



Integrated Landscape Approaches and Investments In Sustainable Management in the OECS

EU Action for Sustainable Landscape Management
Contracting Authority: EU Delegation, Barbados



The “Integrated Landscape Approaches and Investments in Sustainable Land Management in the OECS” project, is funded under the European Union Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme to an amount of EUR 5 million. This EU Action For Sustainable Landscape Management is linked to the Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+) initiative, and a direct follow-up to the OECS-GCCA Project on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the Eastern Caribbean (“Island Resilience” www.ilandresilience.org).

The overall objective of the project is to optimize the contribution of land to agriculture, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the preservation of ecosystems and the essential services they provide. It is expected that initiatives under this project will contribute to; climate smart and sustainable agriculture farming system; enhancement of cross-sector approaches to land use planning and management; the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; REDD+ strategies and plans to curb deforestation and forest degradation; and strengthening ecosystem management in general. The OECS Commission has in the recent past executed several projects from various funders that have addressed issues of environmental degradation, sustainable use and management of natural resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation and general sustainable development issues. The current project builds upon the work of these previous actions.

This OECS-ILM project is closely aligned with and complements interventions under the “Support Programme for ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Countries” project. The overall objective of the EU ACP project is to contribute to the sustainable development of ACP SIDS and coastal countries. The resources of the ACP SIDS initiative will primarily be focused on resolving challenges related to building capacities of national and regional authorities to address issues linked to the marine and coastal environment, with emphasis on the protection and management of marine and coastal biodiversity. The OECS-ILM project will be a terrestrial based investment, focusing on land degradation, desertification and drought in order to reduce land-based sources of pollution that affects the coastal and marine biodiversity.

The Specific Objective (SO1) of the OECS-ILM project is to strengthen the economic, social, and environmental resilience of Member States to the impacts of climate change and other hazards through the implementation of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM), Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Integrated Watershed Management (IWM), and other relevant approaches. Essentially, ILM seeks to integrate various economic, social, and biophysical considerations into a common framework for analysis and action.



The Expected Project Outputs under this objective are:

Expected Output (SO1-1): Scalable physical adaptation initiatives that help conciliate different land uses, foster innovation and lessons learning are field tested and deliver multiple agricultural, climate and biodiversity-related benefits.

Activities under this output are based on the recognition that the specific objective of the EU Action is to “strengthen inclusive and sustainable management of land through integrated landscape approaches that conciliate and meet multiple objectives on a specific territory”. In order words, the interventions must either contribute towards strengthening existing ILM programmes and processes, or the creation/initiation of new ILM programmes and processes. Essentially, what we seek is to integrate various economic, social, and biophysical considerations into a common framework and spatial area for analysis and action. Some of these will target physical adaptation climate change initiatives; ecosystem restoration/ rehabilitation, land degradation, desertification, drought and/or land-based sources of pollution in the context of ecosystem conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Expected Output (SO1-2): improved land governance and management systems are promoted, notably through better cross-sectoral coordination, enhanced participation of land users and local stakeholders, including local communities, women, and the private sector, in land-related decisions, and other appropriate land governance measures.

To ensure sustainability of results of investments in ILM and SLM, it is imperative that resources are allocated towards enhancing individual, community, sector, and institutional awareness, knowledge, skills, tools, and engagement. It is also necessary to strengthen Institutional, regulatory, and physical development planning and governance frameworks in a manner that will address the fact that environmental issues are usually complex and may require several institutional instruments to adequately address each one.

Expected Output (SO1-3): the capacities of actors and institutions for sustainable landscape management are enhanced;

Strengthening individual, community and institutional knowledge, skills, tools and engagement (with a view to building durable and constructive partnerships, decisions and practices across regional, national and sub-national institutions, civil society and the private sector) is key to enhancing adaptive and mitigative capacity to risks, threats and opportunities arising from Climate Change in Caribbean SIDS. It is therefore vital that efforts are enhanced towards increasing the level of on-the-ground awareness and education actions targeting key actors, local community and sector targets, including schools, livelihoods and households; and harmonised with national and regional interventions.