



# Caribbean Community

**Environmental and Natural Resources  
Policy Framework**

**2022-2032**

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**MESSAGE FROM  
DR. CARLA BARNETT  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY FRAMEWORK**



The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) faces unique environmental challenges, including the impact of climate change and degradation of our ecosystems and biodiversity. Yet, within these challenges lie opportunities for transformation, innovation, and sustainable growth.

CARICOM's Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas is clear that protection and sustainable use of our environment and natural resources are imperatives for the Region's prosperity and growth. Our vision is one of resilient development, where the sustainable use of natural assets empowers our people to overcome poverty. Poor rural communities are on the frontlines of environmental change. At the global level, vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are disproportionately affected by global changes, making building resilience to shocks a key development imperative. We rely on ecosystems that are increasingly degraded, face worsening water scarcity, and grapple with rising energy costs. Safeguarding our resources is becoming progressively more challenging due to multiple pressures and drivers which compound the inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS.

These realities prompted the development of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework, which outlines regional ambitions for safeguarding our natural assets and for socio-economic development in the face of global challenges. The Policy recognises the Region's environmental and natural resource base as fundamental to its progress and that the unsustainable use and destruction of these resources undermine sustainable development in our Region.

We are acutely aware that effective implementation is key. By strengthening capacities across the board, promoting livelihood diversification and nature-positive interventions, and integrating climate-smart practices, we can reduce vulnerability and build resilience. The priorities have, therefore, been formulated through extensive stakeholder engagement and will require coordinated implementation at all levels.

This Policy is a call to collaborative action, across borders and sectors, to protect our environment, uplift our communities, and create a legacy of sustainable prosperity. We encourage Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to actively participate in policy dialogue, implementation and monitoring. Private Sector entities, whether large or small, are also essential partners to drive positive change by promoting sustainable practices, and through investments in green technologies and supply chains. Additionally, traditional knowledge transferred from indigenous communities enriches our understanding of ecosystems. We also invite our young people, as custodians of tomorrow's Caribbean, to contribute ideas, innovations and passion to safeguard our environment.

Collaboration across borders amplifies our impact. We acknowledge that this Policy is not just a CARICOM initiative but a contributor to the implementation of key global treaties. The Region acknowledges partnerships fostered over the years, and will continue our engagement with regional bodies, international organisations, and neighbouring countries to share best practices and address our common challenges. We are eager to foster dialogue, strengthen partnerships, and advance a shared vision for a resilient, sustainable Caribbean. Together, we can turn our aspirations into the reality of a Caribbean Community that realises robust development, prosperity, and well-being in harmony with nature.

Dr. Carla Barnett  
Secretary-General  
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

# FOREWORD

HON. PHILIP J. PIERRE, PRIME MINISTER, SAINT LUCIA



As lead head with responsibility for Environment and Sustainable Development in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet of Heads of Government, I welcome the publication of the Caribbean Community Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework. This Framework provides a strategic blueprint for cooperation as a Region, to safeguard our environment and natural resources when the world is facing severe and detrimental impacts of the pluri-planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, drought and pollution.

Sustainable use of natural resources and effective environmental management are crucial for the Region's sustainable growth and development. These practices assure long-term economic stability by preventing inefficient resource use, minimising pollution, maintaining clean air and water and contributing to the health and safety of citizens. This is vital to balance the impacts of climate change, which can debilitate the Region's economies and physical and natural infrastructure.

I am proud that the Region's development trajectory is one that increasingly embraces principles that demonstrate the complementary nature of environmental management and economic development. This has been seen across the Region in recent decades through targeted and strategic investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. These practices have been shown to enhance productivity while preserving biodiversity and cultural resources.

I believe that our youth play a crucial role in promoting environmental sustainability. I also believe that the environmental sector offers many opportunities which, when coupled with relevant skills and training, can allow young people to secure sustainable livelihoods in sectors that are linked to nature and the environment, including Environmental Sciences, Agriculture and Tourism.

Our Region, which shares the Caribbean Sea, is significantly affected by pollution, increasing numbers of meteorological events made worse by climate change and is collectively located in a Biodiversity hotspot. As we recently celebrated fifty years as an integration movement, this policy symbolises our persistent collective efforts in the development of joint strategies to combat these challenges. It is a reminder of the urgent need for us to protect the natural resources with which we have been blessed. Through collaboration to address common environmental challenges, we have been able to capitalise on our collective strengths and learn from each other.

As the Community continues to pursue pathways to build a prosperous and sustainable future, we deeply appreciate existing partnerships and continue to seek new and meaningful alliances with development partners from both the developed and developing world, including other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who support our vision and drive to safeguard the corner of the planet that we occupy and to which we welcome so many visitors. We, therefore, count on the continued support of all our partners and citizens in ensuring the effective implementation of this policy framework for the benefit of our current and future generations.

Hon. Philip J. Pierre  
Prime Minister  
Saint Lucia

# ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CDPMN	Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network
CEbA	Coastal Ecosystem-Based Adaptation
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELAC	Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños
CENRPF	Caribbean Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
COFCOR	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
COTED	Committee on Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CSME	Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EBDM	Evidence Based Decision Making
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
LAC	Legal Affairs Committee
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MSI/BPOA	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
RCC	Regional Climate Centre
RFNSP	Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy

RT/RTC	Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community Including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy
SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SCCS	Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central American Cooperation System
SIDS	Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
TCL	Trinidad Cement Limited
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WTO	World Trade Organisation

# TERMS

In this Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings set out below. The Articles referred to are from the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RT).

**“Blue Growth”** is used to refer to a long-term strategy to support sustainable growth and development in the marine and maritime sectors, with emphasis on employment and livelihoods, food security and nutrition, sound fisheries management practices and support to healthy ecosystems, and places communities at the heart of policies and activities.

**“Community”** means the Caribbean Community established by Article 2 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

**“Community Bodies”** means the Bodies of the Community established pursuant to Article 18.

**“Community Organs”** means the Organs of the Community including **“Conference of Heads of Government”** or **“the Conference,”** so named in paragraph 1(a) of Article 10; and **“Council for Trade and Economic Development”** or **“COTED,”** so named in paragraph 2(b) of Article 10 and with responsibility for key policy areas as set out in the Treaty;

**Cultural Resources** are any prehistoric or historic remains or indicators of past human activities, artifacts, sites, structures, landscapes, and objects of importance to a culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons.

It also refers specifically to the beliefs and world views; livelihoods and practices; knowledge bases; and norms and institutions that are shaped and influenced by nature and the environment [and that may in turn shape and influence nature and the environment].

**“Ecosystem Services”** Are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other nonmaterial benefits.<sup>ii</sup>

**“Environmental Goods and Services”** <sup>iii</sup> are products manufactured or services rendered for the main purpose of: preventing or minimising pollution, degradation or natural resources depletion; repairing damage to air, water, waste, noise, biodiversity and landscapes; reducing, eliminating, treating and managing pollution, degradation and natural resource depletion; carrying out other activities such as measurement and monitoring, control, research and development, education, training, information and communication related to environmental protection or resource management.

**“Forest Resources”** means those natural assets of forest lands, including timber and other forest products, biological diversity, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, flora and fauna, air, water and soil as defined in Article 61.3;

**“Special Areas”** means sea areas declared under the MARPOL Convention in which, for technical reasons relating to their oceanographical and ecological condition and to the particular character of their sea traffic, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework (CENRPF)<sup>iv</sup> has been developed in furtherance of the objectives of the Caribbean Community, which is established by the Revised Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community, Including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)<sup>v</sup>. The objectives include, inter alia, accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence; enhanced levels of international competitiveness; improved standards of living and work and full employment of labour and other factors of production<sup>vi</sup>. The Region's environmental and natural resources base is fundamental to its economic development. The destruction and unsustainable use of these resources could undermine the regional sustainable development options.

The Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019 identified good environmental management and the protection of the region's natural assets across all sectors of development as a Core Value of the Community<sup>vii</sup>. Environmental and natural resource management is therefore recognised as critical if the objectives of the Caribbean Community are to be achieved. To that end, the Mission of the Community, as set out in the Strategic Plan, is to work together to deepen integration and build resilience so as, inter alia, to -

1. mainstream all aspects of sustainable development, including the environmental, economic and social dimensions;
2. promote optimum sustainable use of the region's natural resources on land and in the marine environment and protect and preserve the health and integrity of the environment<sup>viii</sup>.

The purpose of this CENRPF is to provide an enabling platform for environmental and natural resources management in the Caribbean Community, acknowledging the vital role that land, air, water and oceans play in sustaining the economic, social and environmental development of the Community. It, therefore, serves as the umbrella policy framework for the sustainable management and use of the Community's environmental and natural resources. The CENRPF outlines the guiding principles and long-term objectives that will serve as the foundation for developing rules and guidelines. These will provide overarching direction for planning the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources within the Community and its Member States. In this way the Policy Framework creates a basis for effective environmental and natural resources governance in support of the objectives of the Revised Treaty, and particularly the furtherance of the CSME through the:

- Building and facilitation of regional consensus in the Caribbean Community on environmental and natural resources issues;
- Mobilisation of financial and technical resources in support of the Policy Framework implementation;
- Enhancement of trade competitiveness, efficiency and long-term sustainability in the productive sectors; and
- Harmonisation of national environmental regulatory regimes.

The Policy Framework rationalises the Community's approach to the sustainable management of the environmental and natural resources of the Member States and is intended to guide future action and decision-making on this matter at the regional and national levels. While the Policy is regional in nature, it recognises that the regulation and management of natural resources are intrinsically within the national sphere and accordingly, there is a balance between regional action and national action. The Policy Framework is designed in such a manner as to facilitate an interface between the Community and its Member States, and the international community and Third States.

The Policy Framework is not intended to be a binding legal instrument. Rather it is an expression of further commitment by Member States to the goals of balanced and sustainable development with due regard and priority given to the protection and sustainable management of environmental and natural resources as enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Implementation strategies (action plans and resource mobilisation strategies) on a five-year basis will be developed to advance the priorities of the framework.

### **Box 1: How The Policy Framework Was Developed**

The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) [Environment] of the Caribbean Community at its Twenty-Fifth Special Meeting,<sup>1</sup> (COTED) held in April 2008 mandated the Caribbean Community Secretariat to (i) mobilise the necessary resources and (ii) proceed with the development of the Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework. The lead for the preparation of the Policy Framework was undertaken by the Sustainable Development Directorate of the Caribbean Community Secretariat. Once the resources to commence the process were mobilised, the preparation of the Policy Framework was developed in a number of phases.

**Phase 1** assessed the environmental governance systems of the Member States of the Caribbean Community as to whether these frameworks are adequate to support the full and effective functioning of the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME). These assessments were entitled Diagnostic and Analytical Review of Environmental Governance System and an assessment was done for each CARICOM Member State.

Drawing upon these national assessments, Phase 2 which can best be described as the Regional Consultation Phase was implemented in three sub-phases:

First, the lessons learnt from the national assessments along with an examination of the environmental dimensions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community, including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) (RT) were used to form the basis of the preparation of a Consultation Paper and Guide to direct the Regional Consultation process. The Consultation Paper was submitted to the Member States ahead of the commencement of the Regional Consultation process.

- In the second sub-phase, to ensure adequate coverage, three Regional Consultations were held for separate groupings across the Community: More Developed Countries (MDCs): Barbados, Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; Low-lying Coastal States: Belize, Guyana and Suriname; the OECS countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Haiti.
- In addition, given the implications of the proposed Policy Framework for the work of the Community Institutions, a separate consultation was convened for those institutions, in the final of the three sub-phases.

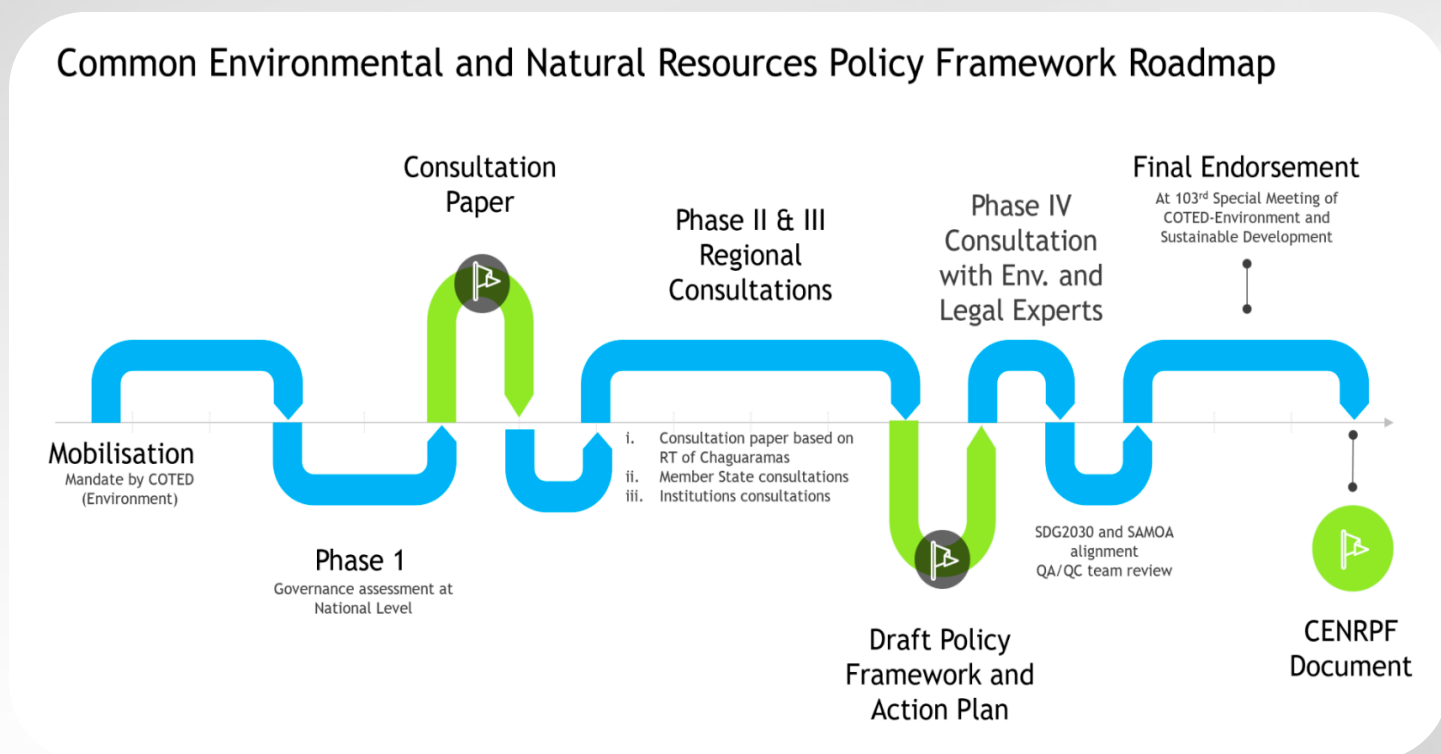
**In Phase 3** based on the outputs of the Regional Consultations, a preliminary draft Policy Framework was prepared for further consideration by the Community. The Regional Consultations placed the conversation on the Policy Framework in the wider context of the Community's environment and sustainable development agenda as opposed to national priorities and agendas and provided the foundation for the design of a true Caribbean Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework.

**In Phase 4** utilising the inputs gathered during the previous phases, an updated Policy Framework and Action Plan for its Implementation was prepared and reviewed by a Meeting of Environmental and Legal Experts of the Caribbean Community. The suggestions and recommendations resulting therefrom were duly incorporated into an updated draft Policy Framework and the first five-year Action Plan.

In the final phase, a total of six consultations was conducted: Four National-level Consultations were convened in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. One Sub-regional Consultation was held in Saint. Lucia for the OECS Members of CARICOM and one Regional Consultation was held in Trinidad and Tobago.

Reports of each Consultation were produced together with a summary document of the outputs of the national and sub-regional Consultations. Member States also provided additional written inputs following the series of national, sub-regional and regional consultations. These outputs were used to produce the current version of the Caribbean Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework which reflected consensus input of the Member States. With respect to the Action Plan, a revised template was produced to be populated upon the finalisation of the Policy Framework.

**Figure 1: Policy Framework Development Roadmap**



## 2. THE POLICY CONTEXT

The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community, including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), introduced the goals of natural resource management (Art. 58) and environmental protection (Art. 65) as part of the Community's thrust towards a single economic space. Additionally, Fisheries Management and Development (Art. 60) and Forest Management and Development (Art. 61) include provisions on ocean and forest resources management, respectively.

There are also provisions in

- **Article 55:** Sustainable Tourism Development: Section 1 references conservation of cultural and natural resource while section 2 (f) makes further specific reference to same; and
- **Article 56:** The Community Agricultural Policy: Section 1 (f) makes reference to efficient management and sustainable exploitation of natural resources, including its forests and the living resources of the exclusive economic zone.

In particular Art. 65 (1) calls for the promotion of “measures which will ensure .... the adoption of initiatives at the Community level to address regional environmental problems.”

These additional references will strengthen the case for the overarching and underpinning nature of environmental and natural resource management to overall sustainable development.

Within this context, the Community is provided with the basis for concerted action at the regional level to address pressing environmental problems.

## Considerations regarding the CSME

It should also be noted that the region is progressing with the implementation of the CSME, which seeks, inter alia, to generate investment opportunities, increase economic activity and improve growth and development in the Community, all of which will have major implications for the environmental quality of Member States. At the most basic level, all economic activity is dependent on the environment which is the basis for all inputs (metals, minerals, soil, forests and fisheries), and for the energy needed to process them. It also receives the waste products of economic activity.

The success of the CSME will ultimately depend, inter alia, on the sustainability of the policies pursued in industry, energy, transport, agriculture and tourism development, as each of these sectors is dependent on the carrying capacity of the environment.

The economic development and increasing prosperity expected as a result of the development of the CSME may put pressure on natural resources. Additionally, the need to achieve economic and social cohesion will have major implications for environment policy. Increased investment opportunities and economic growth will be unsustainable unless environmental policy considerations are taken into account, especially as a contributor to greater long-term efficiency and competitiveness in accessing and thriving in the wider international market place.

This has been evidenced in the Region's engagements to enter into multilateral trade agreements. The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union, for example, required the Region to pay special attention to the environmental frameworks in place to ensure that products are produced competitively with minimum impact on the environment. The EPA highlighted the need for the Region to examine its environmental standards and guidelines to enhance trade with Europe, which traditionally has a long history of strong environmental controls and standards.

As international trade is affected by environmental concerns, since exporters must respond to market demands for environmental goods and services, the Region will need to develop uniform and harmonised controls on production and consumption activities to ensure that it remains competitive. Existing environmental problems will only be exacerbated if the right environmental policies are not set and implemented at appropriate levels.

This was partially captured by Professor Norman Girvan in his report "Towards a Single Development Vision and the Role of the Single Economy" which was approved by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (Barbados, July 2007). This report which represents a development vision for CARICOM and served as a 'road map' for the further implementation of the CSME, indicated that as part of the development thrust there would be the need for, inter alia, attention to the environmental dimension as follows:

- Adoption of a common Environmental Regulatory Regime which protects, preserves, enhances and manages the productive potential of the natural environment to ensure sustainable development, so that investors and other economic agents operate across the entire space of the CSME on the basis of the same policies and regulations that are publicly known and applied in a predictable and transparent manner.

### **The report further called for:**

- Sponsoring the preparation and publication of a regular State of the CARICOM Environment report, including the status of implementation of national laws and international commitments relating to the environment. Particular attention will be paid to priority issues in the Region such as the coastal and marine environment, forestry and watershed management, waste disposal and recycling, climate change impact analysis and adaptation, and natural disasters impact and management.



### **Benefits of a Regional Approach to Addressing Regional Environmental Problems**

A regional approach represents a more effective method of ensuring that all Member States achieve progress in light of the challenges of scarce human and financial resources and that the activities pursued by individual Member States have maximum impact and sustained benefits. Without an overall Community framework within which all actors can be integrated and coordinated, there is a danger that the actions carried out by individual Member States or other actors, including regional institutions and international inter-governmental organisations, will not have their full impact, thereby compromising the overall development goals being pursued by the Community.

A Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework (CENRPF) can potentially yield the following benefits:

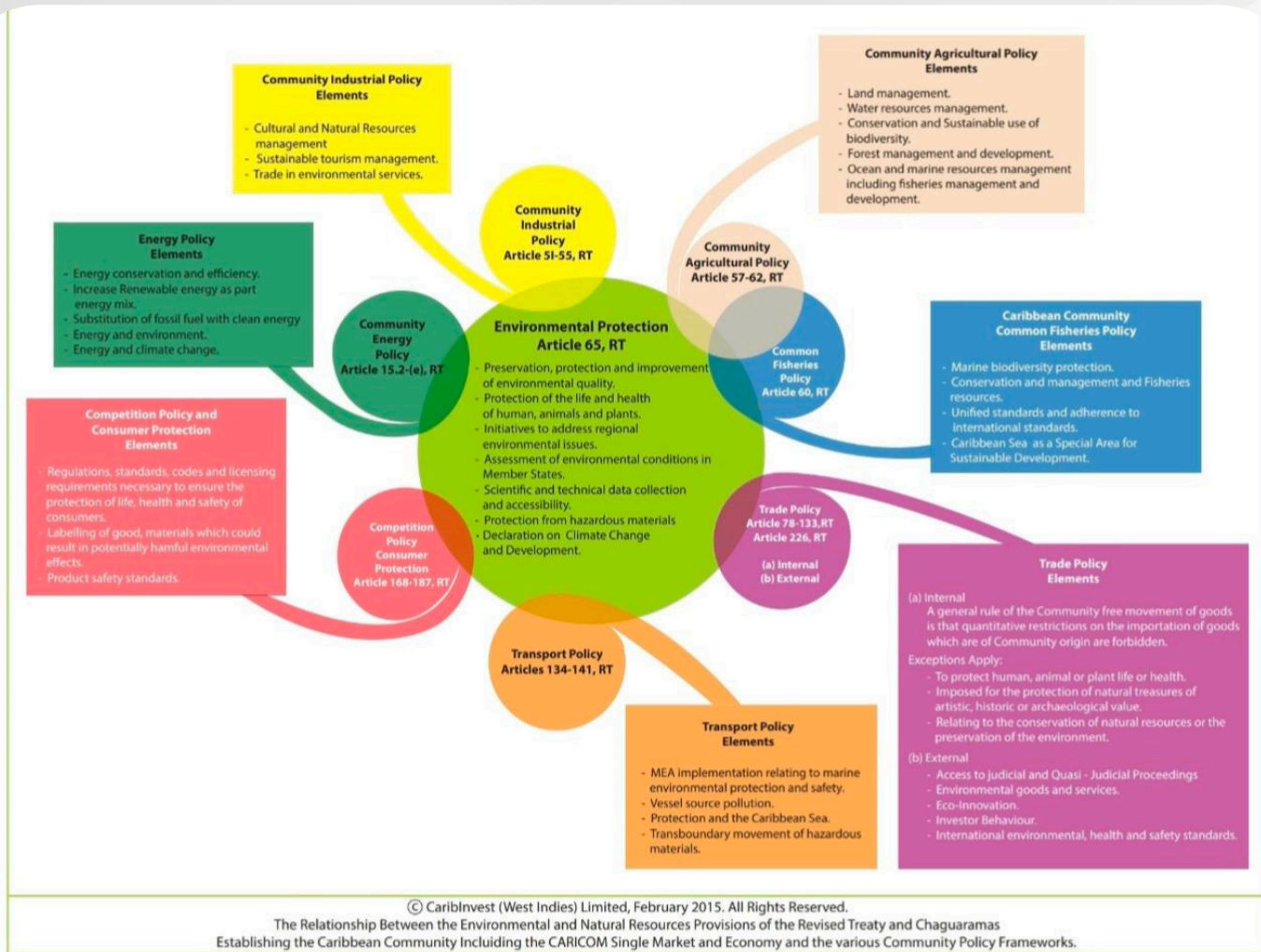
1. A common platform for action and a Community environmental and natural resources policy framework within which all actors can be coordinated and programmes integrated to enhance and advance environmental management in CARICOM. This will allow for sharing of national policies, best practices and lessons learned. It can also allow for institutions at the national level to relate to the regional structures in a coordinated way.
2. Allowing for the establishment of long-term goals and objectives that could have staged performance levels or achievements to attain within certain timeframes. In this regard, there would be an opportunity to take account of the diversity of the situations in the Community while working towards the economic and social development of all Member States.
3. Advancing restoration and sustainable management of the valuable natural resource assets for the economic and social development and prosperity of Member States.
4. As the Region continues to focus on strengthening the productive sectors (industry, agriculture, tourism, energy) and on production integration, as it implements the CSME, a regional approach can enable the integration of environmental objectives into the early phases of the different sectoral policy processes and enhance the ability of policymakers to assess and make informed decisions over a much longer time horizon. The productive sectors are significant contributors to the Community's wealth and are key elements of the Community's development strategy. They will need to be targeted because of the particularly significant impacts they already have and would continue to have on the environment as the common economic space matures. Figure 2 shows how the various sectoral policies interact with the CENRPF.
5. Promotion of the involvement of all economic and social partners in a coordinated manner to address environmental management.

It is therefore essential that the Community strengthen efforts to transform its patterns of growth in such a way as to increase productivity, ensure a healthy environment and achieve social development. This should result in changes in society's patterns of behaviour through the optimum involvement of all sectors of society (public administration, private sector and the general public) in a spirit of shared responsibility. This implies, inter alia –

- i. a recognition that continued human activity and further economic development depend on the quality of natural resources and environment and their guardianship.
- ii. that the behavioural trends of citizens within CARICOM reflect an appreciation that natural resources are finite and that one generation's consumption should not be at the expense of another; and
- iii. that environmental sustainability requirements are integrated into the definition and implementation of all Community and national policies.

While it will take some time for current patterns of consumption, production and behaviour to turn firmly in the direction of sustainability, the development of a CENRPF will provide a framework for a new approach to the environment, to economic and social activities and overall human well-being in the Community.

**Figure 2: The Relationship Between the Environmental and Natural Resources Provisions of the Revised Treaty and Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the Various Community Policy Frameworks**



### 3. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

States, regional policy must be implemented with national circumstances and priorities in mind.

#### 3.1 Legal Context

The Policy Framework will be operationalised within the context of the Revised Treaty establishing the Community and its governance framework. The Community comprises Organs, Bodies and Institutions, which have varying roles and responsibilities in relation to developing, promoting and implementing Community Policies. Organs and Bodies of the Community have the authority, pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Treaty, to make decisions which are legally binding for the Community and Member States.

**Although a policy document is not a legal instrument akin to a Treaty or other Agreement, the vision, goals and principles identified in a Community Policy**

The Policy Framework therefore provides a platform for regional action to support or strengthen national interventions and to optimise synergies and costeffectiveness. It is a further means of implementation of principles espoused in the Revised Treaty, and elaboration of the scope of such principles and application to policies and measures. Member States would expect that the Community will, in fact, be guided by this Policy in making decisions and establishing measures for management of the environment and natural resources, including legal instruments.

The Revised Treaty provides the legal framework for the adoption of policies within the ambit of the Treaty provisions, and correspondingly the governance framework for the implementation and monitoring of policies. The Policy Framework is approved by the COTED pursuant to its authority under Article 15 (2) to inter alia: –

1. promote measures for the development of energy and natural resources on a sustainable basis;
2. promote and develop policies for the protection and preservation of the environment and for sustainable development.

The responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Policy, determining specific measures for the Community pursuant to its objectives and approving the Action Plan lies with the COTED.

#### 3.2 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

##### 3.2.1 Community governance structure: organs, bodies and institutions

The Organs and Bodies of the Community have specific functions to perform in relation to policy development and implementation, particularly in terms of programmes and legal instruments emanating from Community policies, whether these are intended to govern the Community and Member State actions or interactions at the international level.

The Principal Organs of the Community are the Conference of Heads of Government (the Conference) and the Community Council of Ministers (the Council) which are assisted by five Organs, three “Bodies” and the CARICOM Secretariat, the principal Administrative Organ of the Community.

The Bodies are the Budget Committee, the Committee of Central Bank Governors and the Legal Affairs Committee and the Committee of Ambassadors.

## Organs of the Community

The **Conference of Heads of Government** is the supreme organ of the Community<sup>xi</sup> and has the authority to “determine and provide policy direction to the Community”<sup>xii</sup> as well as to “issue policy directives of a general or special character to other Organs and Bodies of the Community concerning the policies to be pursued for the achievement of the objectives of the Community and effect shall be given to such directives.”<sup>xiii</sup> The Conference is the final authority to conclude certain legal instruments such as Treaties and InterGovernmental Agreements for the Community, and agreements between the Community and Third States.

The **Community Council**, in keeping with the policy directives of the Conference has the “primary responsibility for the development of Community strategic planning and co-ordination in the areas of economic integration, functional co-operation and external relations.”<sup>xiv</sup> The Community Council also approves programmes for the Community emanating from the other Organs, and monitors implementation of Community decisions, generally. The Community Council particularly reviews proposals and legal instruments to ascertain readiness prior to submission to the Conference for final adoption.

### The five organs which assist the Conference and the Community Council are:

- The Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP)
- The Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)
- The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)
- The Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE)
- The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)

Of particular importance to the CENRPF are the COTED and the COFCOR:

**COTED** is the primary Organ with responsibility for this Policy, pursuant to Article 15. Given the broad scope of the COTED’s policy remit, it is expected that the COTED structure, in its various iterations (such as Trade, Agriculture, Energy and Environment) would provide the platform for policy coordination and coherence among the various spheres of activity envisaged by this Policy Framework. COTED is also the direct link to the various Community Institutions and Associate Institutions which report to or participate in the meetings of the COTED and which may play a role in policy implementation.

**COFCOR** has responsibility for “determining relations between the Community and international organisations and Third States” (16.2) and for coordinating foreign policy and adoption of Community positions at the international level (16.3). These functions are critical to the implementation of the policy measures in relation to the international sphere. COFCOR also has a specific role in relation to Fisheries, as Article 60 of the Revised Treaty provides that; COFCOR shall promote the establishment of a regime for the effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States”

Other Organs of the Community will also play a role in the implementation of the Policy, as there may be overlap in some policy areas, for example in relation to human health and the role of COHSOD (Article 16), or measures requiring enforcement or border control and the role of the Council for Security and Law Enforcement.

## **Institutions**

The Community has established or recognised several Institutions pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, many of which will play a role in the implementation of the Policy Framework. Some of these include;

- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
- Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and
- Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

These institutions will be expected to undertake mandates of the Community in relation to this Policy, in keeping with their areas of operation, and to report to the relevant Community Organs and Bodies. The determination of the Community Work Programme arising out of this Policy will be undertaken in the context of the existing consultative mechanisms in the Community, as coordinated by the CARICOM Secretariat and involving the full participation of these Institutions, to ensure coherence and efficiency.

### **3.2.2 Member States**

Member States are the primary stakeholders and actors in the implementation of this Policy Framework as the environment and natural resources concerned lie within their sovereign jurisdiction. The Community does not possess the legal competence for direct management or control of any of these natural resources, and Member States will be required to undertake the necessary steps to implement the Policy at the national level, including establishing relevant national policies, laws and regulations, identifying and empowering competent authorities and reporting to the Community on its implementation. Member States will also be expected to implement subsequent decisions which emanate from the Policy that prescribe measures or actions to be undertaken in fulfilment of the Policy.

### **3.2.3 CARICOM Secretariat**

The Community Secretariat—the Administrative Organ of the Community— through its Sustainable Development Directorate has the responsibility for the day-to-day oversight and the implementation of the Policy Framework. However, to perform this role effectively and efficiently, the Sustainable Development Programme will need considerable strengthening; a need which has already been recognised by the COTED [Environment], which at its FiftyThird Special Meeting raised the concern that action had not been taken to submit a five-year proposal to international partners to support the institutional strengthening of its Sustainable Development Unit as recommended by the COTED.

### **3.2.4 International Dimension**

Further to the roles of the Conference and the COFCOR described above regarding relations with Third States and Organisations and the coordination of foreign policy and Community positions, the Community has the express legal capacity, pursuant to Article 228 (3) to conclude agreements with States and International organisations. In this regard, the Caribbean Community has concluded a number of Agreements with States and/or Groups of States which identify specific elements of cooperation which coincide with the scope of this Policy.

Beyond the provisions of the Revised Treaty and the Instruments to which the Caribbean Community is party on behalf of its Member States, the Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework will be influenced by a number of drivers over which the Community has no direct control, but which, nevertheless, have implications for the Community and its Member States. These include, inter alia,

- International Environmental Law, Institutions and Processes: Most of these processes are usually undertaken within the context of the United Nations System and are reflected in “hard law” commonly referred to as Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and “soft law” in the form of Resolutions, Action Plans and Programmes (e.g. the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA, the SAMOA Pathway etc.) which the Member States adopt and are guided by.
- Hemispheric, Regional and Sub-Regional Processes, including actions taken at the hemispheric, regional and sub-region levels as well as commitments made by a group of Member States to take common action to address common or cross-border concerns<sup>xv</sup>. (e.g. the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols)

### **3.2.5 Community nationals, private individuals and major groups**

There is general consensus that one of the fundamental prerequisites for the management of environmental and natural resources is the effective participation of both state and non-state actors in operational activities including, inter alia, industry and business; non-governmental organisations; indigenous peoples and their communities; scientific and technological community; workers and workers’ organisations; and vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, women, young people, and the disabled.

## **3.3 REGIONAL CONSULTATION SYSTEM**

To facilitate the smooth, effective and efficient implementation of the Policy Framework and the activities promoted thereunder, it will be necessary for a wide cross section of stakeholder in the Community and its Member States to embrace them. Key to achieving this, however, is the establishment and maintenance of an efficient system of consultations at both the national and regional levels to promote a forum for:

1. discussion on and identification of regional priorities for the Caribbean Community, consistent with national priorities.
2. consultation to enable the Member States to have a better understanding of the operational implications of the regional environmental and sustainable development agenda as well as a mechanism for the identification of, and the allocation of responsibility for programmes, projects and studies relating to the priority problems which have been identified.
3. addressing of specific issues arising out of the regional agenda and/or on cross-cutting issues.
4. discussion of the CENRPF’s action plan and implementation strategy with partners, thereby facilitating a regional approach to resource mobilisation.

This system of consultations will rely on communication technologies as well as physical meetings to achieve the objectives outlined above.

## 4. VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES

### Vision

- A Caribbean Community that values its environmental, natural and cultural resources and applies the principles of good governance to decisions associated with the conservation and sustainable use of these resources in the interest of the peoples of the Region.

### Goal

The goal of the Policy Framework is:

- To effectively and sustainably manage the Community's environmental, natural and cultural resources, including creating and improving conditions necessary for the conservation of nature and maintaining the ecological balance to capitalise on the benefits that will accrue from their optimal utilization, thereby contributing to the balanced economic, environmental and social development of the Community as a whole and its Member States.

In the pursuit of this Goal, the platform provided by the CSME, supported by this policy framework, will be used to enable the Caribbean Community to promote the prudent and rational management of the Region's environmental, cultural and natural resources; the maintenance of a balance between a healthy environment and economic development. The CSME would also be used to develop a more cohesive and strategic approach to the Region's engagement with the international community on environmental and sustainable development issues and to work collectively to face the world and to protect and advance the Community's strategic interests.

The Policy Framework is developmental in perspective and fosters entrepreneurship and innovation and promotes the development of micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises. The CENRPF, therefore, contributes to job creation as well as to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the Community and its Member States.

### Guiding Principles

The Caribbean Community is established by treaty as a rules-based system, comprising sovereign Member States. The Policy Framework is to be implemented in the context of the Community as a regional integration movement which includes the CSME. Common environmental issues, shared borders in some cases, free movement of goods and other factors of production, and the political will to act as a Community on the international stage all lead to the necessity for a regional policy for the good management of the environment and natural resources of Member States. The Policy Framework is underpinned by a number of general principles as well as general principles of international environmental law, many of which are identified in Article 65 of the Revised Treaty.

#### The general principles which underpin this Policy Framework are:

- **Regionalism and Subsidiarity:** The policy supports actions at the national level and promotes actions that have a comparative advantage if implemented at the regional level. The regional approach seeks to provide greater value added through collaborative actions by all Member States.
- **Coherence:** The Policy Framework shall be coherent with the provisions of the Treaty, and other Community policies.
- **Adaptation to National Circumstances:** The policy shall be implemented in accordance with national policies, capacities and circumstances.

- **Good Governance:** The Policy shall be implemented in full cognisance of the principle of good governance recognized as a Core Value<sup>xvi</sup> of the Community, which includes an abiding respect for human rights, the rule of law and undertaking action to ensure social and economic justice for the people of the Community.
- The Community is committed to transparency, accountability and evidencebased decision-making at all levels.
- The Community is committed to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and advocacy for the principle at the international level.
- In undertaking balanced development of the Community as a whole, environmental measures shall be taken into consideration.
- The polluter pays principle; that the polluter should bear the cost of preventing and repairing environmental damage or re-establishing ecosystems where possible.
- Environmental issues shall be handled with the participation of all relevant stakeholders by enabling actions at all levels to promote public awareness through timely and easy access to appropriate information which would facilitate informed decision-making.
- It is envisaged that other Community Policies (Annex 1: Relevant CARICOM Policies) and those which might be formulated in the future, that have environmental or natural resources management implications, should take cognisance of the guiding principles of this Policy Framework.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Policy Framework are

1. To protect, conserve and enhance the Community's terrestrial natural resources;
2. To promote and support management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the Community's Ocean, marine and coastal resources;
3. To establish mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Policy Framework by a wide cross-section of the Community's stakeholders, at all levels;
4. To strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of the Community to climate-related hazards and natural and man-induced disasters;
5. To strengthen the interface between trade and environment policy, including strengthening the Community's capacity to comply with international environmental, health and safety standards, thereby contributing to international competitiveness;
6. To promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including organic agriculture and increasing the use of clean energy as a basis for the Member States to transition to low-carbon or green economies

7. To enhance implementation of multilateral environmental agreements to which the Member States are Parties and adherence to the various international agreements on environmental sustainability;
8. To increase the Community's effectiveness in addressing and negotiating agreements on international environmental and sustainable development issues; and
9. To provide a foundation for mobilisation of adequate levels of financing and investment from multiple sources to facilitate the implementation of the Policy Framework and its Action Plans and by extension, enable the realisation of the Region's vision for effective management of its natural resources and environment.

## **5. THEMATIC AREAS AND POLICY ACTIONS**

To facilitate the Policy Framework's implementation, indicative thematic areas are identified which will form the basis for the development of Action Plans and general interventions at the regional and/or national level. These thematic areas have their origin in the Revised Treaty as well as the Member States' respective Diagnostic and Analytical Review of Environmental Governance System and the regional consultations convened by the Community Secretariat in support of the Policy Framework development. The broad thematic areas which will be used as guidance for defining specific action via the Five-year Policy Framework Action Plans are summarised below.



# LAND AND SOILS

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 5.1 Land and Soils

Land is one of the Community's most important natural assets as it provides the basis for agriculture, infrastructure and urban development, human settlement as well as extractive industries. However, given the relatively small area of Member States, there are competing demands for limited land resources, particularly in the smaller countries. The issue of land degradation is one of the leading challenges for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

There are numerous land management-related issues being experienced among Member States including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Residential and agricultural squatting
- Inappropriate agricultural practices
- Negative impacts from extractive industries
- Soil loss and reduction in soil productivity
- Inappropriate land use conversion
- Land-based sources of pollution
- Lack of sustainable land use planning, inclusive of appropriate zoning and land allocation

These issues result in watershed destruction (and concomitant decrease in water supply and quality – in inland and coastal areas), contributing to an increase in soil erosion, land slippage, biodiversity loss, decrease of ecological functionality and adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

An area of extreme concern in many of the Member States is the increasing trend of declining amounts of land available for agriculture. This trend, if allowed to continue unabated, will have implications for the ability of the region to feed itself. Similarly, in recent decades, the shift in land use from agriculture to residential and other purposes has posed a challenge.

Also of concern is loss of soil organic carbon (i.e. microbes, fungi and invertebrates, and other organisms), as well as root matter and decomposing vegetation), one of the principal signs of land degradation. It is also recognised that soil is the biggest terrestrial carbon sink. Going forward, land management techniques must be implemented to increase soil carbon levels.

With respect to the extractive industries (e.g. gold, petroleum, sand and other aggregates etc.), several issues exist. The mining and extractive sector is the source of several negative environmental impacts which include surface water contamination, ecosystem loss or impairment, coastal erosion, and land instability, as well as negative impacts to human health.

In this regard, the Community shall:

- 5.1.1 adopt measures to assist the Member States in the effective management and allocation of their land resources to various uses in a manner which is based on sound environmental and sustainable development principles and to employ the best available methods, tools and technologies.
- 5.1.2 make efforts to combat land degradation, particularly in the rural economy of the Community and its Member States, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by drought and floods and develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure.



# FOREST RESOURCES

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 5.2 Forest Resources

Forests are an important natural asset for many Member States. Forest ecosystems offer numerous benefits, including timber and non-timber products such as food (e.g., fruits, seeds, berries), medicinal plants and fibers. They also provide social and cultural advantages, such as recreational opportunities and traditional resource use. Additionally, forests deliver essential ecological services, including water and air purification, wildlife habitat preservation and carbon storage. With respect to the role forests ecosystems play in carbon storage, there is a growing recognition in the Community of the value of conservation, the avoidance of deforestation and the sustainable management of forests as important mitigation tools against climate change. Despite the importance of the Region's forest ecosystems, they face numerous pressures, including illegal logging, deforestation for agriculture, housing, infrastructure or industrial development, as well as hunting and the extraction of mineral resources. For those Member States which share borders, incursions from neighbouring countries to exploit natural resources is an area of major concern.

Taking the preceding into consideration, the Community shall:

- 5.2.1 promote the development, management and conservation of forest resources in the Member States on a sustainable basis, including, inter alia, formulating policies and programmes for the management of forest resources; applying an ecosystem-based approach to forest management; integrating forest development in rural and urban communities; supporting forest research, and harmonising standards for quality assurance, compatible with relevant internationally agreed specifications.
- 5.2.2 promote projects and programmes to facilitate and support the sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.
- 5.2.3 encourage public and private sector participation in the development and application of appropriate technology for sustainable forest management; the implementation of incentives for forestry development to stimulate domestic, regional and foreign investment in the forestry sub-sector and the promotion of the commercialisation of natural forest products in a sustainable manner.
- 5.2.4 invest in human resource development at the professional, technical and vocational levels as well as enhance the institutional capabilities of Member States to design and implement forest management systems.
- 5.2.5 develop a framework for legally recognizing traditional knowledge and biological resources as intellectual property, which also facilitates the formulation of contracts between host countries/local communities and external third parties for the equitable sharing of benefits.



# WATER RESOURCES

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 5.3 Water Resources

The Region has a combination of water-scarce countries as well as water-abundant countries. Water scarcity, however, is an issue for many Member States and is expected to intensify as the Region continues to adapt to the impact of global climate change. Unaccounted water in the distribution system is an issue in some countries, notwithstanding the threat of increasing water scarcity. There is, therefore, an urgent need in the Community and its Member States to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity. There is also an urgent need to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including, inter alia, the protection and where necessary, the restoration of water-related ecosystems such as mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes, as well as the building of capacity to implement water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

Though much of the interventions in this area will be taken at the national level, there are, however, issues that can be addressed at a regional level, such as drought forecasting. Drought is an increasingly important phenomenon affecting the region and an area of major concern as during the period of drought, the low rainfall results in decreased crop yields, domestic water shortages, lower level of stored water in reservoirs, reduced river and stream flows, and reduced water for swamp and mangrove ecosystems. There is a need to strengthen drought forecasting in the region. Initiatives such as the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CDPMN) currently being undertaken by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) should be supported.

Water resources management is closely correlated with watershed management, forest management and water supply, particularly for those countries which depend on surface water for potable water. Similar stresses are evident throughout the region on water resources from underground aquifers and/or surface water. Stresses include both internal and external factors. Internal factors include, inter alia, deforestation, improper disposal of waste, inappropriate agricultural practices, etc. External factors include the impacts of climate variability and climate change.

### **To facilitate action under this thematic area the Community shall:**

- 5.3.1 upscale and enhance the utilisation of the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network as well as drought early warning systems;
- 5.3.2 promote measures to strengthen the capacities of the Member States to address issues related to the efficient use of water and maintenance of water quality, including through the deployment of agreed tools and methodologies; and
- 5.3.3 prepare and implement a Community Water Policy and Governance Framework to advance integrated water resources and watershed management.



# AIR QUALITY

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

## 5.4 Air Quality

With the potential impacts on human health of poor air quality, the Region is increasingly placing attention on the transport sector, industrial activity, especially regarding energy efficiency and cleaner production methods, waste management and disposal, and the planning systems and designation of land for development. The parallel issue of noise which is simultaneously generated from both power generation, industrial and commercial activities (manufacturing facilities and commercial facilities) and traffic must also be considered. Exposure to primary and secondary pollutants may result in impacts on human health and the environment. In terms of human health, impacts may include respiratory problems, allergic reactions, and other long-term health impacts triggered by exposure to sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) ozone(O<sub>3</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Also, of concern is the macro global challenge of dust from the Sahara Desert comprising sand, dirt and other particulate matter lifted into the atmosphere from the vast desert area that covers most of North Africa. This dust is often seasonally transported westward by bursts of strong winds and tropical waves located in the central and western Atlantic Ocean at altitudes between 2000 and 4400 metres. The dust particles can contribute to hazy skies and may result in health impacts, such as a dry cough, sore throat, itchy and watery eyes, sneezing and runny nose. It also exacerbates illness in persons at high risk of respiratory complications, including persons with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, people with pre-existing heart disease, as well as the elderly and children.

The transport sector in the Region has seen significant growth with high levels of private vehicle ownership, increased numbers of persons travelling and increased freighting. Traffic congestion, as well as the need to provide more efficient public transit methods, has emerged as an increasing challenge for national planners. Attempts have been made throughout the Region to improve fuel quality including through the phasing out of leaded fuels and use of low sulphur content fuels. However, a reduction in sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, does not address the emissions of other pollutants associated with vehicle emissions, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). To control vehicle emissions some CARICOM States have also imposed restrictions on the importation of older vehicles and introduced vehicle inspection requirements for older vehicles to accompany road-worthiness certifications.

As the Region develops, the improper disposal of waste remains a challenge, posing a significant threat to both air quality and public health. The issue of open waste burning with or without permission continues to occur with sources being from agricultural and municipal sources. Inadequate waste collection systems leave people with few alternatives for the disposal of waste, leading to illegal waste disposal and open burning in neighbourhoods.

Pursuit of economic opportunities may lead to illegal settlements on landfills or near industrialised areas, leading to land use conflicts and public health issues. In some jurisdictions, incompatible land use activities occur not only adjacent to each other, but also in close proximity. This results in impacts on indoor air quality as ambient air influences indoor air quality and subsequent impacts on the health of occupants. Planning systems need to respond to the connections between poor indoor air quality and traffic, heavy and light industrial activities and the loss of productive time and capacity from the resulting health challenges. More importantly, planning systems should ensure that development does not impact on the livelihood of citizens and more specifically on low-income communities which are often disproportionately impacted.

As it relates to industrial activity, power generation remains a driver of air pollution in the Region. While most CARICOM countries have committed to increasing the percentage of energy generation from renewable sources, there is room for increased energy efficiency and deployment of energy-efficient technologies. It is also recognised that all renewable energy technologies are not air pollution free or pollution free for that matter. Anaerobic digesters that produce methane can result in odours, and the other biomass technologies can produce significant particulates. If these technologies are deployed, proper maintenance and management of these systems overall must occur.

Despite some progress, there is scope for improvement of emission standards for air pollution from fuel combustion and industrial processes in general. As it stands, for most CARICOM Member States, environmental standards on air quality and emissions exist under the framework of health services legislation. Therefore, there is still a need to update legislation and improve monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance. In this regard, the Community will:

**In this regard the Community will:**

- 5.4.1 advance regional cooperation to address the macro issue of the Sahara dust and the public notification systems that are required when dust plumes are coming across the Atlantic;
- 5.4.2 advance the use of pollution control technologies and alternative energy options in national transport fleets, and ensure proper maintenance schedules are in place;
- 5.4.3 in addition to improved mass transit, encourage additional means of traffic reduction, including remote working, e-commerce and remote learning. The role of information and communication technology (ICT) will be explored in business and education facilitation as a means of traffic reduction;
- 5.4.4 encourage the installation of systems, such as advanced thermal reduction technologies, to reduce air pollution from the burning of agricultural and municipal waste, in accordance with planning and regulatory frameworks and informed by public consultation;
- 5.4.5 promote research initiatives on ambient and indoor air quality to understand the impacts of air pollution on human health and productivity, and possible impacts on ecosystems and their services.
- 5.4.6 encourage the development of innovative financial policies (incentives, insurance etc.) to ensure that the best available environmental pollution controls are implemented in development projects;
- 5.4.7 develop a regional ambient air quality network for the sharing of research, technical support amongst regulatory and enforcement agencies and a mechanism of disseminating information such as daily air quality parameters, to the public; and
- 5.4.8 develop public education initiatives and waste management programmes to reduce the volume of household waste generated and thereby reduce open burning in residential areas.

The background of the cover is an underwater photograph of a coral reef. Several fish, including yellow-striped snappers, are visible swimming around the coral. A large, curved, semi-transparent green shape with a yellow-to-green gradient overlay covers the right side of the image. The title text is centered on the left side, overlaid on the blue water.

# OCEAN AND MARINE RESOURCES

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 5.5 Ocean and Marine Resources

The ocean space of most Member States is several orders of magnitude greater than their terrestrial space. Collectively the resources contained therein, and including the seabed, are considerable and support multiple economic activities, including, inter alia, shipping, marine leisure activities, fishing, oil and gas extraction, and tourism.

The Region's critical ecosystems which include mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs, are important for the services that they provide. These include food and nutrition, climate regulation and carbon capture, coastal protection and recreation. The integrity of these ecosystems and the quality of these services are under considerable stress from numerous sources. Among the stressors are microalgae overgrowth on corals, bleaching events, land-based pollution, overfishing of herbivorous fish, inappropriate coastal development, marine pollution and physical damage from ship anchors, dredging and fishing gear.

The integrated management of the coastal zones remains an area of serious concern throughout the region. A common concern is that the near shore, coastal and marine habitats are under considerable stress from several sources, especially land-based sources (LBS) of marine pollution. Untreated sewage and polluted storm water, comprising nutrients from agriculture, high sediment loads, industrial effluents including heavy metals and coolant water discharges, can pollute the marine environment and contribute to bacterial contamination.

Sea-based pollution is a major concern across the region, especially since the Caribbean is one of the most heavily transshipped areas in the world. Key issues include the disposal of ship-generated waste, the threat of oil spills from tankers travelling through the Caribbean Sea, the Region's capacity to respond quickly and effectively to such incidents and pollution from offshore petroleum mining.

There is also the concern of pollution from ballast water which can pose serious ecological, economic and health problems. A multitude of marine species, including bacteria, microbes, small invertebrates, eggs, cysts and larvae of various species can be transported in ballast water. Some transferred species can out-compete native species and multiply into pest proportions.

In recognition that plastic pollution now stands as one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time, some CARICOM Member States have banned plastic bags and other forms of plastic and have also banned Styrofoam. CARICOM technical agencies, particularly the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), have also undertaken initiatives to manage plastics and reduce their environmental impact. It is recognized, however, that tackling this issue which threatens both marine and human well-being requires the cooperation and collaboration of both public and private sectors together with academic institutions and civil society, especially our consumer and youth groups.

Fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries, are an important economic activity in the Community. It provides a primary source of protein for many people and an important source of livelihoods. Fisheries provide direct employment for more than 120,000 fishers and indirect employment opportunities for thousands of others (particularly women) in the processing, marketing, boat-building, net-making and other support services.<sup>xvii</sup> Available statistics have shown that the annual nominal production of fish in the Caribbean states has been growing steadily since the 1950s, reaching about 195,000 tonnes valued at approximately US\$ 600 million in 2000; however, total catch between 2004 and 2008 has shown a decline, with the average production over that period being 128,857.5 tonnes.<sup>xviii</sup> Sustainable fisheries management, as defined in the Common Fisheries Policy, underpins the Community's approach to better utilising the fisheries resources across the value chain.

The wide range of environmental issues already discussed impact on the sustainable management of fisheries resources. This underscores the need to address the environmental issues which impact on the sustainable management of the Region's fisheries resources, including the potential impact of climate change.

Resource management issues impacting the fisheries sector include, inter alia, the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, overfishing, and habitat destruction and the inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems in the region which have made the region prone to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The latter was of such concern that the Region articulated the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2010.

The strengthening of scientific knowledge and developing of human resource and research capacity at the professional, technical and vocational levels are critical. So is the access to and transfer of marine technology as well as the enhancement of the institutional capabilities of the Member States to address the myriad issues related to effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States.

In this regard, the use of Marine-managed areas (including marine-protected areas) can be an important tool for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. There are, however, no Community guidelines for the management of marine areas, especially as it relates to the preservation of cultural or historical assets which are of growing importance to the Region.

As we look ahead, given the large ocean spaces which fall under the national jurisdiction of the Member States, the development of the marine recreational industry (whale watching, yachting, etc.) to supplement the cruise industry, can augment the existing tourism product and provide a range of other skilled jobs. The associated environmental risks, including waste disposal, movement of invasive species and interactions with sensitive marine ecosystems must be addressed.

It should be recalled that at the international level, the Caribbean Sea has been designated as a special area including but not limited to:

- The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/214 of 20 December 2008, entitled “**Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations**”, called on the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organisations in their efforts to ensure the protection and sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea, given its unique biodiversity, fragile ecosystems, and vulnerability to land-based sources of pollution, and transshipment of hazardous waste and radioactive material. The resolution requires the ACS to report to the United Nations General Assembly on progress on its implementation.

- MARPOL 73/78, areas requiring a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea for technical reasons relating to their oceanographic and ecological condition and to their sea traffic and for which the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required, are designated Special Areas. One such area so designated under Annex V of MARPOL 73/78 is the Wider Caribbean, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The discharge requirements which took effect under the Wider Caribbean Special Area, commenced on May 2011.

Despite this recognition, some Member States of the Caribbean Community have not invested in the requisite facilities and infrastructure to meet the obligations. This area remains a concern given the increasing level of shipping activity in the region, including cruise tourism. Concerns also exist with respect to the safety of shipping and the prevention of vessel source pollution as expressed in Article 140.5 (d). RT.

Taking into consideration the preceding regarding, the Community shall

- 5.5.1 collaborate to address pollution of the marine environment from all sources, such as from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution;
- 5.5.2 encourage the establishment of a regional multi-sectoral network to address the transboundary aspects of marine pollution, in coordination with existing international and regional agreements;
- 5.5.3 promote the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems (especially coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves) to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and taking action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive ecosystems. In this regard, the Community will promote the use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches and methodologies, and, Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation (CEbA);
- 5.5.4 promote the strengthening of marine scientific research, as highlighted in the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) and development of the associated technological capacity; and
- 5.5.5 Continue to work with other relevant intergovernmental organizations to develop and promote an enabling environment towards safeguarding the Caribbean Sea a Special Area;
- 5.5.6 Engage Member States and institutions in the periodic development of a marine research agenda to advance research in critical areas such as:

Ocean Acidification: There is a growing concern in the region of the trend of increasing ocean acidification - the continuing decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. One of the harmful manifestations of this phenomenon is coral bleaching, which is caused by the depressed metabolic rates and immune responses in some organisms. There is the need for enhanced national, regional and global cooperation to address its causes and to further study and minimise impacts.

**Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction:** This refers to the regime for the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction established in Part XI of the UNCLOS as well as the ongoing deliberations in the UN for the “Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)”. Whereas this offers some potential for the Community and its Member States, it requires additional resources and coordination at both the national and regional levels. The importance of this area and the potential it offers to the Community must be studied and promoted.

Specific attention is required to sustainable ocean-based economies and the emergence of several initiatives and academic work on the “Blue Economy” and “Blue Growth” strategies. It is critical that the Region engage in CARICOM-specific research and consultations to advance such concepts to sustainably utilise the marine environment while increasing the economic benefits to the Member States, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

Emerging phenomena such as sargassum influxes contributed by a plethora of transboundary issues, with impacts to fisheries, tourism and public health in the Community.

## 6. THEMATIC SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Several of the Community's existing Policies support the sustainable management of the environmental and natural resources base of the Region. For example, Natural Resource Conservation is identified as an important pillar of the **Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy**<sup>xix</sup> (CCAP) as well as an acknowledgement that, in its execution, linkages will need to be made to the "Region's work on sustainable development, environmentally friendly agricultural practices and with the Caribbean Community Energy Policy". In the case of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Plan<sup>xx</sup> (RFNSP), the links between the provision of food and better husbandry of the Region's environment and natural resources are both implicitly and explicitly recognised with respect to the availability of water resources for agriculture, the need for drought monitoring and the ability of the Region to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In the case of the Community Energy Policy,<sup>xxi</sup> some of the core aims are in fact environmental and natural resources objectives. These include, inter alia, the accelerated deployment of renewable and clean sources of energy supplies towards increased energy supply diversification and affordability; increased energy efficiency and conservation in all sectors; the establishment and enforcement of labelling and standards for the importation of electrical appliances as well as standards for vehicles importation; greater use of renewable energy for electricity generation as well as in the transportation, industrial and agricultural sectors; and the establishment of regional and national targets for emissions reduction with corresponding mitigation actions and strategies for maintenance of adequate energy reserves in the event of disasters. It also recognises the linkages between energy and climate change.

The Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy provides a framework for the sustainable use of the Community's fisheries resources and its related ecosystems and recognises the environmental and conservation measures which are essential for the management of these resources. Finally, the Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, along with its Implementation Plan, provides a comprehensive approach to integrating climate change considerations into regional development policies.

In this context, therefore, the following will be done in support and in furtherance of existing regional policies and mechanisms:



# BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 6.1 Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The Member States of the Community are abundant in terrestrial, marine, and endemic species of biodiversity, which require sustainable management to ensure that the economic and other essential benefits of these resources can be effectively utilised. There are several issues threatening biodiversity in the region such as deforestation, over-harvesting, invasive species, poaching, land degradation and pollution. These have debilitating effects on the region's food security, social welfare and economy, and as such the use of these resources for economic activities must ensure their sustainable and broad contributions to the Region's well-being. Challenges experienced and progress made with addressing Biodiversity Management in the CARICOM Region have been captured in The State of Biodiversity in the Caribbean Community (2018). Despite the significance of these impacts, many gaps exist which require the consideration of the Community and its Member States and for their programming.

Some of the challenges impacting biodiversity and ecosystems are being addressed under other priority areas such as forests, land management and oceans. The Region however still needs to pay attention to a number of biodiversity-specific issues. These include:

1. Access and Benefits Sharing including:
  - a. the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture especially as it impacts the Region's food security and has potential as an adaptation strategy to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, there is need for greater emphasis in the region on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
  - b. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources from both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies.
  - c. The need for adequate legal protection of the Region's genetic resources, rights over those resources as well as mechanisms for access and the sharing of benefits in a fair and equitable manner;
2. Biosafety: There is need to adopt measures to ensure an adequate level of protection of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. These measures will address potential adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.
3. The promotion of research is needed on the impact of the adverse effects of climate change on the region's biodiversity.
4. Wildlife management including illegal trade in wildlife which are important dimensions of biodiversity for some countries.
5. Invasive alien species which are introduced by different means, including by marine and air transport and/or by atmospheric transport; and protected area management of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

6. The involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities is critical to the regional environmental and sustainable development processes in the Community. This is supported by international consensus as highlighted in Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development that ‘Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development’.

Taking into consideration the preceding, and the obligations of Member States to various conventions such as CDB, CITES and SPAW Protocol, the Community shall

- 6.1.1 scale up action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats to minimize the loss of biodiversity;
- 6.1.2 promote the integration of biodiversity values into national and regional development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, and into national reporting systems; and
- 6.1.3 in support of the preceding increase efforts to collect baseline data and undertake ongoing monitoring of biological resources.
- 6.1.4 promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources as well as appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.
- 6.1.5 adopt measures for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources of the Member States, especially those of important medicinal and traditional value (RT art.58);
- 6.1.6 adopt measures to prevent the introduction of and to significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems;
- 6.1.7 enhance and upscale work already ongoing in the regional (CFRM, CARDI, OECS) on Invasive Alien Species especially as it relates to the marine environment;
- 6.1.8 adopt measures to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna including through strengthening protected habitats (aquatic, terrestrial, marine etc.)
- 6.1.9 promote the protection of intellectual property rights as it relates to both terrestrial and marine biodiversity. This will be achieved by ensuring, inter alia, the preservation of indigenous Caribbean culture and the legal protection of the expressions of folklore, other traditional knowledge and national heritage, particularly of indigenous populations in the Community;
- 6.1.10 devise means of protecting, developing and commercialising local knowledge about the value and use of the Region’s biodiversity for the benefit of their populations, especially their indigenous peoples;
- 6.1.11 take appropriate measures to promote biosafety and protection from adverse impacts of biotechnology;
- 6.1.12 take appropriate measures to ensure that the traditional SIDS knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and relevant customary use of biological resources, are respected; and

6.1.13 ensure the full and effective participation of IPLCs in the regional environmental and sustainable development processes in the Community.

It should be noted that a CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy has been drafted and will serve as a companion to the CENRF.

## **6.2 Building Resilience To Climate Change**

Acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate change for the Community, and the necessary actions to be taken, and appreciating the need to meet the goal of reducing the rate of global warming to 1.5oC, the imminent threat to productive sectors including agriculture, fisheries and tourism, increasing frequency and intensity of climate related disasters, and the importance of continuing the implementation of the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, the Community shall:

- 6.2.1 take measures to streamline and strengthen the Community's information and knowledge management systems; data gathering, monitoring and analysis infrastructure to enhance the Region's capability to be better prepared for and respond to climate-related hazards and disasters;
- 6.2.2 increase public awareness and education as well as access to information, including through provisions for sharing of best practices amongst CARICOM Member States; and
- 6.2.3 take further action to address climate change and variability at the sectoral level, including greening infrastructure, renewable energy, ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), climate smart agriculture to name but a few.

## **6.3 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management**

Natural hazard risk assessment and management are a major concern of the Caribbean Community and its Member States. There is ongoing work under the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Programming Framework which addresses a range of hazards, including anthropogenic incidents, geological and hydro-meteorological hazards which are more frequently affecting the Region.

Taking into consideration the preceding the Community shall:

- 6.3.1 implement programmes to increase the capacity and capability of its Member States and Regional Institutions to monitor, assess and better understand disaster risk and to take the necessary measures to reduce the impacts of disasters and to build resilience;
- 6.3.2 make efforts to enhance early warning systems and increasing the capacity of disaster management agencies;
- 6.3.3 further the work in capacity building of communities and NGOs with respect to disaster risk management; and
- 6.3.4 increase cooperation with the private sector for enhanced readiness to disasters and mitigation measures to potential hazards.



# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 6.4 Sustainable Energy

Affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is a key objective for Member States and progress towards this end is evident at the national level, even though at different stages of implementation. Further impetus was provided when the **Community Energy Plan** was approved, and a Caribbean Community Renewable Energy Centre established in 2014.

The region has considerable renewable energy assets, including, inter alia, hydro, solar, geothermal, wind, bio-fuels, waste to energy, etc. Some Member States already have considerable experience in harnessing energy from these sources. However, there are a number of constraints affecting the more rapid uptake of renewable energy technologies. These include, inter alia, monopolistic tendencies in the electricity generation sector; the need for a more robust enabling policy environment aimed at stimulating uptake and investment and development of appropriate investment modalities.

Considering the existing regional plans and policies, the Community shall:

- 6.4.1 enhance regional efforts to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology;
- 6.4.2 encourage the removal of negative incentives and other obstacles to the adoption of renewable energy technologies;
- 6.4.3 engender an enabling environment for the widespread use of renewable energy technologies and energy, efficiency especially through meaningful engagement with private sector, academia and civil society; and
- 6.4.4 engage in a programme of work on energy efficiency and energy conservation in all sectors.

## 6.5 Waste Management

The Caribbean Community is affected by various forms of pollution which must be managed and controlled consistent with Article 65.2. (RT) which emphasizes the preservation, protection and improvement of environmental quality and the protection of the life and health of humans, plants and animals.

Of concern is the need for integrated management of solid waste and infrastructure for sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems as well as for action to facilitate waste minimisation and prevention and the promotion of waste as a resource, such as its utilisation in many ways including waste-to-energy. Closely related is the issue of disease prevention which includes a consideration of the reduction of deaths caused by water-borne diseases as well as from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution. Inappropriate disposal of solid waste provides more breeding environments for disease vectors resulting in increased occurrences of vector-borne diseases such as Chikungunya and Zika. This is an area of concern which requires more attention and research.

Waste water management and disposal remain a great challenge for most Member States. A major area of concern is the lack of investment in waste water infrastructure and the implications of this for discharges into the coastal and marine environment and the further implications for human health. Issues highlighted include, inter alia, discharge of untreated effluent in the marine environment and lack of central sewerage systems. A major area of intervention and opportunity which has been highlighted is the expansion of waste water treatment, recycling and reuse. The issue of storm water runoff must also be addressed.

Given the Region's commitment to promoting Integrated water resources management (IWRM), consideration must be given to treatment of municipal waste water beyond primary level given the impacts of effluents in the marine environment on human health and marine life, and with broader implications for tourism and other sectors. In addition, some level of domestic treatment towards waste water re-use should be encouraged.

Taking the preceding into consideration the Community shall:

- 6.5.1 leverage regional academic institutions and think tanks to analyse the transboundary impacts of inadequate waste management and propose regional responses;
- 6.5.2 upscale initiatives through organisations such as Chambers of Industries and Commerce enabling members to be more aware and interested in investments in initiatives for solid waste minimisation and prevention;
- 6.5.3 develop national and regional capacities for the management of solid waste, marine litter and enforcement of regulations; and
- 6.5.4 ensure that issues pertaining to waste water treatment and reuse are given prominence in the preparation of the Community Water Policy and Governance Framework.

## 6.6 Management Of Chemicals Including Hazardous Materials

The storage, use and management of hazardous waste, chemicals, and pesticides (including persistent organic pollutants) and their impact on the environment and human health remain a serious concern in the Community. Notwithstanding, the Member States are party to a number of international legal instruments to support shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of hazardous wastes, chemicals including mercury and pesticides to protect human health from their potential harm.

There are regional mechanisms that should be supported and upscaled to enhance coordination and collaboration among CARICOM Member States to address these concerns. Unsustainable food production can result in elevated nutrient loading and agro-chemical pollutants in air, water and soil with consequences for ecosystem function, biodiversity and human health. The Regional committee of Chairpersons for Pesticide Control Boards is a mechanism that can be supported and enhanced to address these concerns.

The Region also must dedicate some attention, in the same way there is a contingency plan for oil spills, to developing similar contingencies for where chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (including terrorism) hazards may be present.

Improvement in the management of chemical through access to and use of environmentally sound technologies and capacity development is identified as a critical area for intervention within the context of the Policy Framework. There is also concern about the harmful effects of hazardous materials transported, generated disposed of or shipped through the Community as expressed in Article 65.2 (e). RT. There is also a significant connection between chemicals management and hazard management, highlighting the need to prioritise hazardous chemicals. Additionally, there is potential to develop a regional guide for use by Member States.

Taking into consideration the preceding, the Community shall:

- 6.6.1 develop programmes to support the Member States in taking measures to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle as well as to reduce their release into the air, water and soil;
- 6.6.2 advance harmonised standards for management of chemicals and hazardous waste; and
- 6.6.3 in support of sustainable consumption and production measures, review and amend as necessary labelling and packaging requirements to promote human health and safety in the use and handling of chemicals and pesticides.

## **6.7 Effective Participation In International Environment And Sustainable Development Policy Fora Including The Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are important instruments of international environmental law, a relatively large number of which have been ratified by the Member States of the Caribbean Community. There are also several international and wider regional governance and decision-making bodies in which Member States actively participate, including the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the High-Level Political Forum and the United Nations General Assembly.

Though the Caribbean Community is not a party to the MEAs, nor does it have a vote at the various assemblies, the Secretariat, via its legal mandate and convening powers, should have an important role in coordination during the implementation and negotiating phases of these instruments. Implementation of these MEAs and decisions by UNEA, the Forum of Ministers, etc. agreed to by the Member States will have implications for the Policy Framework and hence their relationship with it will be clearly defined.

The Region should work collectively to evaluate whether there is adequate existing legislation, or whether there are gaps, to support fulfilling the obligations under the MEAs.

**With respect to effective participation in environment and sustainable development policy fora, the Community shall:**

- 6.7.1 develop institutionalised capacity-building programmes for environmental and sustainable development negotiations spearheaded by the CARICOM Secretariat and supported by UWI and CARICAD;
- 6.7.2 encourage the Secretariat to pursue the administrative or other measures necessary to increase their participation in the Conferences of the Parties of Conventions to which Member States are party;
- 6.7.3 enhance coordination of the Member States at the regional level, with the view of enhancing the Region's preparation for participation in the Assemblies, High Level Fora, Conferences of the Parties (COP) and subsidiary bodies to the various Conventions; and
- 6.7.4 examine means of improving efficiencies (both financial and technical) through the preparation of joint reports and establishing a regional steering committee to improve accountability and to involve a broader spectrum of stakeholders, including civil society.

## 6.8 Sustainable Consumption and Production And Greening The Economy

The international community has identified changes in unsustainable consumption and production patterns as an essential pre-requisite to achieving sustainable development. These have been captured under the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP 2012—2021). Sustainable consumption and production as framed at the international level, include a wide cross section of issues which overlap some of the areas already identified. Areas which could fall under this thematic area, include, inter alia, sustainable natural resource use; resource efficiency and resource decoupling; sustainable infrastructure, construction and sustainable cities; sustainable energy use; sustainable transport; application of cleaner production technologies and processes; eco-labelling and sustainable marketing; sustainable lifestyles, sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and green public procurement. Closely linked to sustainable consumption and production are the processes of **Green Economy transition and Low Carbon Development Strategies** which some Member States of the Community are pursuing. Sustainable consumption and production will, therefore, be promoted across the value chain in the relevant sectors.

**Taking the preceding into consideration and focussing on regional priorities, the Community shall:**

- 6.8.1 encourage the Member States and other stakeholders to develop programmes on prioritised aspects of sustainable consumption and production;
- 6.8.2 in close collaboration with regional civil society organisations, promote a programme on Sustainable Livelihoods as a means of creating an enabling environment for addressing poverty reduction with a focus on vulnerable populations and communities at risk;
- 6.8.3 encourage the private sector to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle;
- 6.8.4 work with the Universities to establish programmes to strengthen the Region's scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and the adoption of life cycle approaches; and
- 6.8.5 advance a Regional Green Economy Framework building on work already piloted in Member States.



# INTEGRATING TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 6.9 Integrating Trade and Environment

A growing area of importance is the interrelationship between environmental policy and trade policy, as may be seen in the negotiations at the level of the World Trade Organisation. This is also evident in the Region by the fact that the objectives of sustainable development are to be applied and integrated at every level of the Economic Partnership Agreement Between the CARIFORUM Member States on the one hand, and the European Union and its Member States on the other hand (EPA).<sup>xxii</sup> The environmental dimensions contained in the EPA are, therefore, substantive and have implications for many of the thematic areas which the Policy Framework addresses. In addition, given the Region's dependence on direct foreign investment, an increasingly important matter for the Community and its Member States is the relationship between environmental policy and investment policy as exemplified in the case *Allard v the Government of Barbados*.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The use of the region's natural assets in a sustainable manner combined with targeted investments could result in the development of an industry focusing on trade in environmental goods and services (e.g. the development of NonTimber Forest Products (NTFP) and natural products such as crab wood oil which is traded in Brazil, Europe and North America as Andiroba oil). The promotion of such products and services could form the basis for the development of alternative livelihood options in trade and environmental goods and services. The promotion of trade in environmental goods<sup>xxiv</sup> and services<sup>xxv</sup> is also consistent with relevant elements of the Community Industrial Policy, sustainable tourism diversification, including, inter alia, community and gastronomic tourism; agro-tourism and cultural tourism, and, the protection and "development" of sites of historic, cultural and heritage significance have been highlighted as areas with possibilities. The Region's rich endowment of natural and cultural heritage which has the potential for further protection and enhancement could provide the basis for the development of heritage tourism as well as livelihood options.

In addition, the recognition that MEAs can be used as a means of restricting trade and market access (e.g. reference is made in many of the Country Reports to the Caribbean queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), listed under CITIES Annex II) as well as a regulator of investment behaviour as exemplified by Article 72 of the EPA,<sup>xxvi</sup> warrants closer policy focus. Expanded discussions on environmental safeguards at the regional level must also take place.

Taking into consideration the increasing importance of the interconnection between trade policy and environmental policy the Community shall:

- 6.9.1 initiate a Regional Programme on Trade and Environment, inter alia, to create greater awareness of the interconnectedness of these two policy frameworks, build understanding of the trade provisions of the MEAs and begin discussion at the regional level of environmental safeguards; and
- 6.9.2 initiate a Programme on Trade in Environmental Goods and Services aimed at supporting activities of Community origin (Article 84 RT). This initiative is consistent with the agreement in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) relating to cooperation for the promotion and facilitation of public awareness and education programmes in respect of environmental goods and services in order to foster trade in such products between the Parties.<sup>xxvii</sup>

This Policy Framework will seek to augment the Region's capacity to comply with international environmental, health and safety standards, including sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Compliance with international standards is a necessary dimension of international competitiveness but one of the biggest challenges facing businesses today. In this regard, Member States face several constraints, including, inter alia, the lack of adequate testing facilities and relevant human resources capacity. A core dimension of the Policy Framework will be to enable the Region's productive sectors to address this issue.

With respect to standards and certification, many processing facilities in the Community are below the level required under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points<sup>xxviii</sup> (HACCP). In the case of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, many Member States have limited capability and hence experience difficulty in complying with various international regulations (e.g. EurepGAP)<sup>xxix</sup>. The ability to meet the legislative, administrative and reporting requirements of international and regional agreements and comply with international standards (i.e. HACCP etc.) is an important issue for many Member States, as it affects exports.

**The Community shall:**

- 6.9.3 facilitate the undertaking of an assessment of the various standards and certification schemes with which the Member States must comply in order to gain market access through the development of a Regional Programme targeting Caribbean Community enterprises, in particular, small and medium-sized enterprise to comply with international environmental, health, quality and safety measures, standards and regulations;
- 6.9.4 encourage and support the Member States in strengthening their institutional and technical capacity to comply with international environmental, health and safety standards;
- 6.9.5 explore the use of the CSME as an existing platform to develop inter-regional trade and cooperation in environmental goods and services.

## **6.10 Public Education And Awareness**

A pre-requisite for the effective roll out of this Policy Framework will be a Public Education and Awareness programme to inform the Community on its contents, relevance to the Treaty and the Community's sustainable use and management of its natural resources.

### **In this regard, the Community shall:**

- 6.10.1 develop a Community Public Education and Awareness Programme for promoting and explaining the Policy Framework to the various stakeholders; and
- 6.10.2 establish a network to facilitate the sharing of experiences (including challenges, best practices and success stories) and information across the Caribbean Community and its Member States for the purposes of driving ownership of the policy framework, taking into consideration the various Networks that exist or are being established.

## **7. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The Means of Implementation will be vital to the successful implementation of the Policy Framework and actions thereunder, including inter alia, Education, Public Awareness and Training; Data, Information for Decision-making and Knowledge Management; Science, Technology and Research; Capacity building; and Financing and Resource Mobilisation.

### **7.1 Data, Information For Decision-Making And Knowledge Development**

An issue which has plagued the Caribbean Community and its Member States is the inadequacy of systematic collection of environmental and natural resources data on which to pursue evidence-based decision-making. The need for the collection of such data cannot be over emphasised as, pursuant to Article 65.2. (e). RT., the Community is obligated to take account in its decision-making of the environmental conditions in the Member States. The systematic collection of environmental and natural resources data will also contribute significantly to the data collection requirements under the various international environmental agreements to which Member States are Party.

It is noted that Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications are widely used in CARICOM Member States, particularly in the conduct of the Population and Housing Census and in Surveys, providing small area statistics in the case of the Census. In the past the DevInfo software which is map-enabled and is useful in disseminating indicators using maps had been championed in the region. Currently there is an ongoing initiative to advance a web/GIS enabled data platform for CARICOM Statistics. It is critical that environmental and natural resources data constitute an important part of this platform.

Evidence-Based Decision-Making will be an integral part of the implementation of the Policy Framework, thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the decisionmaking process. To achieve this, it will be necessary to instil a culture of systematic collection of environmental and natural resources data, its integration in the National Statistical Infrastructure of the Member States and its wider use in the Community. The systematic collection of information and data on environmental and natural resources would enable the Community to have an informed position on the State of the Environment and Natural Resources in the Community and would facilitate the Member States in honouring their obligations under regional and international agreements.

The improved collection of environmental statistics and preparation of State of the Environment and Natural Resources Reports will enable the wider Community and Member States to report more effectively on the environmental conditions in the Member States as well as to better assess the potential costs and benefits of action or inaction with respect to investing in environmental protection.

There is also a critical need for sharing of information on experiences among the Member States. The absence of a mechanism to enable this has been identified as a major constraint by policy, legal and technical experts. The packaging and communication of information consolidated and shared on environment and natural resources issues are key to informed policy and decision-making by public authorities. Access to such information is also important for the general public to enable them to contribute intelligently to debates on environmental issues as well as support measures to enhance the environment. The Policy Framework will be advanced when knowledge products are made available and accessible to CARICOM citizens.

Finally, this work under the Policy Framework will contribute to the CARICOM Action Plan for Statistics developed by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (and endorsed by Heads of Government at the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana, 4-6 July 2016. The Action Plan supports a regional approach to the development of statistics and, among other things, will enable the upgrading of the Information and Communications Technology infrastructure and provide overall support to human resource development.

**Considering the preceding, the Community shall:**

- 7.1.1 develop a programme to support the Member States in the systematic collection of environmental statistics and their integration into the national statistical systems in the respective Member States;
- 7.1.2 improve the collection and analysis of environmental data and information for decision-making, thereby enhancing evidence, data credibility, capacity and availability; and
- 7.1.3 develop mechanisms to enable Caribbean Community nationals to have appropriate access to information concerning the environment and natural resources and to make this information widely available as a means of facilitating and encouraging public awareness and participation.
- 7.1.4 preparation and publication of a regular State of the CARICOM Environment report, including the status of implementation of national laws and international commitments relating to the environment. Particular attention will be paid to priority issues in the Region such as the coastal and marine environment, forestry and watershed management, waste disposal and recycling, climate change impact analysis and adaptation, and natural disasters impact and management.

The background is a composite image. On the left, there is a laboratory flask containing a green liquid, next to a bunch of green herbs. In the center, a computer monitor displays some data. To the right of the monitor is a red tomato. A large, semi-transparent green circle with a yellow-to-green gradient border is positioned on the right side of the image, partially obscuring the background elements.

# SCIENCE, RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 7.2 Science, Research, Technology and Innovation

Implementation of this policy framework will necessitate the involvement of tertiary and technical and vocational institutions in the CSME Zone. Furthermore, since most of the economies of the Member States are characterised by micro, small and medium sized enterprises, this group should be specially targeted in increasing their access to and use of environmentally sound technologies. Focus should also be placed on the further development and promotion of indigenous technologies.

### In this regard, the Community shall:

- 7.2.1 develop a mechanism for Member States to communicate to the indigenous community academia, the areas in which they need research;
- 7.2.2 via the Community Human Resources Development Strategy, promote Science, Technology and Research as a means of enhancing the capacity of Member States in environmental and natural resources management; and
- 7.2.3 develop a CARICOM Research Agenda to accompany the Policy Framework.

## 7.3 Capacity Building and Strengthening

One of the Common Support Measures highlighted in the RT is Human Resources Development with the objective, pursuant to Article 63.1. RT, of supporting the Community's thrust towards international competitiveness in the development, production and delivery of goods and services. This was supported by the **CARICOM Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy** which was endorsed by the 38th Regular Conference of the CARICOM Heads of Government in 2017.

The enhancement of the Community's human resources in environmental and natural resources planning, management and sustainable utilisation of those assets is an essential part of the Community efforts at increasing international competitiveness, and as such the Community shall:

- 7.3.1 develop a framework for capacity sharing and exchange within CARICOM;
- 7.3.2 work within the framework of the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) to develop a programme aimed at providing opportunities for young Caribbean Community nationals to gain experience in working in international organisations as part of their professional training and development;
- 7.3.3 develop a plan for strengthening of the Sustainable Development Unit of the Secretariat, which has overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Policy Framework on a day-to-day basis; and
- 7.3.4 encourage Member States to incorporate succession planning into their national and sectoral development plans, particularly their environmental management plans.

## 7.4 Financing and Resource Mobilisation

A key factor which, to a large extent, determines the successful implementation of the Policy Framework and its Action Plan(s) is the availability of financial resources to implement the various actions identified. This realisation is recognised by the COTED<sup>xxx</sup> which at its Fifty-Third Special Meeting (Environment and Sustainable Development) held in February 2015;

- Emphasised the need for an adequately resourced implementation strategy [for the Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework]; and
- Requested that the Secretariat make representation to the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance Unit of the Caribbean Community Secretariat (RMTA), regional institutions and donors to secure funding for the priorities of the Framework.

Since the Caribbean Community does not have an independent source (i.e. Community Own Resources)<sup>xxxi</sup> of revenue other than the contribution received from its Member States, innovative means of financing will be employed in order to mobilise adequate resources for the implementation of the Policy Framework and activities resulting therefrom.

### **The Community shall therefore:**

- 7.4.1 invite Member States to investigate negotiating with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in investing in implementation of the Policy Framework and Action Plan;
- 7.4.2 encourage the Caribbean Community Secretariat and Institutions to consider formal accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- 7.4.3 implement measures to increase the flow of financial resources from bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, including the GEF; and
- 7.4.4 advance the establishment of a Project Development and Preparation Mechanism to assist the Member States in sourcing resources for management of environment and natural resources.

The background of the cover is a landscape photograph. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills. In the middle ground, a line of trees is visible. In the background, several wind turbines are silhouetted against a dark, hazy sky. A large, curved, abstract shape in shades of green and yellow dominates the right side of the cover, partially overlapping the landscape.

# INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RELATIONS

Caribbean Community Environmental and  
Natural Resources Policy Framework

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## 8. International Environment and Sustainable Development Relations

An important dimension of environmental and natural resources management in the Caribbean Community and its Member States is external and international relations—how the Community and its Member States relate to the rest of the world on environmental and sustainable development issues. Pursuant to Article 16.3. (b), (c) and (e) R,T the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) is mandated to:

- Establish measures to co-ordinate the foreign policies of the Member States of the Community, including proposals for joint representation, and seek to ensure, as far as practicable, the adoption of Community positions on major hemispheric and international issues;
- Coordinate the positions of the Member States in inter-governmental organisations in whose activities such States participate;
- Coordinate, in close consultation with the Member States, Community policy on international issues with the policies of States in the wider Caribbean Region in order to arrive at common positions in relation to Third States, groups of States and relevant inter-governmental organisations.

In addition, COFCOR, pursuant to Article 60.4. RT is mandated to promote the establishment of a regime for the effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States. The Member States are also obligated, pursuant to Article 141.R T to cooperate in achieving international recognition for the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area requiring protection from the potentially harmful effects of the transit of nuclear and other hazardous wastes, dumping, pollution by oil or by any other substance carried by sea, or wastes generated through the conduct of ship operations. In addition, pursuant to Article 65.2. RT the Community and the Member States shall, within their respective spheres of competence, cooperate with Third States and competent environmental organisations.

The Policy Framework is so designed to benefit from synergies and complementarities of other initiatives being undertaken by the Community and the international community (e.g. the environmental dimension of the Economic Partnership Agreement) which have significant implications for the Caribbean Community and the sustainable development of its Member States (i.e. the broad SIDS Agenda, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, MEAs etc.). In this regard, special emphasis will be directed to the promotion of the sustainability of Small Island Developing States.

The Caribbean Community will take steps to maximise the benefits from its relations with regional and international environmental and sustainable development entities including, inter alia:

## **Countries Which are Contiguous To The Caribbean Seations**

The Caribbean Sea is a very important natural resource not only for the Caribbean Community and its Member States but also for contiguous countries. It is necessary that clear guidance is provided on how Member States of CARICOM can achieve the mandates laid out, pursuant to Article 60.4.R T, for the establishment of a regime for the effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States and the obligation imposed on the Member States of the Caribbean Community, pursuant to Article 141.R T to cooperate in achieving international recognition for the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area.

### **In this regard, the Community shall**

- 8.1.1 encourage the CARICOM Secretariat to formalise its relationship to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region<sup>xxxii</sup> (WCR) (Cartagena Convention) which is a comprehensive, umbrella agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea;
- 8.1.2 engage fully with the Association of Caribbean States which houses the Caribbean Sea Commission established in 2008 to “promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea” as well as the countries contiguous to this resource.

## **Hemispheric Environmental and Sustainable Development Diplomacy**

There are several hemispheric intergovernmental bodies of which the Member States of the Caribbean Community are members and with which the Policy Framework has to interface. These include, inter alia, the Organisation of the American States (OAS); the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Community shall:

- 8.1.3 strengthen its collaboration with and participation in the CELAC Ministers of Environment. It will also seek to be more actively involved in the growing EU-CELAC relationship; and
- 8.1.4 seek further engagement and collaboration on environmental governance with all the Member States of the hemisphere, including the United States of America (USA) and Canada as well as those States which have dependent territories in the Caribbean.

## **The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) - European Union Relations**

The Member States of the Caribbean Community are all signatories to the Cotonou Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, of the other which promotes and expedites the economic, cultural and social development of the ACP States, with a view to contributing to peace and security and to promoting a stable and democratic political environment.<sup>xxxiii</sup> This Agreement forms the basis for ACP-EU cooperation which emphasises that the principles of sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, including climate change, shall be applied and integrated at every level of the partnership. Within this legal framework the EU is one of the largest aid donors of the Caribbean Community and its Member States.

Using the Policy Framework as a mechanism for enhanced environmental and natural resources management in the Caribbean Community, the Community shall:

8.1.5 leverage resources through the CARIFORUM mechanism to support the implementation of the Policy Framework.

## **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sustainability and The Alliance of Small Island States Relations**

The external relations of the Caribbean Community and its Member States have a very strong SIDS focus, and in particular, the implementation of the Outputs of the three International Conferences on Small island Developing States, namely the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States) (commonly referred to as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)1994); the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MS/BPOA), adopted by the international community at the International Meeting for the Review of the BPOA in January 2005 and the SMAOA Pathway adopted by the Third International Conference on SIDS in September 2014.

### **In this regard, the Community shall**

8.1.6 increase advocacy with the view of influencing institutional entities comprising the UN system to increase effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilment of their functions and mandates in providing more coherent support to SIDS, while ensuring appropriate accountability.

## **Commonwealth Secretariat**

Within the framework of the Policy Framework a more strategic approach to environment and sustainable development issues will be promoted, in particular with respect to the strengthening of cooperation with the Commonwealth Small States. Another key area which will be built upon is enhancing the voice and participation of SIDS in norm-setting and decision-making at the global level, including the Group of 20 (G20).

## **United Nations**

The United Nations is the bedrock of multilateralism to which the Caribbean Community and its Member States subscribe. The UN is also one of the largest technical assistance providers to the region. Most of the negotiating processes on environment and sustainable development issues at the international level take place under the aegis of the United Nations.

A strategic policy which will be pursued by the Community is to strengthen its participation in the new UN institutional architecture that is emerging following the Rio+20 outcomes including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the United Nations Environment Assembly, Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Technology Mechanism, the Sustainable Development Report and the Sustainable Financing Mechanism.

With a view to strengthening its participation in these institutions and processes and within the context of the Policy Framework, the Community shall:

- 8.1.7 increase the effectiveness of the region's approach to international environmental and sustainable development negotiations through more focused and upstream preparation;
- 8.1.8 review the Region's representation at key UN duty stations with the view of improving representation and establishing adequate mechanisms, as may be required, to facilitate effective participation of the Community and its Member States in these processes, to protect and defend their strategic interests; and
- 8.1.9 more aggressively leverage support for the implementation of elements of the Policy Framework within the context of the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community signed in May 1977. Currently, the modality used for deciding the areas of cooperation is the convened Bi-annual General Meetings.

## **Relationship Between The Policy Framework and Bi-Lateral Organisations and Entities in Relevant Areas**

To the extent practicable, bilateral relations between the Member States and the donor community in the area of environment and sustainable development will be oriented towards supporting the priorities highlighted in the Policy Framework.

A hand holding a black and gold pen is positioned over a laptop keyboard. The laptop screen displays a dark interface with two icons at the top: a green leaf icon labeled 'Environmental' and a globe icon labeled 'Social'. Below these icons are several horizontal bars in green and red, and a 'Go Green' button. The background is a blurred image of a person's face. A large, curved green shape is on the right side of the image.

# IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY AND MONITORING

## **9. Implementation Modality – and Monitoring**

The objective of review, monitoring and evaluation is to ensure that the Policy Framework and its Action Plans are implemented effectively.

In the case of reviews, the CARICOM Secretariat, with inputs from Member States and Regional Institutions, shall report annually to the COTED [Environment], on the progress made in the implementation of the Policy Framework and its Action Plans with regard to the following:

- 9.1.1 Progress on prioritised activities carried out during the reviewing period and the status of implementation;
- 9.1.2 Difficulties encountered and the measures taken to overcome them and the result of those actions;
- 9.1.3 Outputs delivered including the results and the impact(s) achieved; and
- 9.1.4 Priorities agreed for the next reporting period.

In terms of monitoring, the Caribbean Community Secretariat through the lead Directorate in collaboration with the relevant institutions will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the activities being implemented under the Policy Framework to ensure they are on course and on schedule in meeting the identified objectives and performance targets.

Evaluation, on the other hand, provides information on the results, effectiveness, processes, and performance of the partners involved in the implementation of various elements of the Policy Framework and its Action Plan. To facilitate this, an independent evaluation will be undertaken at the conclusion of each Action Plan cycle.

The Policy Framework shall be updated periodically as may be determined by the COTED on the advice of the Caribbean Community Secretariat through its lead Directorate. This procedure will allow the flexibility necessary for its updating in order to incorporate new and emerging environmental and natural resources issues facing the Community and its Member States.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Relevant CARICOM Policies

### Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

The CCCFP is a binding treaty focusing on cooperation and collaboration of Caribbean people, fishermen and their governments in conserving, managing and sustainably utilising fisheries and related ecosystems. The strong regional fisheries policy supports the welfare and well-being of all Caribbean people.

- Biodiversity protection in the regional marine environment
- Increased regional food and nutrition security
- Better research supporting fisheries development and management
- Greater income for fishers and wealth creation through social and economic development of the sector
- Improved regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance to reduce illegal fishing and
- Recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area of sustainable development

### The Community Agriculture Policy

The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas frames the Agricultural sector in CARICOM. This Treaty provides for the Community Agriculture Policy (Articles 56 and 57), Marketing of Agriculture Products (Article 59), Fisheries Management and Development (Article 60) and Forest Management and Development (Article 61). The Policy was adopted by the Thirty-Eighth Special Meeting of the COTED Agriculture (October 2011, Dominica), which mandated the development of an Action Plan for its implementation.

The Agricultural Policy lays the basis for transforming the agricultural sector to play a meaningful role in the Single Market and Economy and to contribute to improving food and nutrition security in the Region. It seeks to increase agricultural exports; satisfy domestic demand for food; establish links with other sectors, particularly tourism; increase employment; and reduce poverty. In this context, the Policy promotes inter alia:

- Food and Nutrition Security - to address production and stability related gaps in the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP) was adopted by COTED in 2010. It establishes that Food Security as existing when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- Sustainable development of natural resources - to ensure the efficient use of the Region's non-renewable natural resources and its proper management in the production system through utilisation of environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.
- A modern agricultural knowledge and information system – to promote an agriculture knowledge and information system that links all stakeholders and provides for sharing of information with special emphasis on Market Information Systems (Database, Production, Statistics,) and capacity-building (research and development, technology transfer and extension, human resource development, farmer absorptive capacity, regional clearing house for information, information, communication technology (ICT), Advocacy and public awareness/information).

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) Strategic Plan 2018-2022: “Building a productive and resilient regional agricultural sector”

The Strategic Plan is the Institute’s five-year road map for transforming regional agriculture into a modernised, competitive, innovative and resilient sector. The Strategic Plan emphasises results, impact and accountability. The Strategic Goal is:

“contributing to Food and Nutrition Security through the development of innovations that contribute to sustainable, climate resilient, value chains”,

**The Strategic Programmes are:**

1. Value chain services,
2. Institutional strengthening,
3. Partnerships and strategic alliances, and
4. Policy and advocacy.

**The cross-cutting issues are:**

1. Youth and gender,
2. Climate Change,
3. Results Based Management,
4. Inclusion and Equity,
5. Information and Communication Technology (ICT),
6. Resource Mobilisation, and
5. Financial Sustainability.

**The CARICOM Energy Policy**

The CARICOM Energy Policy was approved by the Forty-First Special Meeting of the COTED-on ENERGY held 1 March 2013, in Trinidad and Tobago. The Goal/ Vision of the CARICOM Energy Policy Fundamental seeks the transformation of the energy sectors of the Member States of the Community through the provision of secure and sustainable supplies of energy in a manner which minimizes energy waste in all sectors, to ensure that all CARICOM citizens have access to modern, clean and reliable energy supplies at affordable and stable prices, and to facilitate the growth of internationally competitive Regional industries towards achieving sustainable development of the Community.

In fulfilment of the Goal /Vision of the CARICOM Energy Policy and to assure access to affordable, adequate, safe and clean energy products necessary for the development of Member States and for the consolidation of the CSME (established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas), the Community will develop a programme of regional actions in a coherent and comprehensive way in pursuit of a number of stated objectives which have been highlighted in section 6.4: Sustainable Energy.

Chapter 9.0 of the Policy speaks to energy and the environment. It seeks to ensure that energy is supplied and consumed in a manner that creates minimal adverse impact on the environment. The production, transportation and use of energy have considerable impact on the environment. It is important to ensure that economic growth, sustainable and secure energy supplies and a clean environment are compatible objectives. The challenge for the Community is therefore to ensure that the solutions for ensuring sustainable and secure energy supplies do not exacerbate problems in the environment. The integration of environmental considerations within the Community energy policy needs to take place in a balanced way taking into account the goals and objectives of the policy. A key objective of this policy is to ensure that good environmental practices are observed in accordance with national, regional and international environmental standards and legislation. To achieve these objectives, action at all levels is required.

**Where feasible, Member States will:**

- i. Evaluate and disseminate information on the environmental impacts of various energy options;
- ii. Develop and implement information and educational programmes on the benefits of clean energy for end users;
- iii. Ensure the exchange of information, the dissemination of environmental best practices on the production, transportation and utilisation of energy and shared analyses to facilitate cooperation among Member States;
- iv. Strengthen the capacity of the relevant authorities to monitor and enforce existing national, regional and international environmental legislation and Standards;
- v. Introduce economic and fiscal incentives and measures, which promote good environmental practices in the energy sector;
- vi. Introduce programmes for self-regulation of energy producers and suppliers;
- vii. Develop appropriate plans for liability and compensation regimes for cases of environmental acts and omissions negatively affecting the environment;
- viii. Create enabling framework to foster clean energy projects through financial or other incentives; and
- ix. Develop adequate, clear and transparent requirements and procedures for the execution and approval of environmental impact assessments in the case of large-scale energy projects.

**Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.**

The Regional Framework was approved in July 2009 by the CARICOM Heads of Government. It defines CARICOM's strategic approach for coping with Climate Change and is guided by five strategic elements and some twenty goals. The Strategic Elements and Goals are to be used as guides for enhancing resilience to the impacts of Climate Change in the social, economic and environmental systems in the CARICOM Member States.

The Framework provides a roadmap for action by member states and regional organisations during the period 2009-2015, while building on the groundwork laid by the CCCCC and its precursor programmes and projects in Climate Change adaptation. Additionally, it also builds upon the extensive work undertaken under the various projects and by other regional organisations, NGOs and academic institutions in recent years assessing the impacts of a changing climate.

The **Implementation Plan (IP)** for the Framework was subsequently developed by the Centre and approved in March 2012 by the Heads of Government.

### **Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy**

CDM is defined as “the management of all hazards through all phases of the disaster management cycle- prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation-by all peoples-public and private sectors, all segments of civil society and the general population in hazard prone areas. CDM involves risk reduction and management and integration of vulnerability assessment into the development planning process.” (CDERA 2001, 2006).

In 2001 the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), through broad-based Stakeholder consultations, adopted a Strategy and Results Framework for CDM. The goal was to link CDM to development decision-making and planning. Five years after the embracing of CDM by the Region, there was the recognition that whilst significant progress had been made in the advancement of CDM at the regional level, there was unanimity among CDM stakeholders on the need for strengthening and deepening CDM mainstreaming at the national and sectoral levels.

In 2007, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), then the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), revised and enhanced the Strategy within a Results Based Management (RBM) Framework. The revised Framework was informed by a review of the baseline study for and expected results from the 2001 CDM Strategy and Results Framework. The assessment also concluded that governance structures needed to be revisited as was the need to build community resilience and mainstream CDM into national and sectoral planning. In addition, a number of cross-cutting themes were identified during consultations:

- Adaptation to climate change and climate variability
- Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development and their link to the MDGs
- Use of information and communication technologies in CDM
- Integration of gender issues in CDM
- Institutional Capacity and Institutional Support to the CDM process.

In 2013, CDEMA led broad based stakeholder consultations amongst CDM stakeholders to inform the development of the 2014-2024 Strategy and Framework. Findings from a review of the progress made on the CDM Strategy 2007-2012 were also considered. The goal of the draft CDM Strategy 2014-2024 is to realize “Safer, more resilient and sustainable CDEMA Participating States through Comprehensive Disaster Management”. This goal is supported by four priority areas and sixteen regional outcomes as represented in the CDM Logic Model.

The priorities of the 2014-2024 CDM Strategy are Institutional Strengthening; Knowledge Management to support evidence-based decision making; Mainstreaming of CDM in Key Sectors; and Building Disaster Resilience. These outcomes/results guide the mobilisation of resources by the CDEMA CU on behalf of the Participating States as well as the development of multiyear CDM Country Work Programmes within the Participating States.

Gender, climate change, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and environmental sustainability are cross-cutting themes in the implementation of the CDM Strategy.

### **The CARICOM Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy (approved by Heads of Government in 2017)**

The Human Resource Development (HRD) 2030 Strategy was approved by the Thrity-Second Council for Human and Social Development in 2017 and endorsed by the Thirty-Eight Regular Conference of the CARICOM Heads of Government in 2017. The Strategy is intended to address general deficiencies and shortfalls in the education system by reforming/redesigning the three interconnected sectors within a single unified seamless HRD system in the areas of:

1. Access
2. Relevance,
3. Equity, and
4. Quality.

#### **The three priority sectors are:**

1. Basic education Early Childhood Development (ECD), primary and secondary,
2. Lifelong skills learning, and
3. Tertiary education.

### **CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)**

Heads of Government, at the Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of the Caribbean Community, held in July 2016 agreed upon the need for a CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) (HGC/2016/37/9), in endorsing the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean<sup>xxxiv</sup>. The Action Plan which consisted of actions recommended to be taken by governments will, through improvements in the availability of statistics for evidence-based decision-making at all levels, result in better development outcomes and greater prosperity for the peoples of CARICOM. At the Thrity-Eight HGC held in Grenada in July 2017, Heads of Government endorsed the preparation of the RSDS relative to its strategic role in strengthening statistics and improving its availability for evidencebased decision-making (HGC/2017/38/15) entitled “Regional Plan for Statistics Development”.

The critical step that followed the decision of the Thrity-Eight HGC was the elaboration of the RSDS. The RSDS, draws from a number of guiding principles and imperatives committed to by the Region in collaborative fora, including those of PARIS21<sup>xxxv</sup>, as follows:

- i. **Responding to the statistical requirements of the regional development agenda**, without infringing on the sovereignty of Member States, since the regional development agenda comprises priorities that have been agreed upon by CARICOM Member States. Some of the data required to inform the regional development agenda may not be currently available among Member States. RSDSs are appropriate instruments to address this challenge and to assist in the narrowing of statistical development gaps.
- ii. **Assuring comparability of data in and across all Member States:** The formulation, implementation and monitoring of regional policies would require harmonised and comparable data in all Member States. The RSDS would identify regional strategies and activities that would harmonise conceptual frameworks, methods, and tools for ensuring data comparability. This may also include the adoption of binding statistical regulations in conformity with recommendations and international standards.
- iii. **Strengthening links and convergence between the regional and national levels**, as the RSDS implies close cooperation and collaboration among Member States.
- iv. **Pooling statistical skills, expertise and resources at the regional level:** One of the value-added aspects of regional statistical cooperation which must be a critical part of the RSDS is the identification and pooling of human resources in possession of the statistical skills and expertise needed in the Region (e.g. demographers, national accountants, survey experts, gender specialists, etc.). These experts will be deployed in Member States and/or in “regional training centres”.
- v. **Enabling the development of statistical tools and services at the regional level** that are more cost effective than at the national level. Likewise, it contributes to strengthening statistical capacities and promotes harmonisation.
- vi. **Facilitating, coordinating and strengthening representation with respect to external partners.** The RSDS must include strategies that strengthen relationships and foster engagements among Member States, development partners, and the larger international statistical community.
- vii. Highlighting South-South cooperation as a means of strengthening statistical capacity across the Region and facilitating the sharing of best practices
- viii. **Serving as a framework for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda 2030 at the regional level.** A regional approach for CARICOM for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs must include sustained strengthening of the national and regional statistical systems which generate official statistics as a central element of the statistics architecture. Accordingly, given the paucity of financial and human resources, providing critical support constitutes an imperative. The RSDS offers a useful framework in this regard.
- ix. **Adding value through the more efficient use of resources in the production of harmonised intra-regional statistics:** An overarching framework for statistics development can enhance and promote regional solutions and approaches to statistics development, strengthen the weaker national statistical offices and systems, and enable the achievement of economies of scale.

The SCCS, which recommended the development of the RSDS in the Action Plan, has served as a foundation for coordinating the development of statistics in CARICOM, broadening its objectives over time in order to achieve its mandate. The SCCS established subsidiary committees and groups including: the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC), the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

The Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat, which functions as a Regional Statistical Office (RSO), coordinates the functioning of the SCCS and its subsidiary groups and is therefore the focal point for monitoring the achievements of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS)<sup>xxxvi</sup> such as through the implementation of the common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP). The mission of the RSP is to develop sustainable statistical infrastructure across Member States/Associate Members of the Community and within the Secretariat, providing accurate, timely and reliable statistical information on CARICOM and promoting the effective and efficient use of these statistics in decision-making.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)	1975	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to provide for the research and development needs of the agriculture of the Region as identified in national plans and policies;</li> <li>2. to provide an appropriate research and development service to the agricultural sector of Member States;</li> <li>3. to provide and extend the application of new technologies in production, processing, storage and distribution of agricultural products of Member States;</li> <li>4. to pursue for specified periods long-term research in pertinent areas;</li> <li>5. to provide for the co- ordination and integration of the research and development efforts of Member States where this is possible and desirable.</li> </ol>	To contribute to the sustainable development of Caribbean people by the generation, transfer and application of appropriate technologies through agricultural research for development.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE (CCCCC)	2002	<p>The Centre was established with two Mandates: to coordinate the regional response to Climate Change and its efforts to manage and adapt to its projected impacts; and to develop a viable financial mechanism to support its operations.</p> <p><b>Its objectives include:</b>  Protection of the climate system of Members of the Centre for the benefit of present and future generations of their peoples;  Enhancing regional institutional capabilities for the coordination of national responses to the negative effects of climate change;  Providing comprehensive policy and technical support in the area of climate change and related issues and spearheading regional initiatives in those areas; and Performing the role of executing agency for regional environmental projects relating to climate change.</p>	Through its role as a Centre of Excellence, the Centre will support the people of the Caribbean as they address the impact of climate variability and change on all aspects of economic development through the provision of timely forecasts and analyses of potentially hazardous impacts of both natural and man- induced climatic changes on the environment, and the development of special programmes which create opportunities for sustainable development.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA) Successor to CDERA, established in 1991	2009	The primary responsibility of CDEMA is the coordination of emergency and disaster response and relief efforts to Participating States that require such assistance. The 2009 mandate positions the regional disaster management body more strategically as facilitator, driver, coordinator and motivating force for the promotion and engineering of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in all Participating States. CDM seeks to reduce the risk and loss associated with natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change to enhance regional sustainable development	To empower participating states, influence, collaborate and partner with other organisations, to build disaster resilience in the Caribbean.
CARIBBEAN PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY (CARPHA)	2013	To promote the physical and mental health and wellness of people within the Caribbean;	To support the Caribbean Community in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies;

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide strategic direction, in analysing, defining and responding to public health priorities of the Caribbean Community;</li> <li>2. To promote and develop measures for the prevention of disease in the Caribbean</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to support solidarity in health, as one of the principal pillars of functional cooperation in the Caribbean Community; and</li> <li>2. to support the relevant objectives of the Caribbean Cooperation in Health as approved by the Agency.</li> </ol>
CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY (CIMH)	<p>The Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI) was established in 1967 through the combined a collaboration between the UNDP, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Caribbean Meteorological Council. In 1982, the Caribbean Operational Hydrological Institute (COHI) was collocated with the CMI and subsequently integrated into the CMI in 1987. In 1999, the name of the CMI was officially changed to the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology &amp; Hydrology to reflect the inclusion of Hydrology into the programme. The CMI is listed as an Institutions of the Caribbean Community in Article 21 of the Revised Treaty of the Chaguaramas.</p>	<p><b>Training:</b> The CIMH also runs specialised short-term training programmes in the areas o climate science, agrometeorology, water resources management and environmental management.</p> <p>Annually, the CIMH runs an Internship programme for undergraduate and graduate students to promote research and development in atmospheric, applied climate, earth and environmental sciences. In addition, the CIMH runs a summer school for high school students to introduce them to the atmospheric, climate, earth and environmental disciplines. Research and Development:</p>	<p>To assist in improving and developing the Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as providing the awareness of the benefits of Meteorology and Hydrology for the economic well-being of the CIMH Member States. This achieved through research, investigations and the provision of specialised services and advice.</p>

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
		<p>Meteorology &amp; Hydrology to reflect the inclusion of Hydrology into the programme. The CMI is listed as an Institutions of the Caribbean Community in Article 21 of the Revised Treaty of the Chaguaramas.</p> <p>The CIMH serves as a centre for applied research and development in meteorology, climate science, agrometeorology, hydrology and water resources management. Products and services delivered include among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network</li> <li>• Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum</li> <li>• Caribbean Precipitation Outlook</li> <li>• Caribbean Flood Early Warning Network</li> <li>• Caribbean Climate and Weather Impacts Forecasting Platform (Caribbean Dewetra)</li> <li>• National impacts reports following severe weather events</li> <li>• WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean</li> </ul>	
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM)	2003	CRFM promotes the sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources in and among Member States, by developing, managing and conserving these resources in collaboration with stakeholders to benefit the people of the Caribbean region.	To promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the Region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the Region.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
		<p>The CRFM was established by a treaty signed by Member States in 2002.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States;</li> <li>b. the promotion and establishment of co- operative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;</li> <li>c. the provision of technical advisory and consultative services to fisheries divisions of Member States in the development, management and conservation of their marine and other aquatic resources.</li> </ul>	


INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY (CROSQ)	2002	<p>CROSQ's primary objective is the establishment and harmonisation of standards to enhance the efficiency and improve quality in the production of goods and services in the Community, to protect the consumer and the environment and to improve trade within the Community and with Third States.</p> <p><b>CROSQ's functions are to:</b> contribute to the preservation of the environment and conservation of the natural resources of the Community;</p>	To promote and develop standards and standards-related activities to facilitate international competitiveness and sustainable production of goods and services within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy for the enhancement of social and economic development.
CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION (CTO)	1989	The primary objective of the Caribbean Tourism Organization is to provide to and through its members the services and information necessary for the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people by promoting the consciousness of the need to preserve both the natural and man-made beauty of the Caribbean environment and demonstrating its direct relationship to the development of an attractive tourism product.	To provide strategic leadership in tourism in order to position the Caribbean as the most desirable, year-round, warm-weather destination.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (CARICAD)	1979	<p>The General objectives of CARICAD shall be rendering assistance to the countries of the Caribbean area for the purpose of improving their administrative capability to accelerate their social and economic development. The operational objectives shall be:</p> <p>To promote, conduct and coordinate research and comparative studies on the administrative problems of Caribbean development.</p> <p>To obtain, analyse, publish and distribute information and data on the administrative aspects of development, stressing the importance of the transfer of technology concerning such problems, thus aiding to eliminate the isolation which might exist among the various national administrative development efforts which are being carried out in the region.</p>	To facilitate and enhance the development and sustainability of a strong leadership and governance framework within the Public Sector of the Caribbean Community, effectively encouraging social partnerships in the process.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (CARICAD)		<p>To provide technical advisory services on development administration to the governments and multinational agencies of The Region, and to assist them in their programmes of administrative development.</p> <p>To establish and maintain a register of Caribbean experts in public administration.</p> <p>To improve the administrative capacity of the public servants of the Region through:</p> <p>Conducting intensive seminars and workshops on modern management techniques for senior Caribbean officials responsible for the administration of key programmes for the economic and social development, as well as for middle-management personnel where feasible in selected fields.</p>	

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (CARICAD)		<p>Assistance to the institutions for education and training in public administration in the countries of the Region, in order to improve their teaching programmes and aid them in fulfilling the specific requirements for the implementation of their national plans for economic and social development.</p> <p>To collaborate with other agencies operating in specialised or general aspects of public administration.</p>	
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (The UWI)	1948	<p><b>Conduct rigorous basic and applied research that serves to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore solutions to priority national and regional problems and challenges</li> <li>b. Create significant new knowledge</li> <li>c. Provide a sound basis for public policy formulation and decision-making</li> </ul>	To unlock West Indian potential for economic and cultural growth by high-quality teaching and research aimed at meeting critical regional needs, by providing West Indian society with an active intellectual centre and by linking the West Indian community with distinguished centres of research and teaching in the Caribbean and overseas.

INSTITUTION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	RELEVANT PORTION OF MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING MISSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (The UWI)		<p>Maintain a capacity to supply a wide range of expert technical, professional and advisory services to meet the needs of regional governments and the private sector and to involve its alumni in this process</p> <p>Help the Region to comprehend the nature and significance of contemporary issues and emerging global influences</p> <p>Strive to be a significant contributor to global intellectual growth and human development by active scholarship that harnesses the creative energies, cultural diversity, social experiences, biodiversity and other assets of the region.</p> <p>Assist the Region to evaluate, assimilate, adapt and harness major new technologies in order to optimise potential benefits or limit negative impacts</p>	



# **ANNEX 3**

## **GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

TITLE/DATE		COUNTRIES SIGNED, RATIFIED, ACCEDED
	Major International; Agreements, Conventions and Frameworks	
1	Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (The POPs Stockholm Convention), Stockholm, 22 May, 2001	Antigua and Barbuda (AB), The Bahamas (BAH), Barbados (BDS), Belize (BZE), Dominica (DOM), Guyana (GUY), Haiti (HTI), Jamaica (JAM), St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN), St. Lucia (SLU) St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), Suriname (SUR), Trinidad and Tobago (TNT)
2	Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (UNEP/FAO), The PIC Rotterdam Convention), Rotterdam, 10 September 1998	AB, BDS, BZE, DOM, GUY, JAM, SLU, SKN, SVG, SUR, TNT
3	Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (Basel Convention), Basel, 22 March 1989	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GUY, HTI (s), JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
4	Minamata Convention on Mercury, Minamata, 10 October 2013	AB, GUY, JAM, SKN, SLU, SUR
5	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), Paris, 17 June 1994	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, Grenada (GRE), GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
6	International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), Geneva, 26 January 1994	GUY
7	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 9 May 1992	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
8	Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (The Kyoto Protocol), Kyoto, 11 December 1997	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
9	Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, Paris, 12 December 2015	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
10	Convention on Biological Diversity (UN) (CBD), Rio, 5 June 1992	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
11	Protocol on Biosafety to the Biodiversity Convention (The Cartagena Protocol), Montreal, 29 January 2000	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
12	Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol), Nagoya, 16 October 2010	AB (s)

TITLE/DATE		COUNTRIES SIGNED, RATIFIED, ACCEDED
13	Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (The Nagoya Protocol). Nagoya, 29 October 2010	AB, GUY, SKN
14	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Convention), Washington, 03 March 1973	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
15	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, (Ramsar Convention), Ramsar, 02 February 1971	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, GRE, JAM, SLU, SUR, TNT
16	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 29 June 2004	AB, GUY, HTI (s), JAM, SLU, TNT
17	Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (UNEP) (VIENNA Convention), Vienna, 22 March 1985	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
18	Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) and its amendments	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
19	Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, June 2016	BAH, BDS, DOM, GRE, GUY, SKN, SVG
20	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, 10 December 1982	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
21	The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, in force as from 11 December 2001	BAH, BDS, BZE, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, TNT
22	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Adopted 1973 and its six protocols	AB (Annex 1-6), BAH (Annex 1- 6), BDS (Annex 1-6),BZE(Annex 1- 6),DOM (Annex 1,2,3,5) GRE (Annex1,2) GUY (Annex 1-6), JAM (Annex 1-6), SKN, (Annex 1- 6), SLU (Annex 1-6), SVG (Annex 1-6), SUR (Annex 1-5), TNT(Annex 1-6)
23	Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (1972) and its Protocol (1996) (London Convention and London Protocol)	AB, BDS, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
24	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris 1972)	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT

TITLE/DATE		COUNTRIES SIGNED, RATIFIED, ACCEDED
25	Sub-regional Conventions	
1	The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) or Cartagena Convention is a regional legal agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea. Cartagena, Colombia on 24 March 1983 and the  The Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region. Entered into force on 11 October 1986.	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, TNT
2	The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, , Entered into force on 18 June 2000	BAH, BDS, BZE, GRE, GUY, SLU, SVG, TNT
3	The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities , Entered into force on 13 August 2010	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, GRE, GUY, JAM, SLU, TNT
4	Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Adopted on 4 March 2018 in Escazú, Costa Rica	AB, GUY, HTI, SVG, SLU
	Major International Conferences and outcome documents	
1	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development  Agenda 21 - Global Programme of Action on Sustainable Development  Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
2	World Summit on Sustainable Development (2005) Johannesburg Declaration Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
3	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 (2012): The Future We Want	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
4	Millennium Declaration and Summit (2005) The Millennium Declaration Millennium Development Goals	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
5	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Sustainable Development Goals	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
6	Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference (2014)  SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT

TITLE/DATE		COUNTRIES SIGNED, RATIFIED, ACCEDED
7	The High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005) The Mauritius Strategy (MSI) for the further Implementation of the BPOA	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
8	The UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS) (1994)  Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA)	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
9	The Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015)  Addis Ababa Action Agenda	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
10	The Second Global Conference on financing for Development (2008)  Doha Declaration on Financing for Development	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
11	International Conference on Financing for Development (2002)  The Monterrey Consensus	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT
12	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	AB, BAH, BDS, BZE, DOM, GRE, GUY, HTI, JAM, SKN, SLU, SVG, SUR, TNT

## END NOTES

- i adapted from FAO
- ii The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005 MA Conceptual Framework
- iii ([https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Environmental\\_goods\\_and\\_services\\_sector\\_\(EGSS\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Environmental_goods_and_services_sector_(EGSS)))
- v The Community was originally established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, 1973, which was revised by the Revised Treaty adopted in 2001 and formally entered into force on 1 January 2006.
- vii Caribbean Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019, Section 2.1. 3
- viii Caribbean Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019, Section 2.1.2
- ix (NOTE TCL v CARICOM re policy para 39—40)
- x See Annex I and two for details on CARICOM policies and institutions
- xi Revised Treaty, Article 12(1)
- xii Revised Treaty, Article 12(2)
- xiii Revised Treaty, Article 12(7).
- xiv Revised Treaty, Article 13(1)
- xv The hemispheric processes include, inter alia, the deliberations on environment and sustainable development issues taking place within the context of the Organisation of American States (OAS); the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Spanish: Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños) (CELAC) in particular); the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA); the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); the Central American Integration System (SICA); the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) and the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- xvi Strategic Plan of the Caribbean Community 2015-2019
- xvii <http://www.agricarib.org/primary-dropdown/fisheries>
- xviii Ibid
- xix See the Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy, 5.15
- xx Regional Food and Nutrition Security Plan
- xxi CRICOM Energy Policy approved by the Forty-First Special Meeting of the COTED on ENERGY held March 2013, in Trinidad and Tobago
- xxii See Article 3 of the Economic Partnership Agreement Between the CARIFORUM Member States on the one hand and the European Union and its Member States on the other hand.
- xxiii This case is currently (at the time of writing) before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). The dispute deals with claims arising out of alleged environmental damage and indirect expropriation by the government of the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, a wildlife sanctuary in Barbados owned by the claimant.
- xxiv *Environmental Goods” Products which cause significantly less ‘environmental harm’ at some stage of their life cycle than alternative products that serve the same purpose, or products the production and sale of which contribute significantly to the preservation of the environment (UNCTAD, 1995).*

- xxv Environmental Services: The OECD/ Eurostat definition includes services provided to “measure, prevent, minimize or correct environmental damage to air, water, soil and problems relating to waste, noise and ecosystems” xxvi As an example see Articles 183.4 and 72 (c) and (d) of the Economic Partnership Agreement.
- xxvii See the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, Article 190.2. (f)
- HACCP is a management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution and consumption of the finished product.
- xxix Created in the late 1990s by several European supermarket chains and their major suppliers, the EurepGAP, developed using the HACCP guidelines is a common standard for farm management practice. GAP is an acronym for Good Agricultural Practices. Originally aimed at bringing conformity to different retailers’ supplier standards, which had been creating problems for farmers, EurepGAP is now the world’s most widely implemented farm certification scheme. Most European customers for agricultural products now demand evidence of EurepGAP certification as a prerequisite for doing business
- xxx Draft Report of the Fifty-Third Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) (Environment and Sustainable Development) 2-6 February 2015
- xxxix An independent source of financing has been discussed in the region as far back as 1984, when the issue was given preliminary consideration by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Committee for Finance. For a more detailed treatment of this issue see The West Indian Commission, *Time for Action: Report of the West Indian Commission*, The Press-University of the West Indies, 1992 for a more detailed discussion on the issue of
- xxxii The Convention was adopted in Cartagena, Colombia, on 24 March 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986, for the legal implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). It also provides the legal framework for cooperative regional and national actions in the WCR.
- The Convention is supported by three additional technical agreements or Protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) and Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS). They are the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region was adopted in 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986; the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region was adopted on 18 January 1990 and entered into force on 18 June 2000; and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities was adopted on 6 October 1999 and entered into force on 13 August 2010.
- xxxiii The Cotonou Agreement was signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg and Ouagadougou on 25 June 2005 and 22 June 2010, respectively.
- xxxiv Presented by the Member State of Grenada. The Action Plan was developed by the SCCS.
- xxxv PARIS21 stands for Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and it operates under the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It was founded in November 1999 by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the OECD, and the European Commission in response to the UN Economic and Social Council resolution on the goals of the UN Conference on Development.

xxxvi The CSS therefore comprises the RSP, the NSS-NSO and Other Producing Units.

xxxvii Annex I Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Oil (entered into force 2 October 1983);  
Annex II Regulations for the Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk (entered into force 2 October 1983);

Annex III Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form (entered into force 1 July 1992); Annex IV Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (entered into force 27 September 2003);

Annex V Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships (entered into force 31 December 1988); Annex VI Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (entered into force 19 May 2005)