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**Review of Progress Made in addressing vulnerabilities of SIDS through implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for further implementation of the Barbados Program of action November 2009 for Saint Lucia**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*The UN General Assembly Resolution 63/213 (February 2009) Follow-up to and Implementation*

*of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the*

*Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, reaffirmed the GA decision 62/191*

*to “review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States*

*through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty -fifth*

*session of the General Assembly”. Resolution 63/213 stressed “that the review should provide*

*the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress*

*made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius*

*Strategy for Implementation (MSI) and agree on what needs to be done to further address the*

*vulnerabilities of SIDS.”*

*As a first step in the process, the MSI acknowledges that sustainable development is primarily a*

*national responsibility, and as such, it is crucial that any forward looking assessments of progress*

*in addressing vulnerabilities of SIDS need to build upon national level assessments. Such National*

*Assessment Reports (NAR) should inform the development of further concrete projects and*

*programmes for the implementation of the MSI. In this regard, SIDS have been asked to prepare*

*NARs based on a set of guidelines (attached for information) in accordance with the above*

*mentioned GA resolutions.*

*Saint Lucia’s NAR reviews each of the sectoral/thematic areas identified in the BPOA and MSI*

*highlighting in particular concrete actions taken and specific progress made in implementation.*

*The Report also reviews the special constraints and challenges, and lessons learned in*

*implementing the various thematic areas.*

*Despite the progress that Saint Lucia has made in achieving many of its MDG targets – through*

*interventions financed mainly from the national budget - and despite its performance in the HDI,*

*the rapid deterioration of the global economy has contributed to the slowdown in the pace of*

*economic activity in Saint Lucia. The challenges being faced by Saint Lucia as a result of the*

*international financial crisis include:*

*(a) Contraction in the real GDP in the medium term as a result of declines in tourism receipts and*

*foreign direct investment; and*

*(b) The challenging debt to GDP ratio resulting in limitations on government’s ability to adopt*

*counter cyclical policies to mitigate the impact of the crisis.*

*Saint Lucia’s strategic response to the global and economic financial crisis was to join with the*

*other members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), in September 2009 to develop*

*the ECCU Eight Point Stabilisation and Growth Programme. In addition to the ECCU response,*

*Saint Lucia has also developed a multilevel response given the persistent structural*

*challenges and the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental factors. To this*

*end, the country is participating in a number of initiatives managed through the UNDP Subregional*

*office for Barbados and the OECS. These have been designed as multi-donor technical*

*assistance mechanisms designed to deliver multi-country capacity development in key areas.*

*There is no single overarching document to guide national development in Saint Lucia, although*

*elements of a national development plan were formulated and debated at a development*

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*conference held in July 2007, which brought together political leaders, governmental agencies,*

*local private sector interests, development partners and potential investors.*

*Despite the absence of a NSDS, Saint Lucia’s development agenda is guided by various*

*instruments - the Medium-Term Economic Strategy Paper (MTESP), the annual Budget Speeches,*

*the annual Estimates of Expenditure (budget) and the Corporate Plans of individual ministries -*

*that define the types and levels of public sector investments in the various sectors, the human*

*and technical resources allocated to various programmes and services, the main institutional*

*arrangements for implementation, as well as the fiscal measures and their roles as incentives*

*and disincentives to achieve specific development objectives. The lessons learned from Saint*

*Lucia’s experience in planning for and implementing development initiatives and interventions*

*raises a fundamental question. Is a NSDS necessary especially for SIDS, which are deficit in*

*human expertise and financial resources? Should the NSDS be replaced by a* ***PROCESS,*** *which*

*allows for a coordinated set of participatory and continuously evolving processes of analysis,*

*debate, decision-making, capacity development, planning, investment, monitoring, and*

*evaluation?*

*The global crisis is having serious implications for Saint Lucia’s small and vulnerable economy.*

*The Government has sought to manage the impact of the crisis, but its tight policy space and*

*liquidity constraints make it difficult to deal with shocks of this magnitude. Saint Lucia however*

*recognises that, over the longer term, steps have to be taken to improve its development*

*prospects by adopting resilience building strategies and diversifying into new economic activities.*

*Getting policies right is proving to be very difficult. Those being formulated seem to attract*

*investment largely in one sector, tourism – rather than the economic diversification that might*

*supplement national income or absorb exogenous shocks. As Saint Lucia’s economic futures*

*become disproportionately more tourism-focused, her vulnerability increases.*

*Achieving sustainable development entails particular attention by Saint Lucia to an agenda with*

*certain priorities including: increasing FDI flows, particularly to build infrastructure and expand*

*export capacity; the removal of all existing tariff and non-tariff barriers; support to overcome*

*supply-side constraints; expanding levels of technical expertise; and providing greater support*

*for social sector development with special attention to health, focusing on HIV/AIDS - education,*

*population issues and women’s empowerment; and cooperating to establish food security.*

*The major shortcoming of past efforts and a critical challenge to sustainable development for*

*Saint Lucia is finding adequate resources to undertake all that is required. Within the last five*

*years, Saint Lucia’s economic performance has been marked by a decline in the average GDP*

*growth rates; continued high levels of income volatility, growing importance of the service —*

*particularly tourism — sector; the increasingly significant role of remittances and an increase of*

*the debt burden.*

*Saint Lucia has demonstrated her commitment to sustainable development by utilising*

*principally its own resources in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, while at the same*

*time addressing increasing obligations under international agreements. While the international*

*community has provided some financing and technical assistance in some sectors, for the most*

*part, Saint Lucia’s efforts have been pursued within the constraints of limited financial resources.*

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**3.9 Biodiversity Resources**

Saint Lucia’s First National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) focuses on 5

programme areas, i.e. Planning and Policy Formulation; Research and Monitoring;

Conservation; Sustainable Use; and Education and Awareness. To date, implementation of the

of the NBSAP has concentrated on

o Institutional arrangements

o Legal instruments

o Organisational development and capacity building

o Financing

o Monitoring and Evaluation

o Regional and International Cooperation

25 UNWTO and UNEP and WMO (2008), Climate Change and Tourism: Responding to Global Challenges, (prepared by

Scott, D., Amelung, B., Becken, S., Ceron, JP., Dubois, G., Gossling, S., Peeters, P. and Simpson, M.C.), UNWTO, Madrid,

and UNEP, Paris.

26 IPCC (2007a): Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth

Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Solomon, S., Qin, D., Manning, M., Marquis,

M., Averyt, K., Tignor, M.B., LeRoy Mil H., (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press.

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**3.9.1 Concrete Actions**

At least 19 of the projects that were identified in the First NBSAP have been completed or are

in the implementation stage. A few of the projects were not implemented due to revised

national priorities or financial constraints. Funding for these projects came from local

government sources or other funding agencies. Some of the concrete outcomes of

implementation include:

o Draft biodiversity legislation based on harmonised frame OECS legislation for

biodiversity management;

o Formulation of an institutional mechanism for biodiversity management in Saint Lucia;

o The design of a National Biodiversity Information Network;

o Study of the status of iguana, parrot, selected bats, and ground lizard;

o Preparation of an inventory on floral and agrobiological resources; Design and

implementation of Standards and guidelines of behaviour in nature tourism sites and

attractions by the Ministry of Tourism;

o Preparation and Review of a Second Systems Plan of Parks and Protected Areas - this

activity is being coordinated by the Saint Lucia National Thrust;

o The establishment of two more legally protected areas, i.e. the Piton management Area

which is a World Heritage centre; and the Point Sable Environmental Protection Area.

o A study was undertaken for compensation for environmental services in one watershed.

The findings of the study are under review and discussion;

o A management programme for the Saint Lucia parrot has been developed and is

awaiting implementation;

o A photographic and videographic database on Saint Lucian biodiversity has been created

and is widely used;

o A turtle monitoring programme has been established; and

o The National herbarium has been upgraded.

In 2008, Saint Lucia undertook the preparation of the

Second NBSAP.

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The Second NBSAP is premised on the assumption that a Biodiversity Coordinating Mechanism

will be established under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. It also

envisages the establishment of a Biodiversity Scientific Committee that will serve as the

technical Committee to the Authority. Finally, this NBSAP explores the feasibility of establishing

a Biodiversity Trust Fund.

In 2009, the Forestry Department undertook the National Forest Demarcation and Bio-Physical

Resource Inventory Project. Seventeen major vegetation types were identified and described;

many species were recorded in Saint Lucia for the first time. Few islands can match Saint Lucia

for its diversity of forest species:

o 945 native ‘higher plants’

o 137 native ferns and club mosses

o About 50 native resident birds

o 17 native reptiles

o 2 native amphibians

o 10 native mammals

o About 1,400 beetles

o More than 1,000’s other invertebrates

**3.9.2 Special Constraints and Challenges, and Lessons Learned**

a. Progress has been made in the implementation of Saint Lucia’s NBSAP. More effort

however is needed in creating the institutional, policy and legal framework for

mainstreaming biodiversity management into the country’s development goals and for

reducing the overlaps and conflicts between different agencies involved in natural

resources management in Saint Lucia.

b. The Saint Lucian experience points to the need for approaches to biodiversity

management to include the creation of alternative sustainable livelihoods; the inclusion

of mitigation strategies rather then depending only on response strategies; and

mainstreaming biodiversity issues into landuse planning, development control, and

foreign investment planning.

c. Although data and information is currently available for some of the thematic areas in

biodiversity management, these databases are not regularly updated. Consequently

decision making is not sufficiently informed by scientific data; neither is the economic

value of the natural resources integrated into decision making.

d. The outcome of the recently concluded Biophysical Resource Inventory Project clearly

points to the need for eestablishing data management systems that are operational for

key parameters (e.g. carrying capacity, inventories, population studies and other

indicators required for biodiversity management) and priority species / ecosystems.

Prior to the commencement of the Project only 172 species of beetles were identified

for Saint Lucia. At the completion of the assessment, over 500 species were recorded

with at least 200 being endemic to Saint Lucia.

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St Lucia's forests reveal the smallest beetle in the world

Published on Saturday, August 15, 2009

CASTRIES, St Lucia -- St Lucia maybe home to the smallest beetle in the world according to the results of the Bio-

Physical Resource Inventory assessment which ended in July, 2009. Dr Michael Ivie, a beetle specialist who has

assembled the world's largest collection of West Indies beetles, announced in his recent presentation to the Forestry

Department that an unknown species measuring a third of a millimetre has been discovered in St Lucia.

“The smallest beetle ever to be recorded was the one-millimetre long feather-winged beetle in the United States,” said Dr

Ivie. “The specimen found here does not belong to the feather-winged family or any other known family of beetles. If we

are correct St. Lucia may be a candidate for having the smallest beetle in the world.”

26 workers and scientists from around the world and St Lucia participated in the 3 month assessment where more than

1400 species of beetles were expected to be found on the island. Dr Ivie stated that only 172 species of beetle were

documented before the assessment and believes the team has already found over 500 species with over 200 of them

endemic to St Lucia. “There are a lot of specimens we have collected which we have never seen before,” said Ivie. “The

way things are going, St.Lucia may have an endemic beetle for every square mile and we are only half way through the

inventory.”

The assessment by Dr Ivie was done under the National Forest Demarcation and Bio-Physical Resource Inventory Project

for the Forestry Department, under the European Union funded SFA2003 Programme, Environment Management Fund

which is managed by the Banana Industry Trust (BIT).

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