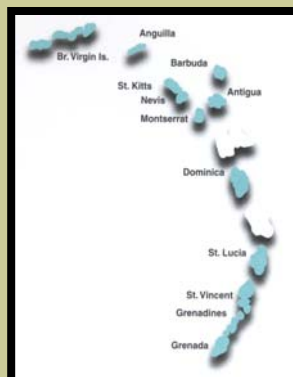




**OECS/ESDU  
UNIT**



**ONE PEOPLE,  
ONE REGION ...**



**HISTORIC SGD  
SIGNING**

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# SGD ANNIVERSARY INFO BRIEF

*AN INFORMATION  
EXCHANGE ...*



**Volume I, Issue I**

**31st March 2004**

## **Message from Director General: A TIME FOR REVIVAL & RENEWAL**



This year, 2004, the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) joins with our fellow OECS Member States (MS) and Focal Point Counterparts in observance of the third Anniversary of the historic signing of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD) on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

This observance is being commemorated under the theme 'A Time For Review And Renewal'.

This year's theme aptly captures the positioning, focus and direction of the SGD three years after its signing by the Member States. It ushers in the time to revisit our progress towards sustainable development in the OECS region and to assess the strides made in pursuit of our obligations towards the achievement of the objectives articulated within the principles of the SGD.

Sustainable development for our region must be aggressively pursued as a development option that ensures that the decisions and choices we make, are in concert with environmental practices and will enhance our standard of living without restricting the choices of future generations. The visioning behind the SGD is to protect, conserve, 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.

The SGD therefore constitutes a regional policy for achieving enhanced management of the environment, as a contribution to the attainment of sustainable development objectives geared towards enhancing the quality of life of the peoples of the OECS Region. The SGD is a key element within the OECS Development Charter and Implementation Plan which seek to capture the social, economic and ecological inter relationships that are fundamental to the sustainable development of the OECS region.

The articulation of the principles of the SGD are being effected through the implementation of the OECS Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS). With the assistance of the OECS Secretariat, Member States have embarked on the development of National Environmental Management Strategies, which will serve to guide the delivery of actions based on priority considerations for environmental management at national levels.

The establishment and subsequent implementation of these NEMS represent a major achievement towards mainstreaming environmental considerations into the day to day portfolios of the private and public sectors, as well as civil society. However, much more work needs to be undertaken by Member States to ensure the full integration of the principles of the SGD into respective national development agendas.

On this third anniversary of the signing of the SGD, let us work together within our respective communities and as a region to contribute all actions in support of the St. George's Declaration, and enjoy the rewards of a healthier environment for our collective enjoyment and use, now, and in the future.

**NEMS STRATEGIES ... ALIVE AND WELL! Play Your Part !**

## St. Georges Declaration of Principles (SGD) ... *Do You Know Them ?*

### RATIONALE

The people and governments of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have come together, to develop these principles by which human conduct affecting the Environment should be guided and judged.

Community and interest groups, government agencies and the private sector, are encouraged to undertake projects which will assist in the implementation of these principles.

### THE COMMITMENT

The governments of the Eastern Caribbean countries which form the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, have recognized that environmentally sustainable development is essential for the creation of jobs, a stable society, a healthy economy and the natural systems on which this depends.

The people and governments of the OECS region believe that everyone is entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

The governments have adopted these principles and expressed their commitment to provide the resources required for their implementation.

#### # 1 BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

The people and the governments of the region will together strive to reduce poverty, create jobs, improve on health and welfare. In so doing, care will be taken not to destroy the environment and introduce changes at a rate to which people cannot adapt.

#### # 2 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

All local, national and regional development policies and plans will be fully integrated to include environmental, social, cultural and economic factors which affect the small island systems of the region.

#### # 3 MORE EFFECTIVE LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS

The national and regional institutions which are responsible for the management of the natural resources in each country, will be strengthened to implement programmes, decisions and to enforce appropriate laws relating to the environment.

#### # 4 CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

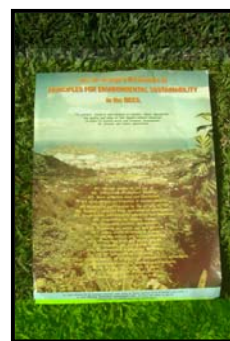
All public and private sector organizations responsible for the environment will ensure that all people, whether as groups or individuals, participate in decision-making on natural resources management and in the implementation of these decisions. They will be given every opportunity to share traditional knowledge on environmental management.

#### # 5 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Governments and the private sector will work together to ensure that business and commercial activity do not negatively affect human health and the environment. The private sector will be allowed input into the design of sustainable development activities and also be held accountable for negative impacts of their activities on the environment. Good environmental management practices make good business sense.

#### # 6 ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

New ways and means will be adopted to ensure that environmental priorities are reflected in economic development programmes and also ensure economic returns from the use of the natural resources. In all cases where individuals and institutions damage natural resources, they will pay for rehabilitation. Incentives will be provided for proper environmental management.



**# 7 BROAD-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

The public of the region have the right to information, training and education on environmental management in forms which they can easily understand and obtain at minimal costs. In particular, information on the practices and products which have a negative impact on the natural and cultural environment and on public health, will be shared.

**# 8 PREPARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

Governments will enact laws, create organizations and institutions and provide money to assist people and communities to adapt to the impact of climate change.

**# 9 INTEGRATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Governments will integrate disaster management initiatives with environmental priorities to help the peoples of the region in their preparation for and management of the impacts of natural and man-made disasters.

**# 10 PREVENTING AIR, WATER AND LAND POLLUTION**

Measures will be taken to prevent, reduce and control waste generation and disposal, as well as pollution of land, rivers, sea and the air. The people of the region will always strive to harmonise their approaches to waste management and recycle waste products.

**# 11 USING AVAILABLE RESOURCES WISELY**

The resources of the region must be used for the economic and social benefit for all, in a manner which will ensure that others who come after can also benefit from their use of these resources. There will be precaution against over exploitation. OECS governments will work together to guard those resources which are under the control of all the islands.

**# 12 PROTECTING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Governments, organizations and individuals will conserve and rehabilitate cultural monuments which are important to the peoples for cultural, scientific, aesthetic and spiritual reasons.

**# 13 PROTECTING PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES**

The flora and fauna and the ecosystems of the region will be conserved and protected. At the same time, the people and authorities must prevent the introduction of alien and modified species which may have a negative impact on the environment and their health. Endangered species and their habitats will be secured and protected.

**# 14 SENSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE**

The people and governments of the region will only engage in trade which does not lead to waste of natural resources or negatively affect conservation practices. The prices of all raw materials produced in the region must include their environmental costs.

**# 15 COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Our understanding and application of science and technology must take into consideration the natural and cultural environment. Research techniques will be harmonised and scientific and technical information will be shared on a regular basis, among the various interest groups in the region.

**# 16 USING ENERGY EFFICIENTLY**

The promotion of energy conservation through the use of energy efficient technologies and systems will be high priority for everyone in the region. However, the people of the region will expand their use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

## SGD ANNIVERSARY NEWS

We want to hear your  
comments, views on the  
integration of the SGD  
in your country ...

We want to hear your views,  
comments on the NEMS Strategy  
in your country ...



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## NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE MORE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ISLANDS ...

### # 17 JOINT DECISION-MAKING ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

The governments and peoples of the region will become increasingly active participants in international agreements on the environment. Joint regional positions will be reflected in these agreements.

### # 18 COORDINATED WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Environmental management programmes in the region, including those managed by international agencies, will be coordinated to avoid duplication of effort and ensure the efficient use of scarce funds. At the same time, the region will clearly and collectively present its needs to the international agencies.

### # 19 PUTTING THE PRINCIPLES TO WORK

The OECS governments will develop and adopt environmental management strategies to guide the implementation of these principles. There will also be cooperation and collaboration in areas where environmental issues and problems affect more than one country.

### # 20 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER STATES

The Member States of the OECS will recognise their commitment to the principles and put measures in place to ensure their implementation. Governments will report on progress of implementation at the annual meeting of the OECS Ministers of the Environment Policy Committee (EPC).

### # 21 REVIEW AND UPDATING OF THE PRINCIPLES

The principles will be reviewed after three years of implementation. Governments and the people of the OECS will then determine whether they will become binding on all Member States.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY !

Join  
the environmental management movement  
and apply the SGD principles  
to your daily,  
personal and community life ...

Contact the Ministries responsible for the Environment  
or a  
Community Organization in your Country ... Today !