

**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

**-- 2004 to 2009 --**



Canadian International  
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Government of  
Antigua and Barbuda

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<i>Biological Diversity</i>	<i>The variability among living communities and wildlife (including terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems) as well as the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.</i>
<i>Carrying Capacity</i>	<i>The capacity of natural resource systems to handle development initiatives without deterioration of the resources or the ecosystem</i>
<i>Civil Society</i>	<i>The range of community, non-governmental and other organisations not directly linked to government and not engaged in generating profits that accrue to individuals</i>
<i>Climate Change</i>	<i>Change to the global climate that occurs in whole or in substantial part as a function of human activities.</i>
<i>Global warming</i>	<i>Increasing average temperatures of the earth's atmosphere which has significant implications for sea level rise, rainfall patterns, and the incidence of extreme weather (including hurricanes) in the Caribbean</i>
<i>Green Accounting</i>	<i>Financial systems which include monetary value of natural resources and environmental assets</i>
<i>Hazardous Waste</i>	<i>A waste that is defined as "hazardous" under the "Basel Convention For The Transboundary Movement Of Hazardous Waste And Its Management".</i>
<i>Hazard Mitigation</i>	<i>Measures which reduce loss of life, property and social dislocation due to the occurrence of natural and man-made hazards</i>
<i>Integrated Coastal Area Management</i>	<i>Management of resources in the coastal area which takes account of all systems which relate to the coast including land-based (terrestrial) and marine processes and activities</i>
<i>Integrated Development Plan</i>	<i>A plan to guide sustainable development that reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders and which ensures that environmental management is treated as an integral component of the</i>

*planning process in pursuit of sustainable development*

*Integrated Waste Management*

*Management of all components of liquid and solid waste in ways that maximise the economic value of those wastes as resources consistent with sound environmental management practices.*

*Island Systems Management*

*An integrated process of information gathering, planning, decision-making, allocation of resources, Actions and formulation and enforcement of regulations related to the linkages in small island states between ecological systems and between these systems and human activities and incorporating terrestrial, aquatic and atmospheric environments.*

*Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreement*

*An formal agreement between three or more States governing the management of aspects of natural resources or the environment in those States as referenced in the agreement. Caribbean States are signatory to several of these e.g. Cartagena Convention, Conventions on Climate Change & Biological Diversity*

*Polluter Pays Principle*

*The principle that those who cause pollution are responsible for the costs of managing the pollution they cause.*

*Renewable Energy*

*Energy that is derived from a source that is not depleted by the extraction of energy or the process used for extraction of the energy.*

*Strategic Environmental Assessment*

*A holistic approach to environmental assessment which injects environmental considerations into decision-making regarding policy, programmes, national and regional development plans*

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

DCA	Development Control Authority
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERN	Caribbean Environmental Reporters Network
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
EAG	Environmental Awareness Group
ECEMS	Eastern Caribbean Environmental Management Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPC	Environmental Policy Committee
FP	Focal Point
GATT	General Agreement On Tariffs And Trade
GHG	Green House Gases
ICAM	Integrated coastal Area Management
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ISM	Island Systems Management
NAP	National Action Plan
NOFP	National Operational Focal Point
NRMU	Natural Resources Management Unit
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
MEA	Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements
OECS	Organization Of Eastern Caribbean States
OFP	Operational Focal Point
PFP	political Focal Point
POA	Plan of Action
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

## SECTION ONE:

### Antigua and Barbuda's Vision for Environmental Sustainability

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*An Antigua and Barbuda will strive in which all citizens strive to build a nation that treasures the environment and voluntarily acts to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.*

#### Introduction

Over the last decade, Antigua and Barbuda as well as other OECS Member States have undertaken a number of economic reforms to better prepared them for the existing and emerging global challenges. The change from agriculture to tourism, financial and other service industries has been a positive one for per capita income and wealth for these countries. In 1995, for instance, the per capita income for Antigua and Barbuda (\$7502), St.Kitts-Nevis (\$4720) and Saint Lucia (\$3954) were above the average for the entire Caribbean (\$2692). The maintenance of economic growth within the region is however subjected to the maintenance of preferential trading arrangements, tourism and official development assistance. This coupled with the vulnerability of the islands to natural disasters makes investing in the region risky to foreign and local investors. It has been left up to the national governments therefore to be the driving force behind economic growth.

Economic growth is based on the unique and limited natural resources that these countries have to form the basis of a sound economy. Countries are however faced with several challenges that are causing them use their natural resources inefficiently and unsustainably. Sustainable development issues present a challenge to all Governments of the OECS. Sustainable development typically attempts to address complex issues and problems with political, social, economic, environmental, inter-generational and international implications. After much analysis and discussions on these issues there is the consensus that sustainable development in Eastern Caribbean countries can only occur if there are extensive and fundamental changes in institutional arrangements, policy formulation and plan development<sup>1</sup>.

In recognition of the importance of integrated planning, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has taken several initiatives that will help it to meet its sustainability goals. At the international level the Government signed several international conventions and agreements. One such agreement, The St. George's Declaration, Governments of the OECS committed themselves to a sustainable approach to the development of their economies. The St. George's Declaration, which is based on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Plan of Action, sets out 21 principles for environmental sustainability within member states. All nine governments during the first quarter of 2001 formally endorsed the Declaration. Each government is now mandated to formulate a local environmental management strategy which will form the blue print for the country's implementation of the St. Georges declaration.

To this end the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has undertaken to develop a comprehensive environmental management strategy (EMS) based on the St. Georges Declaration. The EMS will

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<sup>1</sup> Summarised from the *Caribbean Environment Outlook*, 1999. United Nations Environment Programme.

serve as the management strategy governing the implementation of environment initiatives at the government, private and community levels. It will also include the national approach to the implementation of the various international environmental agreements to which Antigua and Barbuda is party.

This Strategy summarizes the urgent actions needed for sustainable natural resource management in Antigua and Barbuda and will serve as a planning document that will guide the new and inter-sectoral actions required to place the country on the path of sustainable development. Furthermore, the Strategy summarizes the views of key stakeholders, including representatives of local communities, national, regional and international groups.

## **Background**

Sustainability is not only limited to environmental issues, economic and social concerns are an integral part of this concept. This strategy therefore takes an integrated approach to sustainability.

### ***Environmental Context***

Antigua and Barbuda has limited mineral resources and no petroleum based reserves, the country is however blessed with a rich diversity of natural resources whose interactions form the basis for the country's culture and economy. Being the largest of all the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, Antigua, and the sister island of Barbuda, are home to a number of unique species and ecosystems that makes the country a haven for visitors while providing locals with sustainable livelihoods in the area of agriculture and fisheries. The country's biodiversity is unique due to geographic isolation and environmental difference, which typically exists on islands.

A wide range of coastal and marine habitats is represented within the country including coral reefs, seagrass beds, lagoons, beaches and mangrove forests. These habitats support many globally rare fauna such as marine turtles, and corals. Given the small size of the islands these marine and terrestrial habitats are generally located in close proximity thus intimately connected to each other.

The terrestrial environments can be described as relatively depauperate in terms of absolute numbers of species, but they provide a habitat to a significant variety of restricted-range species, particularly birds.

Threats to the environment are mainly due to human activities as well as natural disasters. The

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