quality. In order to facilitate achievement of this objective, the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* is specific in identifying what should be done and the agencies that should do it. Ultimately, however, the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* will be successful only if, through implementing the measures it identifies, environmental considerations are routinely incorporated into decision-making at all levels and in all sectors.

The *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* provides "one voice" for environmental management in the OECS region. It has been developed through a widely consultative process; including input from OECS state representatives, NGO representatives, the private sector, regional organisations, international development agencies and others. In order to achieve its goal, the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*:

- ✓ Promotes integration of environmental management into development planning at the regional and national levels.
- ✓ Assists the OECS region in planning for and responding to environmental issues of common interest.
- ✓ Encourages pooling of intra-regional financial, human and other resources to achieve environmental management objectives.
- ✓ Promotes harmonisation of national policy, legislation, capacity building and on the ground implementation with respect to environmental management.

Strategy Objectives and Assumptions

The *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* is grounded in the following assumptions:

- ✓ Governments are seeking mechanisms to reduce poverty and improve quality of life within the context of sustainable and high levels of environmental quality.
- ✓ Political directorates are willing to recognise that environmental sustainability is key to long-term improvement in the health and well being of the peoples of the region and to the economies of the region.

- ✓ Regional and international agencies are willing to collaborate to avoid duplication in development initiatives.
- ✓ Resources will be made available to regional and national agencies to develop the capacities to progressively implement the Strategy.

Strategy Preparation Process

The *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* was prepared through a series of regional and national consultations throughout the OECS region over a two-year period. In addition, the Strategy builds on a series of other relevant planning documents, including National Environmental Management Action Plans, National Environmental Profiles, National Biodiversity Strategies and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Programme of Action (POA) developed in Barbados in 1994 support of environmental management.

How to Use the Strategy

The *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* is a planning document and as such it seeks to maintain focus on the most critical actions needed to give effect to each of the principles identified in the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

Within the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*, the following are identified with respect to giving effect to each Principle:

- ✓ A brief statement on the result to be achieved in giving effect to the Principle and the rationale for the desired result.
- ✓ Indicative actions to be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels
- ✓ Strategic indicators that will be monitored to determine whether the results are being achieved.
- ✓ Institutions through which actions at the national, regional and international levels should be implemented.

At the level of the OECS region, the agency with primary responsibility for coordinating implementation of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* will be the OECS Secretariat through its Natural Resources Management Unit (NRMU). Other regional agencies will also have key roles to play. Specific activities undertaken by the NRMU will be defined in consultation with OECS Member States.

The mechanism that the OECS NRMU will use to implement actions in the Strategy assigned to the OECS-NRMU, will initially be five-year operational plans developed in consultation with the OECS Member States. The first of these operational plans will cover the period 2002 - 2006. The plans will establish priorities from among the actions identified in the Strategy as well as means for implementation. Results will be monitored and reported to the OECS Environmental Policy Committee annually.

At the national level, it is intended that each OECS Member States will develop a National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS). Each NEMS will draw on the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* and will articulate priorities and means of implementation at the national level. Each year, it is intended that OECS Member States will develop annual work plans that will articulate the specific tasks, timing, resources and objectives necessary to give effect to its NEMS.

This approach will provide for:

- ✓ Achievement of high levels of environmental quality and sustainable environmental management within which national development aspirations can be reached.
- ✓ Results-oriented and coordinated national strategies and actions within the context of a regional strategy and work programme that has itself been developed in response.

The Strategy will be implemented through national action plans and annual work programmes, which will further detail the specific tasks to be completed. These work plans will also be accompanied by implementation schedules and budgets. Building on this approach, Member States should refer to this Strategy when developing priorities for annual sector work plans and when reviewing annual progress. Member States are also encouraged to draw on this Strategy when developing and/or updating their National Environmental Management Strategies or any such other strategies that they

may be required to prepare under various international conventions. The Strategy sets out a framework within which issues and actions can be selected according to national development priorities. The Strategy must therefore be integral to development planning and policy making in each of the Member States.

Who will use the Strategy?

Following adoption of both *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and *The OECS Environmental Management Strategy* by the OECS Environmental Policy Committee, the Strategy will be used by the OECS-NRMU as the primary mechanism through which to facilitate achievement of the agreements and commitments contained in *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*. In particular, the NRMU will provide technical backstopping, coordination of activities and facilitation in support of the implementation of the Strategy; the NRMU will also assist in building national capacity for enhanced environmental management, when feasible, provide financial support for activities.

The OECS and Member States of the OECS will work with regional and international entities to ensure that those entities design and execute their initiatives in ways that are consistent with the agreements and commitments contained in *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*, and the implementation framework established by the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

At the national level, agencies responsible for environmental management will use *The OECS Environmental Management Strategy* as a key input in the preparation of a NEMS. The Strategy should be used as a key planning tool by all other agencies engaged in development at the national level, however, since it is only through such "mainstreaming" of environmental management that sustainably high levels of environmental quality can be achieved within which to reach development objectives.

Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

The OECS Environment Policy Committee (EPC) will be responsible for directing policy concerning *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and *The OECS Environmental Management Strategy*. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of representatives from Member States, and regional and international agencies will monitor and report on work programs developed to support implementation of the Strategy. The NRMU will serve as the Secretariat to the EPC and the TAC. As the Secretariat, the NRMU will work with governments, existing institutions and expertise in the region, and in cooperation with appropriate regional and international bodies, to promote coordination and remove duplication of effort. Public participation, including effective partnerships with non-governmental organisations and the private sector will be encouraged in the implementation of the Strategy.

Within the context of its role as the Secretariat to the EPC and TAC, the NRMU will consult with Member States and other participating regional and international agencies annually to determine the need for adjustments to the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*. This is to ensure that the Strategy remains a current and effective means of addressing the environmental concerns in the region. The NRMU will report to each EPC meeting on the implementation of the Strategy, referring to results achieved and delivery of actions in support of achieving the objectives of each principle. NRMU will prepare annual work programmes through which to give effect to the Strategy within the context of its five-year operational plan. Annual work programmes will be developed in consultation with Member States and the TAC for presentation and discussion at EPC meetings.

Five years following its adoption, the NRMU will conduct, in consultation with all stakeholders, a review of the effectiveness and relevance of the OECS Environmental Management Strategy and will recommend a redesigned and updated Strategy, as appropriate, for the consideration of EPC.

SECTION TWO

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OECS

PRINCIPLE 1: FOSTER IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF LIFE

RESULT DESIRED

Improved environmental management to enhance the quality of life for all members of society, and based on the sustainable use of resources.

RATIONALE

A healthy environment is essential to developing and maintaining a high quality of life throughout the OECS region. Environmental quality is under increasing stress that is already compromising quality of life. Applications of enhanced levels of environmental management are required that consider carrying capacity of environmental resources, levels of acceptable change and which are based on sustainable development. Only through this approach can OECS states achieve sustainable social and economic growth, and enhanced well-being for all members of society.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Review existing, and apply appropriate, quality of life and environmental indicators.

Formulate and implement in each Member State a National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) that gives effect to the provisions of the St. George's Declaration and identifies priority areas for action, sets targets and allocates the necessary human, and financial resources over time.

Establish a programme to monitor progress in implementation and achievement of the NEMS.

- ✓ Monitor the status of identified environmental resources.
- ✓ Identify demonstration/pilot projects, programmes and resources to carry out natural resource and environmental management actions consistent with the St. George's Declaration.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Identify and establish mechanisms to implement and monitor the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

- ✓ Assist Member States to formulate, implement and monitor National Environmental Management Strategies.
- ✓ Provide training and support for review and adoption of environmental indicators.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Cooperate and collaborate with regional and national entities in the implementation of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.
- ✓ Ensure the incorporation and integration of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* in decisions at international fora.
- ✓ Provide technical and financial assistance in support of the implementation of the Declaration at the national and regional levels.
- ✓ Reflect *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* in relevant initiatives within the OECS region.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Endorsement/ratification of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Endorsement/ratification of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* within 12 months of the adoption of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

- ✓ Continuing and effective implementation of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

International financing agencies

Bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies

Other regional and international agencies.

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National Cabinets

National environmental agencies

National development agencies

National planning agencies and commissions

Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 2:	INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
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RESULT DESIRED

The integration of environmental with economic and social imperatives, into development initiatives, through the application of an integrated development planning framework.

RATIONALE

Growing populations and increasing stresses from economic development demands require that the small island states of the Caribbean, which have limited resources, meet the needs of their citizenry by integrating economic and social development activities within the sustainable use of environmental resources.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Adopt an integrated development planning (IDP) framework and process for developing medium term economic strategies and corporate sectoral management plans that reflect environmental considerations.
- ✓ Engage the Ministry of Finance in formulating corporate sectoral management plans in order to ensure the necessary financial allocations and frameworks for implementing those plans.
- ✓ Strengthen mechanisms and processes that enable inter-sectoral and interagency dialogue, cooperation and collaboration toward formulating and implementing Integrated Development Plans.
- ✓ Design appropriate mechanisms for all stakeholders, including social entities, in preparing and implementing development policies, plans and programmes.
- ✓ Institute the Strategic Environmental Assessment process for policy, programmes and projects.
- ✓ Create/strengthen and implement environmental impact assessment (EIA) legislation, process, and management including establishment of a schedule of development activities for which EIAs will be required.
- ✓ Institutionalise targeted education and awareness campaigns among government, business and civil sectors to foster knowledge and understanding of the IDP process.
- ✓ Engage local banking, insurance, credit unions and other funding agencies in the need for integrated planning and environmental assessments.
- ✓ Build capacity to implement the actions above through training and skills development, institutional strengthening and information management systems.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate the development of capacities for IDP and provide technical assistance.

- ✓ Build the capacity of financing agencies to incorporate environmental assessment into economic and financial viability assessments as part of due diligence for policy, programme, and project funding.
- ✓ Facilitate the development of harmonised policies and legislation in support of IDP.
- ✓ Provide support for institutional and legal reform to facilitate the IDP process

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financing and technical assistance support to facilitate implementation of actions identified above.
- ✓ Projects and programmes evaluated against IDP principles.

INDICATORS

Member States accept the IDP framework and process.

National development policies, strategies and plans are increasingly based on the integration of environmental, economic and social imperatives.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

International financing agencies

Bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies

CARICOM Secretariat

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National planning agencies

Environmental management agencies

Ministries of Finance

Sectoral ministries

Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 3: IMPROVE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

RESULT DESIRED

Legal and institutional frameworks within each OECS state which respond effectively to the implementation of the Principles in the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability in the OECS*.

RATIONALE The process of sustainable development and the impacts of globalisation require new interrelationships and revised ways of doing business. The legal and institutional frameworks need to facilitate these imperatives at the national and regional levels.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Review, update and enact environmental legislation and regulations necessary to give effect to the St. George's Declaration and reflect the precautionary approach to environmental management.
- ✓ Review and enhance the adequacy, relevance and capacities of all institutions involved in environmental management.
- ✓ Coordinate and facilitate programmes geared towards building institutional capacities.
- ✓ Facilitate harmonisation of policies, legislation and institutional arrangements concerning environmental management.
- ✓ Develop and implement public awareness and sensitisation strategies on policies and laws relating to environmental issues.
- ✓ Establish an effective coordinating mechanism for environmental management.

- ✓ Incorporate, where appropriate, the polluter pays principle in laws.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Identify and coordinate support for the review, assessment and reform of legal and institutional capacities.
- ✓ Develop regional collaborative mechanisms for environmental management and sustainable development.
- ✓ Develop awareness campaigns to facilitate effective support of the legal and institutional provisions of the Declaration.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide technical and financial assistance for legal and institutional strengthening in support of implementation of the commitments of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Rationalised legal and institutional frameworks for environmental management developed and adopted through which the principles of the Declaration can be implemented.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financing agencies

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Caribbean Law Reform Commission

University of the West Indies

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministry responsible for legal affairs in consultation with agencies responsible for environmental management and other ministries and agencies of government as appropriate.

Ministries and agencies of government with legislated responsibility that impacts the environment.

PRINCIPLE 4:	ENSURE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY IN DECISION-MAKING
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RESULT DESIRED

Civil society stakeholders are informed and actively participate at all levels in environmental management and sustainable development initiatives.

RATIONALE

Community interaction and consultation are integral to environmental management. It is therefore necessary to provide avenues for the expression of ideas, and the exchange of information and between States, organisations, communities and individuals, as well as facilitating their effective participation in the formulation, adoption and execution of decisions affecting their lives. Participatory planning facilitates more responsive economic, social and environmental policy and programmes and therefore contributes to enhanced chances of successful development initiatives.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and implement policies and plans for increasing access to information.
- ✓ Produce user friendly and timely information on environment management issues.
- ✓ Identify a clearinghouse and coordination mechanism to facilitate information sharing and access by civil society
- ✓ Review and amend existing legislation to ensure effective participation by civil society in decision-making.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to ensure participation, including feedback and comments, from all levels of civil society stakeholders

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate training in participatory approaches for natural resources management.
- ✓ Support the establishment of mechanisms to ensure participatory arrangements for community mobilization.
- ✓ Identify a clearinghouse coordination and information mechanism to facilitate increasing access by and feedback from civil society.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Assist in identification of obstacles that impact the participation of civil society in decision-making related to environmental management and sustainable development.
- ✓ Assist in identification of methodologies that ensure participation by civil society stakeholders in environmental management and sustainable development.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Frameworks developed and adopted to provide for civil society participation in environmental management and sustainable development initiatives

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial agencies

Bilateral and multinational development agencies

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Government information services

Government documentation centres

Media establishments

Civil society organisations and agencies

Agencies responsible for environmental management, infrastructure planning and implementation

Public libraries.

PRINCIPLE 5: ENSURE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR

RESULT DESIRED

An efficient and competitive private sector, whose operations are consistent with the principles of sustainable development and sound environmental management.

RATIONALE

The competitiveness of the private sector depends on the effective management of environmental resources. Investments to enhance environmental performance in production processes and business decisions bring business benefits and contribute to a healthy and vibrant economy. Improved environmental performance is a financial opportunity rather than just an extra cost.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Promote dialogue on environmental stewardship, best practices and environmental issues that affect private sector interests.
- ✓ Encourage voluntary initiatives within the private sector to establish and implement good environmental practices and standards in their business decisions and operations.

- ✓ Support development of local environmental service companies and recognition of their contribution to economic growth.
- ✓ Identification of opportunities for export of local environmental goods and services.
- ✓ Apply incentives, market based instruments and other policy measures to encourage improved environmental responsibility in the private sector.
- ✓ Monitor environmental performance of private sector operations.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Establish sectoral best management practices

- ✓ Facilitate the development of harmonized standards for effective environmental management practices against which private sector operations should be accountable.
- ✓ Support the creation/implementation of a regional public sector/private sector forum to facilitate dialogue on environmental and natural resource management issues.
- ✓ Assist in identification of "lessons learned" in participation of the private sector in achieving enhanced environmental and natural resource management performance.
- ✓ Assist Member States to establish eco-labelling as a means by which the private sector can contribute to environmental management.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Support initiatives with relevant information, technical and financial resources.
- ✓ Facilitate market opportunities for supplying environmental goods and services to compete on international contracts.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Adoption and implementation of sectoral "best environmental management standards."

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial agencies

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Hotel/tourism associations/Cruise ship associations

Agricultural associations

Insurance industry

International and regionally based manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers.

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Chambers of Commerce

Hotel/tourism associations

Agricultural associations

Nationally-based manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers

Agencies responsible for environmental and natural resource management

Agencies and commissions for national development.

PRINCIPLE 6:	USE OF ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
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RESULT DESIRED

Appreciation, understanding and application of quantitative and qualitative tools and techniques to value natural and cultural assets in national accounting and to influence decision making with respect to development policies.

RATIONALE

The true costing of development initiatives needs to take account of the value of the resource being impacted in order to demonstrate the value of environmental goods and services.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Work towards a comprehensive inventory of natural resources.
- ✓ Apply techniques/procedures for the valuation of natural and cultural assets.
- ✓ Review case studies on application of economic instruments.
- ✓ Implement cost recovery mechanisms and incentives.
- ✓ Provide incentives for environmental technologies and environmentally sound business enterprise.
- ✓ Use incentives to foster environmental leadership among enterprise including the remediation of polluted areas.
- ✓ Apply mechanisms to encourage importation of goods which support enhanced environmental quality.
- ✓ Apply cost-benefit analyses and quantification of trade-offs in environmental assessments.
- ✓ Integrate green accounting into the national accounts.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Promote awareness on the benefits of using economic instruments and develop recommendations regarding their use at the national level.
- ✓ Support the integration of green accounting into national accounts.
- ✓ Support the development of national capacities to apply relevant economic instruments.
- ✓ Liaise with institutions conducting research on economic valuation techniques and disseminate the findings of the studies being undertaken within the region.
- ✓ Implement techniques to compare the environmental implications of alternative policy actions and their concomitant environmental effects.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide assistance for integrating "green" accounting into national accounts.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Economic and financial frameworks are being adjusted to reflect economic valuation of natural and cultural assets and to provide for effective management of these assets.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies.

Other regional and international associations

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Planning

Agencies responsible for environmental management

Research institutions

Chamber of Commerce/Trade associations.

PRINCIPLE 7:	FOSTER BROAD-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS
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RESULT DESIRED Heightened awareness, knowledge, skills and understanding of the relationship and significance of environmental management and sustainable development to improved quality of life. An enlarged cadre of persons with environmental technical and professional expertise in applying environmental management principles to development initiatives.

RATIONALE

Systemic change is essential to achievement of sustainable development principles within Caribbean societies. Therefore education and training should be broad-based and targeted to inculcate the relevance and application of environmental management and sustainable development principles in the performance of professional and technical duties on the job as well as to functions as a citizen within the community.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop national environmental education/awareness strategies.
- ✓ Develop inventory of existing expertise.
- ✓ Integrate environmental education into formal school curricula at all levels, including business, professional continuing education programmes and informal educational programmes.
- ✓ Develop and provide education/training in environmental economics and accounting.
- ✓ Review existing environmental education materials, reactivate and update available information and make user-friendly.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms for formation of and collaboration among environmental associations.
- ✓ Develop and establish publicly accessible national databases on environmental issues
- ✓ Develop capability for environmental education/awareness through relevant training.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate technical assistance to national initiatives to integrate environmental education into school curricula and informal education programmes.
- ✓ Establish training-of-trainers environment programmes for regional and national agencies
- ✓ Develop/distribute, as appropriate, new environmental education.
- ✓ Facilitate broad-based public awareness and awareness campaigns targeted to priority issues and supported, as feasible, by corporate sponsorship.
- ✓ Facilitate cooperation among agencies to promote environmental education, training, capacity building and awareness.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide support for the development and integration of environmental education, and public awareness initiatives at national and regional levels.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Increasing application of sound environmental management practices at all levels of society and strengthened capacity to carry out these practices.

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and Multilateral development Agencies
Non-governmental organisations
Intergovernmental agencies
University of the West Indies
Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
Other regional and international organisations

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministry of Education

Ministry responsible for environmental/natural resource management

Educational institutions

Civil society organisations and agencies

Public information systems

Private institutions

Private sector

PRINCIPLE 8: ADDRESS THE CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
--

RESULT DESIRED

Undertake, support and extend initiatives for on-going integration of climate change adaptation into development planning through informed and motivated governments, businesses and civil society.

RATIONALE

The Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to global climate change and OECS Member States are likely to be affected by increasing climate variability (hurricanes, floods, droughts) and damage to water resources, ecosystems, human settlements, agricultural systems, coastal resources, tourism infrastructure and human health. This represents a significant threat to the environmentally sustainable economic development of the region.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and implement national climate change strategies.
- ✓ Develop and implement financial and other incentives for adaptation strategies.
- ✓ Establish linkages with, and participation in, planning for Adaptation to Climate Change projects to determine lessons learnt from pilot projects and to facilitate application of findings within the national context.
- ✓ Develop the framework and implement relevant methodologies for collection, management and analysis of data for planning for adaptation to climate change.
- ✓ Integrate adaptation to climate change into national physical, social and economic planning.
- ✓ Conduct assessments of vulnerability to sea level rise, storm surge damage and other coastal impacts and incorporate into adaptation strategies.
- ✓ Review/amend/draft and enforce statutes to promote appropriate development in impact sensitive areas (e.g. shore line).
- ✓ Undertake inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, identify and implement strategies for mitigation, and undertake other strategies in fulfilment of international obligations.
- ✓ Implement demand management strategies to optimise energy consumption for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Seek collaborative projects with the business sector to encourage investment in economic diversification.
- ✓ Implement National Climate Change Information Programs
- ✓ Develop capability for addressing climate change issues through human resources development and other institutional strengthening.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Seek collaborative relationships to foster research into the impact of climate change.
- ✓ Collaborate to implement obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- ✓ Explore and document regional sources of construction sand and build partnerships to develop policies and to facilitate access so as to provide feasible options to beach sand mining.
- ✓ Seek collaborative partnerships with the insurance sector to provide incentives for financing reconstruction based on vulnerability reduction measures.

- ✓ Establish regional structures and facilitate implementation of regional initiatives to coordinate and implement activities to address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- ✓ Utilise the Regional Negotiating Mechanism to establish common positions on international fora on climate change.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to transfer information and lessons learned between Member States, and explore modalities for direct involvement of Dependent Territories in regional climate change activities.
- ✓ Facilitate the establishment of Climate Change Focal Points in British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla.
- ✓ Establish a Regional Climate Change Centre.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financing and technical assistance to support and facilitate implementation of actions.
- ✓ Participate in joint negotiation of climate change initiatives.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Increasing integration of national action plans to address climate change into national sustainable development strategies.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and multilateral development agencies
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
Regional insurance industry
CARICOM Secretariat
University of the West Indies
Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National disaster preparedness entities
Ministry of Finance/Planning
Ministry responsible for works and utilities
Private sector institutions
Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 9: MANAGE THE CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF DISASTER
--

RESULT DESIRED

Reduced vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters in order to diminish loss and social dislocation thereby directing funding to environmental, social and economic improvements rather than to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

RATIONALE

Natural disasters are a reality for the Caribbean and repeated strikes increase stress on the environment, natural resources, population, social systems, productive capacity, infrastructure, and finances. Environmental stresses exacerbate the effects of these events. Vulnerability to man-made disasters is also striking as, for example, is associated with hazardous substances transported across the region.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Develop an integrated framework through which to address disasters at community and national levels.

- ✓ Conduct/review hazard vulnerability studies and the historic record of events and damage.
- ✓ Apply hazard vulnerability to integrated development planning.
- ✓ Formulate and implement disaster mitigation measures to reduce loss

- ✓ Institute disaster mitigation in work plans of Ministries, with the necessary budgetary allocation.
- ✓ Promote disaster planning in the business sector.
- ✓ Review/revise and enforce zoning ordinances and building codes and maintenance programs for utilities, roads, drainage and other critical infrastructure.
- ✓ Strengthen National Environmental Emergency Offices, as appropriate.
- ✓ Review and strengthen national disaster management plans focusing on inter-sectoral dialogue and collaborative planning.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Coordinate dissemination of information among Member States regarding prevention and mitigation of disasters caused by natural phenomena and man-made hazards.
- ✓ Assist national organisations to develop capability to document loss and lessons learnt
- ✓ Support scientific data gathering e.g. agro- and hydro- meteorological data.
- ✓ Develop/strengthen regional environmental disaster plans with particular reference to hazardous materials such as oil and radio active waste.
- ✓ Build effective coalitions with the insurance industry in support of loss prevention and mitigation measures as well as financing of reconstruction and repair.
- ✓ Assist Member States to integrate Building Codes and Disaster Resistant Design developed through initiatives of the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financing and technical assistance support to facilitate effective disaster mitigation measures.
- ✓ Facilitate investment funding for rehabilitation.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Frameworks for integrating environmental considerations into disaster based management and mitigation plans and evidence of implementation of those plans.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and multilateral development agencies
International disaster relief agencies
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
Regional insurance industry
Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National disaster preparedness and response agencies
Development planning agencies
Inter-sectoral/interagency planning and monitoring committees.
Civil society organisations and institutions

PRINCIPLE 10: PREVENT AND CONTROL POLLUTION AND MANAGE WASTE
--

RESULT DESIRED

Adoption of environmentally-sound pollution and waste management practices that minimise pollutants and waste and optimise reuse and recycling practices and systems.

RATIONALE

Pollution prevention and waste minimization reduce discharge of substances that degrade environmental quality and create risks to public health. Environmentally-sound waste management and pollution control helps to maintain resource quality, create jobs and contributes new resources to local economies.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Waste Minimisation and Management

- ✓ Review/enhance procurement practices and integrate environmental considerations e.g. packaging and energy efficiency.
- ✓ Review/enhance sewage treatment and disposal systems and seek technological input to ensure effluent quality which does not harm the receiving environment.
- ✓ Review/enhance storm water runoff infrastructure and ensure adequate drainage (prevent ponding) and reduction of silt-laden discharge
- ✓ Adopt draft waste management legislation.
- ✓ Enable solid waste management institutions to be fully operational and delivering programmes in public education, waste collection/treatment, waste reduction/reuse/ recycling/recovery/reengineering, waste disposal, hazardous waste management, monitoring and enforcement.
- ✓ Develop and implement integrated waste management plans.
- ✓ Adopt waste management standards developed at the regional level.
- ✓ Adopt, ratify, implement the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and its Disposal, MARPOL 73/78 and other relevant MEA's.
- ✓ Adopt, implement and enforce WHO water quality guidelines as national standards (for all types of water).

Pollution Prevention and Management

- ✓ Adopt, implement, and enforce environmental quality guidelines as they are developed.
- ✓ Implement controls on air emissions with particular attention to vehicle and burner emissions.
- ✓ Adopt legal and regulatory frameworks in support of cleaner production activities.
- ✓ Seek investments in Clean Development Mechanisms available under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change.
- ✓ Develop and strengthen national programmes for management of pesticides and other toxic chemicals.
- ✓ Implement controls on noise.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop a project to achieve investment in sewage treatment and management.
- ✓ Coordinate information sharing, training, recycling and other waste management activities.
- ✓ Co-ordinate plans for, and investment in, management, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials at national level.
- ✓ Establish a regional mechanism for formulating positions, negotiating, advising and monitoring transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive materials, including strategies for the prevention and management of clean-up in the event of spills of hazardous materials.
- ✓ Establish key pollutant indicators and coordinate national implementation of programmes to quantitatively monitor and report annually on these indicators.
- ✓ Develop, adopt and promote appropriate technology to prevent and reduce pollution and waste.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Support regional recycling initiatives, treatment/disposal of hazardous waste and management of liquid waste.
- ✓ Provide financial and technical assistance support for solid/liquid waste management programmes at national and regional levels.

- ✓ Compliance with international requirements concerning transboundary movement of hazardous waste and other international agreements concerning pollutants and waste management.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Legal and institutional frameworks and key infrastructure to support environmentally-sound waste management established and operational.
- ✓ Adoption and ratification by Member States of international agreements relating to management of pollutants, and implementation of such agreements.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Agencies responsible for environmental management

Agencies responsible for economic development

Ministry of Planning

National waste management entities

Pesticide control boards

Water and sewerage management entities

Industrial and Agricultural associations

Port Authorities

Hotel/tourism agencies

Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 11: ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

RESULT DESIRED

Natural resources management systems are environmentally, culturally, economically and socially sustainable.

RATIONALE

Natural ecosystems provide the fuel for the social and economic growth and well-being of the OECS region. Tourism, crop production, fisheries and human health depend on the quality and sustainability of our natural resource stock. In addition, successful adaptations to the effects of climate change require healthy natural resources in the coastal zone and in the watersheds.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop a national environmental management strategy which takes account of current conditions and prioritises necessary action to stem practices and otherwise address factors which can cause stress or destroy resources.
- ✓ Develop, implement and maintain a sustainable system of national parks and protected areas.
- ✓ Strengthen and apply enforcement measures against illegal sand mining.
- ✓ Develop procedures for conducting carrying capacity studies.
- ✓ Conduct structured and targeted awareness building.
- ✓ Develop and implement national natural resource management plans, including mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, to obtain optimum sustainable productivity. Particular focus should be given to integrated water, coastal areas management, and fisheries and forestry management plans.
- ✓ Develop capability to realize sustainable use of natural resources.

- ✓ Promote the role of Civil Society in managing natural resources.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop, and facilitate implementation of, mechanisms for networking and exchange of information and lessons learned from relevant projects, programmes and policies in the region.
- ✓ Facilitate development of risk assessment techniques for natural resource management.
- ✓ Design and implement targeted awareness and training programs making the business case for sustainable resource management
- ✓ Develop harmonised/frame natural resource management legislation.
- ✓ Promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of natural resources conservation and sustainable use.
- ✓ Develop and implement regional strategies and approaches to natural resources management.
- ✓ Cooperate in the management of natural resources under the jurisdiction of more than one state

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financing and technical assistance support to facilitate implementation of national and regional actions.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Natural resource management plans which reflect natural and ecological priorities as well as cultural, economic and social considerations, are developed and increasingly incorporated into the decision-making and development planning processes.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and multilateral development agencies
Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
OECS Secretariat
CARICOM Secretariat
University of the West Indies
Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Training Institutions
Trade associations
Agricultural associations
Ministries responsible for environmental management
Agencies responsible for extraction of water
Civil society agencies and organisations

PRINCIPLE 12: PROTECT CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
--

RESULT DESIRED

Cultural, historical and natural heritage attributes preserved, conserved, accessed and enjoyed by locals and foreign visitors alike.

RATIONALE

Cultural, historical and natural heritage attributes are important national capital assets and can contribute significantly to diversification and expansion of the educational and recreational offering for tourism and local populations. OECS states should therefore research, document, protecting, conserve, rehabilitate and manage cultural, historic and natural monuments, buildings and symbols, as well as areas of outstanding scientific, cultural, spiritual, ecological, scenic or aesthetic significance

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Establish criteria for preservation and conservation of historic, cultural and national sites and heritage.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to incorporate traditional and indigenous knowledge into the identification, protection and management of natural, cultural and historic heritage.
- ✓ Develop and implement plans for updating and ongoing maintenance of national archival systems.
- ✓ Identify and catalogue heritage sites through historic, anecdotal and archaeological research.
- ✓ Establish and enforce legislation on preservation/conservation of national and cultural monuments, sites and heritage.
- ✓ Increase collaboration with civil society organizations involved in protection/conservation of sites and heritage and develop collaborative mechanisms for conservation/protection of historic and national sites/heritage in the context of sustainable/heritage/ecological tourism.
- ✓ Institute public awareness and education campaign on environmental sites and heritage including incorporation of local natural and cultural history into schools curricula at all levels.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to allow sustainability of efforts of civil society and private sector in maintaining sites and heritage.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financial and technical support to the preservation and conservation of historic, cultural and national sites.
- ✓ Facilitate increased collaboration with civil society organizations involved in protection/conservation of sites.
- ✓ Facilitate the provision of technical assistance for the development of appropriate legislation.
- ✓ Assist individual governments to develop heritage trails and heritage asset protection procedures.
- ✓ Develop options for facilitating sustainable involvement of civil society and private sector in maintaining sites.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide technical assistance and funding where appropriate to assist development of rich cultural heritage and tourism potential.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Increasing human, financial, social and other support for the protection and conservation of national sites, monuments and heritage.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Regional and international heritage protection and conservation agencies.

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries of Culture

Ministries of Tourism

Ministries of Education

National Trusts

Hotel/tourist associations

Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 13: PROTECT AND CONSERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
--

RESULT DESIRED

Management of biological resources to ensure the maintenance of healthy eco-systems and the sustainable use of biological resources for human benefit.

RATIONALE

Biological diversity provides the gene pools necessary for the preservation of life and ecosystems. It affords opportunity for enhancement of agricultural output, development of pharmaceuticals and provides recreational opportunities for the growing travel and leisure industry. The full value of the services of ecosystems and biological resources is yet to be determined. Protection and conservation of biological diversity is therefore important for life itself as well as for the creation of opportunities for potential sustainable economic benefits.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop national biodiversity inventory, to include inventory of endangered and threatened species, and their habitats.
- ✓ Design and implement plans to manage, protect, conserve and restore where necessary biological diversity for sustainable use.
- ✓ Establish and enforce regulations for closed seasons for exploiting species under stress.
- ✓ Establish and enforce appropriate legal and institutional structures to control and licence the prospecting for, or harvesting and export of cultural and ecological resources.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to enable compliance with the relevant international conventions and agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES.
- ✓ Develop and implement policy and management programmes including precautionary measures to avoid and control the introduction of modified/alien species into the environment.
- ✓ Generate investment interest in carbon sequestration and pharmaceutical opportunities.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Assist Member States to develop mechanisms to collaborate in management of regional biological goods.
- ✓ Assist in inventory and documentation of endangered species as necessary.
- ✓ Develop framework/harmonised legislation as appropriate for protection and conservation of biological diversity.
- ✓ Develop harmonised regional plans for protection and conservation of biological diversity.
- ✓ Develop regional strategies for management of introduced species.
- ✓ Assist in the development of measures to control, and to the extent possible, to eradicate introduced alien or modified organisms that have or are likely to have a significant adverse effect on other organisms or the environment.
- ✓ Assist in the development of measures to manage species under stress.
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration on research into protection and conservation of biological diversity.
- ✓ Explore the use of the Regional Negotiating Mechanism in support of protection and conservation of biological diversity.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide financing and technical assistance support to facilitate implementation of actions.
- ✓ Participate in joint negotiation of initiatives in support of protection and conservation of biological diversity.
- ✓ Assist region to honour the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species (CITES) and other such international agreements.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Comprehensive national action plans incorporating institutional and legal mechanisms for the protection and conservation of biological diversity formulated, adopted and implementation initiated.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies
Other regional and international organisations

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for agriculture
Ministries responsible for environmental management
Ministries responsible for planning
Hotel/tourist associations
Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 14:	RECOGNIZE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT
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RESULT DESIRED

Understanding and application of environmental standards and actions as they relate to consumer demand, and regional and international trade.

RATIONALE

Eastern Caribbean economic and social viability is intimately tied to regional and international trade and therefore the environmental implications of global consumer demand and trade related rules must be understood and assimilated into national and regional production and export policy and practice.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Cooperate and collaborate with regional initiatives to develop and implement targeted sensitisation and awareness programmes on the environmental issues concerning rules and regulations of international trade.
- ✓ Establish mechanisms to keep abreast of relevant environmental specifications for export markets.
- ✓ Consider options for the development of alternative production systems for niche markets as part of economic diversification.
- ✓ Establish national contingency plans for environmental hazards due to international shipping and collaborate with regional mechanisms.
- ✓ Encourage development of environmental management systems to facilitate international certification that environmental standards are met.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Identify environmental issues relating to the impacts of trade and support the establishment of regional networks to promote the exchange of knowledge and actions on economic cooperation concerning trade and environment.

- ✓ Facilitate the development and implementation of effective harmonized policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks to address trade and its environmental impacts.
- ✓ Develop public awareness campaigns on the issues relating to trade and environment and the implications for the OECS.
- ✓ Support the establishment of environmental management systems to facilitate environmentally sound operations providing goods and services for trade.
- ✓ Support the development, implementation and institutionalisation of training programmes on relevant international standards.
- ✓ Identify and apply appropriate tools and techniques for economic valuation of tradable environmental resources and services.
- ✓ Develop programme for sensitising national delegations attending international meetings on trade and environmental issues.

- ✓ Develop a process to facilitate regional preparatory meetings prior to and following priority international meetings concerning trade and environment issues.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide capacity building support for negotiating skills.
- ✓ Provide technical and financial support to ensure that services and products meet international environmental standards.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Adoption of trade frameworks that incorporate environmental standards and actions.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and multilateral development agencies
World Trade Organisation
Regional Negotiating Machinery
OECS Secretariat
CARICOM Secretariat
International Standards Organisation
Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for environmental management
Ministries and agencies responsible for trade
Ministries responsible for economic development
Agencies responsible for standards
Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 15: PROMOTE COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
--

RESULT DESIRED

Effective scientific and technical cooperation in the field of environmental management and sustainable development through shared research, information and database development, and application of findings.

RATIONALE

Information pertaining to the state of the OECS environment is limited. Access to existing information is often difficult, since such information is frequently scattered across different agencies. The knowledge base to support effective environmental management can most appropriately be supplied through cooperative and shared mechanisms for information generation and dissemination.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Identify science and technology priorities based on environmental management gap analysis related to development objectives.
- ✓ Establish shared environmental data baselines and databases.
- ✓ Collaborate in development of regional framework to promote research that can enhance national and regional environmental management.
- ✓ Assess and where appropriate develop and adopt technologies and methodologies to promote cooperation in environmental science and technology.

- ✓ Investigate potential for enhanced environmental information generation and dissemination through regional and international institutions.
- ✓ Establish and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels for the timely and effective storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental information and for access to environmental research information.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and disseminate framework for standardizing research techniques and methodologies for fostering enhanced environmental management.
- ✓ Foster scientific and technical cooperation toward sustainable use of environmental resources.
- ✓ Provide technical assistance for the assessment and adoption of new technologies and methodologies in support of environmental science and management.
- ✓ Facilitate the development of a regional framework for research in support of enhanced environmental management.
- ✓ Identify projects and mobilize resources in support of cooperation in environmental science and technology.
- ✓ Establish linkages between national, regional and international databases.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate research for appropriate technologies and capacity building to support cooperation in environmental science and technology in the OECS region.
- ✓ Collaborate in establishing databases of relevant environmental research in science and technology to assist in enhanced environmental management.
- ✓ Collaborate in the creation of resource centres for relevant research and technologies.
- ✓ Facilitate exchange of environmental information between the OECS region and other relevant regions of the world.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Frameworks developed and operational for collaborative collection and application of environmental data and information in support of the development of science and technology.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multinational development agencies

CARICOM Secretariat

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Scientific institutions

Ministries responsible for environmental management

Ministries responsible for management of natural resources

PRINCIPLE 16:	MANAGE AND CONSERVE ENERGY
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RESULT DESIRED

An energy management programme that optimises consumption contributes to greenhouse gas reduction and reduces cost to the individual and the national treasury.

RATIONALE

Energy generation from fossil fuels and fossil fuel consuming equipment have contributed to global warming, which has altered climate patterns and atmospheric balance, reduced air quality and contributed to health problems. Within the OECS region energy costs are high for domestic and industrial use. Reduction in consumption and use of renewable energy will help to address deteriorating atmospheric conditions and result in improved budgetary allocations.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and implement national sustainable energy policies and plans.
- ✓ Provide incentives for application of renewable and efficient energy technology.
- ✓ Foster research in renewable and efficient energy technologies.
- ✓ Adopt/implement energy conservation and energy efficient building codes.
- ✓ Adopt demand reduction strategies including incentives.
- ✓ Promote investment from Clean Development Mechanisms under the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.
- ✓ Implement a broad based public awareness programme aimed at promoting the use of energy efficient technologies.
- ✓ Develop and implement policy measures in the transportation, tourism, government and other sectors in order to achieve improved energy management.
- ✓ Review and strengthen power generation legislation to allow for adaptation/implementation of appropriate strategies in support of renewable energy.
- ✓ Encourage data collection and monitoring against set energy reduction targets.
- ✓ Apply economic instruments towards achieving enhanced energy efficiency and application of renewable energy.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop policy, legislative and the regulatory environment for sustainable energy management.
- ✓ Foster research, demonstration and implementation of appropriate energy efficient/conservation technologies and renewable energy resources and technologies.
- ✓ Facilitate energy audits and demand reduction strategies.
- ✓ Support the introduction of incentives for the importation and utilization of energy efficient technologies.
- ✓ Provide the framework to support implementation of energy management programmes by utilities and other energy generating companies.
- ✓ Facilitate broad based, audience targeted public awareness programmes aimed at promoting the use of energy efficient technologies.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Provide technical and financial support for development and implementation of alternative energy options and demand reduction strategies.
- ✓ Support development of regional policies on energy management and efficiency and adoption of renewable energy.

INDICATORS

- ✓ Adoption of policy at national level in support of enhanced energy management and adoption of renewable energy.
- ✓ Increasing use of energy efficient and renewable technologies.
- ✓ Utility company support of demand reduction strategies.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Regional energy management and power sector agencies and associations

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for energy and electrical utilities

Ministries responsible for industry

Ministries responsible for environmental management

Ministry of Finance

Agencies responsible for economic development
Electrical utilities
Building design/construction/supply companies and associations
Hotel associations
Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 17:	NEGOTIATE AND IMPLEMENT MULTI-LATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs)
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RESULT DESIRED

Enhanced capacity to maximise the benefits received from MEAs, and to influence negotiations to the advantage of Member States.

RATIONALE

The OECS states are already directly or indirectly signatories to several multilateral agreements that relate to environmental quality and sustainable development and it is therefore in their interest to cultivate broad understanding of the responsibilities and advantages of compliance. OECS states should jointly and individually strengthen their capability to be active players in the international environmental negotiating arena so as to have their positions adequately represented.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and enhance capacity to negotiate and implement MEAs.
- ✓ Initiate discussions and consultations on provisions and implications of multilateral agreements.
- ✓ Enhance representation and participation at international meetings.
- ✓ Enhance information dissemination from meetings and negotiations.
- ✓ Integrate MEAs into the development planning process.
- ✓ Develop and enhance capacity to monitor and report progress on implementation of MEAs.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Coordinate the selection of representatives on executive committees pertinent to MEAs.
- ✓ Convene regional meetings and enhance capacity for formulating regional positions on MEAs.
- ✓ Strengthen capacity to assist countries in signing and ratifying MEAs.
- ✓ Provide technical support to Member States to negotiate, implement and monitor the provisions of MEAs.
- ✓ Create mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information on MEAs
- ✓ Ensure that the principles contained in *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* are integrated into the negotiation and implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Assist region to access funds for negotiating and implementing MEAs.
- ✓ Strengthen capacity and facilitate meaningful participation by the region in international fora concerning MEAs.
- ✓

INDICATOR

- ✓ Increasing understanding and implementation of provisions, obligations and benefits of MEAs at all levels within and outside government, and mechanisms in place which meet the requirements of MEAs to which Member States are signatory.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

International financial institutions
Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Regional Negotiating Machinery
OECS Secretariat
CARICOM Secretariat
Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for foreign affairs
Ministries responsible for environmental management
Ministries responsible for management of natural resources
Offices of Attorneys General
Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 18:	COORDINATE ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES REGION
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RESULT DESIRED

A rationalized and coordinated approach to environmental management interventions funded by international agencies that is responsive to the needs articulated by the region and which is consistent with the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

RATIONALE

Successful development outcomes of activities funded by international development assistance agencies depend on the existence of effective partnerships between these agencies, Member States and regional institutions. OECS states should be fully engaged in the design and implementation of externally funded environmental activities, projects and programmes. Activities at the national level should be driven by national agencies rather than by donors and should capture national priorities and recognise national capacity. National and regional activities should therefore be coordinated to optimise the use of limited resources and avoid duplication of effort.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Design and implement a mechanism through the OECS to articulate environmental and natural resource management needs requiring international support.
- ✓ Share information with the various regional coordinating mechanisms and agencies.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Establish and maintain an electronic database and tracking system for pipeline and ongoing projects in support of *The St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Identify and facilitate the nomination of a regional inter-governmental agency to provide information on progress with the implementation of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* to OECS states and donor agencies.
- ✓ Convene regular consultations with donors and other regional agencies to monitor implementation of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Enhance the level of coordination and rationalisation of activity amongst international development assistance agencies.

- ✓ Enhance dialogue between the Eastern Caribbean Environmental Donor Coordination Group and the appropriate regional coordinating agency.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Partnerships between development assistance agencies, the OECS Secretariat and other national and regional agencies increasingly strengthened.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

International and regional agencies working in the environmental or natural resource management sectors in the OECS region

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for environmental management

Ministries responsible for management of natural resources

Ministries responsible for Planning and Finance

PRINCIPLE 19: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

RESULT DESIRED

Adoption, commitment and diligent implementation of actions in support of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

RATIONALE

It is imperative that provisions of the St. George's Declaration and the Environmental Management Strategy be implemented if the OECS Member States are to achieve sustainable economic development, stem ecological deterioration and to mitigate the impact of disasters. A culture of integrated development can only be achieved through a structured system of communication that facilitates coordination and collaboration. Local economic realities, globalisation, international trade standards and climate change require an urgent shift to the business case for environmental management.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ National consultations on the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* and a targeted communications plan to reach all sectors of government, business enterprise and civil society.
- ✓ Develop and begin implementation of national environmental management strategies consistent with the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Utilize monitoring and reporting mechanisms and instruments to gauge the effectiveness of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* in achieving the commitments of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Cooperate with other states in sharing of information, techniques and lessons learnt.
- ✓ Work through inter-governmental agencies.
- ✓ Cooperate with other states to prevent or abate trans-boundary environmental problems.
- ✓ Adhere to commitments identified in Annex A of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ OECS Ministers sign the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and adopt the OECS Environmental Management Strategy

- ✓ Awareness campaign on the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* using multi-media and interactive techniques.
- ✓ Mobilize necessary resources.
- ✓ Develop and implement monitoring and reporting instruments appropriate for gauging the effectiveness of the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* in achieving the commitments of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Adhere to commitments identified in Annex A of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Institute and maintain a mechanism for structured and scheduled consultations between the OECS and the international community with respect to environmental and natural resource management.
- ✓ Adhere to commitments identified in Annex A of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

INDICATORS

- ✓ *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* endorsed and ratified.
- ✓ *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* adopted and implemented.
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting mechanisms in place.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

International and regional agencies working in the environmental or natural resource management sectors in the OECS region

NATIONAL LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for environmental management

Ministries responsible for management of natural resources

Ministries responsible for planning

Ministries of Finance

Ministries of Foreign Affairs

Civil society organisations and agencies

PRINCIPLE 20:	OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER STATES
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RESULT DESIRED

Each signatory State will recognize the obligations and objectives of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and put in place the necessary mechanisms to fulfil their commitments to implementing this Declaration.

RATIONALE

The OECS Environmental Management Strategy must exert strong influence on development if benefits associated with enhanced environmental management are to be achieved.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Take the necessary steps to draft, promulgate and enforce, as appropriate, the policy and legal frameworks required to give timely effect to the OECS Environmental Management Strategy, and to support such action with adequate resource allocations.

- ✓ Implement communications plans to enable full and complete dissemination of the provisions of the St. George's Declaration and strengthen understanding within public, private and community sectors of the business case of environmental management.
- ✓ Report annually to the OECS Environmental Policy Committee on measures that have been undertaken to implement the St. George's Declaration.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate financial and technical assistance to assist governments to implement drafting and implementation of environmental strategies.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Support regional initiatives toward sustainable development as articulated in the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy*.

INDICATOR

- ✓ Provisions of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* implemented consistent with the OECS Environmental Management Strategy.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

CARICOM Secretariat

International financial institutions

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies

Other regional and international agencies

NATIONAL LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National Cabinets

Ministries responsible for environmental management

Ministries responsible for management of natural resources

PRINCIPLE 21:	REVIEW
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RESULT DESIRED

The content and mechanisms for implementation of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* continues to reflect the priorities of the OECS countries.

RATIONALE

The *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the *OECS Environmental Management Strategy* need to be systematically reviewed to ensure that they remain effective and current means of addressing environmental concerns in the OECS region.

INDICATIVE ACTIONS

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Develop and implement mechanisms to review the Principles outlined in the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* and the status of their implementation within three years of its adoption.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Facilitate the development and implementation of mechanisms to review implementation of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.
- ✓ Determine, after the review, whether and how the Principles of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* should be formalized into a more binding agreement between signatory States.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- ✓ Support the review of the *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS*.

INDICATOR

- ✓ *St. George's Declaration Of Principles For Environmental Sustainability In The OECS* reviewed.

RESPONSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

OECS Secretariat

Regional and international agencies working in the environmental or natural resource management sectors in the OECS region.

NATIONAL LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Ministries responsible for environmental management in consultation with public, private and other stakeholders.

Civil society organisations and agencies