

SOUTH- SOUTH COOPERATION

THE ST. LUCIA AND CARIBBEAN
SUB-REGIONAL SITUATION

WHAT IS SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- South – South cooperation can be described as the ways and means by which countries within the southern hemisphere or so called developing countries exchange their experiences, knowledge, technologies, financial and human resources and also the establishment of platforms for development and implementation of regional and sub-regional projects and programmes.

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- Saint Lucia has assisted countries in the OECS with their bio-safety framework legislation development and their ABS legislation. A St. Lucian consultant (Gillian Vidal Jules) was used to draft both pieces of legislations for St. Lucia, and also helped with the bio-safety framework legislation in Saint Kitts and Saint Vincent;
- St. Lucia drafted its ABS legislation since 2004 which was later beefed up, to develop the Conservation and Sustainable Use Bill. As a result of that experience, St. Lucia was able to assist Dominica with the drafting of its ABS legislation;

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- St. Lucia has almost completed (90%) the implementation of its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and can help other south countries to learn from their experience in implementing theirs; also St. Lucia has completed the drafting of the second NBSAP and can help other countries in that regard;
- Saint Lucia has had one of the longest experiences in the drafting of its System Plan of Protected Areas (SPPA) which was done between 1988 to 1992. Since then the SPPA has been reviewed and revised under the OPAAL Project to meet modern and current demands (revised along the lines of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas). This process has also been shared with other south countries;

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- Saint Lucia is one of the few countries in the Caribbean region with a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) project which was one of the major outcomes of the local component of a Regional project, titled - Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project;
 - One example of the PES coming out the IWCAM Project is the case which involves a pig farmer conducting his operations along a riverbank. He was assisted financially by Caribbean Agriculture Research Development Institute (CARDI) to clean up his pig farming operations so that CARDI can better use the river for its activities. That pilot case study was shared with other countries which participated in this regional project, and can now be used to help other GRULAC countries developing PES projects. **This case study is seen as an incentive measure promoting better management of the inland waters, which is one of the components of the CBD programme of work.**
 - The construction of man-made wetlands to deal with effluents problems in the area using local plant species is another outcome under the IWCAM project. This has also been shared with other countries in the regional project.

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- A second case study depicting inland waters and watershed management practices, involves a few agricultural communities (Talvan, Fond Assau and Cocoa) located in the north-eastern part of St. Lucia, within a major water-catchment, the Talvan water-catchment.
- The main problems within this catchment were pollution of the water resources by agro-chemicals, grazing of animals and high sediment deposits and garbage disposal.
- Through the implementation of a Community based project funded by the OECS, and supported by the Forestry Department, the Talvan water-catchment group was able to rehabilitate about 50% of the water-catchment.
- This was achieved through bio-engineering techniques, agro-forestry applications, a strong public education campaign, advocacy and ongoing clean-up activities.
- The experiences and lessons learnt from this case study were passed on to regional countries, which included, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This inland and watershed case study was presented at a UNCCD CRIC meeting held in Bonn, Germany in 2002.

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- In the area of **biodiversity and sustainable tourism**, Saint Lucia has over thirty years of experience in the area of eco-tourism and has experimented with nature heritage tourism and is still developing that form of tourism.
- Both forms of sustainable tourism include the Community Based Approach and biodiversity protection and management.
- Experiences and lessons learned from these various case studies have been exchanged with regional countries like St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Dominica, Barbados and Grenada.
- This was enabled through two platforms, an OECS exchange programme and Regional EU funded project looking at Sustainable Livelihoods.

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- In April 2008, Dominica hosted a Sub-Regional Caribbean workshop on ABS in collaboration with ECU and GEF.
- The aim of this workshop was to allow the participating countries to consider their particular contexts and look at what may be necessary and available to develop a national ABS policy and legal framework; community, national and regional level mechanisms to implement prior informed consent; monitor bio-prospecting and commercialization of derivatives products; analyze patent applications and plan variety protection applications based on local biodiversity and or traditional knowledge.
- It was at that meeting St. Lucia was able to share its progress with its ABS legislation.

SOUTH–SOUTH APPROACHES THAT CAN BENEFIT THE BIODIVERSITY AGENDA IN THE REGION

- South countries should train each other in the use of their biological resources for socio-economic development such as what has occurred with Costa Rica, Africa and Asia;
- Biodiversity and climate change experiences in South countries should be shared with each other;
- South countries have to assist each other with wetland conservation and make these ecosystems important items on the political agendas;
- South countries should also assist each other in communication, education and public awareness success stories and lessons learned. As has occurred with the St. Lucian Parrot (Jacquot) conservation story for Saint Lucia. This is one of the greatest conservation success stories, which went on for over a decade and has been reproduced in over forty countries worldwide;

SOUTH-SOUTH APPROACHES THAT CAN BENEFIT THE BIODIVERSITY AGENDA IN THE REGION

- Saint Lucia is soon to start a regional sustainable financing project for protected areas and assistance can be sought from South countries in the development and implementation of such sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Chile has offered training assistance to Saint Lucia in several fields of scientific endeavor including GMO detection and that should be taken advantage of, not only by St. Lucia, but by other South countries;
- At the last ABS negotiation GRULAC meeting held in Colombia, March 2010, the Caribbean Sub-Region pushed strongly for South-South cooperation to be enhanced;
 - For example, the Africans, Asians and the Latin American Countries have a great understanding and experience in ABS matters, both legally and otherwise, the Caribbean should benefit from their experience.

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FRAMEWORKS PROMOTING SOUTH–SOUTH COOPERATION AND NORTH– SOUTH - SOUTH COOPERATION

- The Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) is one of the UNEP administered Regional Sea Programmes. The CEP is managed by and for the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region through the Caribbean Action Plan (1981) outlining regional environmental challenges. This is an example of north-south-south cooperation as well as south-south cooperation;
 - a) The Action Plan led to the 1983 adoption of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), which provides the legal framework.
 - The Convention has been supplemented by three protocols addressing specific environmental issues namely, **oil spills, specially protected areas and wildlife and land-based sources and activities of marine pollution**. The CEP provides the programmatic framework for the Cartagena Convention. Each area is governed by a regional activity centre located in a specific country that help member states implement activities related to area.

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b) The Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) located in Kingston, Jamaica was created in 1986 and serves as Secretariat to the CEP. The CEP has three main sub-programmes:

- Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution (AMEP).
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA).
- Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA).

c) National Programmes of Action-: The development of National Programmes of Action (NPA) is being used to assist countries of the region to respond in a more integrated manner to the increasing threats to the marine environment from land based activities and sources of pollution.

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d) The NPA project was designed to support the goals of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) which provides practical guidance to regional and national authorities to address marine degradation from land-based activities. The objectives of an NPA are to:

- i) Implement an NPA as a long-term iterative process that feeds into national development plans and priorities;
- ii) Improve the effectiveness of existing action plans;
- iii) Mobilize political and financial support for the long-term programme and to demonstrate that land-based activities can be addressed using alternative, realistic and country-driven approaches; and
- iv) Raise awareness and understanding of the value, benefits and vulnerability of strategic coastal and marine environments.

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- UNEP continues to work with countries to develop and finalize NPAs taking into account country specific considerations. Countries presently involved in the development and implementation of a National Programmes of Action are: Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago.
 - In July 2008, a regional workshop was convened to discuss strategies and mechanisms to mainstream NPAs into national plans and programmes.
 - **NB.** Related Projects: Water and Climate Change in Central America (in collaboration with CATIE and CATHALAC), GEF IWCAM Project – Integrated Water Resource Management plans.
- IUCN is working on a Biodiversity Caribbean Initiative (an example of a north-south-south cooperation).
- UNEP – ROLAC has LAC Initiative, including biodiversity (this is another example of north-south-south cooperation).

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- The Caribbean Foresters Network (CFN), OECS-ESDU, Caribbean Association of Sustainable Tourism (CAST) are examples of agencies promoting South-South cooperation related to biodiversity conservation;
- The University of the West Indies (UWI) Saint Augustine Campus in Trinidad is currently working on developing a Biodiversity Program for the Caribbean;
 - The UWI recently sent out questionnaires to countries seeking the needs of the Caribbean to produce a Biodiversity Centre for the Caribbean. The Program is headed by Professor Andrew Lawrence.
- Ridge to reef program was also operated in the Caribbean. this is another example of north-south-south cooperation.

CONCLUSIONS

- The importance of South–South cooperation to the Caribbean Region to ensure successful implementation of the CBD mandate, and national and regional programmes of work in keeping with the biodiversity agenda, cannot be questioned in the light of the shortage of critical resources, and the ability of southern countries to better understand how to meet each other's needs since they experience similar problems and issues.

THANK YOU