



Blue BioTrade in Saint Lucia: Developing value for the sustainable trade and production of queen conch in the Caribbean

(A draft case study consultation and validation meeting)

4 November 2021

Castries: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Geneva: 3 - 8 p.m.

Online and in-person

CONCEPT NOTE

Version 6 of 27 October 2021

Background: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in cooperation with 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 strengthen capacities of small-scale coastal operators from Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to produce and trade queen conch products (*Strombus gigas*) in domestic, regional and international markets under the Blue BioTrade¹ environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria, in line with CITES requirements.

As a part of the implementation of this project, a **draft** case study of the queen conch value chain in the country of Saint Lucia has been produced, titled, "Blue BioTrade in Saint Lucia: Developing Value for the sustainable Trade and Production of Queen Conch in the Caribbean". To validate the preliminary findings and proposed strategic recommendations from this study, the OECS and the Department of Fisheries of Saint Lucia are inviting stakeholders across the industry to participate in a stakeholder consultation and validation meeting. This meeting will also be used to prioritise draft recommendations developed under this report for further development and action under the Regional Blue BioTrade Action plan.

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 \(BioTrade P&C\)](#). UNCTAD and partners use BioTrade P&C to develop over 3,500 biodiversity-based value chains and sectors in over 80 countries, including in the food and personal care sectors, which are relevant to this project. In 2020, the [BioTrade P&C were updated](#) considering the evolving legal and policy frameworks,

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>.

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 consultation and validation will take place in one session of two hours. Depending on COVID-19 restrictions in Saint Lucia, this event will be both virtual and in person (hybrid) with selected Saint Lucian stakeholders gathered physically. The first session will present the overall project objectives and provide an update of its progress. The second session will present preliminary findings of the draft country case study of the Saint Lucia queen conch value chain by the authors. The third session will be an open discussion with stakeholders on the draft findings of the study for validation. In the fourth session, stakeholders will be asked to prioritise the recommendations and discuss next steps.

Programme (tentative):

4 November 2021	
10 – 10:30 a.m. (Castries time)	<p>Moderator Saint Lucia Chief Fisheries Officer (TBC)</p> <p>Welcoming remarks Dr. Didacus Jules Director General, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States</p> <p>Hon. Alfred Prosper Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives of Saint Lucia</p>
10:30 – 10:45 a.m. (Castries time)	Coffee and media break
10:45 – 11 a.m. (Castries time)	<p>Session 1: Project overview Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Legal Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</p>

<p>11- 11:45 a.m. (Castries time)</p>	<p>Session 2: Presentation of preliminary findings Mr. Alexander Girvan, Project Coordinator, UNCTAD Mr. Mauro Gongora, Consultant, UNCTAD and member of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on Queen Conch (QC)</p> <p>Commentator: Ms. Karen Gaynor, Scientific Support Officer, CITES</p>
<p>11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Castries time)</p>	<p>Session 3: Plenary discussion and validation of preliminary findings</p> <p>Commentators: Saint Lucia Department of Fisheries Gros Islet Fisherfolk Organisation Lucian Blue Ocean Seafoods</p>
<p>12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (Castries time)</p>	<p>LUNCH BREAK</p>
<p>1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (Castries time)</p>	<p>Session 4: Prioritisation of recommendations by local stakeholders, and discussion of priority management measures</p>
<p>2:30 - 3 p.m. (Castries time)</p>	<p>Closing remarks Mrs. Jacqueline Emmanuel-Flood Director, Economic Affairs Regional Integration Division, OECS Commission</p>

Focal points:

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