

Blue BioTrade

The case of the queen conch value chain

WTO Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions
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What is Blue BioTrade?



Blue BioTrade is the commercialization of goods and services **derived from coastal and marine biodiversity** that that adhere to a set of sustainability guidelines



**2020 BioTrade
Principles and Criteria**

- The P&C are made up of 7 principles and 25 criteria
- They were updated on 2020
- The P&C are guidelines, they are not a standard or certification scheme

2020 BioTrade Principles



Principle 1: Conservation of Biodiversity



Principle 2: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity



Principle 3: Fair and Equitable Sharing



Principle 4: Socio-Economic Sustainability



Principle 5: Legal Compliance



Principle 6: Respect for the rights of actors



Principle 7: Clarity on right to use and access to natural resources

Download the publication here





The Blue BioTrade regional **PLAN OF ACTION** for the Eastern Caribbean queen conch value chain



UNCTAD-OECS Blue BioTrade Project in cooperation with CITES



Organisation of
Eastern Caribbean States



Objective: To empower small-scale coastal producers from selected [OECS](#) member states to produce & trade queen conch products in domestic, regional & international markets under the BioTrade sustainability criteria, including CITES

Initial beneficiaries: Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Pilot Species: [Queen conch \(Strombus gigas\)](#). Appendix II CITES species. A high value low volume species with \$74 million in exports

Other species considered: Sea moss & sargassum (non-CITES). For next phase.

Main outcome: [A regional action plan](#) (phase 1) & its implementation (phase 2)



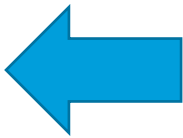
Co-funded by
the European Union

**About \$74 million annually
in regulated trade**

Meat (food &
culinary arts)



**Conch
trimmings**
(bait and
fertilisers)



Shells
(handicrafts,
instruments &
decorations)

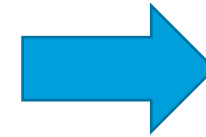


Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Pearls (jewels)



**Genes &
biochemicals**
(aquaculture,
biotechnology)



Eco-tourism
(non intrusive
diving)



CRITERIA	SUSTAINABILITY ACTION
	<p>Conducting stock assessments to determine thresholds for sustainable queen conch fishing</p> <p>Managing queen conch fishing, such as closed seasons during spawning, no-catch zones, quotas, and a monitoring programme of juvenile conch</p> <p>Organising regular queen conch fisher association meetings to promote associativity and coordination amongst actors</p> <p>Restoring stocks by building a nursery</p> <p>Assessing and adopting best practices for sustainable conservation of resources, using the UNCTAD Blue BioTrade Self-Assessment tool</p> <p>Regulating land-based activities for environmental protection by reducing water pollution, regulating coastal developments, and promoting sustainable consumption</p>
	<p>Investing in data collection to obtain further information on queen conch value chain actors and their needs</p> <p>Regulating for social sustainability, including ensuring safety protocols for diving are respected</p> <p>Training divers on safety protocols for scuba-diving, investing in certifications of social sustainability</p> <p>Acquiring health insurance schemes for divers and other vulnerable actors in the value chain</p>
	<p>Accessing export markets by complying with CITES requirements</p> <p>Collaborating with CITES, the OECS and UNCTAD to address the trade suspensions, including by drafting and implementing new legislation</p> <p>Improving enforcement: Enforcement of regulations and compliance capabilities are essential to reduce illegal trade but must be combined with incentives for legal trade</p> <p>Reducing seafood waste and adding value</p> <p>Building processing & export infrastructure (Already well underway in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)</p>

Trade must be CITES-compliant

...The **C**onvention on **I**nternational **T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of Wild Fauna and Flora

...a multilateral legally binding agreement that was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force in 1975

...regulating international trade in specimens of 38'000 species of wild fauna and flora with the aim to ensure such trade does not threaten their survival

... a dynamic and adaptive instrument with three Appendices that are amended regularly (at least every 3 years)

...almost universally binding (184 Parties)



The CITES Appendices: international commercial trade is...

• Appendix I

- *Species threatened with extinction*



...generally
prohibited

Appendix II

Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade must be regulated to avoid their becoming threatened and “Look alike” species



...permitted but controlled

Appendix III

Species for which a country is asking Parties to help with its protection



...permitted and
monitored

CITES-compliant trade is Legal, Regulated, Reported

- LAF: specimens shown to be **legally acquired**;
- NDF: trade found to be **non-detrimental** to the survival of the species;
- **Reporting** must be provided to the CITES Secretariat annually; and
- Implementing legislation is essential.

[illegible]



[Blue BioTrade](#) (click for video presentation)

A tool to enable sustainable, legal and traceable trade



@OceanEco_UNCTAD



Ocean Economy and Fisheries
UNCTAD

Thank you!



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BioTrade Initiative