

Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - Conserving Nature.

Dominica is a small volcanic Island state with one of the lowest population densities and the most intact forest cover in the Caribbean. This Nature Island of the Caribbean with eight active volcanoes and the only boiling lake in the Western Hemisphere, possesses tremendous terrestrial and marine biodiversity and exhibits a high level of endemism. The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by the Commonwealth of Dominica on the 5th July 1994. As Dominicans, the conservation and protection of our natural ecosystems and species is deeply entrenched in the national values of our people. In 2000 the Government of Dominica embarked upon the preparation of its Biological Diversity Strategy and Action Plan and as part of the Government's commitment to the sustainable management of the country's Natural Resources. Dominica's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to be implemented through a collaborative effort involving the public and private sectors and civil society.

What did we achieve?

Legality:

The NBSAP was endorsed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica (Jan. 2002). Dominica's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was prepared by the Environmental Coordinating Unit and approved within 2000 and end of 2001.

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Governing Body:

A steering committee was formed for the preparation of the NBSAP in Dominica and comprises of private and public entities and the public service. That committee is presently dysfunctional.

Protected Areas:

From 1975 Dominica has developed some protected areas that include Three (3) National Parks; one (1) currently labeled World Heritage site (UNESCO 2000), two (2) marine protected areas, and the Central and Northern Forest Reserves.

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Preparation and Submission of Dominica's NBSAP to the Biodiversity Convention Secretariate.

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Biodiversity Protection:

Dominica's NBSAP is one of the few existing Biodiversity documents in Dominica that seeks to identify our main areas of Biodiversity on the island.

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Dominica's NBSAP covers: Conservation and sustainable use of Natural Resources, promotion of sound and sustainable agricultural/infrastructure development practises, and to ensure that Biotechnology knowledge and concerns are widely distributed in the country.



2010 Biodiversity Target

- 1 **Promote conservation of ecosystems & habitats**
- 2 **Promote the conservation of species diversity**
- 3 **Promote the conservation of genetic diversity**
- 4 **Promote sustainable use and consumption**
- 5 **Reduce pressures from habitat loss**
- 6 **Control threats from invasive alien species**
- 7 **Address challenges from climate change and pollution**
- 8 **Maintain capacity of ecosystems to provide services**
- 9 **Maintain cultural diversity of indigenous & local communities**
- 10 **Ensure fair & equitable benefit sharing from genetic resources**
- 11 **Ensure provision of adequate resources**