

A Blue BioTrade approach for the Queen Conch Value Chain

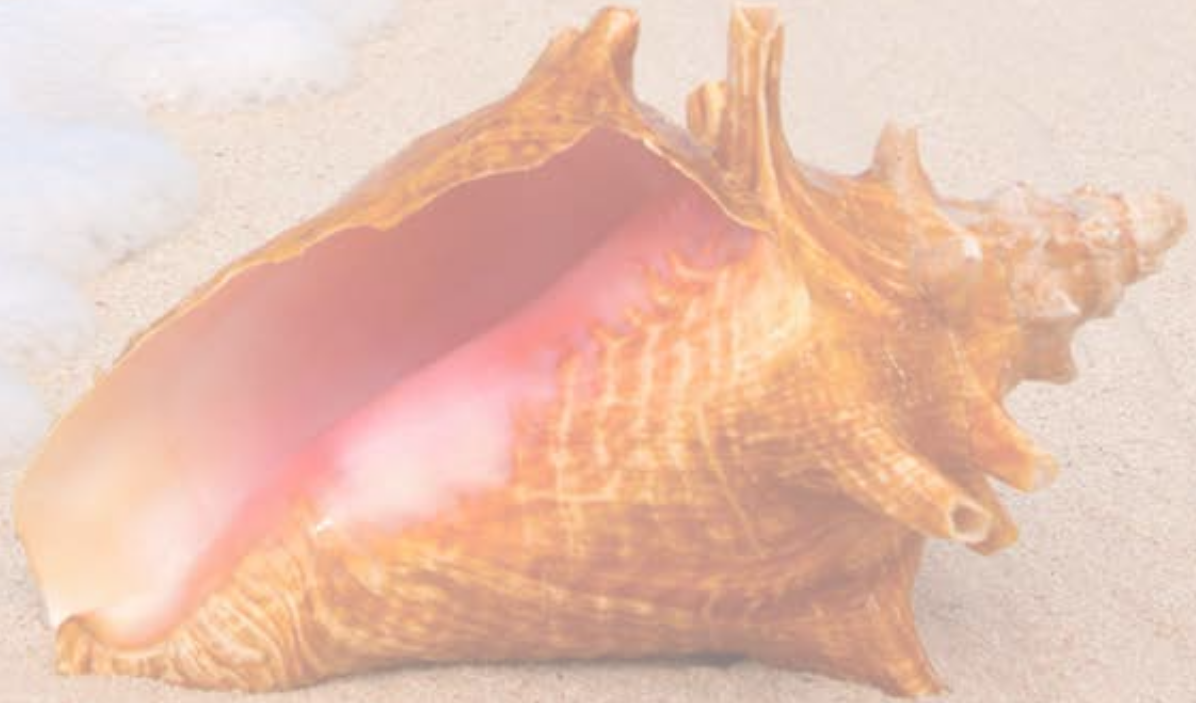
Saint Lucia consultations

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United Nations Conference on
Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



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Blue BioTrade Project: Objective & Scope

Empower small-scale coastal producers from selected OECS member states to **produce and trade** queen conch products in domestic, regional and international markets under the **BioTrade** environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria, including CITES.

- **Initial beneficiaries:** Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- **Pilot species:** Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). Appendix II CITES-listed species
- Other species considered: Sea moss and sargassum (non-CITES) [for the next phase]

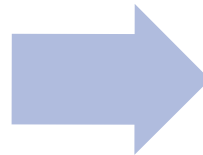


Project duration: 18 months, Jan 2021-June 2022
Budget: 300,000 Euros +
UNCTAD & CITES contribution : €150,000 in staff time

Outcome 1

Enhanced capacity to identify sustainable business opportunities and formulate joint actions to apply BioTrade P&C

- ü Stakeholder mapping
- ü Blue BioTrade Webinar
- ü 3 country queen conch value chain / product assessments
- ü Regional Blue BioTrade Workshop
- ü Regional Blue BioTrade Action Plan



Outcome 2

Outcome 2: Enhanced sustainable production and trade opportunities in the queen conch value chain

- **Implementation of Priority Actions derived from Regional Blue BioTrade Action Plan**
- **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) + OECS (funded by FFEM & ADF France)**
- **Dissemination and outreach**

Outputs so far...

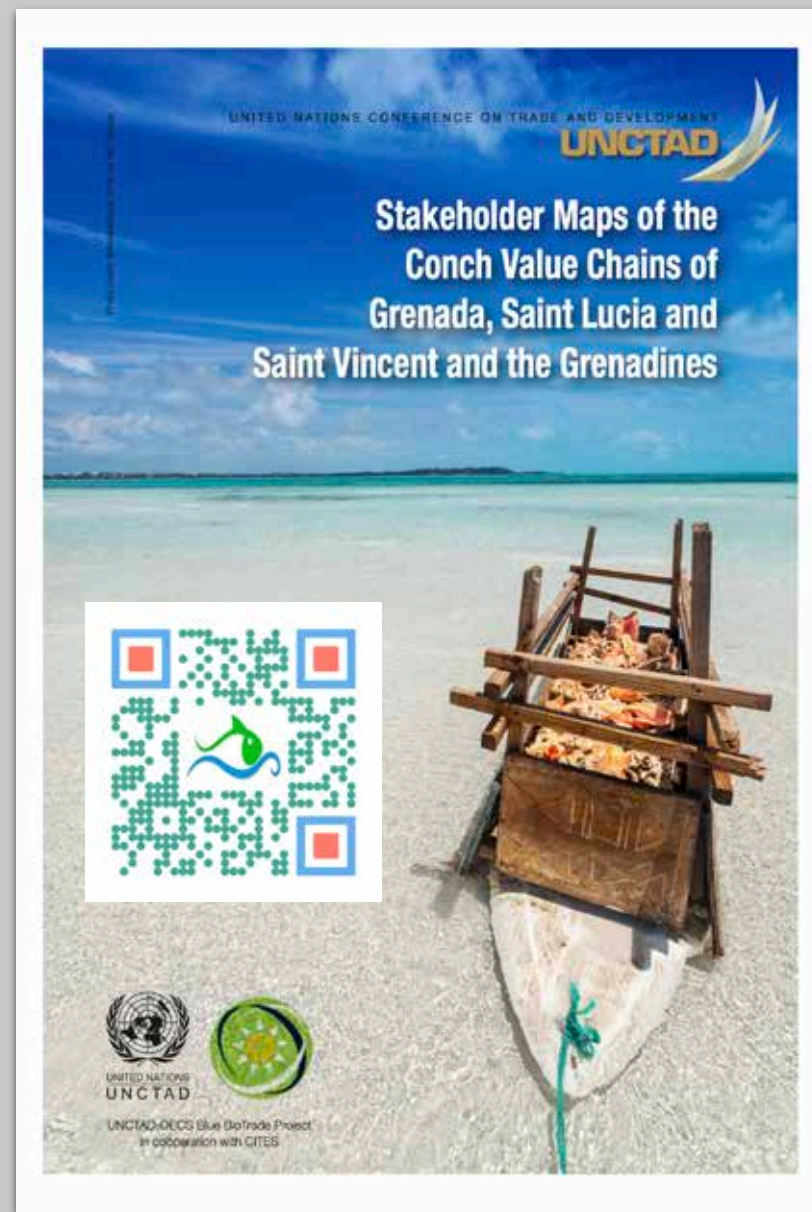
- Launch webinar (2020)
- Regional capacity building Webinar on BioTrade and status of the QC fisheries in selected OECS countries (2021)
- QC stakeholder mapping in 3 beneficiary countries (2021)
- One draft country report (St Lucia) on product value chain analysis (2021)

Next set of outputs

- Two more country reports on product value chain analysis (Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
- Regional workshop & Blue BioTrade QC OECS plan

Additional outputs (UNCTAD-CITES contributions):

- Funding & project proposal for implementation phase (phase 2) (2019)
- Funding proposal for Grenada QC stock assessment + regional divers capacity building (2021)
- Provision of CITES data (2021)
- One online training workshop on the UNCTAD/ITC Blue BioTrade self assessment tool (foreseen for 2021-22)
- Piloting BioTrade self-assessment tool (foreseen for 2021-22)



What is BioTrade?

BioTrade Sectors



BioTrade is the commercialization of goods and services derived from terrestrial and marine biodiversity that adhere to a set of sustainability guidelines



BioTrade Principles and Criteria

What is considered **Blue BioTrade**?

- Focuses on material derived from coastal and marine biodiversity
- Does not include the extraction of minerals (e.g., sand, oil, gas, generation of energy)
- Does not seek to use or develop genetically modified organisms;
- Does not introduce invasive species (unless is to control the



Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- and coastal ecosystems
- Comply with the requirements defined in the regulations, plans strategies or programmes applicable to these areas.
- Ensures respect for human rights and illegal transactions in business operations
- Applies the precautionary approach, as defined in the Rio Principles and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (1995)



What is BioTrade P&C?

- The **P&C** are made up of 7 principles and 25 criteria
- They were updated in 2020
- The **P&C** are **guidelines**, they are **not** a set of standard or certification scheme but is the base for sustainability self-declaration & potential certification (e.g., UEBT)

BioTrade Principles



Principle 1: Conservation of Biodiversity



Principle 2: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity



Principle 3: Fair and Equitable Sharing



Principle 4: Socio-Economic Sustainability



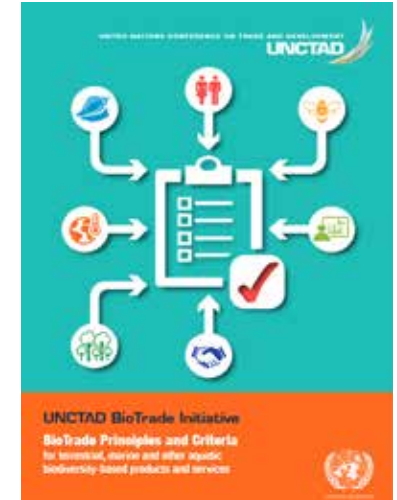
Principle 5: Legal Compliance



Principle 6: Respect for the rights of actors



Principle 7: Clarity on right to use and access to natural resources



Download the publication here



Principle 1: Conservation of Biodiversity

BioTrade activities should take into consideration the conservation of biodiversity, of the species, habitats and ecosystems that are involved. It also looks not only at protecting biodiversity, but also at restoring and enhancing it.

- CITES reporting on QC (2018 onwards)
- Up-to-date stocks assessments
- Continuous stocks and ecosystems monitoring
- Draft management plan
- Restoration plans for species & ecosystems





Principle 2: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity



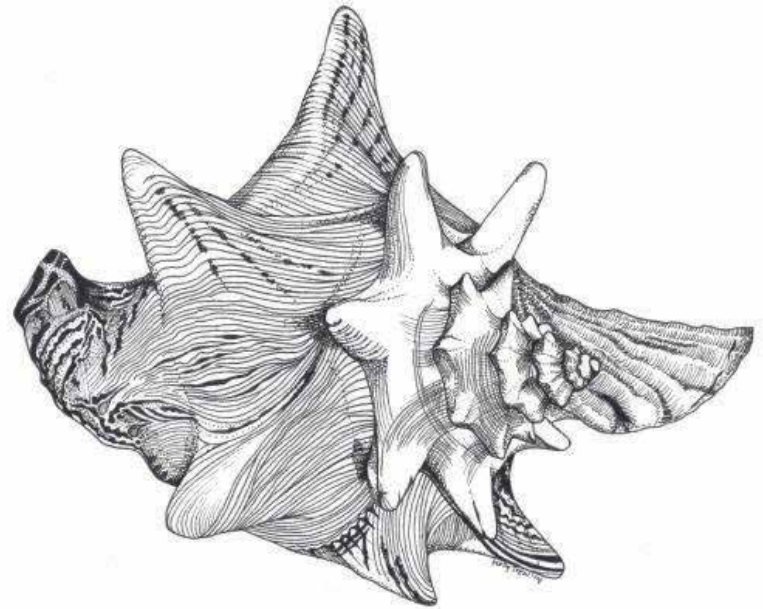
Biodiversity must be used in a way that is sustainable for future generations. BioTrade activities need to be based on adaptive management practices and measures to prevent or mitigate negative environmental impacts.

Based on stocks assessment, undertake up-to-date Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

Ecosystem and climate adaptation management

Implement recommendations of regional QC management plan

Introduce additional sustainable, adaptive & ecosystem-based measures (set seasons, nursery areas & facility (artificial propagation) & best fishing practices)





Principle 3: Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Derived from the Use of Biodiversity

It requires BioTrade activities to involve long-term partnerships along supply chains, fair prices and contributions to local sustainable development. It also requires compliance for access and benefit-sharing.

Fair prices that cover all costs, support livelihoods & profit margin

- Enable “prime” price (levels) and non-monetary benefits
- Become a party to the Nagoya Protocol (for genetic resource and derivatives use)



Supply chain based on transparency

- Catch, permits and landing monitoring systems
- Data and information collection
- eCITES and other permits



Principle 4: Socio-Economic Sustainability



Activities must be based on solid business policies, procedures, and practices. This Principle requires organizations involved in BioTrade activities to have the required business systems to function in line with industry and market requirements.

Traceability & Safety

- Track back the product to its origin – simplified catch certificate & landing systems (important also for processors)
- Multi-species traceability system that follows existing international guidelines
- Improve the quality and safety of queen conch products/production (HACCAP)
- Enable fishers' associativity



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Principle 5: Compliance with national and international legislation

Need to build upon compliance with applicable rules under local, national, and international legislation. There's a need to outline the main international agreements and relevant types of national and local laws.

Fisheries policy

- Draft fisheries policy (2020)
- Improve fight against IUU fishing (keep vessel + owners records)
- Incentives for compliance (legal compliance must be easy and affordable)

Respect international agreements & soft law

- CITES (Non-Detriment Findings) permits for exports
- FAO Code of conduct of Responsible fisheries
- Outcome of WTO fish subsidies negotiations





Principle 6: Respect for the rights of actors involved in BioTrade Activities



Promotes and protects the rights of all actors, including their fundamental human rights, their rights as workers and employees, and their rights as part of vulnerable groups.

Workers' rights, safety, discrimination

- Extended social protection
- Formalization/regularization of the value chain
- Insurance schemes for fishers/divers
- Consider ILO Convention 188 ratification





Principle 7: Clarity on right to use and access to natural resources

Respects land & marine resources tenure and rights on the access to natural resources, as well as associated traditional knowledge. This includes not only the rights of actors involved, but also those of their communities.

Respects marine resources tenure

Co-management strategy:

- Need for active involvement and participation from different stakeholders and the community to manage the queen conch value chain
- Compilation of best traditional practices



BioTrade P&C for the queen conch

Incorporating the P&C can help make the value chain more sustainable for queen conch value chain which can give an edge + base for certification

It can be adapted to national circumstances and support companies that comply with national regulations

The P&C helps governments not only enforce legal compliance to local and regional conservation policies, but it can also help to meet global targets (SDG 14)

The P&C provides a guideline for businesses to become not only more biodiversity friendly, but become more resilient

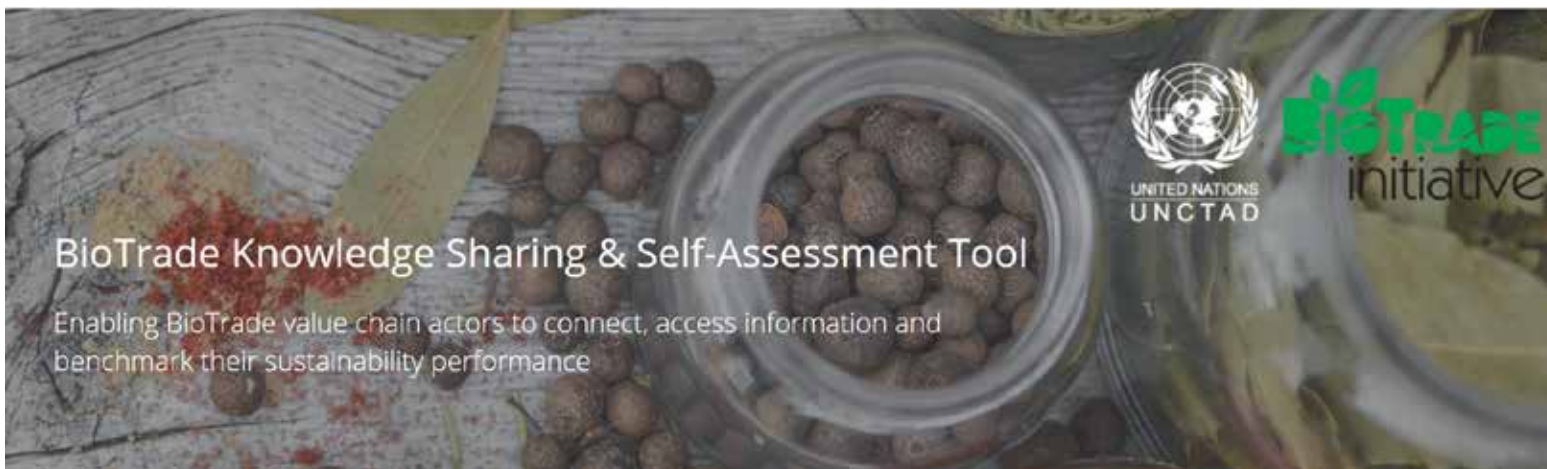


BioTrade Self-Assessment tool

- Hosted at the BioTrade Knowledge Sharing page, available at <https://www.sustainabilitygateway.org/biotrade/>

The tool enable **companies** to:

- Understand **what BioTrade is about**, including its scope and sustainability criteria.
- **Self-assess** their **business practices** regarding the Biotrade Principles and Criteria and get a first **diagnostic report** of areas of improvement.
- Joint ITC & UNCTAD effort sponsored by SECO, Switzerland



Value of the self assessment tool:

Diagnostic report of areas for improvement



← Back

Save as a Draft

Finalize

A preview of your score against standard : UNCTAD BioTrade Principles & Criteria - Marine Food Sectors



Export data in excel format

View: Category

Your answers



UNCTAD BioTrade Principles & Criteria - Marine Food Sectors

Environment

Inputs

Is a list identifying chemical substances or materials that are prohibited and cannot be used in production respected?



Comment : Comments: check



Immediate Deal-breaker More information

Is a list of authorized chemical substances or materials that are allowed to be used in production respected?



Recommendation Optional More information

Thank you!



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