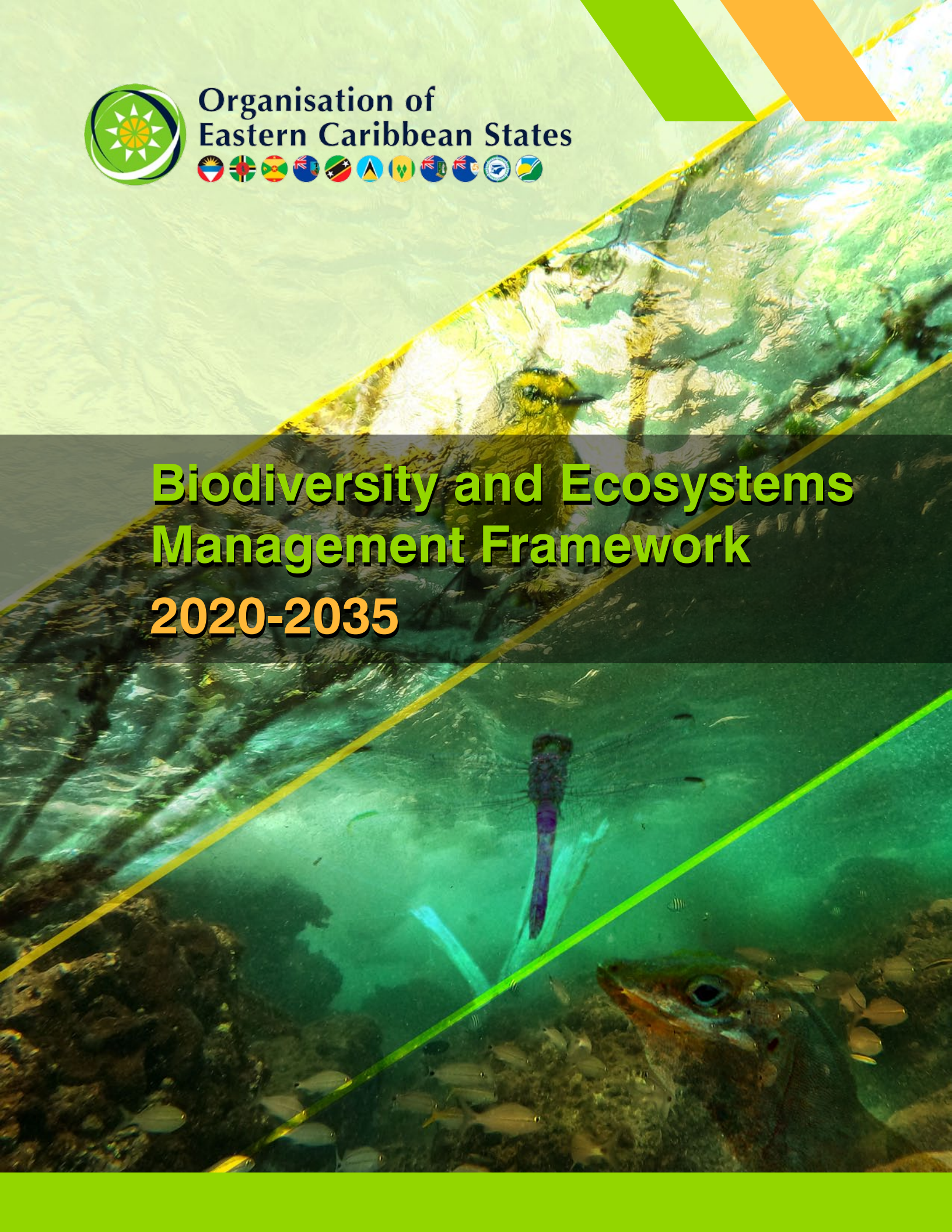




Organisation of
Eastern Caribbean States



Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework 2020-2035



Acknowledgements

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission is thankful for the partners, collaborators and contributors for their efforts in developing this document - The OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Framework and Strategic Action Plans (OECS-BEF). In particular, the guidance of Ms. Joan Norville and Ms. Norma Fevrier of the OECS Environmental Sustainability Cluster (OECS ESC) is acknowledged. The Framework and Action Plans were also shaped by the perspectives of the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC). In addition, thanks go out to all stakeholders who provided feedback on the OECS-BEF, including those who participated in online surveys, calls for comments and various webinars. The Commission is grateful for the project team which comprised of Dr. Natalie Boodram, Ms. Nicole Leotaud and Ms. Neema Ramlogan.

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June 2020



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefits Sharing
BEMC	OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CBS	Caribbean/CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy
COMES	OECS Council of Ministers: Environmental Sustainability
CROP	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EBM	Ecosystems-based Management
ECROP	Eastern Caribbean Ocean Policy and Strategy Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IPBES	International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
ISM	Island Systems Management
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution
LMO	Living Modified Organism
MS	MS
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-BEF	OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework
ODS-e	OECS Development Strategy – Environment Chapter
OECS ESC	OECS Environmental Sustainability Cluster
OTs	Overseas Territories
ReMLit	Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through a reduction in Marine Litter (ReMLit) Project”
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessments
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAPER	Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration
MPA	Marine Protected Area


Executive Summary

Globally, there has been a rapid decline of species and ecosystem biodiversity and health due to human activity. This is of great concern in the Member States (MS) of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) given the pivotal role of biodiversity and ecosystems in sustaining the region's economy and the livelihoods of its people. Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems has also been recognised as vital to building climate resilience in these islands. To guide the management of the region's biodiversity and ecosystems, the OECS established the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC) to serve as a governance and coordination mechanism. This body was endorsed by the OECS Council of Ministers: Environmental Sustainability (COMES) in 2019. One of the first activities of the BEMC through the OECS Commission's Environmental Sustainability Cluster (OECS ESC) was the recruitment of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to develop the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework (OECS-BEF). The purpose of the OECS-BEF is to address biodiversity and ecosystem issues that are best undertaken through a regional lens supporting common concerns, rather than those for which individual country specific interventions are more effective.

The development of the OEC-BEF was initiated with a Gap Analysis Study to identify priorities for the framework. The Gap Analysis Study included a literature review, priorities articulated by the BEMC and the results of an online survey conducted from August to September of 2019. This survey collected information on recent and current biodiversity initiatives within the OECS region. This information was analysed and synthesised to determine priorities for the OECS-BEF by applying filters to identify what were the critical regional biodiversity issues, what could be better addressed at the OECS regional scale instead of the national scale, what topics could be better addressed under other environmental frameworks, and what biodiversity issues were inadequately addressed in the region, therefore requiring attention under the OECS-BEF.

The Gap Analysis pointed to five key themes and a number of cross cutting issues that the OECS-BEF should address. These themes form the foundation of the OECS-BEF, with the overarching goal of providing a framework for a strategic, coordinated and transformational approach to the management of biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS, in order to achieve healthy and resilient ecosystems that provide goods and services to support socio-economic development and livelihoods for the people in the OECS while conserving the rich natural heritage of the region. Each theme has a specific vision, objective, targets, indicators and actions towards improved biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and sustainability. These themes are:

1. **Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems:** The objective is to secure ecosystem goods and services through protection, maintenance and restoration efforts for key ecosystems both within national territories and spanning transboundary areas. Targets include the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems of importance while emphasising pollution abatement measures.
2. **Invasive species management, biosecurity and biosafety:** The objective focuses on the protection of the OECS region against invasive alien species, biosafety and biosecurity threats. Target highlights include implementing a focused regional Invasive Alien Species (IAS) action plan and strengthening national level legislation and regulations associated with the Cartagena Convention Protocol on Biosafety.

- 
3. **Climate and disaster resilience:** The objective is to build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards. Key targets include advancing research, information sharing and data analysis on climate change impacts on the OECS region and use of protected area networks as a tool to enhance climate resilience.
 4. **Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources:** The objective is to equip OECS stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity and ecosystems while protecting their rights and benefits. Key targets include advancing the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS MS and developing a regional Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) model policy and guidelines to assist MS in developing their national systems as well as ensuring more harmonised systems within the region.
 5. **Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes:** The objective is to assess and integrate biodiversity and ecosystems information into national development processes. Targets focus on the integration of ecosystem valuation into decision-making and testing and promoting alternative economic development options that protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

For each of the priority themes identified, the strategy seeks to:

- catalyse and support the implementation of existing frameworks that directly or indirectly address priority themes;
- support, build on or harmonise OECS-BEF actions with current or upcoming initiatives;
- scale out those initiatives that have successfully addressed key issues across OECS MS, and scale up by institutionalising into national programmes, policies, laws, structures and processes; and
- develop new approaches and initiatives to address key issues and emerging concerns under each theme.

The implementation framework for the OECS-BEF requires strong emphasis on coordination, information and knowledge sharing, partnerships and stakeholder engagement, capacity building and resource mobilisation. The OECS Commission, supported by the OECS-BEMC, will review and assess implementation of the OECS-BEF in annual programming cycles. Participatory reviews will allow for implementation to be informed by ongoing learning and adaptation as needed; thus the OECS-BEF may be modified based on emerging needs and conditions. Communication of results of the monitoring and evaluation exercises to key stakeholders involved in implementation will help to build awareness and support, mobilise partners, and facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Overall, the OECS-BEF seeks to transform and advance the OECS biodiversity and ecosystem management landscape to effect maximum change through a targeted approach, addressing those issues that benefit from a regional approach. The framework will guide the development of regional projects and programmes as well as strategic alliances with development partners that would ensure that actions translate into meaningful and needed impact.

1. Introduction

The International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its 2019 Global Assessment, chronicled the rapid decline of species and ecosystems due to human activity, noting that around one million plant and animal species are facing extinction. The Report’s authors have called for “transformative change” to protect the earth’s rapidly dwindling biodiversity base via a “fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values.”¹



Figure 1. Maria Islands off the south coast of Saint Lucia face rising sea levels and other climate change threats

The OECS also recognises the need for this “transformational change” especially given the pivotal role of biodiversity and ecosystems in sustaining the goods and services which OECS²MS livelihoods and economies depend heavily on. Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems has been recognised as vital to building climate resilience in these islands. This need is particularly acute as the islands are coping with climate change impacts such as increased sea surface temperatures and sea level rise, greater intensity of storms and hurricanes, coastal erosion and other physical and ecological impacts. Climate change is also exacerbating the impacts of unsustainable human activity. Impacts such as habitat loss, land degradation, pollution from domestic, industrial and agricultural sources damage

ecosystems and their ability to provide vital services. Moreover, OECS governments and people are faced with the challenge of repeatedly trying to manage the region’s biodiversity while recovering from extreme weather events.

To guide the management of biodiversity and ecosystems, the OECS, through its administrative body, the OECS Commission, established the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC). This body was first convened in March 2019 and is comprised primarily of MS’ national biodiversity focal points. The BEMC is also seen as a governance and coordination mechanism to guide regional biodiversity management through channels such as the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Programme under the OECS Environmental Sustainability Cluster (OECS ESC) in the OECS Commission. One of the primary activities of the BEMC was the recruitment of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to develop the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework (OECS-BEF).

1. <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>
2. The OECS is a regional governance body for a group of twelve states and territories in the Eastern Caribbean. There are: seven founding members - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and four associate members - Anguilla, The British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique. St. Martin has observer status within the OECS. The OECS Commission is the administrative body of the OECS.

This framework comes on the heels of the development of the draft Caribbean Community (CARICOM)/ Caribbean Biodiversity Framework (CBS), which was developed by CANARI on behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat in 2018. The OECS-BEF aims to rapidly advance the most OECS-relevant priorities from the CBS as well as respond to OECS biodiversity-related directives such as the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS and the OECS Development Strategy – Environment Chapter (ODS–e). Like the CBS, the purpose of the OECS-BEF is to address biodiversity and ecosystem issues that are best undertaken through a regional lens supporting common concerns, rather than those for which individual country specific interventions are more effective. These are the initiatives where a regional approach for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean can maximise economies of scale, making best use of scarce financial, human and technical resources through a multi-country approach.

It is anticipated that the development of the OECS-BEF will allow for a coherent approach led by the OECS Commission to complement and bolster individual OECS MS’ biodiversity conservation strategies and action plans. Further, it is expected that the framework and its Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) will support OECS MS in meeting their obligations under relevant international commitments, such as the International Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and associated CBD Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) as well as inform the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The OECS-BEF will also advance a number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for example SDG 14 which aims to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources” and SDG 15 which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. The OECS-BEF will contribute to implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) in OECS MS.



Figure 2. Sandy Island, a Marine Protected Area/marine ecosystem in Grenada

2. Development of the OECS-BEF

2.1 Methodology

The development of the OEC-BEF was initiated with a Gap Analysis Study to identify priorities for the framework. The Gap Analysis Study included a literature review drawing heavily on the draft CBS and other frameworks recently designed by CANARI which summarised key issues and provided strategies for the management of the Caribbean’s biodiversity and ecosystems. Apart from the draft CBS (2018), these documents included the:

- Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile (2019)
- Draft Report on The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (in development 2020)

- Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP)

The literature review also captured information from:

- National biodiversity reports and strategies of OECS MS under the CBD
- OECS regional reports and OECS biodiversity-related frameworks (strategies, policies, model legislation)
- Wider Caribbean biodiversity-related frameworks
- International agreements

Additionally, the report documented priorities articulated by the BEMC at the Sixth Meeting of the OECS COMES held in May 2019. Further, it captured BEMC perspectives presented at a regional webinar in July 2019 as well as priority biodiversity management needs outlined by participants at the OECS-iLAND Resilience project closeout conference in April 2019. Lastly, the report chronicled and analysed the results of an online survey conducted from August to September of 2019 which collected information on recent and current biodiversity initiatives within the OECS region. Survey respondents included persons from government ministries, project managers and officers of biodiversity initiatives, civil society organisations (CSOs) and officers from regional and international organisations and academia.

The above information was analysed and synthesised within a Gap Analysis Report to determine priorities for the OECS-BEF by applying the following filters:

- What are the critical biodiversity issues of concern identified in the literature and by the BEMC and other stakeholders?
- What can be better addressed at the OECS regional scale than at the national scale?
- What issues can be better dealt with at the CARICOM scale?
- What topics can be better addressed within other frameworks?
- What are MS struggling with?
- What is not receiving enough attention as evidenced by a low number of national and regional projects and programmes addressing the specific biodiversity issue?

2.2 Results of the gap analysis study

The Gap Analysis Report pointed to five key themes and several cross-cutting issues that the OECS-BEF should address as summarised in the Table 2.1 below. The table also shows the relationship of these aspects to the objectives and goals of the draft CBS, which was the main point of reference for the OECS-BEF recognising that the OECS-BEF seeks to rapidly advance the most OECS relevant aspects of the CBS. Table 2.1 below also showcases specific focal areas that stakeholders highlighted within each theme and cross-cutting issue. These themes, focal areas and supporting activities were elaborated and built upon to develop the final strategy as detailed in Section 3.

Table 2.1 Summary of OECS-BEF themes, focal areas and activities emerging from the Gap Analysis

CBS Goal	CBS objective	Corresponding themes, specific areas of focus and initial activities suggested for the OECS-BEF
<p>Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets</p>	<p>Objective 1: To conserve species, particularly endangered and endemic species, and maintain and bolster genetic diversity including agricultural diversity throughout the region.</p>	<p>Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources</p> <p>Specific areas of focus included: Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, development of relevant Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) guidelines, and management of genetic resources of key species (e.g. wild varieties of agricultural crops and <i>Cannabis</i> sp.).</p>
	<p>Objective 2: To secure ecosystem goods and services, protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems, within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes, including using spatial planning approaches.</p>	<p>Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems</p> <p>Input on this theme focused most heavily on ecosystem restoration and pollution abatement. Overall there should be a greater emphasis on terrestrial ecosystems within an island systems management approach (ISM)³. For coastal and marine ecosystems, the OECS-BEF could focus specifically on maintaining or restoring key systems across transboundary seascapes within a marine planning framework.</p>

3. http://aquaticcommons.org/13310/1/gcfi_48-13.pdf

<p>Goal 2: To sustainably use ecosystem goods and services for national and regional development</p>	<p>Objective 3: To support sustainable biodiversity-based sectors, livelihoods and enterprises focusing on the management of shared regional resources.</p>	<p>Livelihoods and enterprises</p> <p>This did not emerge as a strong stakeholder priority/focus for the OECS-BEF; however, it is one of the mandates of the OECS ESC and is a key aspect of the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability. Given this, while the OECS-BEF may not focus heavily on livelihoods and enterprises, it could support the livelihoods and enterprises aspects under frameworks such as the OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan (in development) and existing ODS–e.</p>
	<p>Objective 4: To mainstream biodiversity within sectoral, national and regional plans as well as national budgets, accounting and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes</p> <p>Specific areas of focus included ecosystem valuations and the subsequent incorporation of the valuation information into national budgets’ accounting and reporting systems.</p>
<p>Goal 3: To address biodiversity threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources</p>	<p>Objective 5: To build the resilience of the region’s biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards.</p>	<p>Climate and disaster resilience</p> <p>This theme should emphasise management shifts to factor in climate and disaster induced changes to species populations, species geographic range etc.</p>
	<p>Objective 6: To protect the region against invasive alien species as well as biosafety and biosecurity threats.</p>	<p>Invasive species management, biosafety, biosecurity</p> <p>Specific areas of focus included development of a regional biosafety policy, and model biosafety and biotechnology legislation. The OECS-BEF should also advance actions and mobilise resources to support the implementation of the Action Plan for IAS in the OECS Region, currently under finalisation through other initiatives.</p>

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity

Objective 7: To ensure generation, storage and use of current, multi-source biodiversity information by Caribbean biodiversity managers, using accessible mechanisms in suitable formats for decision-making.

Inventory data

A specific need for inventory data was noted, with opportunities to integrate information into existing regional databases.

Objective 8: To develop and implement a coordinated regional approach to the implementation of the CBS through partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, private sector, regional and global agencies.

Coordination of funding

Regional coordination with regards to funding was noted as a concern, given that the OECS includes a number of British Overseas Territories (OTs) and more recently the French Departments in the region. The OTs are not always beneficiaries in regional projects given donor funding allocation criteria.

Objective 9: To equip Caribbean stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity while protecting their rights and benefits.

Not a strong priority/focus - described in general terms only.

Objective 10: To enhance regional resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation.

Regional coordination with regards to funding was noted as a challenge given that the OECS includes the OTs and French Departments (see Objective 8).

Objective 11: To harmonise regional and national legal, policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks to promote the sustainable use of Caribbean biodiversity.

Frameworks on ABS, invasive species, biosafety and biosecurity were priorities highlighted.

Objective 12: To establish coordinated planning, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting systems for biodiversity conservation.

A corresponding OECS-BEF system will have to be established.

2.3 Structure of the OECS-BEF

The OECS-BEF is presented in Section 3 below starting with an overarching vision and goal. This is followed by a series of five technical themes which are organised into tables with an objective, targets, indicators and actions elaborated under each theme. These themes (as showcased in Table 2.1 above) are:

- Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems
- Invasive species management, biosecurity and biosafety
- Climate and disaster resilience
- Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources
- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

To begin to address these themes it must be acknowledged that there has been significant work already executed within the OECS region that can be built upon. For instance, there are a number of strategies, plans and guidelines that already address some aspects of these themes. In these instances, it is sensible for the OECS-BEF to focus on supporting, implementing or updating these frameworks as needed. Similarly, there are a number of current initiatives that the OECS-BEF can contribute to, or facilitate participation in, to support the themes highlighted above. As well, there are a number of past successful initiatives that the OECS-BEF can scale horizontally (out) and vertically (up). Scaling out refers to the replication of an initiative from one area to another including across multiple countries and territories. Scaling up refers to the development of long-term programmes embedded within the work programmes of national and regional agencies. Also, where necessary, the OECS-BEF should showcase new approaches and initiatives to address key concerns under each theme. As such, for each of the priority themes identified, the strategy seeks to:

- catalyse and support the implementation of existing frameworks that directly or indirectly address priority themes;
- support, build on or harmonise OECS-BEF actions with current or upcoming initiatives; scale out those initiatives that have successfully addressed key issues across OECS MS, and scale up by institutionalising into programmes, policies, laws, structures and processes; and develop new approaches and initiatives to address key issues and emerging concerns under each theme.

A number of the actions in OECS-BEF outlined below are extracted directly from the CBS. Others are extracted from the CBS but modified to suit the OECS context. Finally, a few of the actions have been developed based on other national, regional and international biodiversity frameworks such as the:

- Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2021-2030) (in development)
- CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020)
- Zero Draft CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
- SAMOA Pathway actions



Figure 3: Fair and equitable access to agrobiodiversity is a key issue in the OECS Region

This approach ensures synergy and reduces duplication of activities in the implementation of these complementary frameworks. However, where necessary, unique OECS specific actions have been developed using the information and stakeholder perspectives from the data sources described in Section 2.

Similarly, the targets and indicators which constitute the monitoring and evaluation framework for the OECS-BEF are drawn primarily from frameworks above, in particular, the CBS. This approach was utilised recognising that the OECS MS already face a heavy burden to track and report on delivery of existing commitments under regional and international agreements, plans and policies. Thus, to minimise the reporting burden and to ensure maximum harmonisation, the targets and indicators outlined in the next section were also based on relevant regional and international frameworks. The full monitoring and evaluation framework is presented in Annex 1, highlighting the relevant sections of the respective frameworks. Given that a number of these frameworks are still in draft (e.g. the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework), the monitoring and evaluation framework can be updated as needed once these are finalised. As new agreements, strategies and plans are created, further mapping can be done to create a harmonised framework for tracking and reporting on actions under the five priority themes in the OECS-BEF.



Figure 4: Coastal ecosystem in St. Kitts and Nevis

Overall, the OECS-BEF seeks to transform and advance the OECS biodiversity and ecosystem management landscape to effect maximum change in the shortest possible time, recognising the rapid decline of species and ecosystems in the OECS and across the region and globe. It aims to be as targeted and as focused as possible, highlighting a few select themes and issues of priority to the region to rapidly advance, rather than a broader more diffused pathway. This targeted approach is presented in Section 3 below outlining the vision, goal, themes, objectives, targets and actions of the OECS-BEF.

3. OECS-BEF

3.1 Vision

Healthy and resilient biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS provide goods and services that support socio-economic development and livelihoods for its people while conserving the rich natural heritage of the region.

3.2 Goal

To provide a framework for a strategic, coordinated and transformational approach to the management of biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS.

3.3 Theme 1: Protection, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems

Ecosystem protection, maintenance and restoration is critical to safeguard the goods and services that the people of the OECS region depend on. This includes not only the goods that support individual livelihoods and national economic sectors, but also important ecosystem services such as food security, source water protection and climate mitigation. However, given the current degraded state of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems in the OECS region, the restoration component of this theme is critical. Ecosystem restoration has been emphasised in regional frameworks such as the OECS ODS–e and on a wider scale at the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ministers present at this 2018 meeting focused on the restoration of degraded ecosystems indicating that it “presents a transformative opportunity to focus in an integrated manner on the relationship between ecosystem degradation, desertification and combating climate change, and move towards compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda”. Ecosystem restoration is also embedded in Aichi Target 15 of the CBD and is further emphasised by the fact that 2021-2030 has been declared globally as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

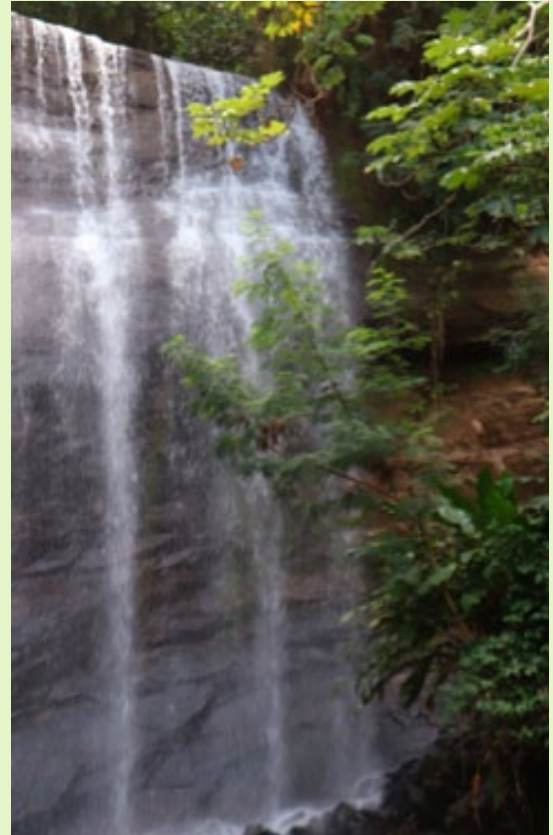


Figure 5. Aquatic ecosystem in Grenada

A thematic focus on restoration requires Caribbean specific research, making use of existing regional and international databases and platforms. It will also benefit from appropriate restoration guidelines for the different ecosystem types of the OECS region. This is particularly important for any post hurricane biodiversity recovery programmes including guiding the discussion on when and where it may be best to allow natural regeneration to take place, rather than any anthropogenic intervention.

Management of the impacts of domestic, agricultural and industrial pollution is also vital to protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems. For example, removal of pollutants from contaminated soil is often an important forest restoration component. Moreover, a wider regional thrust to reduce the generation and discharge of inadequately treated pollutants is required. These pollutants include greywater and black water, pesticide and fertiliser runoff and industrial waste from point and non-point sources. Marine litter is another concern as are land-based sources of marine pollution.

For ecosystem protection, maintenance and restoration, there should also be an emphasis on spatial planning as it pertains to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. There also needs to be the recognition of the inter-connectivity of ecosystems utilising an ISM perspective inclusive of ridge to reef and landscape level approaches for Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM).

Table 3.1: Theme 1- Protection, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems

Theme 1: Protection, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems

Objective: To secure ecosystem goods and services through protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems, while emphasising pollution abatement, within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes

Key targets:

- 1.1 Biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, inventories and monitoring conducted, and knowledge shared and used to inform decision-making and guide management actions
- 1.2 Pollution reduction measures implemented across the region
- 1.3 Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems protected and restored to provide critical ecosystem services
- 1.4 Land use planning, fiscal measures, and other tools used to support management of terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems

Key indicators

- 1.1 Percentage forest cover in relation to total land area
- 1.2 Concentration of key pollutants in freshwater and marine environments in relation to baseline levels
- 1.3 Percentage cover of coral reefs and seagrass beds in relation to total marine space
- 1.4 Percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) being managed through protected areas and other area-based conservation measures
- 1.5 Total area and percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) with ecosystems benefitting from restoration efforts

Implement existing frameworks

Link with current or upcoming initiatives

Scale successful initiatives up and out

Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives

Actions

- Support the implementation in OECS MS of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and the associated Protocol concerning Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS)
- Implement the ODS—e including interventions to:
 - o Protect the environment while creating new economic opportunities
 - o Protect ecosystem services
 - o Rehabilitate/restore ecosystems
 - o Utilise and promote EBM approaches for cross-sectoral and adaptive management of landscapes and seascapes

- Populate/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:
 - o Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystem restoration
 - o Landscape approaches for ecological connectivity
 - o Wildfire management
 - o Management of domestic, agricultural and industrial pollutants including land-based sources of marine pollution and marine litter to reduce contamination levels in key ecosystems
 - o Bioremediation of contaminated sites

- Map, assess and scale up/out successful Caribbean initiatives to protect critical ecosystems, emphasising multi-stakeholder approaches with the engagement of civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector to promote:
 - o ISM approaches
 - o Watershed management including management of land-based sources of marine pollution
 - o Integrated landscape approaches for protected areas emphasising connectivity
 - o Source water protection
 - o Adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change and natural hazards

- Develop a regional biodiversity research agenda inclusive of research on marine, terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems. This includes species inventory and monitoring data which have been identified as a critical need for the OECS
- Develop mechanisms to encourage biodiversity conservation on private lands, including land use tax easements and other land management initiatives
- Establish and promote OECS specific ecosystem restoration guidelines and benchmarks for countries to adapt to their national contexts
- Develop, finance and implement regional ecosystem restoration initiatives focusing on degraded areas and key ecosystems especially those important for food and water security as well as those critical for adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate

Biodiversity Information Facility and the Global Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration (STAPER). One possible Caribbean online database to use or strengthen is the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway.

- Support pollution management activities under current OECS initiatives e.g. the project on “Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through a reduction in Marine Litter (ReMLit)”
- Participate in global activities in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- Generate and depict accurate terrestrial, coastal, freshwater and marine ecosystem data (including national and transboundary mapping of protected and conservation areas, sensitive habitats and species ranges) to identify priority areas for biodiversity management and restoration building on regional marine spatial planning projects such as the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP)
- Revise national and regional spatial (land and marine area) plans and policies to be biodiversity-sensitive and promote adherence to these revised plans and policies building on initiatives such as the CROP

change and natural hazards. These initiatives should also address the underlying causes of degradation such as domestic, agricultural and industrial pollution and take into account relevant baseline conditions in deciding the restoration goals and targets. At least one of these initiatives should focus on the rehabilitation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and associated wetlands

- Develop regional initiatives for management of transboundary ecosystems (e.g. cross-national protected area networks) and biodiversity (e.g. migratory species)
- Build capacity of OECS MS to engage in regional actions for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in international waters adjacent to the OECS

3.4 Theme 2 Invasive species management, biosafety and biosecurity

IAS are a significant threat to the biodiversity of the OECS MS given the high level of endemism in the region set against a backdrop of regional integration and the free movement of goods and services in the OECS. The IAS threat is expected to be more severe in the future given the likely competitive advantage IAS will have under climate change scenarios predicted for the region. For example, some plant IAS may be better able to tolerate the drier rainfall regime predicted for the Caribbean. IAS are also a significant transboundary threat and thus a fitting focus of the OECS-BEF. Biosafety is another transboundary issue of concern, specifically the management of living modified organisms (LMOs) to reduce potential negative impacts on human health, plants and animals. Internationally, biosafety concerns are addressed under the CBD through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This Protocol entered into force in 2003 and has been ratified by OECS MS. However, MS have expressed a need for support for the implementation of the Protocol. Both IAS and biosafety management are key biosecurity issues where biosecurity refers to the “strategic and integrated approach to analysing and managing relevant risks to human, animal and plant life and health and associated risks to the environment.”⁴

In addressing this theme, the OECS region can build on existing OECS frameworks like the regional IAS Action Plan and learn from successes from past projects such as the recently concluded Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on “Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean”.

Table 3.2: Theme 2- Invasive species management, biosafety and biosecurity

Theme 2: Invasive species management, biosafety and biosecurity

Objective: To protect the OECS region against invasive alien species, biosafety and biosecurity threats

Key targets:

- 2.1 OECS-IAS Regional Action Plan (2016-2025) implemented
- 2.2 National legislation and regulations strengthened to address IAS and implement the CBD Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- 2.3 Initiatives to manage IAS and LMOs of priority concern evaluated and scaled up and out where appropriate

Key Indicators

- 2.1 Number of IAS and LMOs of priority concern being actively managed
- 2.2 Area of sites where IAS initiatives are being implemented
- 2.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for management of IAS

Implement existing frameworks

Link with current or upcoming initiatives

Scale successful initiatives up and out

Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives

Actions

- Implement the updated OECS Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regional Action Plan 2016-2025)
- Implement the regional biosafety plan
- Implement the ODS–e including projects to manage invasive species and implement biosafety interventions

- Assist MS to fulfill obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Utilise existing networks and information sharing platforms such as the Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Network and the Sargassum online forum to support IAS and biosafety management interventions
- Populate/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:
 - o IAS management under regional climate change scenarios predicted for the Caribbean region
 - o IAS management to protect food security

- Scale out experiences with managing invasive plant species, for example building on successes in managing lemon grass in Dominica, targeting replication to MS like St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda which are also struggling with this IAS
- Analyse, document and share best practices from the Caribbean and beyond on managing lionfish and Sargassum
- Strengthen OECS engagement in regional and international IAS initiatives

- Develop regional research agenda inclusive of research into IAS impacts and management within marine, terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems
- Develop OECS model legislation to assist MS to develop or update national legislation and regulations to address IAS using a harmonised approach
- Build awareness, capacity and mechanisms for engagement for civil society and government. security agencies (e.g. Coast Guard, Customs/Border Control and Police Force) to address the movement of IAS across borders
- Develop a regional initiative to manage the entry of priority IAS into the region as well as their intra-regional movement, including elements of early detection and response to prevent species establishment. This should also include measures to ensure goods, materials and equipment entering the region are sanitised prior to entry
- Develop a regional policy and model legislation on LMOs and support the national level implementation of LMO legislation including capacity building and stakeholder engagement

3.5 Theme 3 Climate resilient ecosystems

Climate change and climate variability are expected to have multiple impacts on the species and ecosystems of the OECS region. Impacts are due to slow onset events (e.g. reduced rainfall, rising temperatures, sea level rise and ocean acidification) as well as rapid onset events such as intense hurricanes. Hurricanes, for example, can cause structural damage to trees or at higher intensities lead to immediate plant death. Overall, hurricanes lead to habitat loss and a reduction in plant and animal biodiversity in affected areas. Examples of the impact of slow onset climate changes include coral bleaching due to rising temperatures and reduced freshwater habitat due to reduced rainfall regimes. Climate change effects can also be indirect, for example rising temperatures result in more wildfires and subsequent loss of species and habitat. Specific changes are likely to differ based on local geographic characteristics and also the current health of the ecosystem; for example, a heavily polluted ecosystem is likely to be less resilient to climate change. The net impact of all these effects on the region's biodiversity is likely to be negative⁵ especially in the vulnerable OECS region given high levels of species endemism, limited land areas and current high levels of habitat degradation.



Figure 6. The likely increased incidence of wildfires due to climate change is a significant threat to the region's biodiversity

Climate change adaptation is a pivotal issue for the OECS region and to date there are many projects and initiatives that address this, for example the current Green Climate Fund project for a Climate-Resilient Water Sector in Grenada. Many of these projects use an ecosystem-based approach to climate adaptation, for example reforestation on steep slopes to reduce landslides and soil erosion during storms and hurricanes. This approach should continue, however, a specific gap that exists is the direct management of species and ecosystems to address the impacts of climate change on the health of the ecosystems themselves. If these threats are addressed, ecosystems will be healthier and, in turn, be better able to facilitate ecosystem-based adaptation approaches as well as contribute to climate mitigation through carbon sequestration. Specific management interventions could include, for example, developing wildlife corridors to facilitate migration of species to cooler locales in response to rising temperatures. These management interventions should be guided by current Caribbean-specific research or, if not available, research from comparable geographic areas in the short-term. However, in the long-term, Caribbean-specific data are needed as well as long-term species and ecosystem monitoring studies.

Mobilising climate finance to support actions which focus on adjusting biodiversity and ecosystem management regimes to climate change is also a strong need. Once the management of ecosystems is adjusted to cope with climate change impacts on them, the ecosystems and accompanying ecosystem services are then better able to facilitate ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and are also better able to support climate mitigation.

5. CANARI. 2019. Caribbean Critical Ecosystem Profile. Barataria: CANARI

Table 3.3: Theme 3- Climate resilient ecosystems

Theme 3: Climate resilient ecosystems

Objective: To build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards

Key targets:

- 3.1 Research, information sharing and analysis of existing data on the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the OECS region advanced
- 3.2 Protected area networks used as a tool to enhance resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change
- 3.3 Regional initiatives developed to address the impact of climate change and natural hazards on biodiversity
- 3.4 Policy and institutional frameworks developed or updated to support adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change

Key indicators

- 3.1 Number of OECS MS with national adaptation plans, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and/or other climate plans and policies that include specific support for adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change
- 3.2 Area of land and marine space benefitting from initiatives to build resilience of biodiversity to the impacts of climate change

Implement existing frameworks

Link with current or upcoming initiatives

Scale successful initiatives up and out

Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives

Actions

- Implement the Eastern Caribbean Ocean Policy and Strategy Action Plan (ECROP)
- Implement the OECS Marine Research Strategy

- Include specific management measures to support adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change in national adaptation plans, NBSAPs and other plans and policies
- Populate/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:
 - o Species and ecosystem responses to climate change
 - o Species that are resilient to slow onset climate change impacts (for example increasing temperatures) as well as those resilient to rapid onset impacts (for example extreme weather events)
 - o Management of species, ecosystems and protected areas in response to Caribbean climate change scenarios
 - o Ecosystem restoration after extreme weather events

- Analyse results and lessons from coral reef, mangrove and other wetland restoration initiatives (e.g. from Grenada) and replicate initiatives in other MS

- Address climate change issues under the regional biodiversity research agenda inclusive of research into the impacts of climate change and management of climate change within marine, terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems
- Initiate long-term monitoring studies on the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the OECS region
- Update protected and conservation area management plans to be more climate resilient
- Implement, monitor and evaluate climate resilient protected and conservation area management plans emphasising landscape approaches
- Develop and implement initiatives focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem management to address climate change impacts including:
 - o management for slow onset and rapid onset events
 - o focusing on ecosystems that are most vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards
 - o restoration of degraded ecosystems to build resilience

3.6 Theme 4: Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources

The relatively large number of endemic species in the OECS region represents a unique, economically valuable genetic resource base. Equally valuable is the indigenous knowledge surrounding the use, preparation and processing of these resources for medicines, food security and other purposes. Both the genetic base and the accompanying knowledge resource are important assets that need protection to ensure that the economic benefits support local communities, national stakeholders and national economic growth.

Ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS is one way that OECS MS can protect their unique natural heritage. This Protocol addresses the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, emphasising the rights of local communities and indigenous people. However, ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by the MS of the OECS has been slow, despite regional initiatives such as the recent GEF Project on “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region”, aimed at generating awareness of and support for the Nagoya Protocol. This project developed virtual knowledge platforms, databases and relevant permitting systems; however, OECS MS need greater support in terms of developing regional and national technical capacity and advancing the development of appropriate national legislation, policies and effective ABS systems and procedures.

Table 3.4: Theme 4- Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources

Theme 4: Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources

Objective: To equip OECS stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity and ecosystems while protecting their rights and benefits

Key targets:

- 4.1 Advance ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS MS
- 4.2 Develop and implement a regional ABS model policy and guidelines

Key indicators

- 4.1 Value and percentage increase in benefits, shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- 4.2 Number of plant and animal genetic resources subject to ABS regulation in OECS MS
- 4.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for ABS

Implement existing frameworks

Link with current or upcoming initiatives

Scale successful initiatives up and out

Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives

Actions

- Implement the ODS—e including projects to:
 - o Facilitate ABS among OECS stakeholders
 - o Advance ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS MS

- Analyse the results and lessons from current regional initiatives and frameworks for biodiversity ABS, for example the recent GEF Project on “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region” to identify the regional way forward in terms of remaining gaps and areas of weakness

- Build on and scale out existing efforts to document local and traditional knowledge on biodiversity, including ensuring this information is included in databases and knowledge platforms

- Develop a regional ABS model policy and guidelines including:
 - o Guidelines for operation, duties and responsibilities of the Competent National Authorities
 - o Guidelines on the management of Cannabis genetic resources including fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits
- Support the revision and updating of national environmental management strategies, national environment policies and laws, NBSAPs and other biodiversity related strategies to include ABS provisions
- Develop initiatives to identify, secure and maximise use of the region’s genetic biodiversity including that of wild species and varieties, in support of regional food security

3.7 Theme 5: Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

The need to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem values into national development processes in the OECS region has been well documented in MS' NBSAPs as well as in the OECS ODS-e. It was also highlighted as a significant gap in the online survey conducted for the Gap Analysis Report in developing the OECS BEF. This need includes the general recognition of the value of natural capital in national policy formulation as well as the specific use of biodiversity values when conducting site specific Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for development control. It also includes use of ecosystem valuations for initiatives addressing damage, loss and rehabilitation of ecosystems as a result of natural hazards and climate change. A major challenge contributing to the regional deficiency is using biodiversity values in decision-making is the lack of regional technical capacity to conduct ecosystem evaluations and to develop environmentally adjusted national accounts. Apart from the technical capacity issues, another significant challenge is obtaining decision-maker buy-in for the use of environmentally adjusted national accounting systems. In addressing this issue there have been some economic valuation initiatives which can be built on. such as the current National Ecosystem Assessment of Grenada that is not only focused on the ecosystem valuation aspect but also the use of this information in decision-making.

Table 3.5: Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Theme 5: Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Objective: To assess and integrate biodiversity and ecosystems information and values into national development processes

Key targets:

- 5.1 Biodiversity and ecosystem values assessed and incorporated into EIAs, SEAs and economic and financial decision-making
- 5.2 Alternative economic development options that protect biodiversity and ecosystems tested and promoted
- 5.3 Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans better reflect consideration of priorities for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Key indicators:

- 5.1 Number of OECS MS with environmentally adjusted national accounts
- 5.2 Number of OECS MS with ecosystem and biodiversity values incorporated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, and sectoral policies and plans
- 5.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for the use of ecosystem valuation in EIAs and SEAs

Implement existing frameworks

Link with current or upcoming initiatives

Scale successful initiatives up and out

Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives

Actions

- Support the development, adoption and implementation of the OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan and the OECS ODS-e

- Populate/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:
 - Ecosystem valuation methodologies and tools
 - Incorporation of biodiversity/natural capital values into:
 - o Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans
 - o EIAs and SEAs
 - o National budgets and accounts
 - Identify and/or develop models or templates showcasing how biodiversity/natural capital values can be incorporated into:
 - o Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans
 - o EIAs and SEAs
 - o National budgets and accounts
 - Raise awareness and disseminate data and knowledge to support the consideration of biodiversity/natural capital values by decision makers in national and sectoral policies, plans and national accounts

- Assess lessons from the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment process for possible replication to other MS
- Review and collate templates and lessons from Caribbean projects and relevant global initiatives (e.g. in other SIDS) which have developed sustainable financial mechanisms for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems (e.g. blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, Social Impact Bonds and Development Impact Bonds, crowdsourcing diaspora funding, contingently recoverable grant resources, blue levies and insurance investments) and use these to develop new and innovative tools for sustainable financing which could be tested in the region using blended finance approaches and public-private partnerships

- Support the integration of biodiversity/natural capital values into national and sectoral plans and strategies, EIAs and SEAs, and national accounts
- Research and pilot initiatives for development of economic and livelihood opportunities supported by and contributing to healthy ecosystems and promote as viable development alternatives
- Develop regional initiatives to integrate biodiversity management holistically into agricultural systems, for example through:
 - o Permaculture
 - o The use of multiple plant varieties
 - o Reducing the impacts of agrochemicals on pollinators and other wildlife
 - o Improving biodiversity of soil microflora and fauna to build soil fertility
- Assess and adjust existing subsidies incentives, legal and policy frameworks which impact on biodiversity, to promote biodiversity conservation
- Develop and implement fiscal incentives (e.g. land use tax easements) which promote biodiversity conservation on private lands

4. Implementation framework

Rapid implementation of the OECS-BEF requires a strong emphasis on coordination, information and knowledge sharing, partnerships and stakeholder engagement, capacity building and resource mobilisation. These factors are critical given the diversity of the OECS MS, particularly recognising that a number of British and French OTS are Associate MS. This diversity should also be utilised in terms of capacity building and information sharing, drawing on the different experiences and resources that the MS including Associate MS possess. Details of the OECS-BEF implementation framework are provided in Table 5.1. below including specific implementation targets and actions.

4.1 Coordination

Coordination of implementation, monitoring and review of the OECS-BEF will be facilitated through the OECS ESC with support from the OECS-BEMC. OECS MS will be responsible for coordinating actions at the national and local levels, including through the creation of enabling conditions, policy coherence and fostering collaboration among national stakeholders. National focal points on the OECS-BEMC will facilitate flows of information between national and regional levels.

Annual Work Plans of the OECS ESC will include actions to support coordination and review of implementation of the OECS-BEF, as well as development of regional initiatives for implementation of priority actions in the OECS-BEF. The OECS ESC will ensure coordination of work with other clusters/units in the OECS Commission and with initiatives under implementation by development partners, and alignment of these initiatives to support implementation of the OECS-BEF.

Implementation will build on past initiatives, ensuring synergies with current and planned initiatives, and leveraging opportunities to influence the development of new initiatives to address priorities identified in the OECS-BEF.

4.2 Information management and knowledge sharing

The importance of appropriate information to guide decision-making for biodiversity management was identified as a critical need during the development of the OECS-BEF. This includes biodiversity inventories, data from scientific research, and local and traditional knowledge. As far as possible, existing regional and national databases and knowledge platforms (e.g. the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway,⁶ the CLME+ Hub⁷) will be leveraged to support implementation of the OECS-BEF. Where necessary, additional databases and platforms will be created to support information management and knowledge sharing for each of the five themes in the OECS-BEF. Maximum use will be made of information and communication technologies including online and mobile technologies. Ensuring that national databases and platforms can be integrated to support regional knowledge sharing will be critical.

6. <http://caribbeanprotectedareasgateway.com/>

7. <https://clmeplus.org/>

4.3 Communication and capacity building

Targeted communication to raise awareness and commitment of stakeholders to support implementation of the OECS-BEF will be conducted. Key audiences will include policy makers and technocrats across all sectors to support mainstreaming of biodiversity in sectoral and national development, including in regulation of land use and physical development initiatives. Engaging local community resource users and groups will also be important to promote sustainable use and livelihoods that protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Needs assessments will be conducted to identify capacity building priorities under each of the five themes in the OECS-BEF. These assessments will identify needs of key government agencies in the OECS MS and the OECS Commission, as the key stakeholders responsible for implementation of the OECS-BEF, as well as capacity needs of civil society, private sector and academia to be able to effectively collaborate on implementation of the OECS-BEF. Based on these assessments, targeted capacity building programmes suitable for the OECS context will be developed and implemented. These programmes will draw on and adapt from existing capacity building best practices used in the Caribbean, other SIDS and elsewhere. Programmes will go beyond training and incorporate a mix of coaching, peer exchange, mentoring, demonstration, practical experience and action learning to ensure effective and sustained change in knowledge, skills, behaviour and systems. Opportunities for efficiency through regional capacity building and synergies with other initiatives will be maximised.

4.4 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Successful implementation of the OECS-BEF will require joint effort by national, regional and intergovernmental stakeholders as well as broad-based participation by government agencies, civil society, the private sector and the research/academic community. Partnerships with stakeholders from civil society, the private sector and academia will support the roll out of the strategy and will be a critical element of its implementation, particularly in efforts to share and scale-up good-practice and test new tools and approaches.

The OECS Commission and MS should continue to develop and strengthen strategic alliances to advance implementation of the OECS-BEF. A priority is partnerships with regional and international agencies with mandates for biodiversity conservation which can help access to global resources (see section 4.5).

4.5 Resource mobilisation

The OECS-BEF will be used as a framework and guide for development of regional and national projects and programmes and strategic alliances with development partners. Multiple sources of funding will need to be mobilised including multi-lateral environmental and climate funds, national conservation trust funds, bilateral support, grants from private foundations, corporate philanthropy and technical assistance. Regional coordination with regards to funding will be given special attention factoring in that the OECS includes OTs which may not qualify for certain types of funding.

Mobilisation of resources for implementation of the strategy will be guided by the mapping and assessment of potential funding sources, projects and programmes to identify potential synergies and gaps. A dossier of concepts will be developed to support fundraising. Periodic donor roundtables will be held to encourage donors to include OECS-BEF priorities in their investment programmes. Engagement of civil society, academia and other stakeholders as partners in implementation of the OECS-BEF will open windows to new avenues for funding and partnerships. Key targets and actions for resource mobilisation for the OECS-BEF as well as other implementation aspects are outlined in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Targets and actions for implementation

	Key targets	Actions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OECS Commission effectively coordinating implementation of the OECS-BEF in the sub-region ■ OECS-BEMC providing strategic guidance by serving as advisory or steering committees for regional biodiversity and ecosystem projects ■ OECS-BEMC national focal points acting as liaisons for national biodiversity projects, identifying areas of synergy among countries and proposing regional projects based on synergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Facilitate regular meetings of the OECS-BEMC to facilitate strategic input and coordination of implementation of the OECS-BEF ■ Support collaboration and coordination among government agencies, civil society, regional and international partners, including using mechanisms such as web-based platforms hosted by the OECS Commission and the meetings of the COMES
Information and knowledge sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local and traditional knowledge captured, documented and shared to inform decision-making ■ Online knowledge sharing platforms used to share local, traditional and scientific knowledge on the management of biodiversity across the OECS sub-region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a research agenda and standardised protocols for information sharing for priority areas under OECS-BEF themes, drawing on Montserrat’s experience with this ■ Engage regional universities to execute OECS-BEF research agendas ■ Continue to support data generation, collation and sharing of research outcomes, best practices and project outputs maximising use of online open access and shared platforms

- Facilitate community, civil society and private sector engagement in conducting biodiversity inventories (including via citizen science) incorporating the use of local and traditional knowledge
- Build capacity for the use of information gathering and sharing techniques appropriate for the Caribbean region and those integrating scientific methodologies with community-based approaches and the capture of local and traditional knowledge
- Package and disseminate information generated in forms appropriate for different target audiences (e.g. policy makers and civil society)

Communication and capacity building

- Targeted communication and capacity building strategies for implementation of the OECS-BEF developed and being used
- Expanded human resource base to implement the OECS-BEF developed
- Develop a suite of communication products to raise awareness of different target audiences about the OECS-BEF
- Implement regional capacity building programmes to address regional biodiversity valuation and natural capital accounting capacity gaps by incorporating relevant training programmes into university and technical continuing education programmes and curricula in the region
- Build capacity of all relevant stakeholders, including communities (CSOs) to expand the human resource base for the implementation of the OECS-BEF
- Engage and build the capacity of retirees and volunteers where appropriate to assist in the implementation of the OECS-BEF

- Build regional shared capacity for management through development of centres of excellence focusing on specific issues (e.g. management of Sargassum) and facilitate collaboration across MS to share expertise (e.g. using inter-country IAS hunter/ eradication groups)
- Conduct regional peer exchanges and establish communities of practice to share experiences across MS and to support scaling out

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

- Intra-regional partnerships established or strengthened among MS governments to support implementation of the OECS-BEF
- National mechanisms strengthened for cross-sectoral information sharing, coordination and collaboration across government agencies
- Civil society and the private sector playing an effective role as OECS-BEF implementation partners
- OECS Commission brokers development of partnerships among MS' governments, including with the French OTs
- Evaluate existing cross-sectoral mechanisms and document and share lessons and recommendations among OECS MS to support continued strengthening of national mechanisms
- Develop stakeholder engagement strategies to guide involvement of key civil society and private sector target stakeholders in implementation of the OECS-BEF, and periodically review and update as needed
- Include a budget allocation (e.g. 10-15%) in OECS sub-regional projects to support a role for civil society and the private sector in implementation, including via sub-granting

Resource mobilisation

- The OECS Commission serves as an effective focal point for Caribbean stakeholders and international development partners seeking to support OECS-BEF activities in the region
- Map and assess potential funding sources
- Develop and maintain an online database of projects, programmes and initiatives for biodiversity management in the OECS to enhance coordination and identification of synergies and gaps

- Private investment leveraged to support implementation of the OECS-BEF
- Develop projects, programmes and initiatives to address priorities and gaps, including via partnerships and through sustainable financing initiatives and investment plans
- Develop a dossier of regional project concepts that the OECS ESC can take to donors
- Conduct periodic donor roundtables, including at COMES meetings
- Engage with donors to advocate for inclusion of OECS-BEF priorities in donor programming
- Engage regional and national philanthropists to support actions under the OECS-BEF
- Explore corporate social responsibility as a mechanism for funding for the OECS-BEF
- Support OECS MS in accessing climate financing for biodiversity conservation

5. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

5.1 Process

The OECS-BEF will be implemented through a series of annual programmes in keeping with the programming cycle of the OECS Commission. The OECS-BEMC, with support from the OECS Commission, will review and assess, in annual programming cycles, implementation of the OECS-BEF as a functional framework for sub-regional cooperation, including supporting common actions that advance implementation of regional and international conventions, agreements and initiatives.

Annual reports on implementation of the OECS-BEF will be prepared by OECS ESC. As a living document with scope for modification based on emerging needs and conditions (such as the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework), participatory reviews will allow for implementation to be informed by ongoing learning and adaptation or updating as needed. These reviews will be conducted every 3-5 years by the OECS ESC, culminating in a final independent evaluation.

Communication of results of the monitoring and evaluation exercises to key stakeholders involved in implementation will help to build awareness and support, mobilise partners, and facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building. Table 6.2 outlines key targets and indicators for this process.

Table 5.1: Targets and actions for the process of monitoring, evaluation and learning

	Key targets	Actions
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sub-regional reports produced on implementation of the OECS-BEF ■ National reports on biodiversity and ecosystem management include reference to contribution to implementation of the OECS-BEF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish database and track contribution of projects, programmes and initiatives to achievement of targets in the OECS-BEF ■ Undertake participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises every 3-5 years to assess progress and lessons learnt in implementation of the OECS-BEF ■ Disseminate monitoring and evaluation framework for implementation of the OECS-BEC to MS and conduct outreach and capacity building to support national actions ■ Produce reports on findings of monitoring and evaluation and disseminate to key target audiences including in MS ■ Harmonise monitoring and reporting and align monitoring and reporting with targets under regional and national commitments (e.g. the George’s Declaration, SDGs and the CBD)

Annex 1 Results framework for monitoring and evaluation of the OECS-BEF

Theme 1: Protection, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems

OECS-BEF key targets:

- 1.1 Biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, inventories and monitoring conducted, and knowledge shared and used to inform decision-making and guide management actions
- 1.2 Pollution reduction measures implemented across the region
- 1.3 Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems protected and restored to provide critical ecosystem services
- 1.4. Land use planning, fiscal measures, and other tools used to support management of terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems.

OECS-BEF recommended indicators

- 1.1 Percentage cover of forest cover (including freshwater and coastal wetlands) in relation to total land area
- 1.2 Concentration of key pollutants in freshwater and marine environments in relation to baseline levels
- 1.3 Percentage cover of coral reefs and seagrass beds in relation to total marine space
- 1.4 Percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) being managed through protected areas and other area-based conservation measures
- 1.5 Total area and percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) with ecosystems benefitting from restoration efforts

Relevant targets / indicators / actions in regional and global agreements, strategies and plans used to develop the OECS-BEF targets and Indicators

Draft CBS (2020-2030) targets	Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2021-2030)		CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets (from Zero draft January 6, 2020)	2030 Sustainable Development Agenda		Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) targets	SAMOA Pathway actions
	Targets	Indicators		Targets	Indicators		

- 20% of the marine exclusive economic zones of Members of CARICOM is protected with accompanying management plans
- 15% of the area of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in Members of CARICOM is under active restoration for enhanced biodiversity and ecological functioning
- 40% of the land and marine exclusive economic zones of Members of CARICOM is managed using ecosystem-based approaches.
- 10% reduction in the area of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in Members of CARICOM

Activities [for restoration] commenced at 30% of proposed restoration sites within the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) listed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2026

- Coverage by zoning schemes or other formal conservation/protection mechanisms for important coral reef, mangrove and seagrass sites
- Number of new sites with habitats of outstanding ecological value listed under the SPAW Protocol, Article 7
- Published manuals and procedures [on restoration] available to MPA managers

Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increasing by at least 50% the land and sea area under comprehensive spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, connectivity and integrity and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness

- By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and taking action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

- Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
- Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
- Forest area as a proportion of total land area

- The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management
- Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation

- To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures
- Conserve by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas in SIDS especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment

■ 15% of the area of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in Members of CARICOM is under active restoration for enhanced biodiversity and ecological functioning

■ Initiatives for restoration of critical ecosystems in at least five Members of CARICOM have delivered measurable improvements in delivery of ecosystem services (for example, shoreline protection, slope stabilisation, watershed functioning, carbon capture)

■ 5% increase in the land area covered by mangroves in at least five Members of CARICOM is achieved

■ Training programmes implemented [on restoration]

■ Restoration activities undertaken at priority sites for coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses

■ Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least 60% of such sites and at least 30% of land and sea areas with at least 10% under strict protection

■ By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

■ Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

Theme 2: Invasive species management, biosafety and biosecurity

OECS-BEF key targets

1.1 OECS-IAS Regional Action Plan (2016-2025) implemented.

1.2 National legislation and regulations strengthened to address IAS and implement the CBD Cartagena Convention Protocol on Biosafety.

1.3 Initiatives to manage IAS and LMOs of priority concern evaluated and scaled up and out where appropriate.

OECS-BEF recommended indicators

2.1 Number of IAS and LMOs of priority concern being actively managed

2.2 Area of sites where IAS initiatives are being implemented

2.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for management of IAS

Relevant targets / indicators / actions in regional and global agreements, strategies and plans used to develop the OECS-BEF targets and Indicators

Draft CBS (2020-2030) targets	Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/ or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2021-2030)		CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets (from Zero draft January 6, 2020)	2030 Sustainable Development Agenda		Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) targets	SAMOA Pathway actions
	Targets	Indicators		Targets	Indicators		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Existing national IAS management plans are being implemented in at least five Members of CARICOM ■ National strategies developed for the management of <i>Sargassum</i> influxes in at least five Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Invasive species, (e.g. <i>Halophila stipulacea</i> and <i>Peyssonnelid</i> algal crusts) monitoring and management protocols used in all SPAW-listed MPAs by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring and management protocols available to MPA managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Control all pathways for the introduction of IAS achieving by 2030 a 50% reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of IAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IAS-and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures

■ There is significant, measurable decrease in the regional or national incidence of at least five IAS

■ All SPAW Protocol MS have ratified the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments by 2026

■ *Sargassum* response guidelines completed by 2024

■ National *Sargassum* responses integrate good-practice models from across the region

■ Control all pathways for the introduction of IAS achieving by 2030 a 50% reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate or control IAS to eliminate or reduce their impacts by 2030 in at least 50% of priority sites

of IAS on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

■ Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of IAS

■ IAS and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritised

■ Priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment

■ To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures

■ To enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, including through expanded support to existing structures, to effectively address IAS

■ To improve efforts to eradicate and control IAS, including through the provision of support for research on and the development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures

Theme 3: Climate resilient ecosystems

OECS-BEF key targets

- 1.1 Research, information sharing and analysis of existing data on the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the OECS region advanced
- 1.2 Protected area networks used as a tool to enhance resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change
- 1.3 Regional initiatives developed to address the impact of climate change and natural hazards on biodiversity

OECS-BEF recommended indicators

- 3.1 Number of OECS MS with national adaptation plans, NBSAPs and/or other climate plans and policies that include specific support for adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change
- 3.2 Area of land and marine space benefitting from initiatives to build resilience of biodiversity to the impacts of climate change

Relevant targets / indicators / actions in regional and global agreements, strategies and plans used to develop the OECS-BEF targets and Indicators

Draft CBS (2020-2030) targets	Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2021-2030)		CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets (from Zero draft January 6, 2020)	2030 Sustainable Development Agenda		SAMOA Pathway actions
	Targets	Indicators		Targets	Indicators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Species and ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change identified within at least five Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guidelines, tools and training programme [for integrating marine biodiversity conservation strategies into spatial and sectoral plans] available by 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biological corridors included in new or updated coastal zone plans, development orders ■ Number of operationalised marine biological corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions providing by 2030 about 30% [at least XXX] MT CO2= 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalisation of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To build resilience to the impacts of climate change and to improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations

- Initiatives to build resilience of species and ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change implemented by at least five Members of CARICOM
- National strategies developed to protect biodiversity against threats from climate change and natural hazards by at least two Members of CARICOM
- National strategies developed for biodiversity restoration and recovery after the occurrence of natural hazards in at least two Members of CARICOM

- At least 12 regional or local plans modified/ updated on the basis of the guidelines for integrating marine biodiversity conservation strategies into spatial and sectoral plans by 2030
- Marine spatial plans prepared by SPAW MS after 2026 include biological corridors
- Submission of tentative lists for coral refugia by 2026
- 50% of national strategies for protection of coral refugia submitted by 2030

■ National strategies for protection of refugia for corals and other threatened and important marine species

■ Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions providing by 2030 about 30% [at least XXX] MT CO₂= of the mitigation effort needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, complementing stringent emission reductions, and avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity and food security

climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

- To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures
- To enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to address the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimise its impacts, including through information-sharing, regional workshops, the integration of scientists from SIDS into international research teams, steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and the possible development of a strategy for all SIDS on ocean acidification

Theme 4: Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources

OECS-BEF key targets

- 4.1 Advance ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS MS.
- 4.2 Develop a regional ABS model policy and guidelines.

OECS-BEF recommended indicators

- 4.1 Value and percentage increase in benefits, shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- 4.2 Number of plant and animal genetic resources subject to ABS regulation in OECS MS
- 4.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for ABS

Relevant targets / indicators / actions in regional and global agreements, strategies and plans used to develop the OECS-BEF targets and Indicators

Draft CBS (2020-2030) targets	CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets (from Zero draft January 6, 2020)	2030 Sustainable Development Agenda		SAMOA Pathway actions
		Targets	Indicators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National strategies developed for biodiversity restoration and recovery after the occurrence of natural hazards in at least two Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge, are shared fairly and equitably, resulting by 2030 in an [X] increase in benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities ■ Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

Theme 5: Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

OECS-BEF key targets

- 5.1 Biodiversity and ecosystem values assessed and incorporated into EIAs, SEAs and economic and financial decision-making
- 5.2 Alternative economic development options that protect biodiversity and ecosystems tested and promoted
- 5.3 Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans better reflect consideration of priorities for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

OECS-BEF recommended indicators

- 5.1 Number of OECS MS with environmentally adjusted national accounts
- 5.2 Number of OECS MS with ecosystem and biodiversity values incorporated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, and sectoral policies and plans
- 5.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for use of ecosystem valuation in EIAs and SEAs

Relevant targets / indicators / actions in regional and global agreements, strategies and plans used to develop the OECS-BEF targets and Indicators

Draft CBS (2020-2030) targets	Draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2021-2030)		CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets (from Zero draft January 6, 2020)	2030 Sustainable Development Agenda		Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024)
	Targets	Indicators		Targets	Indicators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biodiversity valuation studies conducted in at least five Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adoption of ecosystem valuation guidelines by MS ■ Searchable ecosystems services valuation database available by 2026 ■ Identification of a pool of experts to participate in IPBES assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SPAW Secretariat review of national rules and practices for environmental and social impact assessment ■ Promulgation of strategic environmental assessment policies and rules by MS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Integrate biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts, ensuring by 2030 that biodiversity values are mainstreamed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biodiversity values and ecological footprints incorporated into environmental assessment impacts (positive and negative) of industries and businesses in key sectors in at least five Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SPAW Secretariat report on the review of national rules and practices for environmental and social impact assessment by 2025 ■ Strategic environmental assessment rules adopted by all MS by 2030 ■ Environmental post-audits of projects that impact SPAW-listed MPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of guidelines for environmental post-audits of development projects in coastal areas 	<p>across all sectors and that biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments are comprehensively applied</p>	<p>reduction strategies and accounts</p>	<p>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020</p>	<p>development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level</p>
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