



OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework and Strategic Action Plans (OECS-BEF)



Earth Day Webinar

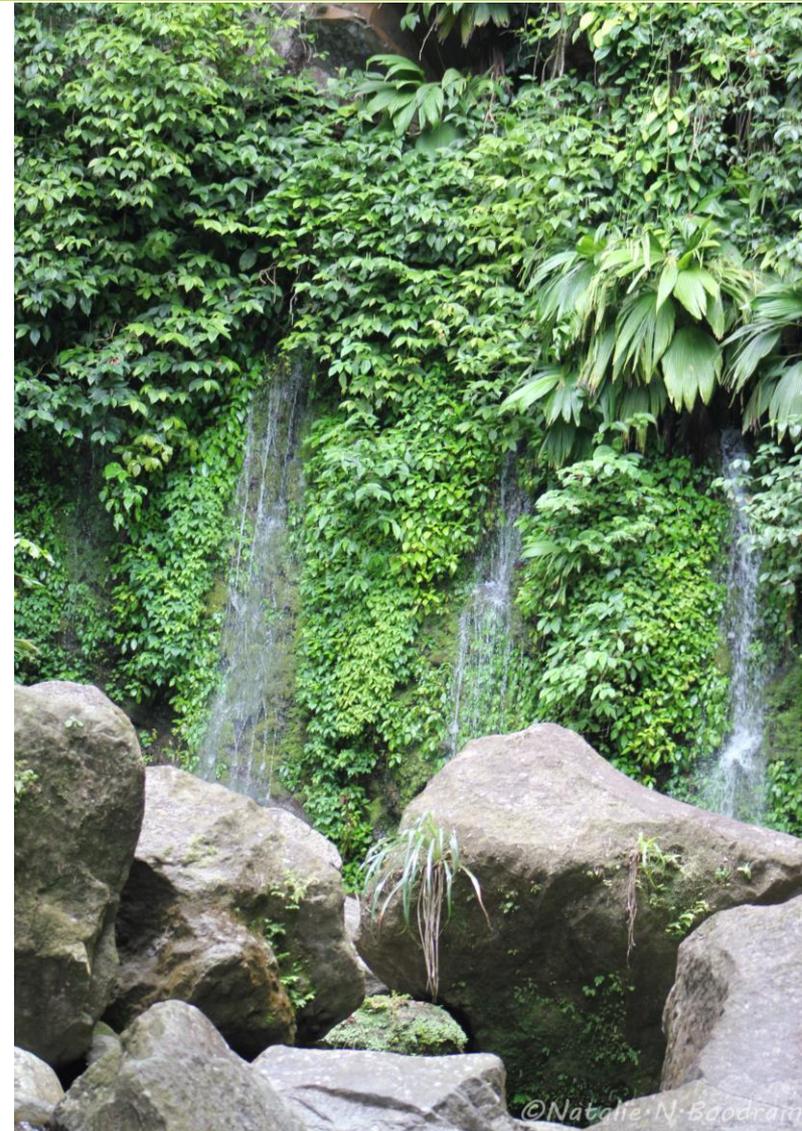
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About CANARI

To Introduce myself and my organisation-

Hi I am Natalie!

I work for the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

- a technical, non-profit organisation, registered in 1989 in Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Croix.



Our geographic focus is the islands of the Caribbean.



Mission

Equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources-
participatory approaches





- We have partnered with the OECS in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy to advance our mandate of participatory development of natural resource policies and strategies
- Currently executing over 15 national/regional projects in the OECS
- MOU with the OECS Commission updated 2019 for cooperation and collaboration-
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems
 - Green/Blue Economy
 - Stakeholder engagement





Onto the OECS Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plans!



- Why are we here today?



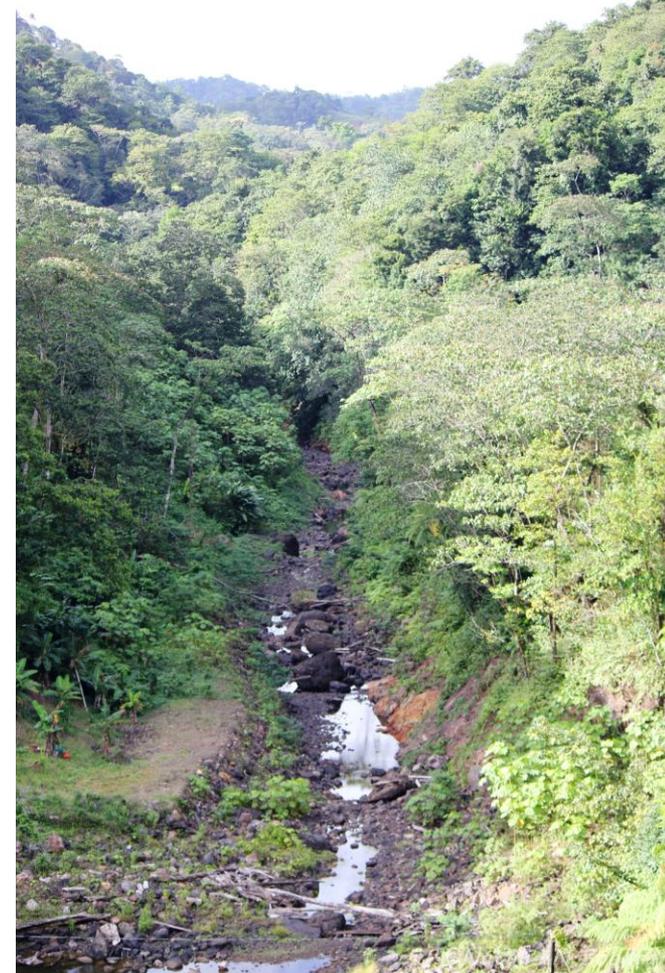
OECS-BEF Webinar objectives

- Highlight and facilitate discussion on key biodiversity and ecosystem issues in the OECS
- Build awareness on the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Framework (OECS-BEF) and associated Strategic Action Plans (SAPs)
- Update stakeholders on the outputs and project status
- Solicit feedback on the OECS-BEF in particular the SAPs



OECS-Biodiversity and ecosystems: Key issues

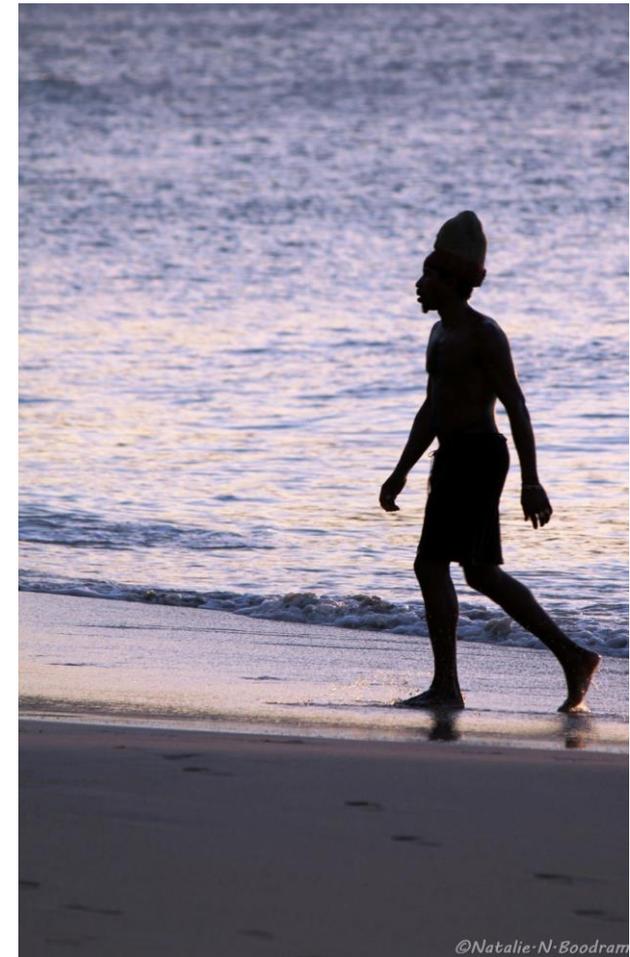
- Rich biodiversity/proportionally high no. of endemics
- OECS Member States -Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot
 - one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots (i.e. an area with at least 1,500 endemic plant species but also an area which has lost more than 70% of their original habitat) (CEPF, 2018).





OECS-Biodiversity and ecosystems: Key issues

- OECS economies and general way of life are dependent on ecosystems/biodiversity they contain.
 - Tourism, fisheries and agriculture
 - National and regional cultural practices, identities





OECS-Biodiversity and ecosystems: Key common threats

- **Deforestation/development and urbanisation**
 - Land clearance for housing/limited land space
- **Illegal wildlife trade**
 - habitat loss and habitat fragmentation
- **Invasive species**
- **Unsustainable resource extraction**
 - Overfishing
- **Pollution**
 - Land, land-based sources and marine pollution (sewage, agricultural runoff,





Overarching threat of climate change

- **Terrestrial**- changes in temperature Changes in forest growth and productivity, insect outbreaks, invasive species, wildfires, animal extinction/migration, plant range shifts
- **Marine** -sea temperature rise/ocean acidification
 - increased mortality of coral reefs
- **Overall climate change**- intensifies impacts of negative human pressures on the environment



OECS-BEF

- Guide the management of biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS region
- **Rapid/transformational change**





OECS-BEF- rationale for a regional framework

- Address biodiversity and ecosystem issues that are best undertaken through a regional lens.
- A regional approach can maximize economies of scale, making best use of scarce financial and technical resources through a multi-country approach.
- A number of issues that countries are struggling to deal with independently e.g. limited technical capacity
- Advance the most OECS-relevant priorities from the draft Caribbean Biodiversity Strategy
- Respond to OECS biodiversity-related directives such as the St. George's Declaration and the OECS Development Strategy-Environment (ODS-e).



How was the OECS –BEF developed?





Methodology/Outputs

- Guided by the OECS Commission and OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (OECS-BEMC)
 - Webinars
 - Direct discussions
 - The BEMC's inputs during the Sixth Meeting (2019) of the OECS Council of Ministers: Environmental Sustainability.
- Strong participatory process
 - Online survey
 - Online feedback on draft documents



Methodology/Deliverables

- **Gap Analysis Report- to determine priority themes/actions** https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/OECS_BEF_Gap-analysis-report_sept-2019.pdf
 - Drew heavily on Draft Caribbean Biodiversity strategy developed by CANARI on behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat
 - NBSAPs/NAPs
 - OECS/wider Caribbean/international reports and frameworks
 - Results of an online survey on recent biodiversity initiatives to determine gaps



Methodology/Deliverables

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 - OECS/wider Caribbean/international reports and frameworks
 - Results of an online survey on recent biodiversity initiatives to determine gaps- what needs more attention



Methodology/Deliverables



- Used the results of the gap analysis report to determine Priority themes/actions for **the Draft OECS-BEF**
- The OECS BEF included a- **Monitoring and evaluation mechanism**
- **Strategic Action Plans (SAPs)**



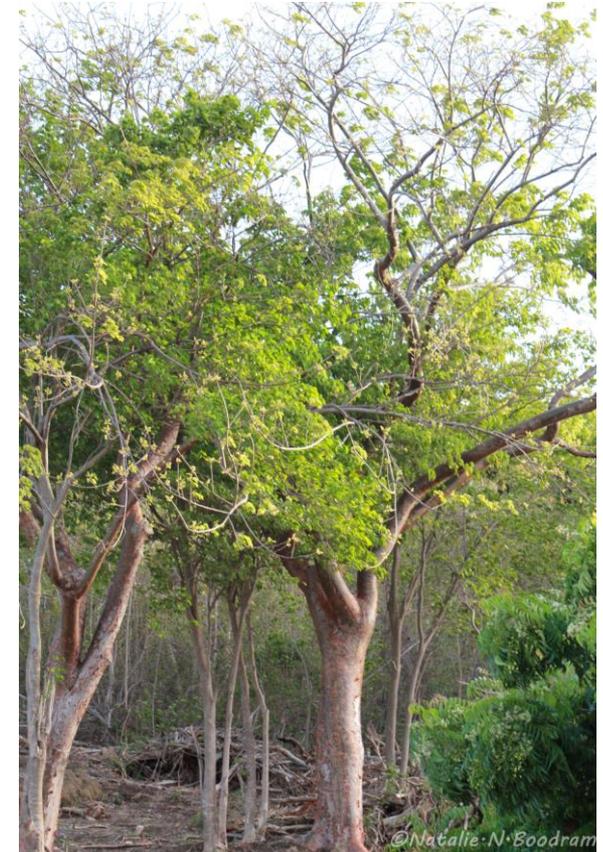
Lets get to the OECS-BEF and SAPs!

- Slides with lots of tables/text follow
- Don't be overwhelmed 😊 – only key points discussed but participants are invited to download the PPT for detailed review and comments for finalisation
- Minor alterations to text in ppt for brevity
- Still draft docs- discussions ongoing- actions/indicators/targets may change based on your feedback and further discussion



OECS-BEF – Vision and Goal

- **Vision-** Healthy and resilient biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS provide goods and services that support socio-economic development and livelihoods for its people while conserving the rich natural heritage of the region.
- **Goal-** To provide a framework for a strategic, coordinated and **transformational approach** to the management of biodiversity and ecosystems in the OECS.





OECS-BEF themes- based on the gap analysis

Protecting, maintaining
and restoring
ecosystems

Invasive species
management,
biosecurity and
biosafety

Climate and disaster
resilience

Fair and equitable
access to and sharing
of benefits from
biodiversity resources

Assessing and
integrating biodiversity
and ecosystems into
national development
processes



Themes detailed in the BEF in the format below

| Theme | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Objective | | | | |
| Key targets | | | | |
| Key Indicators | | | | |
| | Implement existing frameworks | Link with current or upcoming initiatives | Scale successful initiatives up and out | Address key concerns through new approaches and initiatives |
| Actions | | | | |



OECS-BEF themes

Protecting, maintaining
and restoring
ecosystems

**Invasive species
management,
biosecurity and
biosafety**

Climate and disaster
resilience

Fair and equitable
access to and sharing
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Invasive species management, biosecurity and biosafety

Objective: To protect the OECS region against invasive alien species, biosafety and biosecurity threats.

Key targets:

- OECS Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regional Action Plan (2016-2025) implemented
- National legislation and regulations strengthened to address IAS and implement the Cartagena Convention Protocol on Biosafety.
- Initiatives to manage IAS and Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) of priority concern evaluated and scaled up and out where appropriate.





A couple definitions

- Biosafety – management of living modified organisms (LMOs)
- Bio-security- strategic and integrated approach to analysing and managing relevant risks to human, animal and plant life and health and associated risks to the environment (FAO 2007)

| Implement existing frameworks | Link with current or upcoming initiatives | Scale successful initiatives up and out | Address key concerns through new approaches and initiatives |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and implement the OECS Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regional Action Plan 2016-2025) Implement the regional biosafety plan. Implement the OGDS–e | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist Member States to fulfill obligations under the Cartagena Convention, Protocol on Biosafety. Utilise existing networks and information sharing platforms such as the Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Network and the Sargassum online forum to support IAS and biosafety interventions. Use/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share knowledge from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale out experiences e.g. lemon grass in Dominica Share best practices on managing lionfish and <i>Sargassum</i> from the Caribbean and beyond Strengthen OECS engagement in regional and international IAS initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop OECS model legislation to assist Member States to develop or update national legislation and regulations to address IAS Build awareness, capacity and points of engagement for civil society and government. security agencies Develop a regional initiative to manage 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. Develop a regional policy and model legislation on LMOs and support the national level implementation of LMO legislation including capacity building and stakeholder engagement |



OECS-BEF themes- based on the gap analysis

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ecosystems

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Climate and disaster
resilience

**Fair and equitable
access to and sharing
of benefits from
biodiversity resources**

Assessing and
integrating biodiversity
and ecosystems into
national development
processes



Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources

Objective: To equip Caribbean stakeholders with the capacity, entry points and mechanisms for participatory management of biodiversity and ecosystems while protecting their rights and benefits.

Key targets:

- Advance ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS Member States.
- Develop a regional Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) model policy and guidelines.



Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity resources: Actions

| Implement existing frameworks | Link with current or upcoming initiatives | Scale successful initiatives up and out | Address key concerns and emerging issues through new approaches and initiatives |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the OECS Growth and Development Strategy– Environment including projects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitate ABS among OECS stakeholders ○ Advance ratification of the Nagoya Protocol amongst OECS Member States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the results and lessons from current regional initiatives and frameworks for biodiversity ABS, for example the recent GEF Project on “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region” identifying the regional way forward in terms of remaining gaps and areas of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on and scale out existing efforts to document local and traditional knowledge on biodiversity, including ensuring this information is included in databases and knowledge platforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional ABS model policy and guidelines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidelines for operation, duties and responsibilities of the Competent National Authorities ○ Guidelines on the management of <i>Cannabis</i> genetic resources including fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits • Support the revision and updating of national environmental management strategies, national environment policies and laws, and NBSAPs to include ABS provisions |



Remaining 3-OECS-BEF themes – further elaborated into Strategic Action Plans (SAP)- and will be described using the SAP format

Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Climate and disaster resilience

Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Structure/Layout of SAPS

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF: Theme

Objective:

Key targets:

Key indicators:

Short term actions (2020-2026)

Long term actions (2027-2035)

| Target | Action | Action indicator/ target | Lead agency | Potential impleme nting partner | Action | Action indicator/ target | Lead agency | Potential implem ting partner |
|--------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | |





SAP on Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Climate and disaster resilience

Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – Theme 1: Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF - Theme 1: Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Objective: To secure ecosystem goods and services through protecting, maintaining or restoring key ecosystems within national or across transboundary landscapes and seascapes.

Key targets:

- 1.1 Biodiversity and ecosystem assessments, inventories and monitoring conducted, and knowledge shared and used to inform decision-making and guide management actions
- 1.2 Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems protected and restored to provide critical ecosystem services
- 1.3 Land use planning, fiscal measures, and other tools used to support management of terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems**

Key indicators

- 1.1 Percentage cover of forested areas (including freshwater and coastal wetlands) in relation to total land area
- 1.2 Percentage cover of coral reefs and seagrass beds in relation to total marine space
- 1.3 Percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) being managed through protected areas and other area-based conservation measures
- 1.4 Total area and percentage of territory (land and sea; public and private land; by ecosystem type) with ecosystems benefitting from restoration efforts

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF - Theme 1: Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | Indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.1.1 Generate and depict accurate terrestrial, coastal, freshwater and marine ecosystem data (including national and transboundary mapping of protected and conservation areas, sensitive habitats and species ranges) to identify priority areas for biodiversity management and restoration. | Two spatial data sets established or revised per Member State (MS) in three MS by December 2024 | OECS Commis sion | MS, UWI |
| 1.1.2 Conduct species inventories and monitoring and use information to guide management interventions. | Species inventories conducted in three MS by December 2024 | OECS Commis sion | MS, UWI |
| 1.1.3 Use/strengthen/develop online knowledge-sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystem protection and restoration • Landscape approaches for ecological connectivity | Two regional online platforms developed or strengthened by December 2024 | OECS Commis sion | MS, UWI |



Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|---|--|------------------------|---|
| <p>1.2.1 Build capacity of OECS MS to engage in regional actions for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in international waters adjacent to the OECS</p> | <p>At least two persons per MS trained by December 2022</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>MS</p> |
| <p>1.2.2 Scale up/out the Caribbean initiatives researched and documented from 1.1 to protect and restore critical ecosystems, emphasising multi-stakeholder approaches with the engagement of civil society, communities and the private sector, to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISM approaches • Watershed management including management of land-based sources of marine pollution | <p>Two regional initiatives initiated by December 2026</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>MS</p> |
| <p>1.2.3 Implement the OECS Growth and Development Strategy-Environment (OGDS–e) including interventions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitate/restore ecosystems | <p>OGDS-e implementation initiated in three MS by December 2026</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>MS</p> |
| <p>1.3.1 Develop and implement land use tax easements and other land management initiatives which promote biodiversity conservation on private lands</p> | <p>Land use tax easements implemented in three MS by December 2034</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>MS</p>  |

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF - Theme 1: Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Long term actions (2027-2035)

| Action | Indicator/Target | Lead | Part |
|---|--|-----------------|---|
| 1.1.4 Revise national and regional spatial (land and marine area) plans and policies to be biodiversity-sensitive and promote adherence to these revised plans and policies. Revisions may be based on the outputs of Actions 1.1.1-1.1.3 | One regional spatial plan/policy; one national spatial plan/policy per MS in three MS by December 2030 | OECS Commission | MS, UWI |
| 1.2.4 Establish and promote OECS-specific ecosystem restoration guidelines and benchmarks for MS to adapt to their national context based on outputs and lessons learned under 1.1 and 1.2.1-1.2.3 | Restoration guidelines and benchmarks developed by December 2027 | OECS Commission | UWI |
| 1.2.5 Develop, finance and implement novel interventions for protecting and conserving terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems based on outputs and lessons learnt from 1.1 and 1.2.1-1.2.3 | Two regional initiatives initiated in the OECS and one national intervention initiated per MS in three MS by December 2030 | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.2.5 Develop, finance and implement novel interventions for restoring terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems based on outputs and lessons learnt from 1.1 and 1.2.1-1.2.4 | Two regional/ one national intervention initiated per MS in three MS by December 2032 | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.2.6 Develop, source financing and execute regional initiatives for management of transboundary ecosystems (e.g. cross-national protected area networks) and biodiversity (e.g. migratory species). | One regional initiative for the management of transboundary ecosystems initiated by December 2027 | OECS Commission | MS  |



OECS-BEF themes developed into SAPs

Protecting, maintaining
and restoring
ecosystems

**Climate and disaster
resilience**

Assessing and
integrating biodiversity
and ecosystems into
national development
processes

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – Theme 3:

Climate-resilient ecosystems

Objective: To build the resilience of the region's biodiversity to climate change and natural hazards

Key targets:

- 1.1 Research, information sharing and analysis of existing data on the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the OECS region advanced
- 1.2 Protected area networks used as a tool to enhance resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change
- 1.3 Regional initiatives developed to address the impact of climate change and natural hazards on biodiversity

Key indicators

- 1.1 Number of OECS MS with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and/or other climate plans and policies that include specific support for adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change
- 1.2 Area of land and marine space benefitting from initiatives to build resilience of biodiversity to the impacts of climate change

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>1.1.1 Use/strengthen/develop online knowledge-sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems • Species that are resilient to slow onset climate change impacts (for example increasing temperatures) as well as those resilient to rapid onset impacts (for example extreme weather events) • Management of species, ecosystems and protected areas in response to Caribbean climate change scenarios • Ecosystem restoration after extreme weather events | <p>Two regional online platforms developed or strengthened by December 2023</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>UWI, CCCCC</p> |
| <p>1.1.2 Include specific management measures to support adaptation of species and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change in NAPs, NBSAPs and other relevant plans and policies</p> | <p>Two plans/policies per MS updated</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>MS, CCCCC, UNEP</p> |
| <p>1.1.4 Develop a regional research agenda on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, inclusive of research into measures to address impacts. “downscaling of climate models to map specific forest ecosystem and site impacts; assessing the impact of climate change on at-risk ecosystems (such as cloud forests and dry forests); assessing the impact of climate change on small-range and endemic forest species, including species distributions and animal behaviour; assessing how climate change will exacerbate existing threats such as invasive species and</p> | <p>Regional research agenda developed by December 2023</p> | <p>OECS Commission</p> | <p>FAO, MS, UWI, CCCCC</p> |



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – Theme 3: Climate-resilient ecosystems

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.2.1. Update protected area management plans to be more climate-resilient, emphasising landscape approaches. | Two climate-resilient protected area management plans developed or updated per MS in three MS by December 2025 | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.3.1. Implement the Eastern Caribbean Ocean Policy and Strategy and Action Plan, in particular, Strategic Action 21 to ensure Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) and Island Systems Management (ISM) approaches are mainstreamed in coastal planning and decision-making. | Two national policies/plans developed or updated per MS for three MS to mainstream EbA and ISM in coastal planning and decision-making by December 2025 | OECS Commission | MS |



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – Theme 3: Climate-resilient ecosystems

Long term actions (2027-2035)

| Action | Indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1.1.6 Update online knowledge sharing platforms from 1.1.1 with research results from 1.1.3 and 1.1.5 | Two online knowledge platforms updated by December 2034 | OECS Commission | FAO, UWI, MS CCCCC |
| 1.1.6 Develop and implement capacity building programmes to enhance technical competencies of OECS environmental professionals on climate/biodiversity management responses | At least four persons per MS trained in ecosystem management responses to climate change by December 2030 | OECS Commission | MS, UWI, CCCCC, GCC, GEF |
| 1.2.2. Implement, monitor and evaluate climate-resilient protected area management plans | Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of one climate-resilient protected area management plan per MS initiated in three MS by December 2032 | OECS | MS |
| 1.3.2. Develop and implement biodiversity and ecosystem initiatives to address change impacts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> management for slow onset and rapid onset events a focus on ecosystems that are most vulnerable to climate change restoration of degraded ecosystems to build resilience | Two initiatives per MS initiated in three MS to address climate change impacts by 2030 | OECS Commission | MS, GEF, GCF |



Remaining 3-OECS-BEF themes – further elaborated into Strategic Action Plans (SAP)- and will be described using the SAP format

Protecting, maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Climate and disaster resilience

Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Objective: To assess and integrate biodiversity and ecosystems information into national development processes

Key SAP targets:

- 1.1 Ecosystem valuation conducted to provide economic information to feed into decision-making
- 1.2 Biodiversity values integrated into economic and financial decision-making and incorporated into EIAs and SEAs
- 1.3 Alternative economic development options that protect biodiversity and ecosystems tested and promoted
- 1.4 Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans better reflect consideration of priorities for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Key SAP indicators:

- 1.1 Number of OECS MS with environmentally adjusted national accounts
- 1.2 Number of OECS MS with ecosystem and biodiversity values incorporated into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, and sectoral policies and plans
- 1.3 Number of OECS MS with legislation and national strategies for use of ecosystem valuation in EIAs and SEAs



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – – Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p>1.1.1. Use/strengthen/develop online knowledge sharing platforms and mechanisms to share data, knowledge and lessons from Caribbean-specific research and actions, and collate and share relevant research from other regions, including scientific and traditional knowledge and models, case studies and lessons learnt on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem valuation methodologies and tools • Incorporation of biodiversity values into regional, national and sectoral policies and plans • EIAs and SEAs | Two regional online platforms developed or strengthened by December 2023 | OECS | UWI |
| <p>1.1.2 Assess early lessons from the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment process for possible replication in other countries</p> | <p>Outcomes/ lessons collated and shared by June 2023</p> | <p>MS (Grenada)</p> | <p>OECS Comm. CANARI</p> |
| <p>1.2.1 Identify and/or develop models or templates showcasing how biodiversity values can be incorporated into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional, national and sectoral policies and plans • EIAs and SEAs • National budgets and accounts | Three models/templates identified and/or developed by December 2025 | OECS Commission | ECCB, CDB |



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – – Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|--|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.3.1 Support the development and adoption of the OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan | OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan adopted | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.3.2 Support the development and/or revision of national development plans and strategies and support the transition to more environmentally sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic development, as articulated in the OECS Green -Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan and the OECS Growth and Development Strategy (OGDS-e) | Two national development plans per MS in three MS by December 2035 | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.3.3 Review and collate lessons from Caribbean projects and relevant global initiatives (e.g., in other Small Island Developing States) which have developed sustainable financial mechanisms for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Possible mechanisms include: blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, Social Impact Bonds and Development Impact Bonds, crowdsourcing, diaspora funding, contingently recoverable grant resources, blue levies and insurance investments) and use these to develop new and innovative tools for sustainable financing, which could be tested | Lessons collated and shared in two relevant regional databases or online platforms by Dec 25 | OECS Comm | ECCB, CDB |

Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – – Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Short term actions (2020-2026)

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Potential partner |
|--|--|-----------------|---|
| 1.3.4 Research and pilot initiatives for the development of sustainable economic and livelihood opportunities, supported by healthy ecosystems, and promote as viable development alternatives | One regional and two national initiatives piloted by December 2026 | OECS Commission | MS |
| 1.4.1. Raise awareness and disseminate data and knowledge to support the consideration of biodiversity values by decision makers in national and sectoral policies, plans and budgets allocations | At least three regional awareness raising and data and knowledge sharing activities conducted by December 2025 | OECS Commission | MS  |



Strategic Action Plan for the OECS-BEF – – Theme 5- Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into national development processes

Long term actions

| Action | indicator/ Target | Lead agency | Partner |
|--|--|-------------|---------|
| 1.1.3 Develop and implement capacity building programme to enhance technical competencies of OECS environmental and economic professionals to conduct ecosystem valuations | At least four persons per MS trained in ecosystem evaluation by December 2024 | OECS Comm. | UWI, MS |
| 1.1.4 Conduct ecosystem assessments in OECS MS | National ecosystem assessments initiated in three MS by December 2027 | OECS Comm. | UWI |
| 1.2.2 Support the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity values in national and sectoral plans and strategies, EIAs, SEAs and national budgets and accounts | Biodiversity values integrated and mainstreamed in at least three plans, strategies, EIAs, SEAs or national budgets and accounts per MS in three MS by December 2033 | OECS Comm. | MS |
| 1.3.5 Implement innovative sustainable financing tools and mechanisms such as those highlighted in 1.3.3 to protect biodiversity and ecosystems | Two sustainable financing tools and mechanisms implemented per MS in three MS by December 2033 | OECS Comm. | MS |
| 1.3.6 Mainstream sustainable nature-based economic and livelihood opportunities into national and sectoral policies, plans and programmes | Sustainable nature-based livelihood opportunities mainstreamed in at least two national or sectoral policies, plans and programmes per MS in three MS by December 2033 | OECS Comm | CANA RI |



**OECS-BEF – includes an implementation framework
and monitoring and evaluation mechanism**





OECS-BEF - Implementation framework

- Coordination
- Information and knowledge sharing
- Capacity building
- Partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Resource mobilisation
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning





Coordination

Key targets-

- OECS Commission effectively coordinating implementation of the OECS-BEC in the sub-region.
- OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC) providing strategic guidance on the work of the OECS Commission and facilitating coordination across OECS Member States.

Indicative action-

Facilitate regular meetings of the OECS-BEMC to facilitate strategic input and coordination of implementation of the OECS-BEF.





Information and knowledge sharing

Key targets-

- Online knowledge sharing platforms used to share local, traditional and scientific knowledge on management of biodiversity across the OECS sub-region.
- Local and traditional knowledge captured, documented and shared to inform decision-making.





Capacity building

Key targets-

- Targeted capacity building strategy for implementation of the OECS-BEF developed and being used.

Indicative actions:

Engage and build the capacity of communities, CSOs, retirees and volunteers where appropriate





Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Key targets-

- Intra-regional partnerships established or strengthened among Member State governments to support implementation of the OECS-BEF.





Resource mobilisation

Key targets-

- The OECS Commission acts as a focal point for Caribbean stakeholders and international development partners seeking to work in the OECS.
- Private investment leveraged to support implementation of the OECS-BEF.





Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Key targets-

- Sub-regional reports produced on implementation of the OECS-BEF.
- National reports on biodiversity and ecosystem management include reference to contribution to implementation of the OECS-BEF.





Current status of OECS-BEF, SAPs and way forward

- OECS-BEF- basically finished- several rounds of feedback- but if any burning issues please let us know
- Tweaking the SAPs- grateful for feedback
- Project completion April 30th
- Presentation for endorsement at the next COMES (virtual)



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Thanks for listening!

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