

8. IMPLEMENTATION

Institutional arrangements

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, 6 and 18(4) of the CBD, the design and operation of improved institutional arrangements for the conservation and management of the use of biodiversity should be guided by the principles identified in section 5 above, and notably by the following directions:

- ▶ *coordination*: there is need for improved coordination of policies and activities relevant to, or impacting on, biological diversity, as many of the problems currently observed result from the fragmentation of policy instruments and from the absence of effective coordination among actors;
- ▶ *collaboration*: there is need to establish effective partnerships among governmental and non-governmental partners, in order to mobilise the resources available from the public and private sectors, and to decentralise management authority;
- ▶ *effectiveness*: effective coordination and collaboration demand that overlaps in institutional responsibilities be avoided, and that authority be clearly allocated. In addition, individual management agencies must be allowed to perform their responsibilities fully.

In order to meet the expressed need for improved coordination, the Government of St. Lucia will establish, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Planning, Development, Environment and Housing (or its successor in title and authority for environmental matters), a mechanism which will have the responsibility:

- ▶ to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, including the mobilisation of funding;
- ▶ to oversee, support, and, whenever appropriate, conduct activities and programmes to study, and monitor the status of, biological diversity;
- ▶ to design and implement national awareness and education programmes;
- ▶ to provide support to governmental and non-governmental agencies participating in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

This mechanism could be constituted as a permanent or *ad hoc* committee, and should comprise representatives of government agencies, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, scientific bodies and natural resource user groups.

In the event that a National Environmental Commission or similar body is established, the mechanism created to coordinate the implementation of this National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan should be placed under its umbrella.

Legal instruments

The implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will rest primarily on the appropriate and effective enforcement of existing legislation. This will be made possible through:

- ▶ a greater involvement of law enforcement institutions in matters of biodiversity management and conservation, through increased collaboration with natural resource management agencies;
- ▶ a greater awareness of and sensitivity to biodiversity issues on the part of the judiciary;
- ▶ the participation of communities and non-governmental organisations in selected activities in support of enforcement;
- ▶ the development of specific regulations whenever they are needed.

At the same time, the agencies involved in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will work towards the adoption of new instruments, including new legislation to address issues associated with the destruction of biological resources on private lands, and to govern the conservation and use of wild plants and animals. It will also study the desirability and feasibility of:

- ▶ preparing a comprehensive piece of legislation to address a range of environmental issues and rationalise environmental management;
- ▶ establishing an environmental court to deal with offenses related to the environment;
- ▶ establishing formal mechanisms for collaborative enforcement among two or more management authorities.

Another important instrument in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be the development and adoption of standards to guide the use of biological resources and the conduct of activities which may impact on these resources.

These legal instruments will all be consistent with the provisions of the CBD.

Organisational development and capacity building

The implementation of this National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan requires that all partners in the process have the full capacity to play their role effectively, as stipulated by the CBD, notably in Articles 12(a), 18(4) and 18(5). There is also need to ensure access to appropriate technology, as provided in Article 16.

In many respects, the approach described above calls for a shift in the role of agencies, with government departments acting as facilitators and supporters of processes which involve a number of public and private sector partners.

There is also need for training activities aimed at:

- ▶ governmental agencies, notably in the areas of participatory planning, conflict management, protected area management, research and resource monitoring, and conservation;
- ▶ community-based and non-governmental organisations, notably in the areas of resource monitoring, technologies for sustainable use, enforcement and public education;
- ▶ the private sector, notably with respect to technologies for sustainable resource use.

Community-based and non-governmental organisations involved in biodiversity management and conservation must also have improved access to the technical expertise available within governmental agencies and academic institutions.

Financing

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 11, 20(1), 20(6) and 21(4) of the CBD, a number of principles will guide the financing of biodiversity conservation and management programmes:

- ▶ financing must be seen in the broader context of the economic policies and instruments that will be used to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- ▶ user fees will constitute an important source of revenue, but will also be designed as incentives for conservation and sustainable use;
- ▶ all sectors and stakeholders have a role to play in contributing to the cost of biological diversity conservation and management;
- ▶ because of the status of these resources, the financing of biological diversity conservation and management however remains a very special responsibility of the state;

- ▶ the international community has a key role to play in supporting St. Lucia's effort to manage its biological resources.

A number of instruments will therefore be put in place and utilised, including fees, grants, licenses, permits and taxes. While the "polluter pays" principle may also be applied, with the imposition of fines, measures will be taken to prevent it from being used by offenders as a license to impact negatively on biological resources.

Agencies responsible for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will also explore the desirability and feasibility of establishing a funding mechanism, which could be devoted solely to biodiversity or could encompass a broader environmental mandate, which could assist greatly in the generation and management of resources for the implementation of the strategy and action plan.

The possibility of establishing a funding mechanism for community initiatives in biodiversity conservation will also be explored, with particular attention to the option of capitalising such a fund through a partnership between government, the private sector and donor agencies.

Monitoring and evaluation

As stipulated in Articles 7 and 14 of the CBD, monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The following elements will therefore be put in place:

- ▶ indicators of sustainability, equity, effectiveness and efficiency;
- ▶ a national data base on biodiversity, covering areas such as: geographic coverage of critical systems, habitats and species populations, trends and threats;
- ▶ monitoring programmes at the national and local levels;
- ▶ participation of communities and non-governmental partners in the design and implementation of monitoring programmes;
- ▶ periodic evaluation of impacts of management;
- ▶ periodic publication of reports on the state of the environment, with an identification of trends and issues for the future.

Regional and international cooperation

The implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will require effective collaboration with a range of regional and international partners, as recommended by Articles 5, 17, and 18 of the CBD.

The objectives of this collaboration will be:

- ▶ to guarantee the compatibility of St. Lucia's efforts with those of other countries and regions;
- ▶ to facilitate the sharing of skills and expertise;
- ▶ to generate support for national activities and institutions, notably in the areas of training, research and information management, and project implementation.

The implementing agencies will therefore maintain and enhance their linkages with international institutions involved in biodiversity (for example IUCN - the World Conservation Union and the United Nations Environment Programme), bi-lateral agencies interested in supporting the conservation and sustainable use of St. Lucia's biodiversity, external non-governmental organisations, regional institutions and programmes, and research and academic institutions. They will also establish and maintain linkages with the national initiatives of relevant international organisations, notably UNESCO and its National Commission's Sub-Commission on Science and Technology.