



Regional stakeholder webinar on Blue BioTrade and BioTrade principles and criteria including CITES requirements

22–23 March 2021

-Version of 16 February 2021-

Background: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) launched a regional project titled "*Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine diversity in selected OECS countries (Blue BioTrade project)*" in October 2020. The project aims to empower small scale coastal operators from Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to produce and trade queen conch products in domestic, regional and international markets under the Blue BioTrade environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria, including CITES.

Queen conch is an iconic specie for the wider Caribbean and a key product with multiple uses, including culinary, therapeutical and handicraft. CITES estimated the overall value of only queen conch meat to be around \$74 million in 2017. This fishery's economic value and job creation potential can be multiplied several-fold when considering further processing and marketing of legally sourced queen conch products, particularly in the handicraft, tourism, and restaurant sectors.

Queen conch is not yet a fully threaten species. However, it may become so if harvesting and trade are not done sustainably. Queen conch is listed under Appendix II of CITES since 1992. Future trade flows of queen conch products must build on compliance with multilateral, regional and national legal requirements seeking to regulate harvesting better, and comply with legal and sustainability requirements.

The project considers three subsequent and complementary phases:

Phase 1: Awareness-raising about the BioTrade P&C and CITES requirements in the context of queen conch, and elaboration of queen conch product assessments in Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Phase 2: Elaboration of a Regional Blue BioTrade Action Plan based on findings of the country studies and,

Phase 3: Design and delivery of technical assistance activities in selected areas as well as additional fundraising.

Objective of the webinar: to raise awareness and increase understanding among key OECS stakeholders about Blue BioTrade, 2020 BioTrade Principles and Criteria, and applicable CITES requirements and decisions. It will also explain the required information and inputs needed from stakeholders to elaborate value chain assessments in the beneficiary countries.

UNCTAD's [BioTrade Initiative](#) was launched in 1996 to promote trade and investment in biological resources in line with social, economic and environmental sustainability criteria known as the BioTrade



Principles and Criteria (BioTrade P&C)¹. UNCTAD and partners use these P&C to develop over 3,500 biodiversity-based value chains and sectors in over 60 countries, including in the food and personal care sectors, which are relevant to this project. In 2020, these P&C were updated considering the evolving legal and policy frameworks, partners experiences in implementing them for over a decade and the need to broaden their scope to other ecosystems such as the marine realm. This pioneering project will apply the BioTrade P&C to the marine realm (Blue BioTrade) – as there has only been limited experience with wetland products and sustainable tourism (e.g. scuba diving and whale watching).

Methodology: The webinar will take place in two sessions of three hours each. The first session will present the BioTrade approach, 2020 BioTrade P&C, queen conch CITES regulations, requirements and decisions, and the status of the implementation of the Regional queen conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan. The second session will introduce the BioTrade value chain methodology and outline the planned country report's content. Also, it will introduce the mapping of the queen conch value chain for validation purposes. The session will conclude with a discussion on the preliminary situational analysis of the queen conch sector in the three beneficiary countries.

Partners focal points:

UNCTAD, Division on
International Trade and
Commodities

Mr David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer
david.vivaseugui@unctad.org

Ms Lorena Jaramillo, Economic Affairs Officer
lorena.jaramillo@unctad.org, biotrade@un.org

Ms Claudia Contreras, Economic Affairs Officer
claudia.contreras@unctad.org

Mr Alexander Girvan, Project Coordinator
alexander.girvan@un.org

OECS, Agriculture Unit

Mr. Lench Fevrier, Technical Specialist
lench.fevrier@oece.int

CITES, Scientific Services

Ms. Karen Gaynor, Scientific Officer
karen.gaynor@cites.org

¹ Further information at: www.biotrade.org and on the BioTrade Principles and Criteria at <https://unctad.org/webflyer/biotrade-principles-and-criteria-terrestrial-marine-and-other-aquatic-biodiversity-based>.