

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country: St. Lucia

Project Title: Preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy/Action Plan , the First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Participation in the Pilot Phase of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of the CBD

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Ratified the CBD on 28 July 1993

GEF Financing Requested: US\$ 170,100

Government Contribution: In-kind and personnel

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Executing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

GEF Operational Focal Point: Ministry of Finance and Planning

CBD Focal Point: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Estimated Starting Date: February, 1998

Project Duration: 12 months

I. Background/Context

Saint Lucia is a small island developing state which lies within the chain of Eastern Caribbean Islands. It is perched on the submerged ancient volcanic ridge connecting Martinique to the North to St. Vincent to the South. The island of St. Lucia is monolithic, comprising one main island with only a few nearshore satellite islets. It has a population of approximately 150,000 and a GDP of EC\$ 1,073 (approximately US\$ 700).

The physiognomy of St. Lucia consists of green mountain landscapes, including the majestic Twin Peaks of Gros and Petit Piton, lush rainforests with rich and exotic flora and varied marine biodiversity. Being a volcanic isle with a mountainous interior, the country's population and many of its economic activities are huddled along a narrow coastal strip, perched over an equally narrow coastal shelf, which supports many of the island's fisheries resources.

The most endangered terrestrial species of St. Lucia are found in coastal and lowland habitats where agriculture, charcoal production and other development threaten them. Relatively few are found in the rainforest. Examples of endangered plant species, include, *Acalypha elizabethae*, a rare endemic species found on the Pitons and *Beilschmiedia pendula* (one specimen can be found at Decartiers and is being monitored for fruit production). Among the endangered terrestrial animal species, are the St. Lucia Racer (*Leimodophis ornatus*), a snake restricted to Maria islet, its last refuge in the whole world, and the White Breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachvarus*), a bird species found on the East Coast of St. Lucia and endemic only to St. Lucia and Martinique. With reference to marine species, the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nest on beaches in St. Lucia, and are often slaughtered for their meat or eggs. In an effort to protect these endangered species, St. Lucia, like other countries of the world, has placed a complete moratorium on the capture and trade of turtle and turtle products. Another highly threatened marine species which is harvested for its gonads, is the White Sea Urchin, (*Tripnustes ventricosus*), distributed mainly on the East Coast of St. Lucia.

The biodiversity of Small Island Developing States like St. Lucia has suffered from the unsound and sometimes indiscriminate use of their natural resources, leading to severe degradation of habitats and the demise of endemic flora and fauna. The drive to secure economic growth and stability in an environment where external and internal forces leave very few alternatives, has meant that development has not factored in the value of natural capital and its contribution to the social, cultural and economic well being of the state. Rapid and in some instance, unchecked growth, has served to encourage the use of 'short cuts' in physical (infrastructural) development, leaving a balance in terms of sectoral advancement, but a detriment to the ecology of the country. Loss of Biodiversity is especially evident in areas of forest and natural habitat endangerment, as a direct consequence of increasing industrialization and poor agricultural practices, which in turn have impacted quite severely on the marine environment.

The Government of St. Lucia has embarked on several initiatives through its various Ministries, aimed at deforestation and habitat loss, liquid waste pollution, solid waste pollution, fisheries management, shoreline degradation, poor land use practices, fresh and ground water pollution and marine pollution. Acts of Parliament designed to conserve biological diversity include:

- The Fisheries Act No. 10 of 1984
- The Fisheries Regulations No. 9 of 1994
- The Forests, Soils and Water Conservation Ordinance (1946) as amended
- The Land Development Interim Control Act (1971) as amended
- The St. Lucia National Trust Act No. 16 (1975)
- The Wildlife Protection Act (1980)
- The Parks and Beaches Commission Act (1983)
- The Town and Country Planning Ordinance (1946)

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While strides are being made in some areas, the effectiveness of many of the actions taken is low. With the new thrust on tourism in recent years, sound environmental practices are often forsaken simply because of the focused emphasis on economic advancement. In this regard, it has been recognized that initiatives involving biodiversity planning, consultation and information dissemination on the local and other levels, need essentially to be designed and developed accordingly.

II. Project Objectives and Short Description

The main objective of this project is to help the island of St. Lucia to prepare a national biodiversity and action plan (NBSAP) within the framework of the CBD and prepare a national report in fulfilment of the requirements of Article 26 of the Convention and Decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The NBSAP will define the current status of biological diversity, the threats leading to its degradation and the strategies and priority actions to ensure its conservation and sustainable use within the framework of the socio-economic development of the island. The project will also assist to establish and strengthen a Clearing House Mechanism for the CBD in the country through the provision of hardware, software and technical support to the designated national focal point for the CHM to allow St. Lucia to participate in the pilot phase of the CHM established in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 (3) of the CBD as stipulated in Decisions II/3 and III/4 of the COP.

The project will start off by an assessment of the existing available information on the status of biodiversity of St. Lucia using existing methodologies such as the UNEP Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies. The data collated in this exercise will be computerized in a data base hence offering the country the foundation for a biodiversity data management system. Procedures and guidelines will be set up for continuous updating and development of this data base. For this purpose, the methodologies and toolkits developed under the UNEP/GEF Biodiversity Data Management and Networking (BDM) project will be provided to the country to facilitate this undertaking.

The information gathered in the stocktaking and assessment will form the basis for discussion leading to the preparation of the NBSAP through a participatory and pluridisciplinary approach, involving all major stakeholders. Several consultations to address specific themes/issues will be conducted with various stakeholders, including the governmental, commercial and non-governmental establishments involved in the management, conservation and use of biodiversity. Given the importance of agricultural and marine biological diversity in the economic well being of St. Lucia, these two themes will be accorded a special emphasis in the identification and analysis of options to achieve the objectives of the CBD.

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It is anticipated that two (2) national workshops will take place in the course of the project: the first one will bring together all major stakeholders representatives for the first time to be acquainted with the objectives of the project and agree on major orientations of the NBSAP process, in the light of the findings of the stocktaking and assessment of existing information; the second workshop will review the draft NBSAP that will have been prepared on the basis of the recommendations and outputs of the first national workshop.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (MAFFE) will be the body coordinating the implementation of this project. It will establish a small Steering Committee consisting of representatives of key government departments concerned with planning, management, use and conservation of biodiversity, as well as representatives of concerned non-governmental and private/commercial sectors. The Steering Committee will guide the overall implementation of the project, prepare Terms of Reference and select consultants. The various government departments will be largely responsible for the execution of the activities specified in this project, with the assistance of national and international consultants. A number of thematic task forces may be established to advise/support the Steering Committee.

III Operational Criteria

Coverage without Duplication:

The project will be implemented relying to the maximum degree possible on existing capacity and information, particularly that generated through relevant past or on-going activities, both governmental and non-governmental. Examples of such activities are:

- Reports from marine studies on the West Coast of St. Lucia on the Status of reef fish and coral communities (1994-1997)
- Islandwide Inventory of Beaches and Mangals (1996-1997)
- Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Maturity Study (1996-1998)
- Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Maturity Study (1996-1998)
- Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Biological Data Collection (1996-1998)
- Fish Length Frequency Data Collection (1995 and ongoing)
- Fish Aging and Maturity Data Collection (1995 and ongoing)
- St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona versicolor*) Project: Breeding Ecology (1992 and ongoing)
- Translocation and Monitoring of the St. Lucia Whiptail Lizard (*Chernidophorus vanzoi*) (1995 and ongoing)
- Monitoring of Nesting Sea Birds on Maria Island (1995 and ongoing)

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The project will also build on existing environmental policy and planning documents and processes such as:

- National Environmental Action Plan, 1997
- Environmental Country Profile, 1991
- Tropical Forestry Action Plan, 1989
- Forest Management Plan, 1992
- Watershed and Environmental Management Plan, 1997
- National Fisheries Management, 1992
- A Policy Statement Rationale for, and Elements of a Work Programme for the Development and Management of the Fisheries Sector in St. Lucia, 1992.

Appropriate overall sequencing of activities

The project will be carried out over a period of 12 months according to the following time table.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Meeting of the Steering Committee to Plan Implementation of the Project	x											
Selection of Consultants		x										
Orientation Workshops for Steering Committee and Consultants in Biodiversity Analysis and Planning		x										
Stocktaking/Review of Existing Information		x	x	x	x							
Development of Procedures for constitution and Management of a National Species Database Based on Stocktaking Outputs					x	x						
Stakeholders Sensitization/Consultations and Public Outreach					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
First National Workshop						x						
Drafting of National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP)						x	x					
Circulation of NBSAP for Comments								x				
Second National Workshop									x			
Finalization of NBSAP									x	x		

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Printing and Publication of NBSAP											x	
Preparation of First National Report and Submission to CBD		x *									x	x
Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

* Interim report for the fourth meeting of the COP.

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Best practice

The methodologies and guidance contained in the following documents will be used in the implementation of this project:

- i) Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies (UNEP, 1993);
- ii) Guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning (WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995);
- iii) A Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (IUCN, 1994);
- iv) Revised Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities (GEF Secretariat, 1997).

Due to the late starting date of the project in relation to the deadline issued by the COP for the submission of first national reports to the Secretariat of the Convention, only an interim report based on what the country has undertaken so far to halt degradation of its biodiversity will be submitted to the CBD before the fourth meeting of the COP to be held in May 1998. A final report based on the implementation of Article 6 of the CBD will be prepared and submitted upon completion of the NBSAP.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The project will be hosted and facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (MAFFE) who will be responsible for overseeing its implementation. A National Steering Committee will be established, consisting of the representatives of other key government ministries and departments concerned with biodiversity, as well as relevant non-governmental sectors and representatives. Among other things, MAFFE will designate a person who will serve as the National Project Coordinator responsible for the day- to- day management of the project. The Steering Committee will provide overall guidance to the consultants regarding execution of the activities stipulated in the project. It will meet regularly (at least by monthly), to assess progress in project implementation, identify any delays and propose remedial measures to ensure a smooth and timely execution of the activities.

As the GEF Implementing Agency for this project, UNEP will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the project, coordinating, and evaluating at the end of the project and reporting to the GEF on these aspects of project implementation. At the onset of the project, UNEP will dispatch a technical expert to St. Lucia to conduct the orientation workshop for the Steering Committee and the national consultants, on biodiversity planning processes and methodologies. The technical expert will also familiarize the National Project Coordinator in particular, with the substantive and administrative requirements pertaining to the implementation of this project. UNEP will carefully monitor implementation of the project, through quarterly progress reports to be submitted by the National Project Coordinator, in line with established reporting requirements and procedures of Implementing Agencies.

International as well as regional consultants may be sought to provide technical expertise in specific areas that will be identified by the Steering Committee, as requiring such outside backstopping. Local consultants will provide follow-up and other relevant know-how and will be responsible for the execution of the bulk of the activities under the project.

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V PROJECT FINANCING**Project Budget (US\$) St. Lucia NBSAP**

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	PROCESS	TOTAL
1. Assessment of Existing Information*	28,500	3,500	32,000
- National consultants (4p/m)	8,000		
- Collection of Data; Documentation	5,000		
- International consultant	7,000		
- Organization of Data	4,000	3,000	
- Country Study Report	3,000		
- Miscellaneous	1,000	500	
2. Identification and Analysis of Options	20,000	33,500	53,500
- Project Coordinator		4,000	
- Orientation Workshop for Steering Committee and Consultants	4,000	2,000	
- Public awareness/outreach activities		10,000	
- 1st National workshop (travel, per diem, facilities)		5,000	
- International Consultant (1p/m)	3,000	4,000	
- National Consultants (6p/m)	6,000	6,000	
- Reports	5,000		
- Steering Committee consultations		2,000	
- Miscellaneous	2,000	500	
3. Preparation of NBSAP	25,000	22,000	47,000
- National Consultants (5p/m)	5,000	5,000	
- International Consultants (2p/m)	7,000	7,000	
- 2nd National Workshop		5,000	
- Dissemination of draft report		2,000	
- Printing & Publication of the NBSAP report	10,000		
- Steering Committee consultations		2,000	
- Miscellaneous	3,000	1,000	
4. Preparation of First National Report	11,000		11,000
- National Consultant (2p/m)	6,000		
- Printing and Publication	4,000		
- Miscellaneous	1,000		
5. Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism	14,000		14,000
- Hardware	4,000		
- Software	1,000		
- Modem	500		
- Recurrent Access costs to Internet	3,800		
- Technician Set-up Fees	700		
- Internet and e-mail training	4,000		
6. Co-ordination & Management Costs (8%)	7,800	4,800	12,600
TOTAL	106,300	63,800	170,100

TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix), St. Lucia

Enabling Activity	Out-put	Capacity	Building	Public Participation	Comments (See footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking of existing information	x	x	x		
Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD					
- strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	
- strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	
- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	
Planning and Preparation of NBSAP					
- national strategy	x	x	x	x	
- national action plan	x	x	x	x	
Preparation of the First National Report					
- First National Report	x				
Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism					
- Strengthening of CHM focal point	x	x	x		

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GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Administration
Energy Planning
Economic Planning
Social Planning
Tel. (758) 452-2611 ext 7115, 7118

Physical Planning
Architectural Section
Survey and Mapping
Tel. (758) 452-2611 ext 7165, 7134, 7930
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P. O. BOX 709,
CASTRIES,
SAINT LUCIA, WEST INDIES.

December 31, 1997

Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Co-ordinator
GEF Coordination Office, UNEP
P O Box 30552
Nairobi
KENYA

Dear Mr Djoghlaif

Ref: GEF Project Proposal "Preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy/Action Plan/First National Report to the CBD, and Participation in the Pilot Phase of the CHM.

I have pleasure in endorsing the attached project proposal, which would assist the Government of St Lucia in preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The above activities are of high priority to the Government, as they would assist us in fulfilling our obligations under Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The proposal also includes a budget for the participation of St Lucia in the Pilot Phase of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). It should be noted that St Lucia has a designated National Focal Point for the CHM, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment.

The total cost of the project has been estimated at US\$170,100 of which US\$14,000 has been allocated for the CHM.

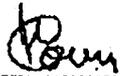
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I should be very grateful if you would submit the project proposal to the GEF Secretariat at your earliest convenience for their consideration.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely



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Bernard La Corbiniere
PERMANENT SECRETARY
Ministry of Finance and Planning
GEF National Focal Point

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