

## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

<b>Country:</b>	Commonwealth of Dominica
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and Report to the CBD</i>
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Country Eligibility:</b>	Convention Ratified April 6, 1994
<b>GEF Financing:</b>	US\$ 96,500
<b>Government Contribution</b>	in kind
<b>GEF Implementing Agency:</b>	UNDP
<b>National Executing Agency:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment (MAE)
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point:</b>	Sustainable Development Council (SDC)
<b>CBD Focal Point:</b>	MAE
<b>Estimated Starting Date:</b>	August 1997
<b>Project Duration:</b>	12 months

### 1. Background:

The island of Dominica, with a land mass of 751 km<sup>2</sup> is the largest, and most northerly of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, and lies between the French islands of Guadeloupe to the north and Martinique to the south. Its humid tropical marine climate is amongst the wettest in the Caribbean, with precipitation ranging from 4,000 mm to 10,000mm per annum in the interior, giving rise to a lush vegetation and abundant freshwater resources with over 350 streams. It is characterised by very rugged and steep terrain which, with high volcanic peaks rising in the south to 1,424 m (Morne Trois Pitons) and in the north to 1,730m (Morne Diablotin), has an important orographic influence on climate, on land-use and on the general physical development of the island. Flatter areas are restricted primarily to river valleys, the coastal areas of the north-east, and an area in the centre of the island known as Belles Wet Area.

The terrain and climatic conditions have given rise to a wide diversity of vegetation types that vary with the elevation and exposure to strong and steady trade winds, blowing in a westward direction between the Atlantic-Azores sub-tropical high pressure and the intertropical convergence zone. These include;

- **Swamp forest**, dominated by *Pterocarpus officinalis* and various mangrove genera, is found in the north-west coastal areas;
- **Littoral woodland**, dominated by *Coccoloba uvifera*, *Erithalis fruticosa* and *Chrysobalanus icaco*, occurs on the windward coast;
- **Dry scrubland** with the endemic *Sabinea carinalis* (the national flower) is found on slightly higher ground on the leeward coast;
- **Deciduous forest** with *Coccoloba venosa* and *Rhyticocus* is found in the high rainfall interior;
- **Tropical Rainforest** with a wide variety of dominant species including *Sloanea*, *Talauma*, *Ormosia* and *Dussia* occurs in the central highlands from 300 to 500m;
- **Elfin woodland** with dominants including *Prestolea montana*, and *Geonoma dussiana* occurs at mid elevations up to 1000m ;
- **Montane rainforest** with the dominant *Podocarpus cariaceus* is found in the south.

This variety of vegetation types supports an extraordinarily high species biodiversity for a small island. Almost seventy-five percent of the island is still covered with undisturbed forest representing the most extensive areas of forest in the Lesser Antilles. Over 1,600 flowering plants have been recorded on the island with 60 woody plants and tree species per hectare. The 166 bird species include 50 resident species and two endemic parrots: the Red- Necked and Imperial. Twenty (20) species of freshwater and land crabs, 12 native species of terrestrial mammals and 4 species of marine turtles have been identified on the island. In addition to this rich terrestrial biodiversity, Dominica also has outstanding marine biodiversity including that associated with extensive coral reefs, placed in the top five diving destinations of the world, as well as pods of hump-back, sperm and pilot whales and striped and bottle nosed dolphins.

The rich and diverse natural resource base and mostly unspoiled landscape, has led to Dominica being known as the "Nature Island of the Caribbean". However, both the terrestrial and marine biodiversity is coming under increasing pressure from the islands economic development, based primarily on agriculture (bananas), agro-processing and manufacturing and more recently tourism. Additionally, sewage and solid waste disposal for the 71,183 population, as well as for industrial wastewater, present potentially serious pollution problems for marine and fresh water resources. The increased activities in the tourism sector also pose the problem of over-visitation exerting pressures on many of the islands natural attractions including the boiling lake and numerous waterfalls and forest trails.

Although initial steps to protect biodiversity began as early as the 1950s, when the first Forestry Ordinance was enacted authorising the establishment of forest reserves on Crown Lands and protected forest on private land for purposes of soil and water conservation, efforts since then have focused more on protection through non-use rather than biodiversity management and sustainable-use as part of national development. The series of acts that regulate the use of different resources<sup>1</sup>, are fragmented and need to be revised and strengthened in the light of the CBD and mechanisms defined for improving their enforcement.

The Government of Dominica (GoCD) and non-governmental agencies, recognise the need to prevent further deterioration of the islands' rich biodiversity and have recently started important initiatives to reduce contamination by improving basic sanitation facilities, to diversify agricultural production and introduce more environmentally sensitive techniques, and to strengthen eco-tourism alternatives reducing over-visitation of specific sites and pressure on natural assests. These represent important advances, however, more action is required to reduce biodiversity loss. In order to provide a sound framework in which this action can be programmed and implemented, the GoCD wishes to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBAP) that will promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and put the country on a course towards sustainable development based firmly on a decentralised and participatory approach in which a broad range of local stakeholders, including communities neighbouring protected areas, and conservation area committees, will take part in biodiversity management decision-making and in the economic benefits that are generated.

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<sup>1</sup> These include the Forestry Reserve Rules, the Forestry and Wildlife Act, the National Parks and Protected Arcas Act (over 20% of the island's land mass is under protection), the Fisheries Act, the Beach Control Act, the Water and Sewage Act and the Pesticide Control Act.

## **2. Project Objectives and Brief Summary**

The main objectives of this proposal are: (i) the participatory formulation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that will include local and ecosystem components to be implemented through a decentralised and participatory approach; (ii) the preparation of the First National Report to the CBD.

Under the guidance of a project co-ordinator and the multi-sectoral Sustainable Development Council as a steering committee, existing information on biodiversity-related issues will be collected and evaluated at the ecosystem level. This stocktaking will be achieved through evaluations of existing grey literature and discussions with local community leaders and biodiversity experts. The information from these evaluations will be incorporated into an existing GIS in the Physical Planning Division of the Ministry of Finance, Industry and Planning to facilitate the identification of gaps and needs for each ecosystem. In parallel to the stocktaking exercise a public awareness campaign will be undertaken to inform civil society on the objectives of the CBD and the implications for its implementation in the country. This will enhance participation in the later stages of NBSAP formulation and its future implementation

The identification of options will be undertaken through consultations held in six localities which cover all the major ecological zones of the island (coral reefs, coastal wetlands, dry forest, rain forest, montaine and elfin forest). These consultations will use the information from the stocktaking exercises collated in the GIS for each ecosystem, as a basis for identifying priority actions and options for local strategies. They will count with the participation of representatives from local government authorities, private sector, including industries and tour operators in the area, local NGOs, academia and community leaders as well as representatives from relevant ministries of the national government.

Findings from these consultations will be used by a team of national and international biodiversity planning experts to prepare a first draft NBSAP with ecosystem focuses and local strategies for implementation. This will then be reviewed in a National Meeting with representatives from a broad range of stakeholders including representatives from the agriculture, industry, tourism, conservation, public and private sectors, NGOs, academia and Government Agencies. Recommendations from this meeting will be incorporated into a final draft NBSAP which will be submitted to Government/Cabinet for official approval and endorsement. Policy mechanisms will be instituted to implement the NBSAP.

The First National Report to the CBD will be prepared by national consultants and validated through consultation with local biodiversity and national planning experts. In view of the January 1st, 1998 deadline for submitting this report, the Dominica Report will be based on existing information and on the progress achieved by then in preparing the NBSAP.

At the start of the project, members of the steering team, the project co-ordinator and project team will take part in a biodiversity-planning instruction session held with the assistance of an international expert. This will allow the members to become more familiar with the guidelines prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP (1995) and establish a more uniform level of knowledge that

will facilitate the careful detailing of the work schedule and consultations to be held throughout the process

### **3. Operational Criteria:**

***Coverage without Duplication:*** The project will build on information available in the Dominica Environment Profile, priorities outlined in the Environmental Action Plan and the framework provided by the document "Growth, Adjustment and Well-being". It will also draw information from the recently terminated project "Integrating Conservation with Eco-tourism" that has provided inventories of natural assets with potential for ecotourism and several other related initiatives indicated in the Standard Activity Matrix. It will complement the Regional sub-component "Inventory of Coastal Resources and Use" and the pilot study on the "Economic Valuation of Coastal and Marine Resources" in the GEF/World Bank/OAS project "Planning for the Adaptation to Global Climate Change. In view of this no duplication is expected.

#### ***Appropriate Sequencing of Activities:***

<b>Month</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Formation of team, definition of methodology and planning instruction	X											
Public Awareness Campaign		X	X	X								
Stocktaking and Assessment		X	X	X								
Identification options (6 Consultations)					X	X						
Prepare First Draft of NBSAP						X	X	X				
National Meeting to review draft NBSAP									X			
Prepare Final version NBSAP										X	X	
Public Dissemination of NBSAP												X
Prepare First National Report					X							

***Best Practice:*** The preparation of the strategy will incorporate all available information including, where appropriate, that contained in the document "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences" prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP (1995). Strategy preparation will be closely overseen by the multi-sectoral Sustainable Development Council and once completed will provide this Committee with a practical tool for the implementation of the CDB in Dominica. The multi-sectoral nature of the SDC steering committee and broad based participation at the local level, will facilitate the integration of the strategy into sectoral and community plans. The majority of activities will be undertaken by government staff, national consultants and NGOs. Input from international experts, preferably from the Caribbean region (as required), will be sought for biodiversity planning instruction and the preparation of the first draft of the NBSAP.

***Deviations from Cost Norms:*** None

#### **4. Institutional Framework**

Environmental issues fall under the responsibility of several different government agencies in Dominica including the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment with its Divisions of Forestry and Fisheries and Land Surveys; the Ministry of Health with its Division of Environmental Health; the Ministry of Finance, Industry and Planning, with its Physical Planning Division and Economic Development Unit; the Ministry of Communications and Works and, more recently, the multi-sectoral Sustainable Development Council (SDC) set up in 1995 with representatives from public and private sector, NGOs and Government to co-ordinate sustainable development initiatives the implementation of the Capacity 21 Programme in Dominica. The SDC is the GEF Operational Focal Point in the country and the MAE has been designated as the focal point for the implementation of the CBD.

This project will be executed through the MAE with the SDC forming a steering committee to oversee the process and, together with Cabinet, approve and endorse the final NBSP. At the operational level, the MAE and SDC will appoint a project co-ordinator that will lead a project team consisting of staff from different government agencies, national consultants and representatives of NGOs hired to undertake specific tasks, including complementary stocktaking and preparation of a report as a basis for the identification of options consultations. International consultants will be required for biodiversity-planning instruction and for advise during the preparation of the first NBSAP.

**5. Budget**

	Product	Process	Total
<b>Stocktaking and Inventory Existing Information</b>	<b>12,500</b>		<b>12,500</b>
1. National Consultants for stocktaking (3mm)	6,000		
2. Processing of ecosystem data into existing GIS	2,000		
3. Documents, travel, miscellaneous	4,500 <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>31,000</b>
1. Public awareness campaign		8,000	
2. National Consultants for preparing consultations (2 MM)	4,500		
3. Biodiversity Planning Instruction Session		1,500	
4. International consultant (for instruction/planning exercises)	5,000		
5. Consultations for identification of option (6)		9,000	
6. Travel, misc	3,000		
<b>Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>38,500</b>
1. First draft of Strategy and Action Plan (National consultants, preparation, dissemination etc.)	14,500	2,000	
2. International consultants to advise on first draft	10,000		
3. National Meeting for Consultations on first draft		2,000	
4. Final version of NBSAP -consultants 3mm, editing, printing	6,000	3,000	
5. Dissemination of NBSAP		1,000	
<b>First National Report</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>
1. Preparation (consultant), publication and dissemination	6,000	1,000	
<b>Co-ordination and Management</b>		<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>96,500</b>

<sup>2</sup> This will include the retrieval of relevant data housed in national, regional and international overseas institutions.

## STANDARD ACTIVITY MATRIX

ENABLING ACTIVITY	OUTPUT	CAPACITY BUILDING		PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	COMMENTS
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Execution</b>				
<b>1. Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</b>					
1.1. Biodiversity and biological resources	NEP / X				1
1.2. Cross-sectoral Issues	SDC / X				2
1.3. Policy and Regulatory Framework	X				3
1.4. Institutional and Human Capacity	X				
1.5. Analysis of root causes of BD loss	X				
1.6. Technologies for Conservation and SU	X				
1.7. Activities with Adverse Impact	X				4
1.8. Existing Measures and Programmes	X				
1.9. Preliminary Statement of Objectives	NEAP / X				5
1.10. Identification of Gaps	X				
1.11. Assessment of Existing Needs	X				
<b>2. Identification and Analysis of options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</b>					
2.1. Strategies for Conservation in situ, ex situ	X	X	X	X	6,7,8
2.2. Strategies for Sustainable Use	X	X	X	X	6,7,8
2.3. Strategies for Benefit Sharing	X	X	X	X	6,7,8
<b>3. Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</b>					
3.1. National Strategy	X			X	9
3.2. National Action Plan	X			X	9
<b>4. Preparation of First National Report to CBD</b>					
4.1. First National Report	X				

X = Activity Undertaken Within Enabling Activities Proposal

NEP = National Environmental Profile (1990) funded by USAID, the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) and the Island Resources Foundation; NEAP= National Environmental Action Plan (1994) funded by the World Bank; SDC= Sustainable Development Council set up in 1995 under the UNDP/Capacity 21 Programme

### Footnotes

1. *The National Environmental Profile*, the NEAP, the Integrating Conservation and Eco-tourism European Union funded project, the Multiple Land-Use/Oxford University project and the Development of Large Pelagic Reef/ CFRAMP project all provide inventories of natural assets, flora and fauna. These, together with the knowledge of individual biodiversity experts furnish a good overview of the biodiversity and biological resources in the country. This project will collate this information and incorporated it into the existing GIS system in the Physical Planning Division of the Ministry of Finance, Industry and Planning to facilitate the identification of gaps and options at the ecosystem level.

2. *The SDC*, composed of representatives from public and private sector, Government and NGO Agencies, was formed in 1995 under a UNDP Capacity 21 project to co-ordinate and advise on national development policies and programmes. It is now in its second year of operation and has collaborated with some government agencies to address various sustainable development issues (culture and sustainable development; disaster management and sustainable development, adaptation to global climate change, youth and the environment etc.). It is presently preparing a proposal to be submitted for funding under the GEF Medium Grants, for developing a multi-sectoral approach to eco-tourism as a means of enhancing

biodiversity conservation, however a full review of cross-sectoral biodiversity-related issues has yet to be undertaken and will be carried out in as part of the preparation of the NBSAP.

3. *Dominica has several laws* relating to conservation and biodiversity management including the Forestry Reserve Rules that prohibit certain activities in forest reserves and specifies the requirements for licensing and permits for timber harvesting; the Forestry and Wildlife Act that authorises the protection of wild fauna and the management of their forest habitat; the National Parks and Protected Areas Act that provides authority for the establishment of Dominica's national park and protected area system; the Fisheries Act, which authorise overall Government responsibility for the utilisation of marine resources; the Beach Control Act which reserves the island's foreshore and seashore for public use and provides general authority for the protection of beach resources; the Water and Sewage Act and the Pesticide Control Act which regulates the importation and use of chemical that can contaminate surface water as a result of agricultural run-off. Although extensive, these laws are fragmented and focus on specific sectoral issues or on the conservation through restricted use. This project will evaluate existing laws in the light of the CBD to identify gaps and needs between present status and proposed goals.

4. *Some information exists on activities with adverse impacts*, however, it is currently scattered in a variety of grey literature. This project will collect this information, evaluate it and incorporate the information, on an ecosystem, basis into an existing GIS (see note 1).

5. *A National Environmental Action Plan* was formulated in 1994 and makes some initial objectives in relation to biodiversity. The Framework Document "Growth Adjustment and Well-being" based on a National Consultation on the economy held in 1996, also includes preliminary objectives. These will be reviewed in this project and relevant aspects incorporated into the NBSAP. Once finalised the NSBAP will provide a solid basis which, together with other relevant documents, will be used in the future to develop a National Sustainable Development Strategy.

6. *Members of the SDC, the project co-ordinator and the project team* will take part in a biodiversity analysis and planning instruction workshop at the start of the project to acquire a more uniform knowledge and to assure that the strategy planning is undertaken according to standardised practices and procedures

7. *A range of stakeholders* from the public and private sector will have strengthened capacities for the management of biodiversity related issues and heightened awareness to CBD implementation, indirectly through participation in the consultations and biodiversity planning sessions and directly through a public awareness campaign designed to facilitate broad participation in the formulation of the strategy and later implementation. This campaign will be undertaken in parallel with the stocktaking exercises and will entail dissemination of information on the CBD through various different media forms, outlining the obligations of the CBD and the implications its implementation will have in the country.

8. *Members of the project team will evaluate* the results of the stocktaking exercises and report on the gaps between the present status and preliminary goals for the future. This report together with the ecosystem-GIS-generated maps, will form the basis for the participatory identification of options to be undertaken at the ecosystem level through six consultations, each with approximately 25 participants from a range stakeholders including community based organisations, NGOs, Government and private sector agencies.

9. *The first draft of the NBSAP*, prepared from the recommendations of the consultations (see note 7) will be reviewed in a national meeting with a range of stakeholders including the SDC, NGOs, government sector and community leaders. The final version of the NBSAP will be disseminated throughout civil society in order to facilitate widespread support and enhance implementation.

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06.26.1997 12:40



June 23, 1997

Division of Industry

Ms. Lita Paparoni  
Regional GEF Co-ordinator  
United Nations Development Programme

FAX # : (212) 906 5892

RLN/PRO/301/GEF	
UNDP RECEIVED	DIV. REG. PROG. TRY. #: 1323 H.P.
JUN 26 1997	
ACT. 1 H.P.	
ACTION TO BE T	
D/L:	

Dear Ms. Paparoni

I acknowledge receipt of your faxed copy of the revised Biodiversity Enabling Activity Proposal under cover letter dated June 17, 1997.

Please be advised that I hereby endorse the proposal on behalf of the Sustainable Development Corporation.

I have noted the estimated starting date of July, 1997. I anticipate timely implementation and assure the fullest co-operation of the Sustainable Development Council.

Sincerely,

  
Sheridan G. Gregoire  
Chairman - Sustainable Development Council  
GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT

co. Hon. Julius Timothy  
Minister for Finance, Industry & Planning

Hon. Peter Carbon  
Minister for Agriculture & The Environment

Hon. Norris Prevost  
Minister for Tourism, Ports & Employment

Mr. Gerard Hill  
Co-ordinator - Sustainable Development Council

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