

PROGRAMME

In order to achieve the aim and objectives of the strategy and action plan, action is needed in five broad programme areas, which are considered to be mutually reinforcing, and thus require simultaneous implementation.

Planning and policy formulation

The *objectives* of this programme area, which relates to the provisions of Articles 6, 15 and 19 of the CBD, are to:

- ▶ guide all actions in the field of biodiversity conservation and management;
- ▶ ensure that concerns for biodiversity conservation and management are properly integrated into other relevant policies and policy instruments.

Activities to be undertaken under this programme area are as follows:

- ▶ on-going assessment of needs, and formulation of programmes and projects to respond to these needs;
- ▶ review of policies and legal instruments related to or impacting on biological diversity, to minimise or eliminate negative impacts, and to contribute, whenever possible, to the conservation and management of biodiversity;
- ▶ review of copyright legislation, to ensure that it provides for the registration of patents and for the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The Caribbean Task Force which comprises the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the CARICOM Secretariat and governments of the region is currently in the process of developing a legal framework for IPRs in agriculture;
- ▶ review of issues associated with biosafety and the potential impacts from the introduction of genetically modified organisms, and participation discussions of the Biosafety Protocol under the CBD;

formulation of new and specific policy instruments when needed;

- ▶ formulation of area and watershed management plans for all critical zones;
- ▶ identification and introduction of fiscal and other incentives in support of conservation and sustainable use.

Responsibility for coordination and implementation will rest with 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), in collaboration with all other relevant agencies at the governmental and non-governmental levels. Responsibility for legal review, notably as it relates to patents and property rights, will rest with the Attorney General's Chambers.

Research and monitoring

The *objectives* of this programme area, which relates to the provisions of Articles 7 and 12 of the CBD, are to:

- ▶ assess the status of biodiversity and understand the causes of biodiversity loss;
- ▶ provide the information needed for the formulation of programmes, actions, policies and priorities;
- ▶ contribute to the development of new knowledge on biological diversity at the local, regional and global levels.

Activities to be undertaken under this programme area are as follows:

- ▶ study of the threats affecting, and likely to affect, biological diversity, and identification of conservation priorities;
- ▶ study, design and implementation of a comprehensive monitoring programme, focusing in particular on: populations of threatened, endemic and endangered species; area coverage and status of natural ecosystems; status and evolution of agro-ecosystems;
- ▶ design of a research programme identifying priorities for research, and defining guidelines and procedures aimed at maximising the benefits generated from research activities;
- ▶ liaison with scientific and research institutions, including universities, to guide the contributions of external researchers, develop collaborative scientific programmes, and ensure that the results of research by external agencies are always returned and made available to St. Lucia;
- ▶ maintenance and management of a computerised data base and library with all published materials relevant to the conservation and management of biological diversity in St. Lucia.

Responsibility for coordination and implementation will rest with 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).

Conservation

The *objectives* of this programme area, which relates to the provisions of Articles 8 and 9 of the CBD are to:

- ▶ maintain and enhance the genetic diversity within species;
- ▶ preserve rare, endangered and other important species;
- ▶ maintain representative samples of all ecosystems;
- ▶ restore degraded ecosystems whenever desirable and feasible.

Many of the *activities* to be undertaken under this programme area fall within the framework of the national plan for a System of Protected Areas which was prepared in 1992 by the St. Lucia National Trust in collaboration with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental agencies. The implementation of this plan therefore remains the primary vehicle for the conservation and management of natural ecosystems and wildlife in the country.

Other activities related to the conservation of species and genetic diversity *in situ* will include:

- ▶ development of collaborative agreements with selected land owners to ensure the conservation of ecosystems and habitats under private ownership;
- ▶ development of collaborative agreements with selected farmers to ensure the conservation of breeds and cultivars;
- ▶ design and implementation of restoration programmes for critical habitats, notably mangroves;
- ▶ creation and management of artificial habitats, such as artificial reefs, whenever appropriate.

With respect to *ex-situ* conservation, the following activities will be undertaken:

- ▶ creation and management of gardens of trees as well as other medicinal, ornamental and other useful plants;
- ▶ creation of zoos and other facilities for breeding endangered fauna;

collaboration with foreign institutions when additional skills and resources are needed to ensure that *ex-situ* conservation is effective;

- ▶ *in vitro* conservation of plant germplasm;
- ▶ where feasible, establishment of field gene banks;
- ▶ maintenance of livestock stations for breeding and distribution of animal germplasm.

Responsibility for coordination and implementation will rest with 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). Responsibility for the design and implementation of specific activities will rest with each of the participating agencies. With respect to the establishment and management of protected areas, these responsibilities will be allocated as stipulated in the System of Protected Areas.

Sustainable use

The *objectives* of this programme area, which relates to the provisions of Articles 10 and 14 of the CBD, are to:

- ▶ generate revenue and benefits from the use of biological resources;
- ▶ ensure that patterns of resource use are sustainable;
- ▶ guarantee the equitable sharing derived from the access to and use of biological resources;
- ▶ maximise the contribution of biodiversity to the achievement of priority objectives of national development.

Activities to be undertaken under this programme area are as follows:

- ▶ implementation of the national plan for a System of Protected Areas;
- ▶ design and implementation of a programme on organic farming;
- ▶ design and implementation of a programme on nature-based tourism;
- ▶ design and implementation of a programme on the sustainable use of biological resources and products;

- ▶ provision of training, extension and capacity-building services to users of biological resources, particularly those who depend on such resources to sustain their livelihoods, in order to enhance their ability to access and use resources in a secure and sustainable manner.

Responsibility for coordination and implementation will rest with the various participating agencies as appropriate.

Education and awareness

The *objectives* of this programme area, which relates to the provisions of Article 13 of the CBD, are to:

- ▶ ensure that policy formulation processes make effective use of all available information;
- ▶ create full awareness of the value and contribution of biodiversity to human development;
- ▶ provide materials in support of formal and informal education;
- ▶ encourage public participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Activities to be undertaken under this programme area are as follows:

- ▶ dissemination of information to technocrats and policy makers;
- ▶ public awareness campaigns;
- ▶ educational programmes with schools, including the preparation and dissemination of materials;
- ▶ training of trainers and media personnel;
- ▶ development and operation of a system to collect, process and disseminate information on biodiversity issues and activities to the media, policy-makers, government agencies, community groups, and other target groups.

Responsibility for coordination and implementation will rest with 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), working in close collaboration with a range of partners, including the Ministry of Education, the Government Information Service, media houses and other partners.