



The Blue BioTrade regional **PLAN OF ACTION** for the Eastern Caribbean queen conch value chain



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**Organisation of
Eastern Caribbean States**



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Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Explanatory notes	v
Acronyms and abbreviations	vi
Introduction	1
The Blue BioTrade Principles and Criteria	2
Purpose	7
Timeframe	7
Monitoring and evaluation	7
Approach to implementation	7
Synergies with international and regional agreements	8
Strategic regional action plan to implement the BioTrade Principles and Criteria	9
Principle 1. Conservation of biodiversity	9
Principle 2. Sustainable use of biodiversity	11
Principle 3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity	15
Principle 4. Socioeconomic sustainability (productive, financial and market management)	17
Principle 5. Compliance with national and international legislation	20
Principle 6. Respect for actors' rights	21
Principle 7. Right to use and access natural resources	24
Sources	25

Tables

Table 1. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 1: Conservation of biodiversity	9
Table 2. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 2: Sustainable use of biodiversity	11
Table 3. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 3: Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity	15
Table 4. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 4: Socioeconomic sustainability	17
Table 5. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 5: Compliance with national and international legislation	20
Table 6. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 6: Respect for the rights of actors involved in Blue BioTrade activities	21
Table 7. Strategic regional action plan for Principle 7: Clarity on right to use and access natural resources	24





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Explanatory notes

References to “dollars” and “\$” indicate United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.



Acronyms and abbreviations

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



Introduction

UNCTAD, in collaboration with the OECS and CITES, and with the financial support of the European Union through the RIGHT Programme, implemented the first phase of the regional project, “[Seizing the Trade and Business Potential of Blue BioTrade Products for Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Conservation of Marine Diversity in Selected OECS Countries \(Blue BioTrade project\)](#)” from October 2020 until the end of 2022. The objective of the Blue BioTrade project is to empower small-scale coastal producers from OECS Member States to produce and trade queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) products in domestic, regional and international markets under Blue BioTrade environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria, including CITES considerations. The OECS Blue BioTrade Regional Plan of Action for the Eastern Caribbean Queen Conch Value Chain is a key output of the project.





The Blue BioTrade Principles and Criteria

UNCTAD defines “BioTrade” as “...the activities of collection/production, transformation and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability”. Based on best practices, lessons learned and the successes of BioTrade’s 26 years of implementation in nearly 100 countries, and building on international mandates and agreements on the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, the emerging concept of Blue BioTrade has considerable potential to promote sustainability and equity in the production of marine-based goods and services, subject to the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- focusing on material derived from coastal and marine biodiversity (e.g., living coastal and marine species)
- refraining from unsustainable mineral extraction of sands, metals, oil and gas, and from unsustainable energy generation
- neither using nor developing genetically modified organisms
- neither introducing nor encouraging the introduction of invasive species
- the activity does not harvest/catch, use, disrupt, or otherwise threaten endangered species, including those covered in CITES Appendix I and in national and regional endangered species lists
- neither causing nor encouraging the degradation or transformation of marine and coastal ecosystems, e.g., via the draining of wetlands
- Neither undertaking nor encouraging any form of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing or other illegal activities, per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation’s (FAO’s) International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing
- applying the precautionary approach, as described in the Rio Principles and

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