



**BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN ACP
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS**



**The Support Programme for ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Countries
is funded by the European Union (EU) through the ACP Secretariat**



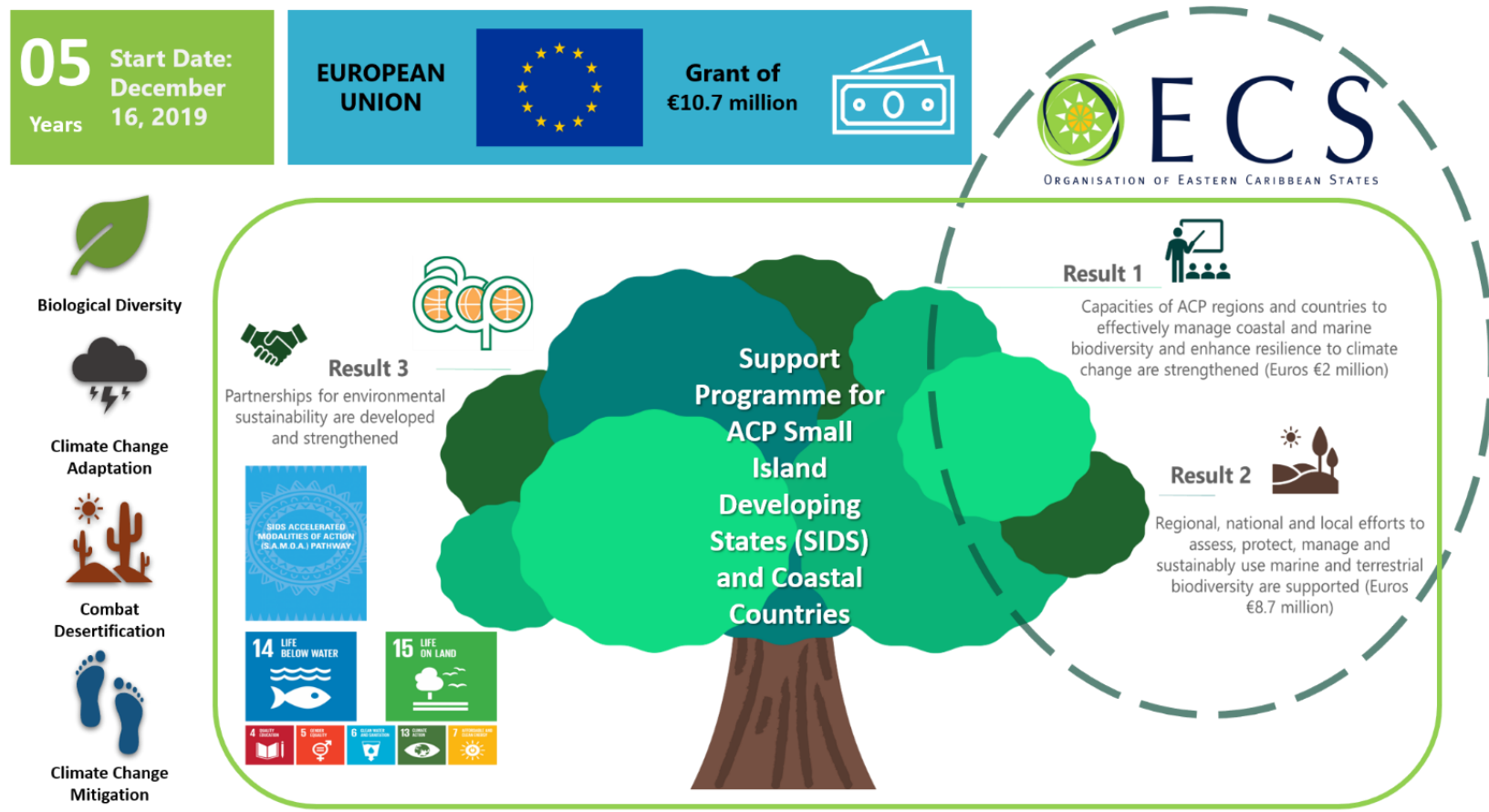
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ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

INTRODUCTION

The Support Programme was developed to contribute to the sustainable development ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal countries, while at the same time supporting efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme aims to contribute to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources (Specific Objective). The main expected results of the Programme are:

- **Result 1** - Capacities of ACP regions and countries to effectively manage coastal and marine biodiversity and enhance resilience to climate change are strengthened;
- **Result 2** - Regional, national and local efforts to assess, protect, manage and sustainably use marine and terrestrial biodiversity are supported;
- **Result 3** - Partnerships for environmental sustainability are developed and strengthened.



IMPLEMENTATION

The OECS Commission will be executing Results 1 and 2 in the Caribbean region. The main outcome of the Programme is to contribute to the implementation of key international development agenda related to SIDS including the SAMOA Pathway, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 14 and 15 and secondary SDGs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 13. In addition, the project is also expected to contribute to key regional goals and strategies such as the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD2040) and the OECS Development Strategy for the Environment (ODSe).



For OECS Member States, the specific objective of the action is to contribute to the Revised Treaty of Basseterre through implementation of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability (Protocol Article 24) which aims to minimise environmental vulnerability, improve environmental management and protect the region's natural (including historical and cultural) resource base for optimal social and economic benefits to Member States.

In undertaking the action, the strategy employed will involve broadly:

Support the implementation of key Regional Frameworks and Actions and Coordinating Mechanisms such as the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC)

Build the capacity of participating Member States through the provision of training, equipment and supplies, participation in regional and international dialogues

Identify and undertake appropriate regional, national and local pilots in selected participating Member States

Build on the successful "iLAND Resilience" approach and brand to communicate and promote the work of the action

The programme inputs are finances that will enable the strengthening of frameworks, technical support and capacity building. The main activities are to (i) strengthen capacities of regional, national and local stakeholders for sustainable management and use of coastal and marine resources and (ii) undertake regional, national and local actions to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

These activities will contribute to the following outputs:

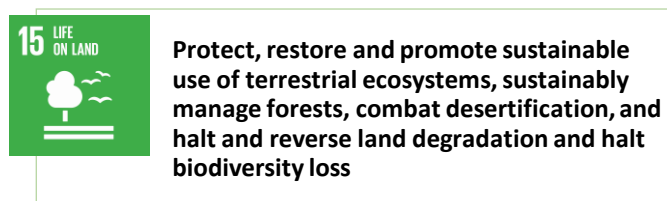
- Strengthened capacities in managing marine and terrestrial biodiversity,
- Strengthened regional, national and local frameworks that support the effective management of marine and coastal resources,
- Pilot projects that demonstrate ecosystem-based approaches in the management of marine and coastal resources; and
- Livelihoods generated from the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

Based on these outputs, the outcomes of the programme will be:

- Increased integration of biodiversity and ecosystems into national and regional development processes; and
- Enhanced knowledge, attitudes and practices reflecting the importance of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and its role in resilience and socio-economic development.

This will therefore contribute to the longer-term impact as articulated in the vision of the OECS-BEF: “Healthy and resilient biodiversity and ecosystems provide goods and services that support socio-economic development and livelihoods for its people while conserving the rich natural heritage of the region”.

The result of the action will contribute to Sustainable Development Goals, mainly targets under SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss). Other SDGs that will be covered are: 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and 13 (Climate Action).



The OECS Commission has undertaken several projects in the recent past focused on climate change adaptation in various sectors aimed at helping the Member States build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Several gaps from the implementation of projects have been identified and the recent experiences of the 2017 and 2019 Atlantic Hurricane seasons have reinforced and escalated these priorities and brought to the fore the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems and the role that they play in building resilience. There have been several initiatives focused on building the capacity of the Member States, however with increasing urgency and priorities identified based on recent experiences, the region is receptive to efforts aimed at strengthening the capacities and resilience.

Based on the indicative activities outlined under Results 1 and 2, the OECS Commission has proposed the following sub activities:

RESULT 1: CAPACITIES OF ACP REGIONS AND COUNTRIES TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND ENHANCE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE STRENGTHENED	
ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITY
Activity 1.1: Strengthen the capacity of regional, national and local stakeholders to develop and implement national and regional policy and regulatory frameworks for sustainable management and use of coastal and marine natural resources	1.1.1 Support the implementation of key regional frameworks and actions plans in support of coastal and marine resource management;
	1.1.2 Prepare at least two (2) reports regarding monitoring of the implementation of the revised St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS [Baseline and Progress];
	1.1.3 Conduct an economic valuation of key/target coastal and marine species and ecosystems for the region [and selected Member States].
Activity 1.2: Build the technical capacities of relevant stakeholders to sustainably manage coastal and marine protected areas more effectively, through inter alia, support for training and marine conservation educational programmes	1.2.1 Facilitate training in areas a: e.g. EbA, Eco-DRR, Economic Valuation at various levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters and Postgraduate Programmes; • Certified Training [up to 6 months]; • Regional and National Trainings; • Funding Internships at other agencies.

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Activity 1.3: Facilitate access to appropriate and reliable technologies and promote the use of Information and Communication technologies (ICTs), such as Earth Observation, through the provision of hardware and software, training, development and/or strengthening of national and regional legislation and the involvement of the public and private sectors	1.3.1 Procure tools (hardware and software), associated training and data management in support of new and established programmes;
	1.3.2 Establish, facilitate and maintain partnerships and strategic engagements to monitor and assess coastal and marine resources and ecosystems (e.g. with European Space Agency, University College of Cork, University of the West Indies, etc.).
Activity 1.4: Strengthen regional and national decision-making processes for sustainable management and use of coastal and marine biodiversity by improving the use of the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) Regional Information Systems (RIS)	1.4.1 Support the convening of relevant governance mechanisms - Councils of Ministers Meetings (Environmental Sustainability, Fisheries);
	1.4.2 Support the functioning and strengthening of Coordinating Mechanisms such as the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC), Ocean Governance Team (OGT), Energy Policy Implementation Coordinating Committee (EPICC), Climate Change Plus Working group, etc. (including meetings, policy dialogue, capacity building);
	1.4.3 Enhance collaboration with IUCN and other partners in relation to the (BIOPAMA RIS) [Supporting the functioning of national Nodes for the Caribbean Gateway];
	1.4.4 Support the participation of OECS/CARICOM at Regional and International fora (UNFCCC, CBD, Cartagena Convention, Fisheries-related, IUCN, CITES, RASMAR, CMS, BBNJ and other related MEAs).
Activity 1.5: Short term technical assistance to support OECS Commission and the participating Member States with undertaking specialised tasks	1.5.1 Short-term engagement of specialists and experts.

RESULT 2: REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO ASSESS, CONSERVE, PROTECT, MANAGE AND SUSTAINABLY USE MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY ARE SUPPORTED	
ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITY
Activity 2.1: Identify pilot-sites at regional level by regional, national and local stakeholders	2.1.1 Develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (Civil Society and the Private Sector);
	2.1.2 Conduct regional/national/sector needs assessment(s) to determine pilot activities including priority actions;
	2.1.3 Conduct a feasibility study for priority actions;
	2.1.4 Develop appropriate designs for prioritised interventions;
	2.1.5 Implement and monitor pilot activities.
Activity 2.2: Improve the management effectiveness of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA), including key coastal ecosystems (such as mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds), while contributing to food security and nutrition and access to water and energy for surrounding communities	2.2.1 Develop/enhance/support implementation of site specific MPA/MMA/Conservation Area Management Plans and support processes aimed at strengthening integrated management systems for protected/conservation areas at the national level (including stakeholder engagement strategies and monitoring processes) [focus on proposed and established conservation areas/pilot sites];
	2.2.2 Improve the collaboration among the Region's World Heritage Sites/ Conservation Areas to improve the management, maintenance and collective promotion of these sites [e.g. World Heritage Sites Network, annual conferences/exhibitions, exchange visits];

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	2.2.3 Enhance small scale and micro enterprise development in coastal communities through the conduct of livelihoods studies and implementation of green/blue/circular livelihood interventions;
	2.2.4 Support and strengthen local community-based organisations involved in the management of coastal and marine resources;
Activity 2.3: Support the sustainable development and management of small-scale fisheries by local communities	2.3.1 Support business development and entrepreneurship in small scale fisheries through training, provision of equipment and technologies, branding and promotions.
Activity 2.4: Support on-going efforts to address land degradation, desertification and drought in order to reduce land-based sources of pollution that affects the coastal and marine environment, reinforcing coordination with EU funded projects on Drought Resilience in the region	2.4.1 Implement soil amelioration and land conservation measures: Establishment of agroforestry systems, rehabilitation of riparian zones, soil stabilisation, promotion of technologies for soil improvement (e.g. incorporation of organic material into the soil);
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	2.4.2 Support an evaluation of Solid and Ship Generated Waste Management in the OECS to determine recommendations and facilitate a regional meeting to inform actions for reducing land-based sources of pollution.
Activity 2.5: Short term technical assistance to support OECS Commission and the Member States with undertaking specialised tasks	1.5.1 Short-term engagement of specialists and experts.
Activity 2.6: Build awareness of decision makers/ stakeholders/ general public/ civil society and improve knowledge management systems in support of sustainable use and management of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems	2.6.1 Implement a communications strategy based on the successful iLAND Resilience Approach;
	2.6.2 Develop and implement a knowledge management strategy including products;
	2.6.3 Conduct Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey;
	2.6.4 Enhance the effectiveness and capacity of OECS Commission and Member States Communications Units in relation to the dissemination of biodiversity information;
	2.6.5 Prepare a research agenda (strategy) for terrestrial and marine resources at the regional level [model that can be adapted to the national level];
	2.6.6 Project Launch(es) and Closeout Conference.
Activity 2.7: Support for post-project sustainability of actions	2.7.1 Development of project concept(s) and financing plan.

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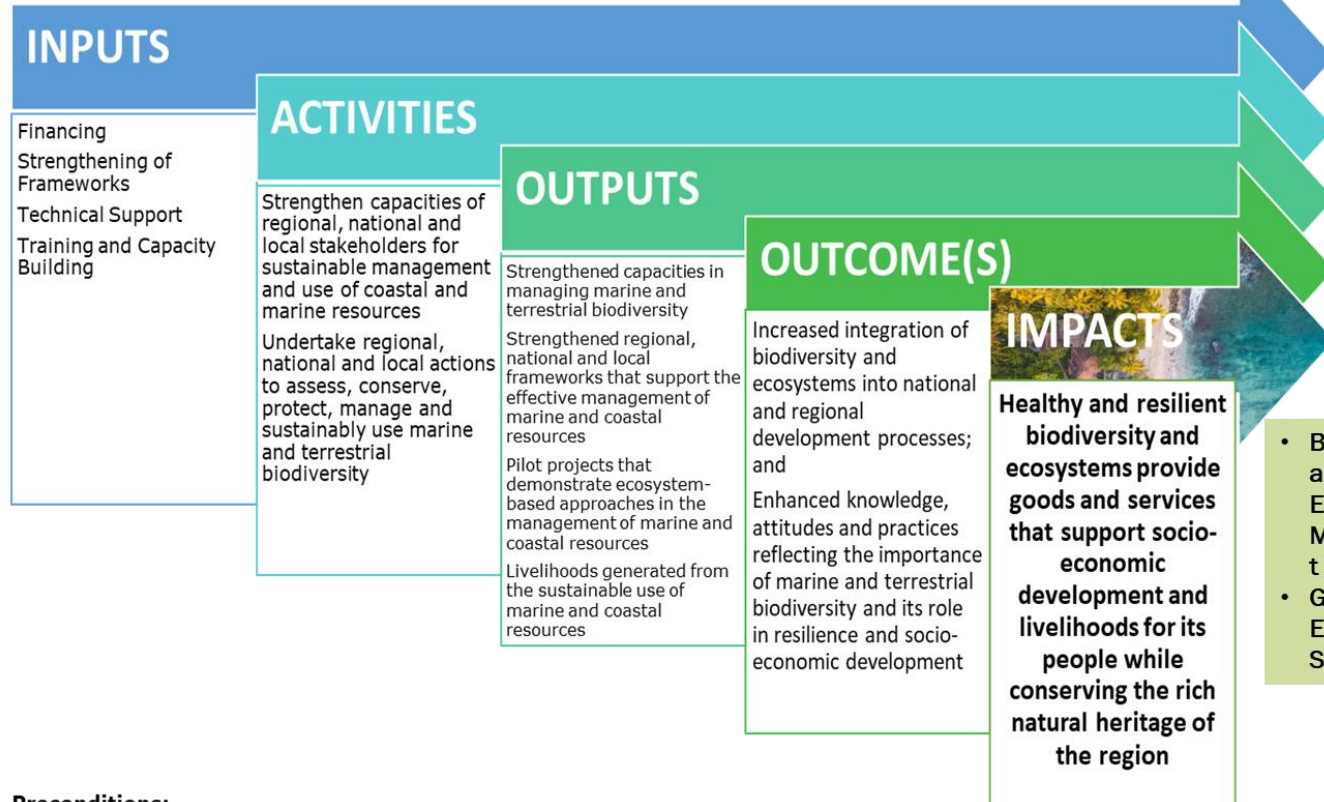
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THEORY OF CHANGE

Specific Objective:
Contribute to the achievement of provisions of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre & Chaguaramas

Strategy:

- Support the implementation of key OECS Frameworks and Actions and Coordinating Mechanisms such as the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC)
- Build the capacity of participating Member States through the provision of training, equipment and supplies, participation in regional and international meetings
- Identify and undertake appropriate regional, national and local pilots in the participating Member States
- Promote the successful iLAND resilience approach and brand and communicate the work of the action



Preconditions:

- Commitment of the member States on Engagement to the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre
- Capacity of the OECS Member States to support engagement at the national level and through national agencies
- Understanding of the importance of terrestrial, marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems
- Understanding the need for pilots that address terrestrial, marine and coastal biodiversity degradation for replication and upscaling

Main SDGs



- Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework
- Green-Blue Economy Strategy

Other SDGs

