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Chapter 1

Setting the scene: How a National Ecosystem Assessment will contribute to better decision-making

NEAs in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- Critical biodiversity hotspots (*8.5% of the world's population*)
- Notably vulnerable to extreme natural events

SIDS → negligible global carbon emissions

SIDS ← significantly impacted by the effects of climate change

The importance of this (Grenada) NEA

- Identification of current environmental challenges
- Prediction of future environmental challenges
- Development of environmentally sustainable policies in Grenada,
- Support the scaling of adaptation and mitigation measures
- Provide transferable knowledge to facilitate the completion of NEAs in other SIDS around the world

Ecosystem Services

Overarching Concept:

Conservation of the entire ecosystem is required for continual provisioning of specific benefits

Direct Services

- Fresh food, clean water, fuel, medicine, etc.

Indirect Services

- Climate regulation, disease regulation, water purification, etc.

Cultural Services

- Spiritual, aesthetic, education, etc.

Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services

- Improving access to relevant knowledge for policymakers, decision-makers and leaders.
 - Help balance trade-offs amongst competing priorities and needs for investments and resources in multiple policy areas
 - Provide access to local and indigenous communities with inherent interest in conserving these natural systems and resources for the prolonged longevity of their societies

Resilience in Grenada's Ecosystems

Definition: The capacity of a system to absorb change and keep functioning

Threats (change) to Grenada:

- Hurricanes and extreme weather events
- Two (2) volcanoes
- Earthquakes
- Population and GDP growth
- Increased overnight and cruise ship tourism



OVERARCHING PERSPECTIVE

These must have a **democratic approach** for **knowledge sharing** and the influence that empowers and works to the **benefit of local and regional communities**

BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS

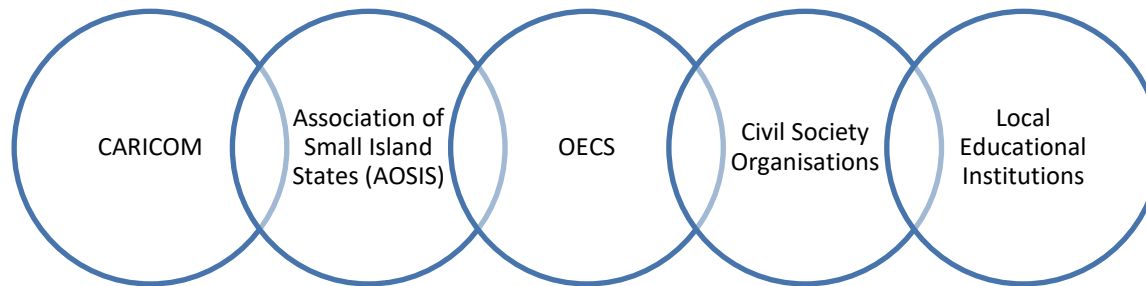
Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) & Ecosystem

- Grenada already member of over 20 biodiversity-related MEAs:
 - Including Biodiversity Convention, Desertification Convention, Wetlands Convention, CITES, Marine Environment of Wider Caribbean, fisheries treaties
- Many other MEAs Grenada could join:
 - Including those on Migratory Species, Birds, Sea Turtles, Global Green Growth Institute, Forest Institute; various marine pollution conventions

Advantages of MEA memberships

- Identify Grenada's biodiversity goals and strategies
- Attend regular meetings to share norms and exchange knowledge
- Gain access to financial support
- Gain access to technology transfers

Regional Authorities and Alliances



Benefits:

Resources for integrating biodiversity conservation and promoting and preserving valuable ecosystems services

Limitations:

- Layers of complexity to the governance of the Caribbean ecosystems resulting in the limited ability of member states to access these resources
- Limitations on staffing relative to the breadth and intensity of their responsibilities
- Prioritisation of economic over environmental sustainability



SUMMARIZING THE GOALS OF CHAPTER ONE

1. Explain the importance and usefulness of a national ecosystems assessment for Grenada, in particular, and small islands states in general
2. Explain the benefits that Grenada can derive from understanding and supporting the ecosystems services that biodiversity provides
3. Establish the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in all types and aspects of development policy
4. Provide context for the rest of this NEA by describing characteristics of Grenada's economic, social, and political structures as they affect and affected by biodiversity.