



**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)  
National Preparatory Process**

**ST. KITTS AND NEVIS**

**BACKGROUND REPORT**

Prepared by  
Island Planning Services

## **Executive Summary**

This Report was prepared as part of the St Kitts and Nevis National Preparatory Process toward the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa, 2014. The Report provides a synthesis of several national reports and a review of legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. Additionally, it provides a summary of the key results from the implementation of the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

Overall, the Report summarizes the outcomes and experiences that have been gained thus far from the implementation of the country's sustainable development agenda. Importantly, it examines prevailing constraints, remaining gaps and challenges that exist in the context of the Federation's aspirations. It is expected that the contents of the Report will guide further discussion on the country's general sustainable development objectives.

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## 1.0 St. Kitts and Nevis at a Glance

Table 1 below provides a brief description of St. Kitts and Nevis

PARAMETER	DESCRIPTION
Location & Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total landmass 269 square kilometers, St. Kitts is 176 square kilometers (68 sq. mi) in size</li> <li>• located at Latitude 17 degrees 15 minutes North and Longitude 62 degrees 45 minutes West.</li> <li>• Nevis is 93 square kilometers (36 q. mi) and located at Latitude 17 degrees 10 minutes North, Longitude 62 degrees 35 minutes</li> </ul>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 46,000 (2010 population census est.)</li> </ul>
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classified as tropical marine</li> <li>• Steady northeast trade winds and tropical oceanic cyclonic movements</li> <li>• Mean temperature of approximately 27°C Celsius</li> <li>• Seasonal and diurnal variations in temperature are small</li> <li>• Rainfall is mainly orographic and increases in amount and frequency with altitude.</li> <li>• Rainfall is unevenly distributed between years and between months with a reliable wet period from August to November and driest months January to April.</li> <li>• Relative humidity level is usually low in the dry season and high in the wet season. The mean value is 76 percent but ranges from 70 percent in March to 78 percent in September, October and November.</li> <li>• Prevailing wind is northeast trade with mean speeds ranging from 15- 30 kilometers per hour (kph).</li> </ul>
Topography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Kitts is oriented northwest southeast, about 80 km long and 16 km wide. Generally it rises from the coastline towards its mountain cluster in the center</li> <li>• The highest point is Mount Liamuiga, rising with a pronounced crater to 1,156 meters (m).</li> <li>• Nevis lies on the inner volcanic arc of the Lesser Antilles and is comprised of nine distinct volcanic centers strung out southwest to northwest along a parallel of the inner volcanic arc. The central Nevis Peak is the most imposing of these centers, rising to 985 meters in altitude, giving the island a conical appearance</li> </ul>
Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Kitts is composed almost exclusively of volcanic rocks of andesite or dacite mineralogy. Its geology is similar to that of</li> </ul>

	<p>other volcanic islands in the Lesser Antillean Archipelago. St Kitts had since undergone numerous and considerable changes in elevation but is now relatively stable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nevis is a volcanic island that began its formation in mid-Pliocene times (approximately 3.45 million years ago). However, the island comprises a number of discrete eruptive centers that range in age from mid-Pliocene to Pleistocene.</li> </ul>
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five types: Rainforest, Dry Evergreen Forest, Dry Scrub Land Palm Break, Elfin Woodland.</li> <li>• Disturbed low lands as a result of farming.</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism dependent, financial services, manufacturing, construction agriculture, etc</li> </ul>



Figure 1: Map of the Caribbean Basin showing location of St. Kitts and Nevis.

## **1.1 Overview**

The agenda for sustainable development in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) is managed mainly by the Ministry of Sustainable Development (MSD). Financial support for sustainable development initiatives have been derived primarily by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). The Report was prepared as part of the National Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and catalogues the countries efforts to achieve the targets for sustainable development set out under the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI).

The Report examines the level of political commitment by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to address specific risks and vulnerabilities, through the undertaking of practical actions and implementation of effective policies. Also, it summarizes the challenges, opportunities and priorities for advancement of the country's sustainable development agenda. Several key national documents have been reviewed as part of the stocktaking exercise.

## **1.2 Methodology**

The preparation of the Report involved some stakeholder consultations and an in depth analysis of existing instruments, procedures and institutional structures for sustainable development in SKN. In part, the contents of this Report have been based on the outputs of national assessments and projects including but not limited to the following:

- National Adaptation Strategy (NAS),
- National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS),
- UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP),
- UNFCCC National Communications.
- National Physical Development Plan (NPDP),
- Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP),
- Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management Project (IWCAM), and
- OECS Parks and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL)

Information on institutional responsibilities and mandates for sustainable development were obtained from related legislations and operational plans.

## **1.3 Legislative Framework**

Several laws are relevant to various aspects of sustainable development in SKN. These included the following:

- National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act, 1987
- Development Control and Planning Act, 2000.

- Nevis Development Control and Planning Ordinance 2005
- Solid Waste Management Corporation Act
- National Housing Corporation Act
- Whitegate Development Corporation Act, No. 15 of 1999
- Forestry Ordinance 1904
- Water Courses Ordinance 41/56
- Public Health Act No. 22 of 1969
- Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 1999
- Agricultural Development Act 1973

Despite the existence of legislations, there are gaps and/or conflicts in the legal coverage for sustainable development in SKN. Existing legislations are sector specific and for the most part were not intended to address sustainable development in a holistic and programmatic way. In several instances there are no accompanying regulations and/or guidelines to direct the administration of these laws.

Additionally, the Constitution of SKN which grants a significant level of autonomy to the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), in several instances constrains the effective and uniform implementation of key pieces of legislation across the Federation. Some of these include Development Control and Planning Act, the Solid Waste Management Corporation Act and the National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act.

#### **1.4 Regulatory Framework**

There is a general lack of Regulations that accompany legislations in SKN. Apart from the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management into National Development, developed as an output of the Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP), there are no specific guidelines and/or regulations designed to address sustainable development.

Notwithstanding the above, the planning authorities in SKN have been using the St. Kitts-Nevis Building Regulations, Code and Guidelines to manage land development practices. Additionally, the Department of Physical Planning and Environment (DPPE) on St. Kitts and the Department of Physical Planning Natural Resources and the Environment (DPPNRE) on Nevis, supported by the Development Control and Planning Act and the Nevis Development Control and Planning Ordinance respectively, have developed guidelines for the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

#### **1.5 Institutional Framework**

Several institutions provide support to the overall pursuit of the country's sustainable development agenda. These include:

- Department of Physical Planning and Environment (DPPE)
- Department of Department of Physical Planning, National Resources and the Environment (DPPNRE)

- Department Land and Surveys (DOLS)
- Department of Economic Planning and Public Sector Investment Planning (DEPPSIP)
- Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- Water Services Department (WSD)
- Public Works Department (PWD)
- National Housing Corporation (NHC)
- Nevis Land and Housing Development Corporation
- Whitegate Development Corporation (WGDC)
- St. Christopher National Trust (SCNT)
- Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS)
- Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs

The DPPE, DPPNRE and DEPPSIP) have primary responsibility for the implementation of sustainable development initiatives and activities in SKN.

### 1.6 Policy Framework

Generally, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GSKN) and civil society organizations have been engaged in promoting various aspects of sustainable development. Areas of joint collaboration include:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| i. Poverty reduction             | vi. Housing and infrastructure development |
| ii. Agricultural diversification | vii. HIV/AIDS and other health issues      |
| iii. Environmental management    | viii. Climate change                       |
| iv. Water resources management   | ix. Land degradation                       |
| v. Land use planning             | x. Bio-diversity conservation              |

The key programmes and policy instruments are analyzed in table 2 below. These include:

- National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)
- National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)
- Agricultural Strategic Plan (2005-2009)

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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