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Caribbean Community (CARICOM) strategy for the implementation of the biodiversity cluster of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

**submitted to the
CARICOM Secretariat**

by

**the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
(CANARI)**

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Foreword

Acknowledgements

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
BCRC-Caribbean	Caribbean Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology for the Caribbean
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BMZ	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
Camp AM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CAP	CARICOM Agricultural Policy
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Development Institute
Caribbean SEA	Caribbean Student Environmental Alliance
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
Cartagena Convention	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBS	CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CIASNET	Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Network
CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME+ SAP	Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
COTED	Caribbean Community Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRWSIP	Caribbean Climate Resilience and Water Security Investment Framework
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROP	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)
Eba	Ecosystem-based approaches
ECMMAN	Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility

GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GPNM	UN Environment Global Partnership on Nutrient Management
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IFPAMTT	Improving Forest and Protected Areas Management in Trinidad and Tobago
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IRCFish	Increasing Resilience in the Fisheries Sector of Caribbean SIDS
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
LBS Protocol	Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MSME	Micro, small and medium enterprises
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OGDS	OECS Growth and Development Strategy
P3DM	Participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PBPA	Portland Bight Protected Area
PISCES	Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SC	Steering Committee
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SocMon	Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management
SPAW Protocol	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
TORs	Terms of Reference
TK	Traditional knowledge
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP CAR/RCU	UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWI	University of the West Indies
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas

Executive Summary

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) is the framework for regional level assistance to Members of CARICOM¹ in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) primarily for the five-period of 2018-2022 but also with consideration of longer term goals beyond this period. The geographic scope of the CBS also includes Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The CBS was developed under the Caribbean Hub sub-component of Phase II of the Programme for Capacity-Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with funding from the European Union (EU) and administration through the CARICOM Secretariat. The CBS provides a regional channel to address national biodiversity management gaps and priorities and as such has been developed as a framework to guide Members of CARICOM, as well as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, donors and development partners, for harmonised action for the management, conservation and fair and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity resources.

In developing the CBS, support and guidance was provided by a Steering Committee (SC) of representatives from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean Office (UN Environment) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). The development of the CBS was facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), on behalf of CARICOM and the Steering Committee.

The CBS was developed using participatory approaches to ensure widespread and in-depth stakeholder input into content of the strategy and to build ownership for implementation. This was achieved through a number of national and regional workshops supplemented by extensive online consultations with a variety of stakeholders including government officials, academia, civil society, private sector and others. In making their contributions, stakeholders drew on a Synthesis Report produced by CANARI which reviewed and summarised existing national, regional and international biodiversity-related strategies, action plans, and programmes.

The final CBS content was determined by cross-referencing stakeholder perspectives, firstly, against documented analyses of national and regional needs, then against other regional frameworks and mechanisms. Regional inter-governmental agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and networks operating in the Caribbean with mandates directly or indirectly related to biodiversity were identified and specific suggestions were made to build on or support their relevant initiatives and frameworks already in place. Mechanisms to engage and support all stakeholders involved in biodiversity management were emphasised including civil society and the private sector.

The CBS's overarching vision is that "the Caribbean's rich biodiversity and natural heritage is conserved and used sustainably to support economic development and sustainable livelihoods for the well-being and benefit of Caribbean people". The Strategy has been organised into four goals and 12 objectives, along with concurrent targets and actions. The goals and objectives are as follows:

¹ Members of CARICOM - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Associate Members of CARICOM - Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Goal	Objectives
Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets	Objective 1: To conserve species, particularly endangered and endemic species, and maintain and bolster genetic diversity including agricultural diversity throughout the region.
	Objective 2: To secure ecosystem goods and services, protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems, within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes, including using spatial planning approaches.
Goal 2: To sustainably use ecosystem goods and services for national and regional development	Objective 3: To support sustainable biodiversity-based sectors, livelihoods and enterprises focusing on the management of shared regional resources
	Objective 4: To mainstream biodiversity within sectoral, national and regional plans as well as national budgets, accounting and reporting systems.
Goal 3: To address biodiversity threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources	Objective 5: To build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards.
	Objective 6: To protect the region against invasive alien species as well as biosafety and biosecurity threats.
Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity	Objective 7: To ensure generation, storage and use of current, multi-source biodiversity information by Caribbean biodiversity managers, using accessible mechanisms in suitable formats for decision making.
	Objective 8: To develop and implement a coordinated regional approach to the implementation of the CBS through partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, private sector, regional and global agencies.
	Objective 9: To equip Caribbean stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity while protecting their rights and benefits.
	Objective 10: To enhance regional resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation.
	Objective 11: To harmonise regional and national legal, policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks to promote the sustainable use of Caribbean biodiversity.
	Objective 12: To establish coordinated planning, monitoring evaluation, learning and reporting systems for biodiversity conservation.

It is expected that the CBS will be endorsed by Members of CARICOM and that it will contribute to national biodiversity conservation, inspire regional cooperative project development, and help inform priorities in development of similar and wider regional and global strategies and action plans.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) is the framework for regional level assistance to Members of CARICOM² in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020). Geographically, the plan also covers Cuba and the Dominican Republic (DR). The CBS is slated to cover the period 2018-2022, but it also provides a longer-term perspective given that the global plan is to be revised in 2020. Thus, the content of the CBS will also be input into the global post-2020 framework to be adopted by parties.

The CBS was developed under the Caribbean Hub sub-component of Phase II of the Programme for Capacity-Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Funding was provided by the European Union (EU) with the overall objective of supporting CARICOM countries in their implementation of MEAs. The development of the CBS was administered by the CARICOM Secretariat with support and guidance from a Steering Committee (SC) of representatives from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean Office (UN Environment) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) facilitated the development of the CBS on behalf of CARICOM and the Steering Committee

1.2 Regional context

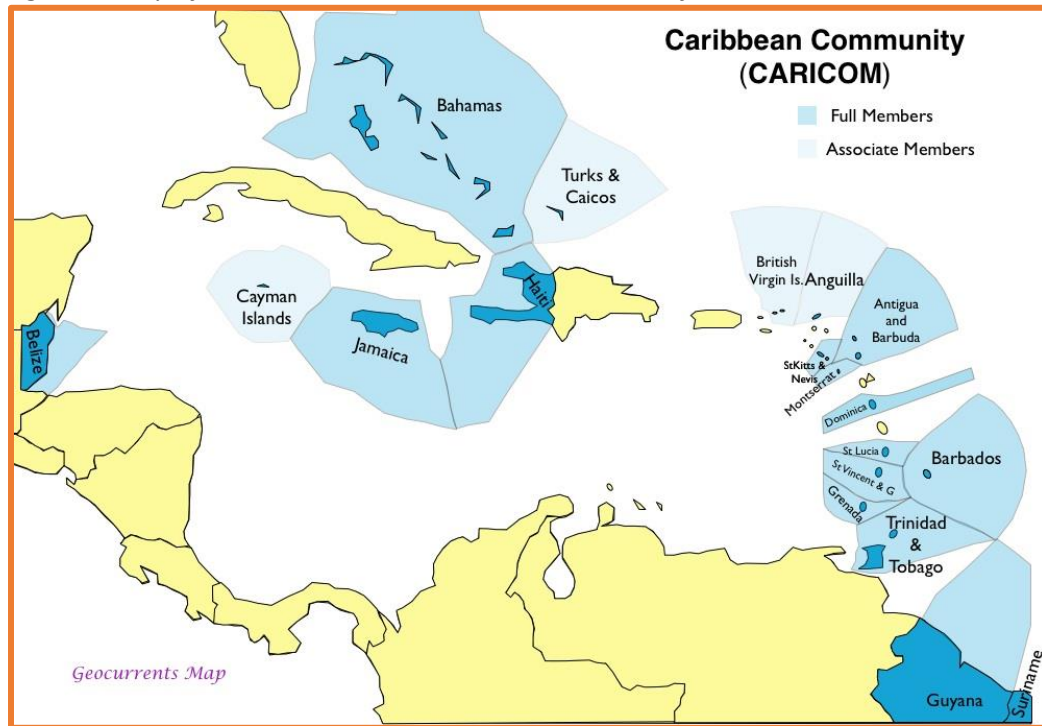
The CBS addresses the specific CARICOM and Caribbean context. This includes regional biodiversity characteristics, as well as the regional socio-economic, political and geographic profile. Key regional environmental and development issues are also considered given their impact on the region's biodiversity.

1.2.1 Geography and Biodiversity

Members of CARICOM (Figure 1) are primarily Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Cuba, the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti are also island nations, the DR and Haiti making up the island of Hispaniola. The majority of the Members of CARICOM (for example the Bahamas) have land masses far smaller than the areas occupied by their accompanying marine territories. Guyana has the largest land mass with an area of around 215,000 km². Grenada covers an area of approximately 344 km², while the smallest Member - Montserrat - has an area of around 102 km². Anguilla, an Associate Member, is 91km² in size (United States Central Intelligence Agency 2018).

²Members of CARICOM - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Associate Members of CARICOM - Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Figure 1: Map of Full Members and Associate Members of CARICOM.



Source: Geocurrents (2018) Available at <http://www.geocurrents.info/site-news/geocurrents-new-look>

There is some similarity in ecosystem types across the region, for example the islands all have coral reefs and seagrass beds. Ten per cent (26,000 km²) of the world's coral reefs are found in the western Atlantic Ocean, primarily in the Caribbean, and 90% of the species there are endemic to the region (Burke et al. 2011). Guyana and Suriname do not have these ecosystems because of their sediment laden coastal waters. Forest ecosystems across the Caribbean range from rainforests to montane forests, mangrove forests and dry cactus scrub. Twelve per cent (22,000 km²) of the world's mangrove forests are found in the Caribbean (Spalding et al. 2010). Savannah ecosystems are widespread across Guyana and Belize but are less common in other countries. Some unique ecosystems in the region include the cenotes (sinkholes) in Belize, volcanic plugs in Saint Lucia and coral limestone riverbed gullies in Barbados. Diversity can be as high as over 8,000 plant species in Guyana, due to its large land area and continental status. Diversity across the islands is variable, for example around 1,300 flowering plant species have been recorded in Saint Lucia and around 700 flowering plant species in Barbados (SCBD 2018a). Caribbean SIDS are also characterised by a high number of endemics (CEPF 2018).

1.2.2 Environmental threats and climate change

The region faces a number of common environmental threats, which directly or indirectly impact on biodiversity. For example, expanding populations, urbanisation and competing land uses within small land masses are a major concern for the region's SIDS, especially for the OECS islands like Montserrat and Grenada. Population and infrastructure tend to be concentrated in coastal areas, with resulting direct destruction of marine and coastal ecosystems or indirect deterioration due to pollution from land-based sources. Prevalent coastal pollutants include untreated or improperly treated domestic wastewater (sewage), sediment, as well as agricultural nutrient loading, industrial wastewater and marine litter. Sewage is a critical coastal pollutant in the tourism dependent OECS islands while oil spills and chemical pollutants are common in the waters of industrial countries like Trinidad and Tobago. Overfishing is a regional concern, compounded by the deterioration of coral reefs and mangrove swamps which serve as fish nurseries. In particular, coral reefs have suffered steeped declines in coral

cover averages. In a study by Jackson et al. (2014) for example, within 88 study sites, coral coverage dropped from 34% in 1970 to 16.3% in 2011. In countries like Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, deforestation, soil erosion and sedimentation from quarrying impair biodiversity. In countries like Grenada, deforestation and biodiversity loss are linked to agriculture, including over-grazing. Deforestation is common across the region, and animal species in intact forests are subject to overhunting. There is an active illegal wildlife trade in the region as well. Habitat loss and habitat fragmentation are other common concerns (CARICOM 2017a, CARICOM 2017b, SCBD 2018a).

Apart from the above listed issues, the recent global rapid climate change³ caused by human activities (IPCC 2014) is a key overarching environmental issue. Climate change also exacerbates the impacts of other environmental threats, for example deforestation, land clearance, soil erosion, pollution and overfishing. For instance, the consequences of rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification, caused by climate change, pose a serious threat to coral reefs, their biodiversity and the people who depend on them (Burke et al. 2011). Bleaching events and a higher incidence of disease in corals across the Caribbean have also been observed (UNEP-WCMC 2016). These factors in turn decrease the climate resilience of ecosystems and species (UN Environment 2016). Global and regional climate models suggest that the Caribbean can expect a 5-10mm rise in sea level each year and a 1-4°C increase in temperatures over the next hundred years. Increased drought frequency is expected and when rain does fall it will be as high intensity downpours with subsequent flooding. Higher temperatures are likely to cause shifts in species ranges, for example animal migration to cooler, higher altitudes or species extinction where this is not possible. Thus, the adequacy of the current protected area boundaries is a concern (CEPF 2017). Overall, CEPF (2017) notes the need for more research on the impacts on climate change on the region's biodiversity, especially fine scale impacts.

Under regional climate change scenarios, hurricane and storm intensity are expected to increase (IPCC 2014; Cap-Net 2015) with subsequent impacts not only on the human population, but the region's biodiversity and ecosystems. In September 2017, the category five Hurricane Maria caused one death in Barbuda, at least 27 human fatalities in Dominica, and also nationwide forest destruction and agricultural crop loss on that latter island (CDEMA Hurricane Maria Situation Report, 2017). That same month, Hurricane Irma caused the deaths of thousands of flamingos in Cuba (Birds Caribbean 2017). Lower intensity hurricanes may lead to tree defoliation and animal migration, but high intensity hurricanes can cause instant or delayed tree mortality and death of species (Lugo 2008). Hurricane strength waves break coral branches and the subsequent accumulation of coral rubble can hinder regrowth. Corals may be further stressed by terrestrial sediment and pollutant laden runoff resulting from intense hurricane rainfall (Heron et al 2008).

Intense hurricanes and other climate change impacts can create a vicious cycle where biodiversity and ecosystems are directly or indirectly impaired as the region's people increase their demands on ecosystems goods and services as they respond to climate change. For example, higher temperatures will require more water for domestic and agricultural purposes, resulting in higher water abstraction from rivers and depleted habitat and food resources for aquatic biodiversity. While climate change is likely to lead to a net biodiversity loss across the region, invasive alien species, pests and diseases, are likely to proliferate (CEPF 2017).

This vicious cycle is felt economically as hurricanes destroy or degrade biodiversity and ecosystems upon which economic activities and livelihoods depend (for example tourism and agriculture). This decreases

³ Change in the state of the climate that can be identified (for example using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. It refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (IPCC 2014).

income, while at the same time saddling the countries with economic costs for recovery (including for repair of infrastructure) that may be more than a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For example, the financial cost of Hurricane Ivan to Grenada was estimated at more than US\$900 million. Recovery can, therefore, take years and seriously disrupt the development pathways of vulnerable SIDS.

1.2.3 Socio-economic, historical and political context

Apart from environmental issues, the region's biodiversity profile is also shaped by its socio-economic, historical and political characteristics. Caribbean countries generally have a history of European colonisation and associated monocultural agricultural systems (for example sugar-cane and banana plantations). This has deleteriously impacted on the region's biodiversity as a result of extensive land clearance compounded by the associated introduction of invasive alien species like the mongoose.

Agriculture, fisheries and tourism are important economic sectors and as such the region has a high dependence on its natural resources to provide supporting ecosystem goods and services. For instance, ecotourism benefits are largely linked to marine and coastal ecosystems, focussing on diving and snorkelling (Wood 2000). Cruise tourism is also dependent on the region's biodiversity and as noted by the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (2013), the Caribbean is ranked as the dominant cruise destination, accounting for 37.3% of all global itineraries in 2013.

Rural community livelihoods are particularly dependent on natural resources, but over-exploitation has led to deterioration of the natural resource base. Infrastructure in the coastal areas, especially housing and tourist facilities, either destroys ecosystems directly during construction or indirectly through pollution (UN Environment 2016). These stressors negatively impact local livelihoods and economic development as do mining, energy production and manufacturing. A vicious cycle of increasing poverty, unemployment and limited land availability often cause further pressures on biodiversity. The economic situation of the SIDS also impacts on their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change and this vulnerability in turn impacts economic development (see section 2.2).

The Caribbean region has been experiencing a slowdown in economic growth since 2009 and countries have also been coping with high public debt (Caribbean Development Bank 2016). Against this backdrop, national funds are prioritised for health and infrastructure with less funding available for conservation. Unsustainable financing and insurance practices are other concerns. Compounding this is the global contraction in overseas development assistance (ODA) coupled with the fact that most CARICOM countries are considered middle income countries, which despite their climate vulnerabilities, do not qualify for concessional financing. Apart from these economic factors, regional biodiversity protection has been constrained by underlying factors like uncertain land tenure, weak land use planning, data gaps and limited participation in decision making (UN Environment 2016; UNECLAC 2015).

CARICOM is comprised of 15 Members, 10 Full Members and five Associate Members¹. The Associate CARICOM members are not independent states but overseas territories of European countries. The biodiversity related policies of these territories are those of the specific country they fall under. Cuba and the Dominican Republic are not Members of CARICOM but are included in this CBS development process. The Members of CARICOM are English speaking countries except for Haiti, which is French and Creole speaking and Suriname, which speaks Dutch. The national language of Cuba and the Dominican Republic is Spanish. The above political and linguistic diversity thus presents a challenge in harmonising approaches and engendering collaboration. There is no single political grouping encompassing all Caribbean islands and continental countries and donors rarely fund all countries, making it very difficult to develop and fund any comprehensive regional programme. Work is thus executed in a fragmented fashion across groups of countries. Coordination is as a result, challenging.

1.2.4 Caribbean policies and institutional frameworks for biodiversity management

The management of the Caribbean's biodiversity takes place through multi-layer and multi-scalar policies and institutional frameworks. At the national level, government agencies have primary responsibility for biodiversity conservation. At the regional level there is no specific technical inter-governmental agency responsible for biodiversity, in the way there is a regional Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) for example. However, several regional organisations do manage biodiversity related initiatives and both the CARICOM Secretariat and OECS Commission have a leadership role as it pertains to biodiversity related MEAs. International agencies such as UN-Environment and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also play a role in biodiversity management in the region as do a number of regional CSOs.

In terms of technical frameworks, biodiversity conservation is addressed under national legislation, regional policies, and international conventions. CARICOM country membership in regional and international biodiversity related MEAs is listed in Table 1 below. Cuba and the Dominican Republic are also party to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Ramsar Convention, CITES and Cartagena Convention/ Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW Protocol) and Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). Montserrat is included as part of the United Kingdom's ratification of the CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention and CITES.

Each MEA is a standalone agreement focussing on specific species, ecosystems or thematic areas. However, there are also strong synergies and specific cooperation mandates among the MEA governing bodies. There is also a strong focus on joint and complementary work planning. The CBD Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity targets serve as an overarching framework for action and cooperation for all the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Table 1: Biodiversity related MEAs Members of CARICOM, Cuba and the DR are party to

Table abstracted from the *Draft State of Biodiversity in the Caribbean Community: A Review of Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (CARICOM 2018)

Country	CBD	CBD-Nagoya Protocol	CBD-Biosafety Protocol	CITES	CMS	Ramsar Convention	Cartagena Convention	Cartagena Convention-SPAW Protocol	Cartagena Convention-LBS Protocol
Antigua and Barbuda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
The Bahamas	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Barbados	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Belize	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dominica	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grenada	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Guyana	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Haiti	✓								
Jamaica	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
St. Kitts/Nevis	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Saint Lucia	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Vincent/Grenadines	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	

Suriname	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Trinidad and Tobago	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

2. Development and Scope of Strategy

2.1 Development of the CBS

The Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Decision 5 of their XIX Meeting held in Los Cabos, Mexico in March 2014, agreed to prepare an implementation plan for the translation of the outcomes of the SAMOA Pathway into concrete actions in support of the sustainable development of SIDS. This call was reinforced at the XX Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Cartagena, Columbia in March 2016, in Decision 10 on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in Harmony with Nature, where countries expressed “support to ongoing work on the elaboration of a Caribbean Biodiversity Strategy for SIDS, as an important means of enhancing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Caribbean basin.”

Accordingly, the development of the CBS was commissioned through the CARICOM Secretariat as part of the Caribbean Hub sub-component of Phase II of the Programme for Capacity-Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The CBS was subsequently developed through a highly participatory process to ensure widespread and in-depth stakeholder input into content of the Strategy and to build ownership for implementation. This was achieved through a number of national and regional workshops supplemented by extensive online consultations with a variety of stakeholders including government officials, academia, civil society, private sector and others. A unique aspect of the development of the CBS was that civil society was the first key stakeholder grouping to input to the structure and content of the strategy. The consultation process began with national civil society workshops Grenada and Saint Lucia. This was followed by a regional civil society meeting in Jamaica with representatives from regional and national CSOs from Haiti, the DR, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and the Bahamas. The largest regional participatory workshop was held in Guyana in June 2018, at the CARICOM Secretariat targeting primarily Government representatives of Members of CARICOM but also regional inter-governmental organisations, academia, private sector, donors and international agencies. A number of regional, international and national CSOs and their networks also attended this forum. The above fora were used to determine stakeholder priority biodiversity concerns to be reflected and addressed in the CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy. The meetings, in particular the regional workshop in Guyana, were also used to draft the structure and content of the CBS capturing ideas for targets, actions, monitoring and evaluation.

The discussions within the above fora were informed by a [Regional Synthesis Report](#) and [associated thematic briefs](#). These documents captured and summarised key biodiversity issues and questions for CBS development. The Regional Synthesis Report included a review and summary of national, regional and international biodiversity-related strategies, action plans, programmes and policies in the Caribbean, drawing heavily on the draft CARICOM Biodiversity Outlook. The Report and briefs were also the focus of online consultations through the CANARI website and social media. Drafting of the CBS began after the Guyana workshop with draft versions reviewed by stakeholders through online processes.

2.2 Focus of the CBS as a regional channel to address national biodiversity management gaps and priorities

The geographic scope of the CBS is the Members of CARICOM, Cuba and the DR. These countries have articulated their intended goals and actions to manage their countries' biodiversity through their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for the CBD. Reporting on the NBSAPs also occurs through the National Reports for the CBD. The information coming out of these reports and various regional meetings suggests that, while countries are advanced in some aspects of biodiversity management, there are other areas that are challenging for implementation (see Section 2.3 on priority issues for the CBS). There are other issues that have been well addressed nationally but are still pressing concerns that can further benefit from channelling regional resources and technical expertise to the national level. There are matters that require a solid common regional platform from which to focus attention on, negotiate, and implement requisite actions within the Caribbean region.

Against this backdrop the CBS has been developed to:

Serve as a framework to guide Members of CARICOM, as well as Cuba, the Dominican Republic, donors and development partners, for harmonised action for the management, conservation and fair, equitable and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity resources.

- Focus attention on activities that can be more efficiently executed by Members of CARICOM, Cuba and the Dominican Republic working together as a group alongside the CARICOM Secretariat and other regional and international agencies.
- Provide a management strategy for resources that have a community-wide dimension, for example transboundary resources, aligning with other regional and international policies and frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as needed.
- Shape the biodiversity work programmes of the CARICOM Secretariat, OECS Commission, SCBD and the UN Environment as well as other inter-governmental, international and regional CSOs working in biodiversity and ecosystem management.

The CBS framework will provide direction to those regional development partners and agencies that may or may not have a physical presence at the national level but whose purview includes the provision of technical assistance at the national level. The CBS will also showcase cases where it may be most efficient to channel regional agency support through multi-country initiatives rather than a piecemeal country by country approach. This is particularly of relevance where economies of scale are such that funding can better be accessed and channelled through large scale multi-country biodiversity initiatives. Similarly, the CBS can also be used by donors to guide biodiversity conservation investment.

The CBS also has the specific role of addressing areas of weakness or gaps in existing NBSAPs and other key national plans, as well as identifying clear numerical targets and indicators that will help to guide countries which do not all have specific targets in their existing plans. The CBS is also the consensus to inform regional initiatives, including the design of the third phase of the Programme for Capacity-Building related to MEAs.

The CBS addresses the national and regional implementation of not only the CBD and its protocols (e.g. Biosafety and Nagoya), but the entire biodiversity cluster of MEAs. This includes CITES, CMS, and the Cartagena Convention and associated SPAW Protocol.

2.3 CBS content

The CBS content has been determined by cross-referencing stakeholder perspectives firstly against documented analyses of national and regional needs, then against other regional frameworks and mechanisms. A high stakeholder priority area that has had a low level of implementation at the national level warrants inclusion in the CBS as it is a gap that needs to be addressed. On the other hand, to avoid duplication and ensure synergies, a thematic area that is well addressed within another regional framework may not need to be treated in depth in the CBS but could instead reference the actions under the other framework. These frameworks can include for example the:

- Implementation Plan for the CARICOM Framework for achieving Development resilient to Climate Change
- CARICOM framework on Capacity-Building and Development to Support Effective Action on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)
- SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention and supporting programme elements
- LBS Protocol to the Cartagena Convention
- The Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its Action Plan (2015-2016)

Box 1: Stakeholder priority biodiversity concerns

- Land use planning
- Climate and extreme weather
- Traditional knowledge
- Invasive alien species
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Protected areas management
- Ecosystem services and ecosystem restoration
- Education and public awareness
- Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Green/natural resource accounting
- Conservation of endemic species
- Biodiversity assessments/inventories
- Funding
- Biosafety
- Sustainable fisheries
- Natural resource extraction and harvesting
- Transboundary issues
- Role of civil society
- Conservation of genetic resources (ex situ/in situ) including agricultural diversity

In some cases, even if the topic is treated elsewhere, the biodiversity conservation nuances need to be expressed in greater detail within the CBS. This is especially the case for climate change which has such far reaching effects that it must be addressed in detail in the CBS.

The key areas of concern regarding biodiversity management in the Caribbean were articulated by stakeholders through the fora described in section 2.1. These are listed in Box 1 in the order of priority suggested by stakeholders at the Guyana regional workshop. In examining these, it is apparent that some concerns can be amalgamated and collectively treated within the CBS as suggested below.

Land use planning, protected areas management, ecosystem services and restoration: Land use planning is a pivotal underlying issue affecting not only biodiversity management but overall environmental management in the Caribbean. Overall, **spatial planning** is extremely important incorporating both terrestrial and marine planning elements especially as it pertains to the establishment and management of protected areas. Stakeholders at the Guyana workshop assigned a very high priority to land use and spatial planning, noting that natural heritage and natural capital are

not properly considered in spatial plans. Land and marine degradation were noted as a major causes of biodiversity loss such that restoration is an important requirement for biodiversity protection.

At the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018 the Ministers agreed to “Encourage commitments and partnerships among countries, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, as well as among sources of financing, to address the restoration of degraded ecosystems through efficient production systems, in particular agroecological approaches, conservation agriculture, agroforestry and cattle ranching systems, among other sustainable agriculture practices.” The Ministers also emphasised that “that addressing the restoration of degraded ecosystems presents a transformative opportunity to focus in an integrated manner on the relationship between ecosystem degradation, desertification and combating climate change, and move towards compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda”. Overall restoration is important given the need to maintain critical ecosystem services such as source water protection, exacerbated by the water scarce climate scenarios predicted for the region. Protection and restoration of critical terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems is also important to maintain habitats and goods and services used for livelihoods, particularly of indigenous and local communities.

There is a strong regional need to continue to designate and sustainably manage protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. Managing the impacts of climate change on protected areas is also becoming increasingly important, for example, adjusting to climate change induced species range shifts and the increased abundance of invasive alien species. Protected area management has to be tied into overall country land use planning given the need to designate new protected areas, and perhaps shift boundaries and maintain wildlife migration corridors in response to climate change. Financing for protected areas remain a challenge especially as protected area user fees do not adequately reflect the natural capital of the protected area sites. The management of biodiversity outside of protected areas and state lands remains a Caribbean dilemma. Interventions to conserve biodiversity on private lands are a pivotal need. Additional information on the legal, institutional and cultural context for the treatment of land use planning, protected areas management, ecosystem services and restoration in the CBS can be viewed in the CBS [Regional Synthesis Report](#).

Genetic and species diversity and conservation of endemics: Given low national capacity, there has been a resulting low level of implementation of the genetic diversity interventions outlined in country NBSAPs. Thus, Caribbean countries need regional collaboration and support to minimise genetic erosion and safeguard their national genetic diversity, and by extension regional biodiversity. This includes the maintenance of genetic diversity of wild species as well as farmed animals, cultivated plants, and their wild relatives. A related issue is the conservation of endemics, which is vital given the high level of endemism in the region.

Sustainable livelihoods, sustainable fisheries, natural resource extraction and harvesting: Given the importance of the region’s biodiversity to its main economic sectors and local livelihoods, the CBS should consider how to ensure its sustainable use. Overall, economic development in the Caribbean must be premised on environmental sustainability. A number of current regional and national strategies or initiatives are framed around the concepts of Green Economy, Blue Economy, Green Growth, Green Jobs and Sustainable Consumption and Production. These include the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its Action Plan (2015-2016), the OECS Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and Strategic Action Plan (2013), Grenada’s Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan and planned outputs of Guyana’s Green State Development Strategy initiative. These recognise economic opportunities created by the sustainable use of terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity resources and the CBS can be the avenue demonstrating how this can be achieved. In particular, inclusiveness

principles in these frameworks require that the use of natural resources needs to also provide economic opportunities for the livelihoods of marginalised groups such as the poor and vulnerable, indigenous communities, women and youth.

At the XXI of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean October 9-12, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ministers agreed to “Invite the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop efforts aimed at improving technical capacities, raising baseline information and mobilizing resources to address the threats that threaten pollinators in the region, given the multiple benefits they bring to people and the functioning of ecosystems”. This is key issue for natural resource extraction and sustainable harvesting.

Sustainable fisheries management is an important regional issue but is well addressed under frameworks such as the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP) (2015-2025). As part of implementation of the CLME+ SAP, UN-Environment has commissioned a regional strategy for the management of critical marine habitats (coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves). Thus, the CBS can instead focus much needed attention on terrestrial biodiversity (for example timber and non-timber forest product extraction as well wildlife hunting quota limits). The CBS can thus also emphasise the sustainable harvesting of non-fisheries coastal and marine biodiversity products e.g. those derived from seaweed.

Biodiversity assessment, evaluation, accounting and mainstreaming: A key specific area of national weakness in the implementation of country NBSAPs is the integration of biodiversity values into national development strategies and planning processes. This includes land use planning as well national accounting and reporting systems. This lack of mainstreaming is partly hampered by limited national capacity in economic valuation of natural resources and natural/green accounting. It is also significant that integrating natural capital accounting into economic decision-making is a central requirement of Green and Blue Economy approaches.

Climate Change and Extreme Weather: Climate change is well addressed in the CARICOM Implementation Plan for the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2011-2021) and disaster management under the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Results Framework (2014-2024). However, this is such a critical concern for biodiversity that it should also receive significant attention under the CBS. Mitigation, adaptation and resilience all need to be addressed within the CBS. Additional information on the legal, institutional and cultural context for the treatment of climate change within the CBS can be viewed in the CBS Regional Synthesis Report.

Transboundary issues: The management of transboundary issues and other matters of community wide dimension is a specific intended role of the CBS as indicated in section 2.2. Transboundary issues include management of shared marine ecosystems as well as administration of the terrestrial corridors between nations (for example between Haiti and the DR). The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems project (CLME+) Strategic Action Programme provides a framework for managing transboundary marine resources under specific plans under development (for example for flyingfish). The Caribbean Biological Corridor and the Grenadines Network of Marine Protected Areas are relevant initiatives for transboundary biodiversity management. *Sargassum* influxes are of shared concern. This will need to be addressed within the CBS.

Invasive alien species (IAS) and biosafety: In many cases IAS management is a transboundary issue as species move between nations (for example the chytrid fungus). There has been some progress in IAS management in the region in the recent past notably the development of regional and national plans

and networks. However, there is more work to be done in responding to new and climate exacerbated threats. Further, a significant regional need is funding to implement the IAS management plans developed under previous regional projects. Overall, IAS is a critical concern repeatedly expressed by stakeholders as an important aspect for the CBS. At the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean October 9-12, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina Ministers agreed to “encourage commitments and alliances among countries to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and other species”. Biosafety management as it pertains to agriculture and food safety is within the remit of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), a CARICOM technical agency. However, while a dedicated regional agency is in place to address this issue, there is less regional attention placed on the handling of living modified organisms (LMOs) which may affect non-agricultural biological diversity.

Traditional knowledge, education and awareness: Biodiversity education and public awareness have been highlighted by stakeholders as key needs. However, given high levels of national implementation, the CBS should only focus on those aspects where regional intervention can add value. This could include helping to shore up scientific databases and repositories of traditional knowledge to assist Caribbean biodiversity managers in **decision making**. The CBS could focus on facilitating information exchange among various national and regional stakeholder groups sharing best practices and lessons. This is particularly important as the region continues to grapple with the effects of climate change on biodiversity, especially impacts of extreme weather events. At the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018, Ministers agreed to the development of a “Regional Cooperation Program for Biodiversity, promoting coordination and the exchange of information to develop specific strategies and plans within the framework of actions which can be carried out and aimed at towards the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all economic sectors, especially those that depend on biodiversity and are relevant to natural life systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.”

Role of Civil Society: This specific priority concern should be addressed within an **overall stakeholder engagement and capacity building context**. This includes creating mechanisms and building capacity for the role of civil society, local communities, biodiversity resource users, indigenous peoples and the private sector (including micro, small and medium enterprises [MSMEs]) in implementing the CBS. At the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean October 9-12, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ministers agreed to “Encourage commitments and alliances involving indigenous peoples and local communities, protected by the countries' biological diversity and traditional knowledge, to promote the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations”.

Funding: Funding for biodiversity issues remains a priority for the region, and the CBS, as emphasised by stakeholders. A regional coordinated funding approach would be useful to supplement national funding streams allowing access to both traditional and non-traditional financial avenues. In particular, large scale regional funding proposals targeting one or more key thematic areas (for example IAS management), with collaborative arrangements between regional and national partners, continues to be a useful approach.

Harmonisation of frameworks: Development of harmonised and coherent enabling legal, policy, regulatory, fiscal and funding frameworks is also critical. These include the rationalisation of incentives and subsidies which positively and negatively impact on biodiversity.

Coordination and Partnerships: There are a number of regional agencies working directly or indirectly on biodiversity matters. Actions under the CBS can therefore use these agencies' recently concluded initiatives as foundations on which to build, where there is synergy with the objectives of the CBS.

Similarly, it may be more resource efficient to strengthen and support current initiatives rather than develop new ones. For new initiatives developed under the CBS, a regional partnership approach is recommended, among regional inter-governmental, CSO, academic and private sector entities. An indicative list of potential regional partners, their mandates and a few of their relevant initiatives are highlighted in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 also provides an indicative list of the regional frameworks and policies that these organisations support or administer. These are the frameworks which address particular CBS thematic areas well, such that there are no actions listed under the CBS, but instead reference to these other regional frameworks.

Additional information on all the priority topics highlighted above can be viewed in the CBS [Regional Synthesis Report](#). This includes elaborations of the legal, institutional and cultural context relevant to the treatment of the topics in the CBS goals, targets and actions, discussed under relevant Aichi Targets.

2.4 CBS structure

The CBS has been organised into goals, targets, objectives and actions, following the above suggested organisation of priority concerns. An overarching vision is also included. The final section of the CBS is devoted to strategy implementation.

While the original intended scope of the CBS is five years, the CARICOM Secretariat and stakeholders have suggested that both five-year (to 2024) and longer-term such as 10-year (to 2029) targets and actions should be included. It was further suggested that instead of a 10-year target an 11-year target (to 2030) would be useful for alignment with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Table 2: Summary and alignment of CBS goals and objectives to stakeholder priorities

Goal	Objectives	Stakeholder priority topics covered under objective
Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets	Objective 1: To conserve species, particularly endangered and endemic species, and maintain and bolster genetic diversity including agricultural diversity throughout the region.	Genetic diversity Species diversity - endangered species and endemics Ex-situ conservation
	Objective 2: To secure ecosystem goods and services, protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems, within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes, including using spatial planning approaches.	Land use Planning Protected areas Ecosystem services Ecosystem restoration
Goal 2: To sustainably use ecosystem goods and services for national and regional development	Objective 3: To support sustainable biodiversity-based sectors, livelihoods and enterprises focusing on the management of shared regional resources	Sustainable livelihoods Sustainable fisheries Natural resource extraction and harvesting
	Objective 4: To mainstream biodiversity within sectoral, national and regional plans as well as national budgets, accounting and reporting systems.	Biodiversity assessments Mainstreaming biodiversity and green/natural resource accounting
Goal 3: To address biodiversity	Objective 5: To build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards.	Climate and natural hazards

threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources		
	Objective 6: To protect the region against invasive alien species as well as biosafety and biosecurity threats.	Invasive alien species Biosafety Biosecurity
Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity	Objective 7: To ensure generation, storage and use of current, multi-source biodiversity information by Caribbean biodiversity managers, using accessible mechanisms in suitable formats for decision making.	Education and awareness
	Objective 8: To develop and implement a coordinated regional approach to the implementation of the CBS through partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, private sector, regional and global agencies.	Partnerships
	Objective 9: To equip Caribbean stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity while protecting their rights and benefits.	Capacity building Stakeholder engagement
	Objective 10: To enhance regional resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation.	Financing
	Objective 11: To harmonise regional and national legal, policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks to promote the sustainable use of Caribbean biodiversity.	Harmonised legal, policy, regulatory, fiscal frameworks – national, regional and global levels – including incentives and subsidies
	Objective 12: To establish coordinated planning, monitoring evaluation, learning and reporting systems for biodiversity conservation.	

3. Vision

It is hoped that with the engagement of all stakeholders, the CARICOM CBD Strategy will support its Member countries and associated Members, as well as their neighbours and cooperating Parties, to harmonise the implementation of their country-specific strategies, action plans and other obligations related to biodiversity-related MEAs, and optimise cooperation and synergies to achieve the overall CBD Vision as follows:

The Caribbean's rich biodiversity and natural heritage is conserved and used sustainably to support economic development and sustainable livelihoods for the well-being and benefit of Caribbean people.

4. Goals

Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets.

Goal 2: To sustainably use ecosystem goods and services for national and regional development.

Goal 3: To address biodiversity threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources.

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.

5. Objectives and targets

Table 3: Targets and Actions for Goal 1, Objective 1

Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets			
Objective 1: To maintain and bolster genetic diversity, agricultural diversity, species conservation and the conservation of endemic species throughout the region.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments conducted or updated for at least five vulnerable migratory or transboundary species for inclusion in the IUCN Red List of Species to inform management priorities. At least five regional species management plans developed for vulnerable migratory or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three endemic species have reduced threat level on the IUCN Red List. Population size and/or range enhanced for at least five vulnerable migratory or transboundary species. Strengthened regional and national capacity for the management of genetic biodiversity. National legislation and regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and support regional cooperation for the management of migratory species, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments of migratory or transboundary species to inform or update classification on the IUCN Red List of Species. Development of multi-national and/or national management plans for targeted migratory or transboundary species (particularly endangered or threatened species on the IUCN Red List of Species), including in-situ and ex-situ approaches as needed. Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, as well as collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge, models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germplasm conservation In situ species conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement multi-national and/or national management plans for targeted migratory or transboundary species (particularly endangered or threatened species on the IUCN Red List of Species), which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germplasm conservation In situ species conservation Ex situ species conservation Species reintroduction, conservation and breeding Facilitate regional and national research for commercial use of genetic resources based on national priorities, establishing partnerships with academia, communities and indigenous groups as needed. Support activities under the regional Access and Benefits Sharing Framework. Implement a regional initiative to strengthen regional and national capacity for the management of genetic biodiversity including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human capacity Laboratories and equipment

<p>transboundary species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three protocols and model legislation developed to protect species and genetic diversity. 	<p>strengthened in at least two Members of CARICOM to protect species and genetic diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans developed for the in-situ conservation of at least three plant and three animal species within protected areas. Plans developed for the ex-situ conservation of at least three plant and three animal genetic resources in medium- or long-term conservation facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex situ species conservation focusing on endangered and endemic species Hunting quota limits for wildlife species Species reintroduction, conservation and breeding Management of migratory species Develop a regional initiative to support Members of CARICOM with the management of endemic species. Develop a regional initiative to strengthen regional and national capacity for the management of genetic biodiversity including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human capacity Laboratories and equipment Regional and national gene/seed banks Develop protocols and model legislation to protect species and genetic diversity, including farmers' indigenous seed banks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and national gene/seed banks Develop a protocol for disseminating agricultural germplasm from national and regional gene banks to farmers after floods, hurricanes and other disasters. Develop a regional Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protocol/approach for protection of biological resources. Develop a regional initiative to integrate biodiversity management holistically into agricultural systems, for example through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of multiple plant varieties Reducing the impacts of agrochemicals on beneficial insects Improving biodiversity of soil microflora and fauna to build soil fertility Legal and policy frameworks to support the creation of incentives to integrate biodiversity management into agriculture. Support the development and updating of national legislation and regulations to protect species and genetic diversity.
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Table 4: Targets and Actions for Goal 1, Objective 2

Goal 1: To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets			
Objective 2: To secure ecosystem goods and services, protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems, within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes, including using spatial planning approaches.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols and model legislation developed to protect ecosystem diversity. • At least 17% of the land area of Members of CARICOM is protected. • At least 20% of the marine exclusive economic zones of Members of CARICOM is protected. • At least 40% of the land and marine exclusive economic zones of Members of CARICOM is managed using ecosystem-based approaches. • There is 10% reduction in the area of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in Members of CARICOM. • Fifteen % (15%) of the area of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in Members of CARICOM is under active restoration for enhanced biodiversity and ecological functioning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist countries in the generation and depiction of accurate land, coastal and marine data (including national and transboundary mapping of protected areas, ecosystems providing critical services, sensitive habitats and species ranges) to identify priority areas for biodiversity management. • Identify ecosystems that are critical for provision of ecosystem services, particularly climate change adaptation (for example coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves for coastal protection). • Develop, and/or support and scale out existing regional, sub-regional and national initiatives to protect and restore critical ecosystems, emphasising multi-stakeholder approaches with the engagement of civil society, communities and the private sector, to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ridge to reef approaches ○ Watershed management ○ Landscape approaches for protected area systems emphasising connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement regional and national initiatives to revise spatial (land and marine area) plans and policies to be biodiversity-sensitive and promote adherence to these revised plans and policies. • Develop regional initiatives focusing on building resilience of biodiversity (at ecosystem, species and genetic levels) to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. • Develop regional ecosystem restoration initiatives focusing on degraded areas and key ecosystems especially those important for food and water security as well as adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change and natural hazards. Key ecosystems include but are not limited to: mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, dry forests. Key sites include but are not limited to: abandoned quarries and agricultural lands, hillsides and coastlines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of management of protected areas for biodiversity conservation has been measurably enhanced in at least five Members of CARICOM. • Biodiversity conservation initiatives are being implemented across at least three transboundary landscapes/seascapes in the region. • National legislation and regulations strengthened in at least two Members of CARICOM to protect ecosystem diversity. • Initiatives for restoration of critical ecosystems in at least five Members of CARICOM have delivered measurable improvements in delivery of ecosystem services (for example shoreline protection, slope stabilisation, watershed functioning, carbon capture). • At minimum a 10% increase in the land area covered by forests in at least five Members of CARICOM is achieved. • A minimum of a 10% increase in the land area covered by mangroves in at least five Members of CARICOM is achieved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Source water protection ○ Ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation ○ Ecosystem approaches to fisheries ○ Integrated coastal zone management. • Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, as well as collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge, models, case studies and lessons learnt, including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use tax easements and other land management initiatives which promote biodiversity conservation on private lands ○ Biodiversity and ecosystem management for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience ○ Ecosystem restoration ○ Landscape approaches for ecological connectivity • Advocate for national adoption of land use tax easements and other fiscal mechanisms to encourage biodiversity conservation on private lands. • Develop protocols and model legislation to protect ecosystem diversity, including through the use of protected areas, landscape approaches, restoration and management of private lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement regional initiatives focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration after extreme weather events. • Establish and promote regional ecosystem restoration guidelines and benchmarks for countries to adapt to their national context. • Provide regional support to update protected area management plans to be more climate resilient. • Provide regional support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate resilient protected area management plans. • Develop and implement biodiversity conservation initiatives in at least three transboundary landscapes/seascapes. • Support the development and updating of national legislation and regulations to protect ecosystem diversity, including through the use of protected areas, landscape approaches, restoration and management of private lands.
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Table 5: Targets and Actions for Goal 2, Objective 3

Goal 2: To sustainably use biodiversity for national and regional development			
Objective 3: To support sustainable biodiversity-based sectors, livelihoods and enterprises focusing on the management of shared regional resources.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments conducted on the population trends of key non-cultivated plant species harvested in at least five Members of CARICOM. Assessments conducted on the population status for key wildlife species hunted in at least five Members of CARICOM. By 2024 sustainable use plans developed for at least five key species in at least five Members of CARICOM. Catch per unit effort assessments indicate significant improvements in the sustainable use of at least five key species in at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional initiatives are implemented on green/blue economy, particularly focused on greening key sectors and supporting sustainable livelihoods and local green enterprises. Reduction in unsustainable livelihood practices (for example unsustainable fishing, hunting, illegal wildlife trade, and other harvesting of biodiversity) reported in at least five Members of CARICOM. Biodiversity values and ecological footprints incorporated into environmental assessment impacts (positive and negative) of industries and businesses in key sectors in at least 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiatives executed under regional frameworks which promote sustainable harvesting of natural resources such as fisheries, wildlife, and timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, and collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable fisheries Sustainable natural resource harvesting including timber and NTFPs Wildlife management Sustainable biodiversity-based livelihoods and local green enterprises Diversification of livelihoods (for example non-extractive uses and agroforestry) Responsible stewardship Biodiversity-based local green enterprises Develop, and/or support and scale out existing regional and national initiatives which promote sustainable fisheries, sustainable natural resource extraction and harvesting, and development of biodiversity-based sustainable livelihoods and local green enterprises, particularly those targeting development of livelihoods and micro-enterprises by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and implement regional initiatives on green/blue economy, particularly focused on greening key sectors and supporting sustainable livelihoods and local green enterprises. Continue to support research on sustainable biodiversity-based livelihoods and enterprises. Develop a regional initiative to protect and enhance pollinator health and populations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools identified or developed to guide assessments of impacts of use of biodiversity and ecological footprints of key industries and businesses in at least five Members of CARICOM. • Regional local green enterprises strategy developed to enhance support to MSMEs using biodiversity goods and services. • Assessments conducted on the population status for at least 3 key pollinator species in at least five Members of CARICOM 	<p>five Members of CARICOM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 250 MSMEs in at least five Members of CARICOM are using biodiversity sustainably and contribute to biodiversity conservation, alongside delivering social and economic benefits to communities and marginalised groups. • Populations of at least one pollinator species increased by 10 % in at least 5 Members of CARICOM. 	<p>marginalised groups such as the poor and vulnerable, indigenous communities, women and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regional initiatives on green/blue economy, particularly focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building the capacity of key regulatory and support agencies working with the private sector and enterprise development to apply tools for greening biodiversity- based business ○ Greening key sectors (for example agriculture, fisheries, tourism) to ensure they reduce their environmental footprint and reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and contribute to biodiversity conservation ○ Enhancing support delivered by national agencies (technical, financial and regulatory) to community-based MSMEs which use biodiversity goods and services (for example ecotourism, agroforestry, small scale fisheries, craft, natural beauty products, medicinal and food products) so that these enterprises use biodiversity sustainably and contribute to biodiversity conservation, alongside delivering social and economic benefits to communities and marginalised groups such as the poor and vulnerable, indigenous communities, women and youth. • Develop a regional initiative to capture baseline data on pollinator populations and health. • Develop a regional initiative to improve technical capacities, to address the threats that threaten pollinators and livelihoods which depend on them 	
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Table 6: Targets and Actions for Goal 2, Objective 4

Goal 2: To sustainably use biodiversity for national and regional development			
Objective 4: To mainstream biodiversity within sectoral, national and regional policies and plans as well as national budgets, accounting and reporting systems			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Models or templates identified or developed to showcase how biodiversity conservation and biodiversity economic values can be incorporated into: regional, national and sectoral policies and plans; environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments; and national budgets and accounts. Biodiversity values reflected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity valuation included in at least five university and technical continuing education programmes. Biodiversity valuation studies conducted in at least five countries. Biodiversity values reflected in national and sectoral policies and plans of at least five countries. Biodiversity values reflected in strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments in at least five countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, and collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity economic valuation methodologies Incorporation of biodiversity conservation and biodiversity economic values into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments and National budgets and accounts. Assess regional biodiversity evaluation capacity to identify critical needs. Identify or develop models or templates showcasing how biodiversity conservation and biodiversity economic values can be incorporated into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement regional capacity building programmes to address regional biodiversity valuation capacity gaps by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating into university and technical continuing education programmes and curricula in the region; Focusing on techniques appropriate for the Caribbean region and those integrating scientific methodologies with community-based approaches and the capture of local and traditional knowledge. Facilitate community, civil society and private sector engagement in biodiversity inventories incorporating the use of local and traditional knowledge. Support the integration of biodiversity values in national and sectoral plans and strategies, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, and national budgets and accounts.

in national accounting systems of at least five countries.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments ○ National budgets and accounts • Advocate for the integration of the value of biodiversity and the need for its protection in national and sectoral policies, plans and strategies by using regional fora to enhance policy maker awareness on values of biodiversity and economic impacts of biodiversity threats (for example IAS), including advocating for greater allocation of national and regional budgets for biodiversity conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support data generation, collation and sharing of research outcomes to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans ○ Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments ○ National budgets and accounts
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Table 7: Targets and Actions for Goal 3, Objective 5

Goal 3: To address biodiversity threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources			
Objective 5: To build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species and ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change identified within at least five Members of CARICOM. Initiatives to build resilience of species and ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change implemented by at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National strategies developed to protect biodiversity against threats from climate change and natural hazards by at least two Members of CARICOM. National strategies developed for biodiversity restoration and recovery after the occurrence of natural hazards in at least two Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, and collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species and ecosystem responses to climate change Species that are resilient to slow onset climate change impacts (for example sea level rise) as well as those resilient to rapid onset impacts (for example extreme weather events) Management of species and ecosystems in response to Caribbean climate change scenarios Managing protected areas in response to Caribbean climate change scenarios Ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaption Ecosystem management to promote carbon sequestration Ecosystem management to reduce carbon footprints (for example management of wildfires) Ecosystem resilience to extreme weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support countries in developing national plans to protect biodiversity against threats from climate change and natural hazards. Develop and implement ecosystem restoration and resilience regional and/or national initiatives for ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change (for example coral reefs). Develop and implement ecosystem restoration regional and/or national initiatives for ecosystems that were strongly impacted by climate related extreme weather events. Develop and implement regional and/or national initiatives to build resilience in populations of species that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Develop a regional initiative to showcase cases where climate change can be beneficial to biodiversity Develop a regional initiative to help countries use landscape approaches and manage protected areas in response to regional climate change scenarios.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecosystem restoration after extreme weather events • Support Caribbean countries in accessing climate financing for biodiversity conservation. • Identify species and ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change (for example coral reefs). 	
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Table 8: Targets and Actions for Goal 3, Objective 6

Goal 3: To address biodiversity threats from intra-Caribbean transboundary issues and external sources			
Objective 6: To protect the region against invasive alien species as well as biosafety, and biosecurity threats			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing national IAS management plans are being implemented in at least five Members of CARICOM. National strategies developed for the management of <i>Sargassum</i> influxes in at least five Members of CARICOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is significant, measurable decrease in the regional or national incidence of at least five IAS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the existing Regional Communication Strategy on the impacts of IAS. Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, and collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on IAS management for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IAS management under regional climate change scenarios The costs of IAS impacts on biodiversity Support existing regional fora for information exchange and learning on the management of IAS. Develop or update regional and national IAS management plans. Develop protocols and model legislation to address IAS. Implement national IAS management plans in at least five Members of CARICOM. Develop a model strategy for the management of the impacts of <i>Sargassum</i> influxes on marine and coastal biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the updated Regional Communication Strategy on IAS. Build regional capacity for IAS management including regional peer exchanges and collaboration (for example inter-country invasive alien species hunter groups) and build capacity for civil society interventions. Develop a regional initiative focusing on the management of the entry of priority IAS into the region as well as their intra-regional movement, including elements of early detection and response to prevent species establishment. Support initiatives under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Support the implementation of the OECS Invasive Alien Species Regional Action Plan (2016-2025). Support the development and updating of national legislation and regulations to address IAS.

Table 9: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 7

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 7: To ensure the generation, storage and use of current, multi-source biodiversity information by Caribbean biodiversity managers, using accessible mechanisms in suitable formats for decision making.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National biodiversity inventories conducted or updated in at least 50% of Members of CARICOM. Regional rosters of experts in biodiversity conservation developed under specific themes. A regional biodiversity database is developed and piloted, focusing on Caribbean species and ecosystem data and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A functioning and comprehensive regional biodiversity database is in place and being used by decision makers from at least 75% of the Members of CARICOM. State of Biodiversity reports produced for the region every five years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a regional roster of experts in the Caribbean relevant to the themes documented in the CBS objectives, considering criteria for inclusion and display of information, including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genetic diversity conservation In-situ and ex-situ species conservation Ecosystem restoration Ecosystem-based approaches Invasive alien species management Ecosystem valuation and natural capital accounting Biodiversity and climate change Support the execution of regional and national biodiversity inventories in the Caribbean. Support the development or enhancement of national biodiversity databases and links between these and regional and global databases. Develop a regional biodiversity database, with links to relevant global, regional and national databases, which includes data and information generated by all stakeholders (including academia, governments and civil society) from Caribbean-specific initiatives as well as relevant work from other regions (for example SIDS) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific, traditional and local knowledge on key areas in the CBS Biodiversity management models and tools (for example on natural capital accounting, landscape approaches, co-management experiences, information management tools, partnership mechanisms to engage private sector and civil society, sustainable financing mechanisms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardise and support the institutionalisation of vetted scientific methodologies, protocols, tools and approaches for biodiversity information gap filling and monitoring.

research, including scientific, traditional and local knowledge.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) reports and plans ○ Regional, national and site-specific biodiversity inventories ○ Information on regional and national biodiversity conservation initiatives being implemented in the region, including initiatives by civil society ○ Funding sources supporting biodiversity conservation in the region ○ Case studies of biodiversity conservation initiatives and lessons learnt ○ Rosters of technical experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop data sharing protocols for any sensitive information in the regional database, particularly regarding genetic diversity, local and traditional knowledge or potential commercial applications of the information stored. • Ensure the information in the regional database is widely and easily accessible and available in multiple languages and formats suitable for use by decision-makers and the multiple stakeholders involved in implementing the CBS and biodiversity conservation in the region. • Promote the use of existing regional channels and resources for biodiversity information dissemination to key target audiences. • Identify and utilise suitable information and communication technologies (ICTs) for regional information exchange and widespread dissemination of information in the database to multiple target audiences. • Support the State of Biodiversity reports every five years for the region, including focusing on specific themes (for example state of protected areas, contribution of biodiversity to economies and livelihoods, ecosystem-based adaptation for resilience to climate and natural hazards). 	
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Table 10: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 8

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 8: To develop and implement a coordinated regional approach to the implementation of the CBS through partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, private sector, regional and global agencies.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Action Plan and Private Sector Action Plan produced as frameworks for engagement of these stakeholders as partners in implementing the CBS. • Annual regional fora held for stakeholder knowledge exchange, coordination and development of collaborative initiatives and partnerships on key areas of the CBS. • A model for a regional coordination mechanism for biodiversity management in the Caribbean agreed to by Members of CARICOM and CARICOM agencies. By 2024 at least three 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional coordination mechanism for biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean is operationalised, with participation of relevant CARICOM agencies and other key stakeholders. • At least three regional multi-stakeholder partnerships are working to mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support regional fora (including Caribbean countries and territories outside of CARICOM) to facilitate cross country, cross sector and cross stakeholder knowledge exchange, coordination and development of collaborative initiatives and partnerships on key areas of the CBS. These fora should target regional agencies, government agencies, academia, civil society, private sector and development partners and address priorities in the CBS, for example on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National and regional inter-sectoral land use planning for biodiversity conservation ○ National and regional inter-sectoral marine spatial planning for biodiversity conservation ○ Biodiversity management strategies for climate change induced extreme weather events ○ Biodiversity conservation priorities and actions given climate change scenarios ○ IAS management, including given climate change scenarios ○ Ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change and natural hazards ○ Ecosystem valuation and natural capital accounting ○ Rationalising subsidies and incentives to support biodiversity conservation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalise the regional coordination mechanism for biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean, with participation of relevant CARICOM agencies and other key stakeholders, including via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing linkages and coordination mechanisms among regional and national biodiversity initiatives, including those focusing on the biodiversity cluster of MEAs, SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and other key regional and global agreements ○ Supporting joint work programming of regional agencies with responsibilities relevant to biodiversity conservation

<p>regional partnerships established to address key biodiversity conservation priorities in the CBS, including participation of government agencies, regional CARICOM and other agencies, civil society, academia, the private sector and international development partners.</p>	<p>deliver specific CBS targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transboundary biodiversity conservation initiatives ○ Mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors (for example agriculture, fisheries, tourism); ○ Partnerships and stakeholder engagement models and mechanisms ○ Financing biodiversity conservation • Assess current governance arrangements for biodiversity conservation in the region and potential models (for example the CLME+ permanent coordination mechanism) for the development of a regional coordination mechanism for the implementation of the CBS. • Develop a Civil Society Action Plan and a Private Sector Action Plan as frameworks for engagement of these stakeholders as partners in implementing the CBS. • Use regional lenses and fora to advocate for political support for the implementation of the CBS and country NBSAPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting the participation of the CARICOM agencies, the OECS Commission and other regional organisations in the deliberations of the Conferences of Parties to the biodiversity cluster of MEAs ○ Facilitating information exchange among national and regional agencies to support negotiations at international biodiversity-related fora.
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Table 11: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 9

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 9: To equip Caribbean stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity while protecting their rights and benefits			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National assessments of mechanisms and capacity gaps for access to biodiversity information and stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation conducted in at least five Members of CARICOM. Stakeholder identification, analysis and capacity assessment conducted and strategic action plan for stakeholder engagement in implementation of the CBS developed. The Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms for access to access to biodiversity information and stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation strengthened in at least five Members of CARICOM. Report on contribution of stakeholders to implementation of the CBS prepared. Measurable increase in staffing and training within core terrestrial biodiversity management agencies e.g. forestry departments in at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document, collate and promote successful approaches and existing regional tools for engagement of civil society, private sector, indigenous groups and communities in biodiversity conservation. Develop, pilot and document new mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in biodiversity conservation. Analyse the outcomes of current regional initiatives and frameworks for Biodiversity Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) identifying the regional way forward in terms of remaining gaps and areas of weakness. Strengthen capacity of civil society organisations and networks (including those representing marginalised groups such as the poor and vulnerable, indigenous communities, women and youth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a regional initiative to scale out successful approaches for stakeholder engagement in biodiversity conservation across Members of CARICOM. Update regional policies, plans and mechanisms related to biodiversity conservation to enhance stakeholder access to biodiversity information and engagement aspects. Support strengthening national laws, regulations, policies, mechanisms and capacity to enhance access to biodiversity information and stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation. Develop mechanisms to help the countries increase staffing levels or other means of increasing human resource availability in the agencies responsible for biodiversity management. Use regional lenses and fora to advocate for political support for countries to increase staffing levels or other means of increasing human resource availability in the agencies responsible for biodiversity management. Support continuing professional education and encourage specialisation of staff in the

<p>in Latin America and the Caribbean is signed and ratified by at least five Members of CARICOM to provide a framework to enhance access to biodiversity information and stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable increase in staffing and training within core marine biodiversity management agencies e.g. fisheries departments in at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<p>and mechanisms for their effective engagement in implementation of the CBS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and share model mechanisms to engage formal and informal private sector entities in biodiversity conservation, working through private sector associations and networks. 	<p>agencies responsible for biodiversity management using modern tools such as e-courses and web modules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support continuing professional education in and application of core specialised methodologies and practices related to biodiversity management e.g. forest management training and silvicultural practices. Support training to enhance and update core forestry management practices for Caribbean climate change scenarios. Enhance regional legislative drafting capacity for biodiversity management.
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Table 12: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 10

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 10: To enhance regional resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional investment framework for biodiversity developed to support implementation of the CBS, including specific funding targets and concepts for keystone regional initiatives. A process and tool for coordinating and tracking funding for implementation of the CBS developed as part of the regional coordination mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One hundred % (100%) increase in total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on biodiversity conservation in at least 5 Members of CARICOM. At least 50% of funding targets secured. At least 20% of the funding secured, committed to public-private partnerships and civil society partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the priorities in the CBS to international development partners and other donors, including those providing support to civil society. Promote and facilitate sharing of information and coordination among development partners, donors and executing/ accredited entities to enhance synergies, address gaps and increase the impact of funding for biodiversity conservation in the CARICOM region. Collate and showcase models for national financing mechanisms for biodiversity management, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector funding including corporate and social responsibility initiatives Taxes and tax breaks Co-financing Protected areas user fees, and polluter penalties Payments for ecosystem services Support countries in accessing traditional and non-traditional, national, and regional funding sources, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REDD++ Green Climate Fund (GCF) Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Bilateral funding Sovereign funds Philanthropic funds Crowdsourcing Funding from the Caribbean diaspora. Collate and showcase models of incentive programs for investors aimed at protecting and preserving national biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop model corporate social responsibility programmes targeted at biodiversity conservation. Develop a regional payment for ecosystem services initiative. Assist countries in negotiating Debt for Nature Swaps ensuring proper representation of economic valuation information.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding coordination mechanism developed as part of the regional coordination mechanism. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for funds for biodiversity conservation in national budgets through engagement of Ministries of Finance and Parliaments. Assist countries in accessing climate finance for biodiversity conservation. Develop a regional investment framework for biodiversity, to include private sector investment. 	
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Table 13: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 11

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 11: To harmonise regional and national legal, policy, regulatory and fiscal frameworks to promote the sustainable use of Caribbean biodiversity.			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments of incentives harmful to biodiversity conducted and recommendations made for removal, reformation or phasing out of these incentives in at least three key sectors in at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of incentives harmful to biodiversity reduced by 25% in at least three key sectors in at least five Members of CARICOM. Incentives which promote biodiversity conservation implemented in at least three key sectors in at least five Members of CARICOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and share outcomes of Caribbean specific research, and collate and share appropriate research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and use of incentives for biodiversity (for example land tax easements) The amendment of incentives which negatively impact on biodiversity Conduct national and sectoral assessments of incentives to identify those harmful to biodiversity and to identify opportunities for incentives that promote biodiversity conservation Advocate with policy makers at regional fora for changes to national and sectoral incentive schemes Review and update regional strategies in key sectors (for example agriculture, tourism, fisheries) to be more biodiversity sensitive as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regional support for advocacy for the adoption of draft policies and legislation pertaining to biodiversity conservation and implementation of the CBS and the biodiversity cluster of MEAs Continue to advocate with policy makers at regional fora for change to national and sectoral incentive schemes Create model incentive schemes for key sectors that countries can adopt and adapt to their national contexts and Support change for national and sectoral incentive schemes.

Table 14: Targets and Actions for Goal 4, Objective 12

Goal 4: To build an enabling regional environment to manage biodiversity.			
Objective 12: To establish coordinated planning, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting systems for biodiversity conservation			
Short term (2024) targets	Long term (2030) targets	Short term actions (2024)	Long term actions (2030)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory monitoring, evaluation, harmonised reporting and learning system developed for implementation of the CBS. Mid-term participatory review and revisions to targets completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and national capacity built in monitoring, evaluation, learning and mechanisms for harmonised reporting developed. A common monitoring, evaluation and learning system for biodiversity conservation is being utilised by at least 75% of Members of CARICOM. Bi-annual reports produced from the regional biodiversity database on delivery of targets in the CBS, lessons learnt, gaps and priorities. Final participatory review and report on implementation of the CBS produced with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess regional and national capacity for participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning; Develop a monitoring, evaluation and learning system for implementation of the CBS, with common targets and indicators aligned with key regional and global frameworks (such as the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and the biodiversity MEAs) to facilitate harmonised reporting, and including mechanisms for participation of stakeholders, particularly implementing partners, in the review process and Conduct participatory mid-term review of implementation of the CBS and revision of targets as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building programme implemented to enhance regional and national capacity for participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning Support countries and stakeholders to conduct participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning on implementation of the CBS and national biodiversity conservation to facilitate harmonised reporting on the CBS, the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and the biodiversity cluster of MEAs and Produce bi-annual reports analysing information in the regional biodiversity database, including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the achievement of targets in the CBS Assessing the achievement of other targets in regional or global frameworks, particularly the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and the biodiversity cluster of MEAs Mapping priorities in the CBS being addressed through regional and national biodiversity conservation initiatives being implemented in the region, including initiatives by civil society, to identify gaps and opportunities for synergies and partnerships Mapping to what extent funding sources are supporting biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the CBS to identify gaps and opportunities for synergies and partnerships and

	recommendations for moving forward.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying lessons and priorities moving forward for implementation of the CBS, including any revisions needed (including based on emerging issues and new priorities).
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6. Way forward

The intention of the CBS is to serve as a regional channel to address national biodiversity management gaps and priorities and as such has been developed as a framework to guide Members of CARICOM, as well as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, donors and development partners, for harmonised action for the management, conservation and fair and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity resources.

To achieve the above the follows steps are recommended moving forward to promote the CBS and encourage its use as a guiding framework:

- Formal announcements of the CBS at upcoming 2018-2020 regional and international MEA meetings
- Formal announcements of the CBS at regional inter-governmental fora including environmental, economic and development fora
- Showcasing the CBS at other regional environmental fora and through various regional environmental networks including civil society networks
- Showcasing the CBS through various international environmental fora and networks for example the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Showcasing the CBS at relevant regional and international environmental funding meetings (e.g. the annual Caribbean Green Climate Fund Structural Dialogue)
- Widespread dissemination of the CBS and engagement of media in publicising

Goal 4 of the CBS will facilitate implementation of the CBS and specific actions at the national and regional level may include:

- Consideration of CBS priorities, targets and activities in national policies, programmes and projects
- Consideration of CBS priorities, targets and activities to inform development of regional programmes and projects
- Consideration of CBS priorities, targets and activities to inform development of global biodiversity strategies which are due to be updated
- Mainstreaming of CBS priorities, targets and activities in other regional strategies and plans
- Development and agreement on institutional mechanisms for coordinating implementation of the CBS at the regional level
- Development and implementation of a specific plan for coordinated and participatory monitoring and evaluating implementation of the CBS, with specific mechanisms and timeframes outlined

It is hoped that with the engagement of all its stakeholders, the CARICOM CBD Strategy will support its Member countries and associated Members, as well as their neighbours and cooperating Parties, to harmonise the implementation of their country-specific strategies, action plans and other obligations related to biodiversity-related MEAs, and optimise cooperation and synergies to achieve the overall CBD Vision.

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Appendix 1: Indicative list of regional inter-governmental agencies, CSOs and networks operating in the Caribbean with mandates directly or indirectly related to biodiversity

* List is indicative, not exhaustive. ** Examples of CSOs and networks have been extracted from CANARI's database of CSOs from across the Caribbean region, focusing on those operating at the regional level.

Category	Organisation	Mandate/ Mission/ Organisational focus	Examples of programmes, activities, recent projects or initiatives in development that CBS actions can build on or partner on.	Regional frameworks supported or administered
Academic	University of the West Indies (UWI)	Execution of programmes in Environmental & Natural Resource Management.	<p>The Trinidad and Tobago campus delivers an MSc. Programme in Biodiversity Conservation. The Cocoa Research Centre of that same campus hosts the international cocoa gene bank. The Jamaica campus houses a Biodiversity Centre and a Marine Laboratory.</p> <p>The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the Barbados campus is a regional node for the Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management (SocMon). SocMon is a global endeavor of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-Marine), Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As it names suggests, SocMon activities are focused on monitoring and as it pertains to the CBS, have focused on Caribbean MPAs.</p> <p>UWI has also been administering Caribbean projects under the global ProEcoServ project which facilitates integrated ecosystem assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services into poverty reduction and national sustainable development planning.</p>	

Category	Organisation	Mandate/ Mission/ Organisational focus	Examples of programmes, activities, recent projects or initiatives in development that CBS actions can build on or partner on.	Regional frameworks supported or administered
CSO	Birds Caribbean	To promote and ensure the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in the insular Caribbean by empowering local partners, raising awareness and promoting sound science.	Birds Caribbean administers a number of relevant programmes, for example the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) which monitors the distribution, status, and abundance of waterbirds in the Caribbean to better engender their conservation and management.	
CSO	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	The aim of CANARI is to promote and facilitate equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building, communication and fostering partnerships.	<p>CANARI managed the first phase of funding of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) (a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the EU, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank). Under the CEPF, CANARI administered approximately six million dollars in funding for CSO led biodiversity management initiatives in the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot.</p> <p>CANARI is managing the project entitled "Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)". PISCES aims to support innovative actions by civil society and coastal community small and micro-enterprises for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods.</p> <p>CANARI is partnering with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to develop a Sub-Regional Strategy for Climate Resilience in the Forestry Sector and Associated Livelihoods in the Caribbean</p> <p>Under the GEF-funded project supporting implementation of the <i>Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems</i> (CLME+ SAP), CANARI is developing a Civil Society Action Programme (CSAP) to guide the involvement of CSOs and SMEs in planning and decision-making,</p>	

Category	Organisation	Mandate/ Mission/ Organisational focus	Examples of programmes, activities, recent projects or initiatives in development that CBS actions can build on or partner on.	Regional frameworks supported or administered
			education and awareness, research, practical action, and monitoring and evaluation. ⁴	
CSO	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	To conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.	<p>The TNC along with global partners launched the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). Under the CCI, participating countries have committed to “conserving at least 20% of their marine and coastal environments by 2020” (the 20-by-20 goal) and “ensuring that these conserved areas are effectively managed into the future through a reliable, long-term finance structure”.</p> <p>There is also the recently concluded Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project. Under ECMMAN, the UNEP/SPAW-Regional Activity Centre, working through the through CaMPAM network, assisted with the strengthening of marine protected areas via a small grants program. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was also a partner on this initiative supporting the management of data and furthering resource mobilisation. CRFM working through the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) strengthened fisher organisations through capacity building initiatives under this project.</p>	
Inter-governmental	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA -	To perform a coordinating and organisational role for the establishment of an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime and to execute on behalf of Member States such SPS		

⁴ See <http://www.canari.org/clme-csap>.

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	(CARICOM Agency)	actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.		
Inter-governmental	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	CARICOM's mandate is to deepen integration and build resilience so as to among other things systematically reduce poverty, unemployment and social exclusion and their impacts; mainstream all aspects of sustainable development, including the environment, economic and social dimensions; promote optimum sustainable use of the Region's natural resources on land and in the marine environment, and protect and preserve the health and integrity of the environment; project "one voice" on international issues; increase savings and the flow of investment within the Community.	The CARICOM Secretariat administers the Programme for Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (ACP-MEAs). This programme is going into Phase 3. Phase 2 focused on providing training, technical, and policy support for countries to improve MEA implementation, including implementation of the Biodiversity Convention.	The draft CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework and Action Plan (2017)
Inter-governmental	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)	To address the impact of climate variability and change on all aspects of economic development through the provision of timely forecasts and analyses of potentially hazardous impacts of both	Recent relevant projects include the "Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation in the Small Island States Project". It is funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project focuses on coral reefs and mangroves as part of a climate adaptation thrust.	The Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change and associated

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	(CARICOM Agency)	natural and man-induced climatic changes on the environment.		Implementation Plan
Inter-governmental	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA - CARICOM Agency)	To prevent disease, to promote and protect health in the Caribbean. CARPHA's Environmental Health and Sustainable Development (EHS) Department supports the Caribbean's sustainable development agenda by playing a lead role in key areas related to environmental management for optimal public health.	CARPHA along with UNEP-CAR/RCU are the co-executing agencies for the GEF-funded "Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States – (GEF IWeco)" project. Biodiversity management is a key focus of this initiative. CARPHA and the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) are co-executing the Caribbean Aqua Terrestrial Solutions Programme (CATS) with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. CATS focuses on the "Adaptation of Rural Economies and Natural Resources to Climate Change" and the "Management of Coastal Resources and Conservation of Marine Biodiversity".	
Inter-governmental	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM - CARICOM Agency)	To promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region.	CRFM administers a number of specific regional fisheries management plans, for example the Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean. CRFM also administers the Coral Reef Plan of Action (2014-2018) in partnership with CCCCC. This plan seeks to protect coral reef biodiversity against climate change impacts.	CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy
Inter-governmental	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Caribbean Sub-Regional Office	The FAO mission is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.	The FAO is administering the Climate Change Adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH) which seeks to increase the resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector, through introduction of adaptation measures in fisheries management and capacity building of fisherfolk and aquaculturists.	

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Inter-governmental	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	The OECS is dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean.	<p>The OECS has developed a number of model policies and legislation related to biodiversity issues. These included the model Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Act and the model Protected Areas Act. Other instruments developed include the model OECS Environmental Management Act, OECS Marine Research Strategy, OECS Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research and a Regional Action Plan (2016-2025) for Addressing Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the OECS Region.</p> <p>Current relevant projects include the “Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management Project in the Eastern Caribbean” project, funded by the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+). This initiative focuses on biodiversity areas such as reforestation and restoration.</p> <p>The OECS Commission is currently promoting both Green Economy and Blue Economy through various policies and programmes such as the St. Georges Declaration of Principles on Environmental Sustainability which is enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Basseterre Establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Economic Union, 2010; and, the OECS Eastern Caribbean Regional Oceans Policy (ECROP) and Strategic Action Plan, approved by the OECS Authority in 2013. The implementation of ECROP is supported in part by the OECS-World Bank, GEF funded Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP).</p>	<p>The St. George’s Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>The OECS Growth and Development Strategy⁵ (OGDS)</p> <p>OECS Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Oceans Governance and Fisheries</p>
Inter-governmental	UN Environment Secretariat for the	To support the goals of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). Its principal functions are to prepare for, and service,		

⁵ The draft OGDS has not yet been shared with OECS Member States or Associate Member States or approved by Ministers. It is yet to be reviewed, amended and validated by OECS stakeholders. The OECS Commission has given permission for the inclusion of this document in the CBS with the above caveats.

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	Biodiversity Convention (SCBD)	meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, and to coordinate with relevant international bodies.		
Inter-governmental	UN Environment Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	To be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.		Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
Inter-governmental	UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) / Secretariat of Cartagena Convention	To promote the protection and development of the Caribbean Sea through three programmes on marine biodiversity, pollution and communication and 3 protocols (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, Land-based Sources and Activities, Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills) under the Cartagena Convention.	See projects above on which UNEP is a partner. The project on “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean”, which ended in 2013 was executed by UNEP/GEF in conjunction with the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) - Caribbean Office. This initiative developed a regional invasive alien species strategy and piloted national projects and strategies. The Caribbean Alien Species Network developed under this project is still active.	Cartagena Convention - Protocols Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS); the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol
Network	CaMPAM	To enhance the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Wider Caribbean by building the capacity of marine	CaMPAM facilitates the regional Caribbean Marine Protected Area Database .	

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		protected area managers, practitioners and fishers in the Wider Caribbean and promoting the application of best marine management practices for the transboundary coordination of ecologically-connected areas.		
Network	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)	The aim of CNFO is to improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation and capacity building.	CNFO is a partner on a number of initiatives mentioned above, for example the FAO CC4FISH project and the CANARI PISCES project.	
Network	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	<p>To Influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.</p> <p>The IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee facilitates the engagement of its members (20 civic and governmental IUCN members in the insular Caribbean) in thematic priorities, such as Red List species, protected areas, watershed management, critical ecosystems and</p>	<p>The regional Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) project (going into phase two) aims to “make the best available science and knowledge available for building capacity to improve policies and better decision-making on biodiversity conservation, [and] protected areas management”</p> <p>The IUCN is the executing agency for the initiative on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Caribbean. This endeavour seeks to increase understanding and promote the uptake of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS.</p>	

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		livelihoods as well as ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and resilience.		
Network	Nature Caribé	Network of Caribbean organisations addressing environmental governance, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods through practical actions, research, knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy, education and outreach.		
Network	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)	To facilitate and strengthen local involvement for the conservation of turtles. WIDECAST develops pilot projects, provides technical assistance, and supports a variety of initiatives that build capacity within and among a range of States. By encouraging participation by all sectors of society, WIDECAST puts science to practical use in the conservation of biodiversity and advocates for grassroots involvement both in decision-making and in project implementation.		
Private sector	Caribbean Alliance for	To provide tourism enterprises with sustainability resources,		

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	Sustainable Tourism (CAST - CHTA)	best practices and work alongside CHTA committees to provide support for the advocacy of sustainable advances within the hotel and tourism sector of the Caribbean.		