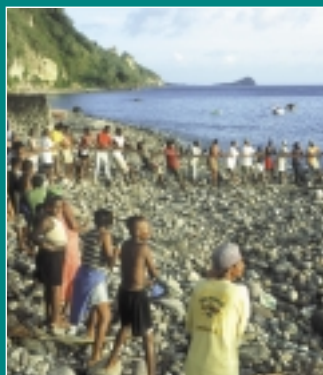


# St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS



# St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS



(Revised 2006)

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# Preface

At the Third Meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Environment Policy Committee (EPC) in September 1999, OECS Ministers of the Environment requested that the OECS Secretariat 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, the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (now the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, ESDU) developed the *St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD)*, which was signed by the OECS Ministers of the Environment. In accordance with the Ministers’ request, the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (now the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, ESDU) developed the *St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD)*, which was signed by the OECS Ministers of the Environment in April 2001. The Declaration sets out the broad framework to be pursued for environmental management in the OECS region.

The SGD is structured around 21 Principles, which are listed on page 3. Principle 21 calls on the Member States to “review the Principles outlined in the SGD and the status of their implementation within no more than three years” and “determine, after the above-mentioned review, whether and how the Principles... should be formalised into a more binding agreement between Member States.”

Accordingly, the OECS ESDU undertook a process, beginning in mid-2005, to review the format and content of the SGD.

As a result of this review, the OECS ESDU, in close consultation with Member States, carried out a comprehensive revision of the SGD along the following lines:

- translation of the 21 SGD principles into a framework that orders them logically under one overall aim and four major goals, each with a set of outcomes;
- identification, under each goal, of targets that Member States commit themselves to achieving;
- inclusion within the structure of the SGD a framework for monitoring progress towards goals through the use of common regional indicators;
- identification of a number of supportive actions that Member States would

agree to implement, in partnership with and in support of local governments and non-governmental stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, and regional institutions. These supportive actions also provide guidance to Member States in the review of National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS).

The NEMS remains the key mechanism for implementing the SGD at the national level. These strategies also offer Member States the opportunity to set and pursue national goals and targets in addition to, or at a more rapid pace than, those included in the SGD. In addition, NEMS provide an instrument for tracking progress towards the goals and targets of the SGD and for communicating with other Member States, national partners and regional institutions on that progress.

In accepting the revised SGD at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EPC held in the British Virgin Islands in November 2006, the Member States of the OECS re-affirmed their shared commitment to sustainable development. They also accepted the challenge of meeting the targets set in the revised SGD. The usefulness of the revised SGD depends on Member States taking that challenge seriously. This will require, among other actions, urgent attention to establishing effective structures for stakeholder collaboration at every level from the local to the regional, creating the institutional and legal frameworks required for effective environmental management, and building the capacity of Member States to monitor environmental impacts and trends in the status of natural resources and ecosystems.

In support of their efforts, OECS Member States expect that this revised SGD will provide an effective tool for the monitoring and assessment of their performance by themselves and by their development partners, and for the identification of areas where new partnerships and additional resources are needed to achieve the aim and goals enunciated in this document.

This revised SGD is a policy statement and a framework that will continue to evolve as progress is being realised, as new issues come to the fore and as new lessons are being learned. Its ambition is to become a living document that is continuously improved and updated through the combined efforts of all partners at the local, national, regional and international levels.

# St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS

## Preamble

The States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States that are signatory to this document (hereinafter called "Member States")

- (a) **PERSUADED** that the effective management of environmental resources at local, national, regional and international levels is an essential component of sustainable social and economic development, including the creation of jobs, a stable society, a buoyant economy and the sustaining of viable natural systems on which all life depends;
- (b) **FIRMLY CONVINCED** that the well-being of humanity depends upon preserving a healthy environment with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters and clean air, and that the peoples of the Member States are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;
- (c) **AWARE** that land and marine areas in the small island states constitute a single unit, and that the close inter-relationship between the various ecological systems in them, and the impact of human intervention on those ecosystems, necessitate the adoption of an integrated approach to managing the use of natural resources;
- (d) **TAKING ACCOUNT** of the reliance of Member States on economic sectors such as tourism and agriculture, which are based upon, and can put substantial pressure on, natural resources and ecological systems;
- (e) **RECOGNISING** the value and importance of the deeply embedded social connections between the region's culture and history and the ways in which its people perceive and make use of their environment;
- (f) **COGNISANT** of the commitment and obligation to uphold past and future regional and international agreements related to environmental protection and sustainable development, particularly in the context of Small Island Developing States (hereinafter referred to as SIDS), including:
  - a. the Principles of, and Commitments to, sustainable development as enunciated in the Rio Declaration and Programme of Action concluded at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; the Millennium Declaration agreed by the UN General Assembly and embodied

in the Millennium Development Goals; and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Environment and Development;

- b. the decisions contained in the Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action, concluded at the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS, and enunciated and reinforced in the First Caribbean Ministerial meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and in the Mauritius Declaration;
- c. the Principles affirmed in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention and its Protocols);
- d. international conventions addressing biodiversity, climate change, desertification, ozone depletion, marine pollution, the protection and conservation of vulnerable and endangered species of flora and fauna, the management of marine resources, the protection of sites of cultural, historic and ecological significance, and the management of hazardous wastes and substances;

- (g) **ACCEPTING** that their small size and limited technical, financial and human resources constrain the ability of Member States, particularly the smallest ones, to unilaterally undertake all the actions required to achieve their own goals and their international obligations regarding sustainable development;
- (h) **DESIRING** therefore to collaborate in the identification and implementation of actions aimed specifically at the protection of natural resources and effective environmental management, and to establish goals and targets related to such that are appropriate to the context and needs of Member States; and
- (i) **ACKNOWLEDGING** the obligation and need to involve all groups and segments of society in decisions and actions that affect their livelihoods, both now and in the future,

**AFFIRM** their shared commitment to processes of sustainable development in order to minimise environmental vulnerability while optimising social and economic benefits, by adopting to these ends the present St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (hereinafter called the Declaration) and the commitments contained herein, which proclaim the principles of sustainable development by which human conduct affecting the environment is to be guided and judged.



# The Principles (2001)

- Principle 1: **Foster Improvement in the Quality of Life**
- Principle 2: **Integrate Social, Economic and Environmental Considerations into National Development Policies, Plans and Programmes**
- Principle 3: **Improve on Legal and Institutional Frameworks**
- Principle 4: **Ensure Meaningful Participation by Civil Society in Decision Making**
- Principle 5: **Ensure Meaningful Participation by the Private Sector**
- Principle 6: **Use Economic Instruments for Sustainable Environmental Management**
- Principle 7: **Foster Broad-based Environmental Education, Training and Awareness**
- Principle 8: **Address the Causes and Impacts of Climate Change**
- Principle 9: **Prevent and Manage the Causes and Impact of Disasters**
- Principle 10: **Prevent and Control Pollution and Manage Waste**
- Principle 11: **Ensure the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
- Principle 12: **Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage**
- Principle 13: **Protect and Conserve Biological Diversity**
- Principle 14: **Recognise Relationships between Trade and Environment**
- Principle 15: **Promote Co-operation in Science and Technology**
- Principle 16: **Manage and Conserve Energy**
- Principle 17: **Negotiate and Implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements**
- Principle 18: **Co-ordinate Assistance from the International Donor Community towards the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Region**
- Principle 19: **Implementation and Monitoring**
- Principle 20: **Obligations of Member States**
- Principle 21: **Review**

# Overall Aim: Foster Equitable and Sustainable Improvement in the Quality of Life in the OECS Region

The Overall Aim relates to:

## Principle 1 - Foster Improvement in the Quality of Life

The Member States of the OES share a vision of development that is based on the principles of sustainability, stakeholder participation, equity and justice; that protects and enhances livelihoods; that reduces vulnerability to risk, stresses and shocks; that brings people out of poverty; and that results in improvement in the quality of life for all. Achieving such a vision of sustainable development requires a concerted effort on the part of all the governments of the Member States, in partnership with individuals, civil society, the private sector, and regional and international institutions, to improve environmental management and protect the region's precious natural resource base.

Each Member State therefore agrees to develop, promote and implement programmes to address poverty, health, employment, education, social development and to provide basic human needs required to improve the quality of life in an environmentally sustainable manner.

To meet those commitments, each Member State further agrees to work individually and jointly to implement shared goals for environmental management, specifically:

- to build the capacity of Member States and regional institutions to guide and support processes of sustainable development;
- to incorporate the objectives, perspectives, resources, knowledge and talents of all of society in environmental management;
- to achieve the long-term protection and sustained productivity of the region's natural resource base and of the ecosystem services it provides;
- to ensure that natural resources contribute optimally and equitably to economic, social and cultural development.

The Member States agree to pledge their regional institutions, and particularly the OECS Secretariat, to assist the governments and their national partners to secure and maintain the technical, financial and human resources required to achieve the goals and targets of the Declaration.

# Goal 1: Build the Capacity of Member States and Regional Institutions to Guide and Support Processes of Sustainable Development

Goal 1 and its desired outcomes relate to:

Principle 2 - Integrate Social, Economic and Environmental Considerations into National Development Policies, Plans and Programmes

Principle 3 - Improve on Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Principle 8 - Address the Causes and Impacts of Climate Change

Principle 15 - Promote Co-operation in Science and Technology

## Desired Outcomes

*Environmental considerations are integrated into national social and economic development policies, plans and programmes.*

Sustainable development requires that governments employ holistic approaches that take account of the contribution of environmental goods and services to sustainable development. Measures aimed at poverty alleviation, the general improvement of social, economic and cultural conditions, the conservation of biological diversity, disaster risk reduction, the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change and the maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support systems are all critical aspects of processes of sustainable development.

*Legal and institutional frameworks support the achievement of sustainable development aims and objectives.*

Effective environmental management only occurs through active partnerships between government agencies at all levels, intergovernmental institutions, civil society and the private sector at local, national and regional levels. It therefore requires efficient systems for harmonising the policies and co-ordinating the inputs of this wide range of stakeholders, backed up by a comprehensive and well-enforced framework of laws and regulations, which incorporates national obligations under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and conventions. The creation of such frameworks is one of the greatest and most urgent challenges facing Member States, and one that offers opportunities for regional co-operation, particularly in the development of common legislation and environmental and regulatory standards.

*National and local governments have the human and technical resources and the political, budgetary and public support to effectively implement and enforce environmental management legislation, policies and strategies, and to monitor the state of the environment and the effects of environmental management actions.*

As small island developing states, Member States face chronic human, technical and financial resource constraints that must be overcome if the goals of the Declaration are to be achieved. Governments of the region must give significantly greater attention to the development of the agencies and institutions involved in environmental management, both within and outside of government.

*Regional institutions are equipped and have the mandate to support national and regional environmental management efforts.*

Given their size constraints, Member States rely on regional environmental institutions, including the OECS Secretariat, the University of the West Indies, and regional environmental non-governmental organisations, for support and expertise. Member States can strengthen these institutions by supporting their establishment; contributing financially, politically and technically to their development; actively participating in their governance whenever relevant; and making use of the services that they provide.

*Scientific and technical knowledge on environmental management is adequate for informed decision-making and accessible to all who need it.*

Environmental strategies can only be effective if they are based on timely and adequate information, and if that information is made available to all parties, in forms that they can use. Progress on many fronts has been hampered by inadequate monitoring capacity, resulting in insufficient scientific data as well as problems of access to existing data by the agencies, institutions and groups that require it.

## Targets

By 2010 all Member States commit themselves to:

- the adoption and initiation of *national sustainable development strategies*, integrated development planning strategies or their equivalent;
- the establishment of a *co-ordinating framework* for sustainable development that includes all partners both within and outside government; receives adequate financial, human and technical resources to support its operation; has public and political legitimacy and support; and is backed up by appropriate legal instruments;

- the *full integration of national environmental priorities* into institutional and legal frameworks that include provision for enforcement and financing their implementation;
- the *ratification and enforcement of the provisions of those major international and regional environmental conventions* that support the priorities and objectives of individual Member States;
- the preparation of, and commitment of funding for, capacity development plans for national environmental management agencies that also include actions to increase the ability of partners outside government to collaborate in the implementation of national sustainable development strategies;
- establishment of *agreements with relevant regional institutions* to provide expertise, advice and assistance to support national environmental management initiatives and supplement local resources and expertise;
- the creation of centralised or networked *national data management systems* that provide baseline data on the status of natural resources; monitor patterns of resource use and the impacts of human activity on the environment; and collect, store, and make the data collected, as well as the results of environmental research, widely accessible in forms that all stake holders can use.

## Indicators

Member States agree to establish a set of specific common regional indicators of progress towards this goal, to determine a national baseline for each indicator, and to ensure that by 2010 systems are in place to regularly monitor against that baseline.

These indicators will provide information on:

- Annual national budget allocations to departments and agencies responsible for environmental management.
- The effectiveness of environmental regulations and enforcement.
- Participation of Member States in the major international and regional environmental conventions and protocols that they have ratified or been extended to, particularly the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the so-called Rio Conventions and their Protocols.
- Extent, quality and availability of data in national State of the Environment Reports.

## Supportive Actions

Member States agree to implement the following actions, among others, to work towards the above goal, outcomes and targets:

- development and implementation of programmes to increase understanding at all levels of government and society, including among politicians and other senior decision-makers, about the role of environmental management in national development and the need for effective legal and institutional frame works;
- clarification and rationalisation of the roles of national agencies, networks and institutions responsible for sustainable development, as well as their local, national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental partners, in order to enhance collaboration, maximise efficiency and accountability, reduce duplication and optimise cost effectiveness;
- creation or improvement of legislative frameworks to reflect regionally accepted standards and the precautionary approach to environmental management, in order to ensure the protection of human health, the environment and all natural resources;
- implementation of measures to meet the commitments of multilateral environmental agreements to which Member States are parties;
- enhancement of the effectiveness of regulatory mechanisms through the use of economic instruments such as the polluter pays principle;
- strengthening, and where necessary creation, of national agencies with environmental responsibilities, and provision of support to private sector bodies, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to be effective management partners;
- development of partnerships with regional institutions to provide support and expertise and encourage regional collaboration;
- implementation of programmes and commitment of financial resources to build national capacity to monitor environmental practices and natural resource use;
- development of comprehensive and appropriately networked data bases on the environment, in forms that can be easily shared among government agencies and their partners and made accessible to the public.

## Goal 2: Incorporate the Objectives, Perspectives, Resources and Talents of All of Society in Environmental Management

Goal 2 and its desired outcomes relate to:

Principle 4 - Ensure Meaningful Participation by Civil Society in Decision Making

Principle 5 - Ensure Meaningful Participation by the Private Sector

Principle 7 - Foster Broad-based Environmental Education, Training and Awareness

Principle 15 - Promote Co-operation in Science and Technology

### Desired Outcomes

*Civil society, the private sector, and local level governments and administrations participate meaningfully in decision-making on the environment.*

Good environmental management depends on the regular involvement of the full range of stakeholders in the exchange of information, knowledge and lessons learned, and in the formulation of policies, strategies, plans and decisions. All stakeholders must also have access to clear and timely information on environmental matters and the opportunity to participate in and receive reports back on all decisions regarding development plans and actions that affect their use of and access to natural resources and their benefits, both now and in the future. Accessible avenues for stakeholder collaboration and for ongoing dialogue between States, organisations, communities, private sector entities and individuals must be integrated into every level of national institutional frameworks for environmental management.

*All stakeholders have the skills, knowledge and capacity to use and manage resources sustainably.*

Effective environmental management requires many stakeholders working together at the local, national and regional levels. Scientific and technical co-operation on environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources is a key element of such collaboration. There is also a need to better incorporate traditional and indigenous knowledge in the development

of measures to protect the region's heritage. The role of culture and history in forming attitudes, behaviours and practices related to the environment needs to be understood and taken into account in the development of management measures. Civil society organisations, at the community, national and regional levels, are all crucial players who can share responsibility for the sustainable management of natural resources consistent with their capacity and interest. Finally, well-educated citizens are fundamental to sustainable development, implying the need for broad-based programmes of environmental education, training and awareness.

### *All stakeholders adopt environmentally responsible practices.*

There is a need for increased accountability by individuals, the public and private sectors and civil society regarding environmental practices. Environmental education efforts need to be expanded and improved with the aim to ensure that all stakeholders understand the requirements for, and their own roles in, maintaining a healthy environment. Member States should also make use of economic, legal and other types of incentives and disincentives to encourage best management practices that prevent negative environmental and human health impacts and mitigate negative impacts when they occur.

## Targets

By 2010 Member States commit themselves to:

1. Acknowledging, in policy and action, and making appropriate provision for, the *meaningful and informed participation of civil society, local governments and administrations and the private sector* as managers and decision-makers.
2. Identifying and committing resources to strategies based on regionally and internationally acceptable standards and best practices and national targets, to:
  - increase the extent and quality of environmental education;
  - improve the technical capacity of non-governmental partners;
  - encourage the adoption of acceptable environmental standards and codes of practice by private companies;
  - provide incentives for good environmental practices at the individual, household and community levels.



## Indicators

Member States agree to establish a set of specific common regional indicators of progress towards this goal, to determine a national baseline for each indicator, and to ensure that by 2010 systems are in place to regularly monitor against that baseline. These indicators will provide information on:

- Status and effectiveness of national consultative councils and forums related to sustainable development.
- Use of collaborative arrangements for the management of natural resources and sites.
- Extent and quality of environmental education programmes.
- Number of companies and government departments adopting ISO 14001 standards.
- Levels of environmental responsibility evidenced by different sectors of society.

As a further indicator of progress towards this goal, Member States and the OECS Secretariat will periodically conduct participatory assessments, at national and regional levels, of the degree of confidence of government agencies and regional, national and civil society partners including the OECS Secretariat that they are able to collaborate efficiently to achieve the objectives of this Declaration.

## Supportive Actions

Member States agree to implement the following actions, among others, to work towards the above goal, outcomes and targets:

- establishment of legal and institutional frameworks and regulatory mechanisms to assure and encourage the active participation of relevant public, private, non-governmental and community-based organisations in environmental management;
- establishment, strengthening and promotion of structures and procedures for the broad participation of civil society and the private sector in the design, implementation and evaluation of decision making processes and programmes regarding environmental management;
- creation of legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure and facilitate the public dissemination of information on development plans and activities as

well as the transmission and consideration of comments from the public on such plans and activities;

- creation of policy environments that facilitate the flow of information, transparency and accountability on environmental management issues and actions taken by the government;
- whenever appropriate, development of agreements with civil society organisations and the private sector for the collaborative management of natural resources;
- development and implementation of environmental education strategies and programmes that target all sectors of society and that focus on improving environmental and natural resource use practices;
- development of, and co-operation between Member States and with accredited national, regional or international organisations on, programmes of technical training and capacity building for non-governmental, community and private sector environmental management partners;
- collaboration with the private sector to establish and implement best practice standards related to the environment and human health;
- creation of systems for monitoring the environmental performance of private sector firms, legal mechanisms for holding them accountable for negative impacts on the environment or human health, and incentives for rewarding good practices;
- creation of incentives and training programmes to improve agricultural practices for the purpose of reducing their impacts on the environment.

## Goal 3: Achieve the Long-term Protection and Sustained Productivity of the Region's Natural Resource Base and the Ecosystem Services it Provides

Goal 3 and its desired outcomes relate to:

Principle 10 - Prevent and Control Pollution and Manage Waste

Principle 11 - Ensure the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Principle 12 - Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage

Principle 13 - Protect and Conserve Biological Diversity

Principle 16 - Manage and Conserve Energy

### Desired Outcomes

*Natural resources are managed to ensure the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and the sustainable use of biodiversity.*

As small island states, Member States rely heavily on a limited and vulnerable resource base. Fresh water is extremely scarce on some islands and needs careful management on all. Terrestrial and marine ecosystems and the species that inhabit them, bear the impact of centuries of degradation, destruction and overexploitation. The special need of Member States to protect and restore their coral reef ecosystems has been particularly acknowledged as an urgent priority. Managing ecosystem products and services properly, and with due consideration to levels of acceptable change, will not only ensure that current uses can be sustained, but that new uses, such as the development of biotechnologies, can be explored and properly managed in the future.

*Environmental quality is not diminished by pollution and waste.*

The maintenance and enhancement of environmental quality is both a national and a regional priority. Small island states are particularly challenged in developing effective systems for managing solid and liquid waste and properly disposing of chemicals and other hazardous materials, and Member States need to make fuller and more creative use of the potential for reuse and recycling. The 2010 target set by various international conventions to reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity is highly relevant to the region, and controlling the impact

of land-based activities, including inappropriate forms of waste disposal, on freshwater resources, coastal water quality and marine environments is of particular importance for small island states. Member States share responsibility for the protection of the sea that surrounds them and the species that move between them, and thus regional co-operation is required as well. Hazardous waste transhipped through regional waters presents an additional danger that Member States must be alert to and prepared to address. Regional co-operation, including through the Cartagena Convention and its Caribbean Environment Programme, can assist Member States in meeting those challenges that are beyond the capacity of any one State to address.

*The region's natural, cultural and historical heritage has adequate protection to assure its long-term survival.*

The development and establishment of protected areas and institutions for their management, as well as measures for the protection of important heritage sites, species, and green spaces, are key elements of environmental management. While Member States have made some progress on these fronts, more effort is needed to assure adequate protection, particularly in terms of improving on-the-ground management within protected areas; protecting individual species from illicit hunting, harvesting or use; and establishing covenants or formal agreements between governments, private landowners, and community or other local management partners.

*Energy is managed to ensure sustainability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.*

Member States remain unsustainably dependent on costly, non-renewable or poorly managed sources of fuel that pollute the air and contribute to climate change. The protection of existing renewable and non-renewable energy sources and the evaluation, development and promotion of new sources and energy efficient technologies and systems are challenges that will require collaboration at the regional level.

## Targets

By 2010 Member States commit themselves to:

1. Developing, adopting, and monitoring the implementation of comprehensive national policies and strategies that are consistent with strategies and frameworks for sustainable development and that are backed by appropriate legislation, addressing the following sectors or issues:

- water resource management and use efficiency;
- land development, administration and management;
- biodiversity protection;
- marine and coastal resource management;
- creative and sustainable management of solid, liquid, hazardous and biomedical wastes that includes provision and incentives for reuse and recycling wherever appropriate;
- protected area management.

**2. Identifying and committing resources to strategies based on regionally acceptable standards and best practices and national targets, to:**

- maintain or increase water availability, supply and quality;
- improve soil conservation practices to reduce soil loss
- reverse the reduction in the extent of key ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and forests;
- halt the loss of biological species;
- halt pollution in fresh water supplies and coastal waters;
- increase the use of clean technologies, recycling and reuse;
- increase the portions of solid and liquid waste that are properly treated or disposed of;
- ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- provide legal protection to nationally important natural sites;
- make more efficient use of energy.

## Indicators

Member States agree to establish a set of specific common regional indicators of progress towards this goal, to determine a national baseline for each indicator, and to ensure that by 2010 systems are in place to regularly monitor against that baseline. These indicators will provide information on:

- Water availability per capita, measured against per capita consumption.

- Extent of key ecosystems, including forests, coral reefs, and mangroves.
- Populations of selected marine and terrestrial species.
- Number of formal environmental impact assessments conducted and proportion of these that had a formal consultative process.
- Proportion of population with access to waste collection.
- Proportion of solid and liquid waste recycled, reused or properly treated and disposed.
- Annual national consumption of CFCs.
- Per capita carbon dioxide emissions.
- Ratio of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas to total national territory.
- Number of protected recognised and important natural and cultural heritage sites.
- Energy consumption as a ratio of GDP.
- Contribution of alternative sources of energy to total energy use.

## Supportive Actions

Member States agree to implement the following actions, among others, to work towards the above goal, outcomes and targets:

- establishment of legal and institutional structures, appropriate to the needs of Member States and consistent with international instruments, to control and licence the prospecting for, harvesting and export of environmental resources, including intellectual property;
- adoption of measures to avoid or minimise the intentional or accidental introduction or escape of invasive alien or modified organisms that have the potential to impact negatively on the environment or human health, and to eradicate or control the pathways of those that have been introduced or escaped;
- establishment of legislation providing for the right of redress for damage to the environment or to human health from environmental causes;
- development of a schedule of development activities for which environmental impact assessment will be required as part of project

definition and design, and the results of which will be considered in determining whether and how a project will proceed;

- adoption of national and regional measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution, including pollution arising from the transboundary movement of dangerous substances;
- development and implementation of effluent and emission standards and guidelines;
- development and implementation of strategies to regularly monitor and report on pollution levels;
- implementation of legal and other measures to document, protect, and where necessary rehabilitate, sites and areas of natural, cultural, and historic value, and avoidance of measures or acts which may harm them;
- adoption of co-operative measures to conserve and restore natural resources in areas under the jurisdiction of more than one State, or which may exist in areas that are fully or partially beyond the limits of a country's national jurisdiction;
- promotion and application of economic and regulatory instruments to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficient technologies.

## Goal 4: Ensure that Natural Resources Contribute Optimally and Equitably to Economic, Social and Cultural Development

Goal 4 and its desired outcomes relate to:

- Principle 6 - Use Economic Instruments for Sustainable Environmental Management
- Principle 8 - Address the Causes and Impacts of Climate Change
- Principle 9 - Prevent and Manage the Causes and Impact of Disasters
- Principle 14 - Recognise Relationships between Trade and Environment

### Desired Outcomes

*The principles of sustainable development are integrated into regional and national economic and social planning and in the production and provision of goods and services.*

Small island states have limited development options and therefore have a particular imperative to manage their terrestrial, marine and atmospheric resources, organisms and ecosystems to assure optimum sustainable productivity. Member States have thus repeatedly noted the need to better integrate the value of environmental goods and services and the costs of their protection into national economic and social development plans and policies. This requires the development of methodologies for the economic assessment and accounting of natural resources and the environmental services they provide, and for the social assessment of the impacts and benefits of environmental goods and services.

*International and regional economic relations that involve Member States equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.*

Modalities and terms of trade between countries can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment. Regional and international economic relations, including the costs of traded commodities and their means of transport, must not threaten or undermine the developmental and environmental needs



of present and future generations within the countries involved. This requires co-operation towards the establishment of regional and international economic systems based on the principles of sustainable development.

*Institutions at the community, national and regional levels are prepared and equipped to reduce the risks from and manage the impacts of natural phenomena on the environment and to prevent man-made disasters.*

Experience has repeatedly shown that natural phenomena, including hurricanes, volcanoes and climate change, are a particular risk for Member States. The potential scale and costs of natural and man-made disasters, require co-operative actions at the regional and international, as well as national, levels to reduce risk, vulnerability and negative impacts, to provide rapid response following disasters, and to support the costs of disaster management and recovery.

*The benefits of natural resources and environmental services, and the costs of maintaining them, are equitably shared.*

Member States have a concern that the benefits from the natural patrimony are inequitably shared, while the costs of environmental degradation are met disproportionately by the least advantaged. Conflicts regarding the use of natural areas such as beaches and forests, and the allocation of scarce resources such as water and land are too often settled in favour of the more powerful, resulting in harm to local livelihoods and increasing the vulnerability of the poor and other marginalised groups. Policies and mechanisms for assuring a more equitable allocation are required in order to achieve the goals of eliminating poverty and increasing the prosperity of all.

## Targets

By 2010 Member States commit themselves to:

1. Incorporation of natural resource values, revenues and management costs into systems of national accounting;
2. Identifying and committing resources to strategies based on regionally acceptable standards and best practices and national targets, to:
  - assure that all international trade agreements signed by Member States conform to national sustainable development objectives and include safeguards against environmental damage;

- explore options for increasing the sustainable contribution of natural resources and environmental services to local livelihoods and national economic development;
- adopt policies and measures to reduce risk and improve disaster preparedness and response;
- adopt strategies, plans and policies to address climate change and disasters;
- increase equity in the allocation of and access to environmental goods and services, including water, renewable species and products, beaches, forests, and areas of cultural or social value, and of the benefits resulting from these goods and services.

## Indicators

Member States agree to establish a set of specific common regional indicators of progress towards this goal, to determine a national baseline for each indicator, and to ensure that by 2010 systems are in place to regularly monitor against that baseline. These indicators will provide information on:

- Number of economic trade agreements signed by Member States that make provision for environmental safeguards and protection of natural assets.
- Extent of capacity in Member States to plan for, respond to and mitigate the effects of natural disasters and other environmental emergencies.
- Existence of legal provisions to guarantee access to sites and resources of public importance.
- Proportion of population with access to adequate sanitation and water supply, disaggregated by sex, age, household income, disability status and geographic location.

## Supportive Actions

Member States agree to implement the following actions, among others, to work towards the above goal, outcomes and targets:

- adoption of measures aimed at ensuring, as far as feasible, that prices of commodities and raw materials reflect the direct and indirect social and environmental costs of their extraction, production, transport, marketing and where appropriate, ultimate disposal;

- regional co-operation to control the trade in products that have been banned or whose use has been otherwise curtailed in other countries because of the negative impact of those products on the environment or human health;
- co-operation to ensure that trade measures addressing or affecting transboundary or global environmental problems are based as far as possible on regional consensus;
- adoption and implementation at the national level of the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate natural and man-made disasters;
- establishment of integrated policies and strategies to adapt and respond to the causes and impacts of climate change;
- assessment of the influence of poverty, age, gender and other factors on the vulnerability of individuals, households and communities to natural resource and environment-related hazards and risks;
- adoption of regulatory and other measures to assure public access to and properly managed public use of state or commonly owned natural areas;
- management, or regulation of the management of, environmental goods and services, in ways that assure their equitable allocation to all segments of society and economic sectors;
- institution of usage fees and other economic instruments to recover the costs of environment uses by the private sector.

# Implementation

The Implementation section relates to:

**Principle 17 - Negotiate and Implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

**Principle 18 - Co-ordinate Assistance from the International Donor Community towards the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Region**

**Principle 19 - Implantation and Monitoring**

**Principle 20 - Obligations of Member States**

Within the broader policy framework established by international agreements and conventions, the National Environmental Management Strategies and all relevant national development policies, each Member State agrees to:

- (a) With all due diligence, take such steps and adopt such measures as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Declaration, including the setting of national targets and establishment of standards and best practices against which to monitor progress;
- (b) Designate an entity comprised of each Member State to monitor and facilitate the compliance of each Member State with the Declaration, and to report on measures undertaken to implement it;
- (c) Work concertedly together to achieve the regional goals and targets enunciated in the Declaration;
- (d) Design and conduct national communication programmes and activities aimed at increasing awareness of and commitment to the Declaration at all levels;
- (e) Share, in a timely manner, relevant information related to the Declaration and its implementation with other interested States;
- (f) Develop, with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders, National Environment Management Strategies to guide actions aimed at achieving the national commitments and targets of the Declaration;

- (g) Establish co-ordinating bodies and implementation mechanisms, and provide adequate financial, human and technical resources, to give effect to such National Environmental Management Strategies;
- (h) Collaborate through the OECS Secretariat and other regional organisations to ensure that the environmental needs and requirements of the Member States are clearly articulated to the international community in ways that rationalise the environmental management interventions of the international community, including international financial institutions, so as to reduce duplication, and to achieve optimum cost-effectiveness.

The OECS Secretariat agrees to support Member States in their efforts to achieve the goals and outcomes of this Declaration, through:

- (a) support to the implementation of strategies and actions at the national level;
- (b) provision of technical assistance and access to financial resources;
- (c) conduct of communication programmes and activities aimed at increasing public awareness of and commitment to the Declaration;
- (d) identification and dissemination of regionally appropriate standards and best practices;
- (e) leadership in the development of common legislation, management frameworks and measures for regionally shared ecosystems and resources, and joint positions on international environmental issues;
- (f) provision of training, technical resources, and equipment to improve national capacity to apply standards and best practices, meet national targets and monitor the impacts of environmental management measures;
- (g) support to the focal point offices in building public awareness and in the implementation of national education and awareness activities.

# Reporting and Review

This section on Reporting and Review relates to:

**Principle 20 - Obligation of Member States**

**Principle 21 - Review**

Each Member State agrees to:

- (a)** Prepare and timely submit each year to the OECS Environmental Policy Committee, a report on measures that have been undertaken and progress that has been made to implement the Declaration at the national level. Such reports should at a minimum include the following information.
  - i.** Description of progress the country is making towards achieving the regional policy targets of the Declaration,
  - ii.** Report on progress the country is making with respect to national targets,
  - iii.** National data necessary for the compilation of the indicators identified in the Declaration;
- (b)** Regularly review and update their National Environmental Management Strategies to assure their continued relevance and effectiveness as tools for the implementation of the Declaration;
- (c)** Keep the OECS Secretariat and other Member States advised of any changes in the contents or implementation arrangements of National Environmental Management Strategies.

The OECS Secretariat agrees to:

- (a)** Compile and analyse national reports and timely report back to Member States and development partners on the regional implementation of the Declaration;
- (b)** Use the results of national monitoring and reporting and the regional compilation and analysis as the basis for resource mobilisation and technical assistance;
- (c)** Co-ordinate the periodic and regular review of the goals, targets and indicators contained within the Declaration and regional progress towards achieving them;
- (d)** Establish processes and mechanisms for the revision and updating of the Declaration and its provisions to assure that it continues to provide timely, relevant and useful direction to Member States in their pursuit of sustainable development.

# Annex A: Commitments

The Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,

**COMMITTED** to implementing the inter-related Principles contained in the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (hereinafter called "The Declaration");

**DETERMINED** to create a partnership in support of fulfilling the said Principles;

**RECOGNISING** that fulfilment of this commitment to achieving the Principles of the Declaration requires individual and collective efforts in expanding and deepening national, regional and global dialogue;

**MINDFUL** that decisive action is required in adopting and advancing the vision of the Declaration locally, nationally, regionally and globally;

**RESOLVE** that acceptance of these Principles, will necessitate the following action:

## 1. By Governments

- (i) Collaborate in the development and implementation of the interventions included in the Declaration;
- (ii) Identify, or where necessary, establish a national institutional structure to:
  - (a) Facilitate the development and subsequent implementation of the Declaration and the National Environmental Management Strategies (hereinafter called "the NEMS");
  - (b) Facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of programmes contained in the Declaration and the NEMS; and
- (iii) Co-operate nationally and regionally, especially with the regional and international agencies identified below, regarding the development and implementation of the Declaration and the NEMS;
- (iv) Develop legal and institutional frameworks in order to ensure the effective and co-ordinated implementation of the Principles contained in the Declaration and the programmes in the NEMS;
- (v) Provide adequate human, technical and financial resources to facilitate

the development and implementation of the programmes contained in the NEMS;

- (vi) Provide adequate human, technical and financial resources to facilitate the development and implementation of the programmes contained in the NEMS;
- (vii) Collaborate to strengthen the capacities and rationalize the responsibilities of regional agencies and, more particularly, the OECS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, (hereinafter referred to as the OECS - ESDU); and
- (viii) Establish a regional Technical Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as "The TAC") comprised of senior level policy advisors in environmental management, resource management and planning agencies to co-ordinate and guide the implementation of the Declaration;

## 2. By Regional Organisations

- (i) The OECS-ESDU, in collaboration with national agencies and regional and international agencies, shall continue to intensify its efforts to implement the Declaration, and in this regard shall:
  - (a) Assist Governments in the implementation of the Declaration and the NEMS;
  - (b) Assist Governments upon request, to develop and draft appropriate legislation and establish relevant institutions and structures to develop and implement programmes contained in the Declaration and the NEMS;
  - (c) Facilitate co-operation between Governments in adopting and implementing appropriate programmes to give effect to the goals of the Declaration and the NEMS;
  - (d) Support research programmes undertaken to implement the Declaration and the NEMS;
  - (e) Ensure the compilation, dissemination and storage of information and expertise, relating to the ONEMS;
  - (f) Facilitate the requirements of reporting and implementation as laid down in the Declaration and the NEMS;



- (g) Co-ordinate and where appropriate, mobilise in conjunction with Member States, the necessary financial resources to give effect to the Declaration, and to facilitate the development and implementation of the NEMS;
  - (h) Collaborate with Member States to establish an efficient and effective capacity for the negotiation and implementation of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and their timely dissemination;
  - (i) Co-ordinate technical assistance and programmes in support of national activities to give effect to the Declaration and the NEMS; and
  - (j) Develop the best efficient methodology for delivery of the required outputs.
- (ii) The OECS-ESDU shall provide administrative and secretarial services to support the activities of the TAC; and
- (iii) The OECS-ESDU will co-ordinate initial implementation of its responsibilities under the Declaration through a Five Year Operational Plan to commence not later than one year following acceptance of the Declaration by Member States and will co-ordinate its continuing responsibilities under the Declaration through subsequent Five Year Operational Plans.

### 3. By International Agencies

International Agencies should be encouraged to facilitate the co-ordination of projects and programmes undertaken in support of the Declaration, and in this regard shall:

- (a) Ensure that future programmes are consistent the Declaration and with the NEMS;
- (b) Be encouraged to establish appropriate consultative and co-ordinating mechanisms in order to ensure co-operation and harmonisation in the implementation of programmes to support the NEMS; and
- (c) Be encouraged to collaborate with Member States, the OECS-ESDU and its TAC, and with other regional agencies, as appropriate, to ensure a co-ordinated and harmonised approach to the funding and implementation of activities, projects and programmes in support of the Declaration and the NEMS.

# Annex B: Definition of Terms

## **Biological Diversity** (or biodiversity)

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.

## **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.

## **Economic Accounting**

The monetary quantification of a good or a service within an economic analysis, and particularly with respect to relevant natural resources and the environmental services they provide.

## **Environment**

The components of the earth, and includes:

- (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 Audit**

An assessment of the status of compliance with applicable environmental requirements and of the environmental compliance policies, practices and controls of any person or party.

## **Hazardous Waste**

Any waste that is defined as “hazardous” under the “Basel Convention for the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal”.

## **Impact Assessment**

A planning tool that predicts the impacts of an initiative on the environment using scientific techniques and which also identifies options for mitigating potential negative impacts together with residual negative impacts after the application of mitigation options.

## **Integrated Waste**

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**

An OECS Member State that is a signatory to the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the ODES.

## **Multilateral Environmental Agreement**

An 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. Examples include the "Rio Conventions" at the international level and the Cartagena Convention at the regional level. Such agreements also often include Protocols to cover collaboration on specific issues.

## **National Sustainable Development Strategy**

(also 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.

## **Polluter Pays Principle**

The principle that those who cause or contribute to any pollution incident are responsible for the costs of managing the pollution they cause.

## **Precautionary Approach**

Approach based on the principle that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health, natural resources or the environment, appropriate actions will be taken to protect human health, natural resources or the environment even though full scientific certainty may not have been established regarding all aspects of the threats.

## **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.

## Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

# The Components of the Results Chain: Definitions

- Goal:** The overall major qualitative change, in terms of environmental quality and productivity, economic performance or social development, to whose achievement a process or intervention aims to contribute.
- Objective:** Statement of the desired qualitative outcome or result that a process or intervention seeks to achieve.
- Outcome:** A measure of the actual or intended environmental, economic or social changes that the outputs of a process or intervention seek to support. The outcome is often expressed in terms of impacts.
- Output:** A specific product or service that an intervention produces in order to achieve intended outcomes, such as a policy statement, the enhancement of skills or the building of institutional capacity.
- Activity:** The task or set of tasks required to deliver an output. For example, a workshop on water quality monitoring will be an activity, the enhancement of skills in water quality monitoring will be the output, and an improvement in the quality of coastal areas being monitored will be an outcome.
- Target:** A specific value or situation to be accomplished by a particular date in the future. Targets represent commitments, and become the standards against which performance or degree of success will later be judged.
- Indicator:** A statistic or parameter that provides a means of measuring what actually happens against what has been planned in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness.



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