

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Introduction*

The objective of this report is to inform the Conference of the Parties on the situation of the country with regard to measures taken to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the national level. Since signing the UNCCD in 1997, Grenada has done little to implement its objectives. This situation is the result of change in responsibilities of the initial Focal Point and general lack of information about the Convention.

As part of its obligations, Grenada is required to:

- ❑ Give priority to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and allocate adequate resources.
- ❑ Establish strategies and priorities within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
- ❑ Address the underlying causes of desertification and pay attention to socio-economic factors contributing to desertification processes.
- ❑ Promote awareness to facilitate the participation of local populations in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
- ❑ Strengthening of appropriate existing relevant legislation, enacting new laws and establish long-term policies and action programmes.

### *Structure and Content of Report*

A National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) will not be a component of this report. Grenada is just beginning to implement the Convention. More time is required to consolidate public involvement and participation in the planning, design and development of a National Action Plan.

The structure and content of this report is based, in part, on recommendations from the UNCCD Regional Advisor, who visited the country in March, 2000, and not fully on the guidelines provided by the UNCCD Secretariat for preparing National Reports.

### *Data collection*

Two methods were used in gathering information contained in this report, consultation with individuals and review of several past and recent references. Discussions were held with several individuals in Government Ministries and Departments, Non-Governmental organizations, and environmentalists. Some of the references reviewed include the Grenada Environmental Profile, National Environmental Action Plan, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan.

### *Definition of Terms*

Desertification is defined as "land degradation in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities" (Article 1(f) of the Convention. It means, reduction or loss, in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological and or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands, resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns such as:

- ❑ Soil erosion caused by wind and / or water

- Deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil and
- Long-term loss of natural vegetation

#### *Background on Grenada and its Land Degradation Problems*

Grenada is an island developing state, which is small, relatively isolated, with limited resources and diversity, ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable (Agenda 21). It is the largest of three main islands, which make up the nation of Grenada, the other two being Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

The climate of Grenada is humid-tropical-marine, with little seasonal or diurnal variation. It is influenced by a constant northeast trade wind. In the mountainous interior, annual rainfall range from 3,750 - 5,000 mm and in coastal areas between 990 - 1,500 mm. The population is 95,597. Owing to past migration, population pressure is not an immediate environmental concern.

Grenada's forests are classified as Cloud forest (Mountain Thicket, Palm Break and Elfin Woodlands), Rain Forests and Lower Montane Forest, Deciduous Seasonal Forests and Dry Woodlands, Littoral Woodlands (scrub and cactus), and Mangrove swamps (Beard 1949).

Agriculture plays a significant role in Grenada's economy as a source of income, export earnings and employment. Contribution to GDP in the 1990's averaged 9.1%. In 1987-1989, very high prices for nutmeg and mace accounted for most of the increased earnings of the sector. Value contributions have been downward since 1989 due, not only to price declines (mostly for nutmeg, and to a lesser extent cocoa), but also to production deficiencies (banana and cocoa). A marked feature of the structure of agriculture in Grenada is the preponderance of small farms. Holdings less than five acres represent over 88% of the number of farms but occupy 31% of the cultivated acreage. Farms, 5-50 acres in 1981 represented 11% of total holdings and 30% of total acreage. Farms over 50 acres represent less than 1% of total acreage. Grenada's agriculture is highly defined between export and domestic agriculture. Within export agriculture, there are the cocoa, banana and nutmeg sub-sectors. The output of "other crops" are being affected by the following factors - the small size unit; scattered production; low level techniques; limited availability of planting space; scarcity and cost of labour; and praedial larceny.

Grenada's economy attained a favorable growth rate of 5.8% in 1998, compared with a growth rate of 4.2% and 2.9% for the year 1997 and 1996 respectively. The Offshore Financial sector established in 1997, showed positive growth in 1998 and is expected to continue significantly to the economy in the medium term. The economic prospect for 1999 is for an expected growth rate of 6.1% and 7% in the year 2000. There is no national economic policy for Grenada; however, the present administration will implement a five-point strategy for growth, equity, and poverty eradication.

#### *Land Degradation Problems*

The small size of the island limits the area available for various land use types. The natural resource base is under extreme pressure from settlement, tourism development, infrastructure, agriculture and forestry. This competing demand for the limited land area, results in land use problems, which is manifested through, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, increased soil erosion, shortage of water, decreased agricultural productivity, and coastal erosion.

Soil erosion in Grenada is a problem. Ternan & Williams, 1989, indicated that soil erosion rates are already excessive, e.g. an estimated 700 tones/rear of soil is loss from the Annandale watershed. Soil erosion results mainly from clearing on slopes too steep for agriculture, removal of vegetation and farming too close to riverbanks, and removal of trees on roadsides. The problem is not as serious on Government owned lands as it is on private lands.

Private ownership characterized the land use tenure pattern in Grenada. One of the problems of private ownership is the lack of control, which Government has over land usage. The small size of farms encourages part time farming with inappropriate and efficient soil-conservation practices, indiscriminate use of artificial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Family-type ownership of land results in further fragmentation, which further contributes to inefficient land use.

Forest loss is due mainly to the clearing of land for the production of agricultural-crops and settlement. In the south, housing development is the major threat to forest loss. Tourism has emerged as a lead growth sector, and has increased demand for land for tourism and housing.

Degradation of mangrove ecosystems on the coastline of Grenada results from various activities: indiscriminate felling of trees for firewood, charcoal production, clearing for construction purposes and dumping of solid and liquid waste.

Coastal erosion is a serious problem and results from both natural and human activities. Erosion of beaches in the north and southwest of the island is most noticeable. Extensive sand mining has contributed to serious erosion at Grand Mal, Beausejour, Palmiste, Conference, Levera and Telescape beaches. The impact of the waves from 'Hurricane Lennie' caused tremendous damage to the coastlines of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, damaging roads, buildings, and eroding soil.

#### *Underlying Causes of Land Degradation*

The visible symptoms of land degradation in Grenada is a manifestation of underlying causes, which includes: lack of a land use policy, lack of an agricultural policy, lack of coordination of land management Institutions, inadequate capacity of land management Institutions, lack of enforcement of regulations, and lack of public awareness.

There is no official national land use policy or agricultural policy in Grenada, although the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MOALFF) made several efforts to produce and implement one. The most recent development of a sector policy and strategic plan was by the Forestry Department in 1999.

The weak institutional base for land use management adds to the problem of land degradation. The existence of linkages, in planning and management, among institutions involved in natural resources management is weak

Environmental legislation is outdated and hardly enforced and public awareness on environmental issue are periodic and usually the component of an externally funded project.

#### *National Plans and strategies*

The Government of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique (GOGCP) has been implementing initiatives to address environmental problems. A Country Environmental Profile was developed for (GOGCP) in 1992. The document addresses the environmental problems, constraints, and the policy directions. In 1993, a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was prepared for GOGCP. The environmental priorities as outlined in the NEAP are; Solid waste management, water supply and liquid waste management, land Use management, Coastal zone management, Water pollution, Forestry and protected areas and Natural hazards.

Grenada participated in the FAO Tropical Forests Action Plan (TFAP) during the 1990's. The Forestry Department, in Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries MOALFF), coordinated the exercise, which resulted in the development of a National Forest Action Programme (NAFAP) for Grenada.

The Government also commissioned the development of National Physical Development Plans (NFDP) for Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The plans are intended to provide a framework for rational Utilization of the finite land resource to minimize adverse effects of socio-economic development on terrestrial, marine and atmospheric environments.

#### *Other Plans and Strategies*

Both Government and Non-Government institutions are currently implementing programmes, which will contribute to reducing land degradation. Some of these initiatives are listed below.

- ❑ Natural Resources Information and Management Systems Project (1994 – 1995).
- ❑ Rehabilitation and Strengthening of Agricultural Production and support Systems
- ❑ OECS Agricultural Crop Diversification Project,
- ❑ Forestry Department Forest Management on Public lands Project for Grenada,
- ❑ Integrated Land Use and forest Management Project for Carriacou.
- ❑ Establishment of a bird sanctuary at Perseverance, and a National Park at Mt. Hatman.
- ❑ OECS/NRMU Marine and Protected areas project.
- ❑ Ministry of Tourism Master Plan
- ❑ OECS 'Solid and Ship generated waste Management Project
- ❑ Base line Community Survey to assess Poverty
- ❑ Water of Life Community Environmental Project'

#### *National Plans and Strategies developed before the UNCCD*

Several other strategies and plans were implemented Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique (GCPM) before the UNCCD. These include the Physical Development Strategy, Country and Town Planning Act and Plan for of System of National Parks and Protected Areas

#### *National Coordination Bodies*

The Government appointed National Sustainable Development Council (NSDC) and a National Steering Committee (NSC) are responsible for implementation of the UNCCD in Grenada. The NSC was commissioned by the NSDC to plan and coordinate the implementation. The focal point will work with the NSC in preparing Grenada's National Action Plan to combat land degradation.

#### *Institutions involved in Land Management*

The Responsibility for land use management in Grenada is dispersed among several Departments in Government Ministries: They are the Land Use Division, Lands and Survey's, Forestry and National Parks the Ministry of Health and the Environment, the National Water and Sewage Authority (NAWASA), the National Housing Authority, the Industrial Development Corporation; the Ministry of Communication and Works, and the Grenada Ports Authority.

An overall assessment of these institutions reveals that there is lack of long term planning, lack of coordination in planning between departments, untrained staff, and ill defined responsibilities without clear guidance about functional relationships between agencies. No measures have yet been taken to strengthen these institutions at the local and national level to combat land degradation.

*Analysis of legislation on environment and related fields*

There are several legislation which are related to the environment. Some of the principal ones include:

- ❑ The Forest, Soil and Water Conservation Act, Cap. 116 (1949)
- ❑ National Parks and Protected Areas Act, Cap. 206 (1990)
- ❑ Grand Etang Forest Reserve Act, Cap. 124 (1906)
- ❑ Birds and Other Wildlife (Protection) Act, Cap.34. (1957)
- ❑ *National Water and Sewage Authority Act, Cap. 208 (1991)*
- ❑ *Land Development Control Act, Cap. 160 (1968)*
- ❑ *Town and Country Planning Act, Cap. 322 (1946)*
- ❑ *Prohibition of Birds Exportation Act (1991)*
- ❑ *Noxious Weeds Act, Cap. 213 (1912)*
- ❑ *Protection from Disease (Plants) Act, Cap. 258 (1925)*
- ❑ *Land Settlement Act, Cap. 161 (1933)*
- ❑ *Carriacou Land Settlement and Development Act, Cap. 42 (1955)*
- ❑ *National Trust Act, Cap. 207 (1967)*
- ❑ *Public Health Act, Cap. 263. (1925)*
- ❑ *Slum Clearance and Housing Act, Cap. 306 (1946)*
- ❑ *Crown Proceedings Act, Cap. 74 (1959).*

*Measures to adapt current legislation or introduce new enactment's*

The effectiveness of environmental legislation is hindered by three factors, they are outdated, not enforced and there is little public knowledge of their existence. The Forestry Department recently coordinated a review of the Forestry and related legislation in terms of their status and deficiencies. Redrafting of New Forest legislation is expected to occur

*Financial Resources*

Grenada does not have the financial resources to develop and later, implement its National Action Plan to combat land degradation. In accordance with Article 20 & 21 of the Convention, Grenada will make the effort to ensure that financial resources are available for development of an Action Plan and Programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

*Planned Strategies for the Development of a NAPCD*

The National Steering Committee during its first meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2000 drew up strategies for the development of an action plan to combat land degradation.

- ❑ Launching of an awareness programme to sensitize the public about desertification and drought
- ❑ Establish partnerships with Land Users, Local Communities, Local Authorities, Government Institutions, NGO's and the Private Sector, which are engaged in or are affected by land use management and water resources in identifying, problems, constraints and solutions.
- ❑ Establish linkages with relevant local institutions and other related initiatives to avoid duplication of effort
- ❑ Establish partnerships with regional and international Agencies in support of the Convention to procure technical and financial assistance to developing and implementing an Action Programme to combat desertification and drought.

Some of the issues that will be addressed in the NAPCD include the following:

- ❑ Attain political awareness and support
- ❑ Development of policies for land use and management
- ❑ Review of existing legislation governing land use and management
- ❑ Strengthening of appropriate institutions
- ❑ Establishment of networks to combating land degradation
- ❑ Development of a comprehensive Information Systems for land degradation
- ❑ Establishment and strengthening and Early Warning Systems for land degradation
- ❑ Expanding and Improving Education and Training
- ❑ Promoting Public Awareness of the effects of land degradation.
- ❑ Promotion of research and extension
- ❑ Promotion of conservation technologies
- ❑ \*Formation of emergency plans to deal with the effects of drought
- ❑ Sustainable management of forest resources
- ❑ Food security and sustainable development and management of agricultural resources
- ❑ Conservation and sustainable us of Biodiversity
- ❑ Integration of land degradation programmes in national agricultural and forestry plan

#### *Identification of Resources for Implementation of Convention*

In accordance with Article 20 & 21 of the Convention, Grenada will make the effort to ensure that financial resources are available for the implementation of the NAPCD and mitigate the effects of drought. Financial support ( from UNCCD/UNDP) for the preparation of the NAPCD has recently been received. No other sources of funding have yet been identified.

