



Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis
Ministry of Sustainable Development

Third National Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



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ACRONYMS

CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CEHI	Caribbean Environment and Health Institute
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COP	Conference of the Parties
DFID	Department for International Development
DPPE	Department of Physical Planning and Environment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	Global Mechanism
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IWCAM	International Watershed and Coastal Areas Management
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LIS	Land Information System
MEA	Multi-lateral Environmental Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPDP	National Physical Development Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee
OAS	Organisation of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OPAAL	OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods
PS	Permanent Secretary
RAP	Regional Action Plan
SAS	Sugar Adaptation Strategy
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SKN	St. Kitts and Nevis
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SRAP	Sub-regional Action Plan
SSMC	St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WTO	World Trade Organisation

1 INTRODUCTION

This document is the St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) Third National Report to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as required by the Convention in Article 26. The purpose of this report is to inform the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNCCD, of the progress made since the previous report made in 2000.

This report reflects the format provided by the UNCCD National Reporting Process Help Guide which includes: information on implementation status of the Convention to date; strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and policies; the institutional measures taken to implement the Convention; the participatory process in support of preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP); the consultative process in support of the preparation of the NAP and partnership agreement with developed country parties; measures taken or planned within the framework of the NAP; information on financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation of the NAP; and a review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and assessment.

The twin island Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is located in the northern arc of the Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean. The islands have a total land mass of 269 sq. km. and experience a tropical climate. They are influenced by steady northeast trade winds, tropical oceanic and cyclonic movements, and have an average temperature of 27° Celsius with quite high humidity all year round. Most of the land in St. Kitts and Nevis is the slopes of volcanic mountains, there being three volcanic centers in St. Kitts and one in Nevis. There are limited amounts of flatlands near the coast. This topography makes the islands vulnerable to many aspects of land degradation. St. Kitts and Nevis is currently in the process of developing a National Action Plan to the UNCCD to map the actions to be taken to deal with the issues of land degradation and to propose possible mitigation measures.

A major current area for concern is the closure of the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC). This Corporation was previously responsible for much of the land and soil management initiatives, such as culverts and drainage systems. St. Kitts and Nevis will now need to find a mechanism to maintain the systems that were set in place by the SSMC to prevent loss of fertile top soil and its runoff to the sea. This is critical for protecting soil fertility for the agricultural sector to ensure some level of food security for the island, but is also important in that soil runoff to the sea can damage already threatened coastal marine communities. The rapid development of the tourism industry also gives rise to issues of land degradation control for St. Kitts and Nevis, particularly as the tourism industry depends on natural environmental features and aesthetics as its main marketing strategy.

The consultation for this report highlighted some of the constraints experienced during the development of the NAP, one of which is the lack of adequate resources (financial, human and technical) for the implementation of projects identified as priority areas, in

land degradation, in St. Kitts and Nevis. There is also a need to develop the capacity of civil society to better participate in all stages of programmes under the UNCCD framework, as well as to increase efforts on public awareness and education on UNCCD activities at the general level and at the level of the decision and policy makers. There is a need to improve the research and monitoring capacity of land resources in St. Kitts and Nevis, in order to better inform the formulation and enforcement of policy in this area.

The main priorities highlighted for St. Kitts and Nevis to address the issues of land degradation in the UNCCD Draft National Action Plan are:

- To adopt and implement the Draft National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) (2006), which addresses land use management under three areas:
 - Watershed management – to address reforestation; tourism development and demarcate protected areas.
 - Land use planning – to develop an integrated approach to land use and management with a view to sustainable use and protection of the resources; establish a Land Management Unit to take over the responsibilities of the SSMC; upgrade the Geographic Information System (GIS) to a Land Information System (LIS); improve land registration systems and establish a Land Registry, and develop a Land Use Code for the NPPD.
 - The management of protected areas and coastal areas – to develop a Parks and Protected Areas Systems Plan to designate appropriate areas for protection and management of natural and cultural resources; to establish procedures to facilitate and promote CBOs (Community Based Organisation) participation in conservation and protection initiatives; to develop a comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan; to implement marine community and marine water quality monitoring; to establish standards to control discharge of effluents into water ways; to protect mangroves, beaches and marine communities and to establish designated mooring areas.
- To establish a Drought Management Plan, that will include the development of an advanced warning system and the preparation and adoption of mitigation measures.
- To promote institutional strengthening at the local and national levels to monitor the status of land degradation; to implement regulations to manage current adverse activities and to rehabilitate already degraded lands; to train line Ministry staff on environmental issues and their accompanying legal framework.
- To promote awareness of land degradation issues across the wider population at all levels; e.g. Private sector, public sector, decision makers, CBOs, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), Schools (primary to tertiary) and local community groups).
- To improve the mechanisms for stakeholder participation in land degradation activities, especially at the community level; i.e. farmers groups should be involved in all stages of activities, from design to implementation.

2 SUMMARY: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AT A GLANCE

2.1 Focal Point Institution

Name of UNCCD Focal Point	Mr. Patrick Williams Senior Physical Planning Officer
Address including e-mail address	Department of Physical Planning and Environment P.O. Box 597 Wellington Road Basseterre St. Kitts Tel: 869-465-2277 Fax: 869-465-5842 E-mail: phyplskb@sisterisles.kn
Country specific websites relating to desertification	None

2.2 Status of NAP in St. Kitts and Nevis

Date of validation of the NAP	The NAP has not been validated by the Cabinet at this time.
NAP Reviews	First National Consultation – February 2006. Second National Consultation scheduled for October 2006.
Is the NAP integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy	No
Is the NAP integrated into the National Development Strategy	No
Expected NAP validation	The NAP is scheduled to be presented for validation to the Cabinet in October 2006.
Final Draft of NAP exists	Not at present; is to be available by October 2006.
Formulation of Draft NAP is under way	Yes
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes

2.3 Member of SRAP/RAP

Name of Sub-Regional and Regional Cooperation framework	Involvement in specific topics such as water harvesting techniques, soil erosion
UNDP/GEF LDC – SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management	Sustainable Land Management
GEF/UNDP/UNEP/CEHI Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management	Watershed Management
CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Ecosystems through Sustainable Land Management	Sustainable Land Management
Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Caribbean SIDS.	The specific involvement of St. Kitts and Nevis in this initiative is still to be determined.
FAO - Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Management in the Caribbean	Land Management
OECS – OPAAL OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project	Land Management

2.4 Composition of the National Steering Committee

Name of institution	Government	NGO	Male/Female
1. Department of Agriculture, Nevis	√		M
2. Department of Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Environment, Nevis	√		F
3. Fisheries Department, Nevis	√		M
4. Nevis Historical and Conservation Society		√	M
5. Customs Department, St. Kitts	√		M
6. Department of Agriculture, St. Kitts	√		M
7. Department of Fisheries, St. Kitts	√		M
8. Department of Maritime Affairs, St. Kitts	√		M
9. Department of Economic Affairs and PSIP, St. Kitts	√		F
10. Land Management Unit, St Kitts	√		M
11. Ministry of Community and Social Development and Gender Affairs, St. Kitts	√		F
12. Solid Waste Management Corporation, St. Kitts	√		M
13. St. Christopher Heritage Society & Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park		√	F
14. St. Kitts Tourism Authority	√		M
15. UNCBD Focal Point, Department of Physical Planning and Environment, St. Kitts	√		M
16. UNCCD Focal Point, Department of Physical Planning and Environment, St. Kitts	√		M
17. UNFCCC Focal Point, Department of Physical Planning and Environment, St. Kitts	√		F

2.5 Number of NGOs Accredited to the Process

St. Kitts and Nevis is a small island state with a limited number of NGOs, therefore there is no need for a separate NGO Committee. The NGO community is represented on the National Steering Committee by the St. Christopher Heritage Society & Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park and the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society.

2.6 Total Number of Acts and Laws passed related to UNCCD - 7

	Title of Law	Date of Adoption
1	Development Control and Planning Act	2000
2	Land Development Act/Housing and Land Development Ordinance (Nevis)	1988
3	Physical Planning and Development Control Ordinance (Nevis)	2005
4	National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act*	1987
5	Frigate Bay Development Corporation Act	1972
6	Pesticides Act	1973
7	Public Health Act	1969
8	Watercourses and Waterworks Act	1949

** St. Kitts and Nevis is currently in the process of upgrading this Act to include 'brown' issues. There is currently a Draft National Conservation and Environmental Management Act, which, when approved, will repeal the 1987 Act.*

2.7 The Consultative Process

St. Kitts and Nevis completed the First Report to the UNCCD in 2000 with support for preparation, including consultations, from the UNCCD. St. Kitts and Nevis did not complete the Second National Report to the UNCCD. However, St. Kitts and Nevis is currently finalizing the UNCCD NAP, and has to date convened one national consultation for this process, with a second scheduled for October 2006.

2.8 Projects being developed which are directly or indirectly related to the UNCCD

Name of Project	Project implemented within framework of the NAP/SRAP/RAP	Project Implemented with the framework of UNCCD	Time frame	Partners involved	Overall Budget
Capacity Building in SLM – Youth in Desertification Project	SRAP	Yes	3years	- NGOs from	US\$318,000
LDC – SIDS Targeted Portfolio for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management	SRAP	Yes	5 years	- Ministry of Sustainable Development	US\$500,000
OECS – OPAAL OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project	SRAP		5 years	- Ministry of Physical Planning and the Environment - NGOs - CBOs	US\$7,500,000 (Total Project Cost) National Cost US\$1,300,000
UNDP/CEHI/UNEP Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project	SRAP	Yes	3 years	- UNDP - UNEP - CEHI - Water Services Department	US\$112,813,684 (Total Project Cost) National Cost US\$500,000
CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Ecosystems through SLM	SRAP	Yes	3 years	- Ministry of Sustainable Development - Ministry of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs - Department of Physical Planning and Environment - CARDI - Republic of China - IICA	US\$236,775
Sugar Adaptation Strategy	NAP	Yes	9 years	- NGOs - CBOs - Manufacturing Association - Ministry of Tourism - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Technology - Ministry of Education, Youth, Social Development and Gender Affairs - Ministry of Finance - Ministry of Sustainable Development	US\$ 22,525,000
FAO/CANARI – Participatory Forestry Management	SRAP	Yes	On going	- Soil Conservation Unit - Ministry of Energy and the Environment - Coastal Zone Management Unit - National Conservation Commission - Environment Special Projects Unit - Ministry of Agriculture	US\$400,000 (Total for Regional Project)

3. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES

St. Kitts and Nevis, in preparing the NAP for the UNCCD, incorporated aspects of the following documents in an effort to capture cross cutting issues and to formulate an integrated approach towards achieving the UNCCD objectives in a sustainable manner:

- National Physical Development Plan 2006
- St. Kitts and Nevis Poverty Assessment Report 2003
- National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act.
- Strategic Marketing Plan for the Ministry of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Consumer Affairs
- Annual Economic Review 2004
- Agriculture Strategic Plan 2005-2009
- Nevis Integrated Strategic Development Plan 2001-2005
- Nevis Resources Assessment and Zoning Plan
- Development Control and Planning Act
- Climate Change Action Plan
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- St. Kitts and Nevis National Environmental Management Strategy 2005 (NEMS)
- The Adaptation Strategy for St. Kitts and Nevis in response to the new EU Sugar Regime (SAS) 2006
- The Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper 2004

Some of the Policies and Plans critical to the development of the UNCCD NAP include:

The National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) 2006 for St. Kitts and Nevis is a guide for physical development and management of land resources, to direct growth with respect to future land use, zoning plans, natural and heritage conservation and aiding decisions for private sector investment. The NPDP is one of the most important policy instruments governing land management in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The St. Kitts and Nevis National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) which has specific reference to land degradation, to restore environmentally degraded areas and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. The NEMS included the identification of critical areas for soil erosion control and the formulation of criteria for and identification of environmentally degraded areas. The main output is the preparation of strategies to restore the degraded areas.

The main focus of the Agricultural Strategic Plan 2005-2009 will be on the development of non-sugar agriculture using a market led approach. Major emphasis would be placed on the penetration of both traditional and non-traditional markets. One of the main

benefits that will accrue to the agricultural sector is effective land use management and the preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the environment.

The Draft St. Kitts and Nevis Land Use Code will address the strengthening of development and planning policy, with an aim to reducing the negative environmental, economic and social impacts of development initiatives.

The Nevis Integrated Strategic Development Plan 2001-2005 seeks to promote balanced growth and effective resource utilization in achieving sustainable development. This includes strategies on research and experimentation in agricultural management practices relative to soil, stemming problems of desertification and soil erosion through maintenance of vegetation cover on lands susceptible to erosion, minimizing soil pollution and upgrading the administrative framework of environmental management.

The Adaptation Strategy for St. Kitts and Nevis in Response to the New EU Sugar Regime, seeks to address the changes in the economy that have resulted in the closure of the sugar industry after losing the preferential market status it once enjoyed. These changes are a consequence of the reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), but they are also being driven by the liberalisation and market opening aspects of the current phase of globalisation that have triggered ongoing disputes within the international trading system administered by the WTO. The objectives of the strategy are: to promote the economic diversification of sugar-dependent areas; and to address broader impacts generated by the adaptation process, possibly related, but not restricted, to employment and social services, land use and environmental restoration, the energy sector, research and innovation and macroeconomic stability.

As a party to the UNCCD the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has the following responsibilities and attempt to address them in this Strategy: to facilitate cooperation and participation at all levels, and programmes must include strategies for poverty eradication; to identify the underlying causes of desertification and drought, and ensure attempts are made to manage them within a framework of sustainable development; to encourage community participation in UNCCD activities; to identify causes of desertification and drought as well as appropriate remedial action; to develop early-warning systems, better drought preparedness, food security systems, alternative livelihood projects and irrigation systems; and to improve education and public awareness, including that of women and children, and promote interdisciplinary understanding and sustainable practices.

The Draft NAP incorporates the aspects of land degradation issues from the National Physical Development Plan, the NEMS and the SAS. The intention is that the SAS will take over the issue of soil conservation and efforts to prevent soil erosion. The closure of the Sugar Industry and the loss of its services in soil conservation makes this issue a priority one for action.

The ongoing National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) Initiative will make recommendations on how the cross cutting issues of the Rio Conventions (UNCBD,

UNFCCC and UNCCD) can be harmonized to formulate an integrated approach to environmental management for St. Kitts and Nevis and this will be incorporated into the UNCCD NAP framework. The NCSA Thematic Assessments have been completed, and the Draft Action Plan is soon to be finalised.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) to be involved in the implementation of the NAP has been selected and its members are listed above in Section 2.4 - Composition of the National Steering Committee. The National Focal Point (NFP) and the NSC, have to date, convened one National Consultation on the NAP, with the second scheduled for October 2006. At this meeting a timetable will be set for the coming meetings of the National Steering Committee, and the mechanisms for their interactions with the relevant line Ministries will be determined, as well as to finalise the UNCCD National Action Plan.

4 INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

4.1 NAPs as part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans

The National Action Plan for St. Kitts and Nevis is in the final draft stage, with the final consultation to be held in October 2006. The finalized Draft NAP is to be presented to Cabinet for adoption as a National Plan in October 2006. The NAP will then be an overarching policy document for UNCCD related activities, which is a strategic framework for action and its placement/mainstreaming with other existing environmental planning frameworks will be decided after it is accepted by Cabinet. The preparation of the NAP included aspects from other National Environmental and Development Plans, as stated in Section 3, in an effort to create linkages for implementation with those action plans and strategies, thereby facilitating an integrated approach to environmental management for St. Kitts and Nevis. Of importance is the social component of the SAS with its focus on the alleviation of poverty with respect to displaced sugar workers. The NCSA Initiative, looking at the cross-cutting issues of the Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) is currently underway, and the NCSA NAP is seeking to facilitate an integrated approach towards a national development planning framework for environmental management.

The perceived obstacles (institutional and/or programmatic) in integrating the objectives of the NAP into other National Plans and Strategies in a timely and efficient manner are the limited financial resources available for the implementation of the NAP, which has been further exacerbated by the recent closure of the sugar industry. As a result, the Government is unlikely to be able to make any new allocations of funding to move the NAP objectives into actionable workplans. There will be need to apply for external funding in the future in order to fully implement the NAP activities. Another constraint is the availability of human resources; i.e. there is a lack of trained specialists, and a need for skills upgrading of present staff of the DPPE.

During consultations, the private sector has expressed an interest in being involved in implementing the NAP objectives, and is awaiting the development of an incentive scheme for participation. With regard to technological and scientific cooperation there is a scarcity of Tertiary Level Educational Institutions in St. Kitts and Nevis which ensures that such staff is not readily available to effectively participate in the implementation of the NAP objectives; but there are some MOUs with other institutions that could cover some areas of relevant research.

The Draft NAP has made recommendations for the following:

1. To implement **Legislative Reform** which include a review of the existing regulatory framework as it relates to land degradation and drought; prepare legislation to specifically govern land degradation and drought issues;

2. To develop a **training module** on enforcement;
3. To conduct a **Policy Analysis** to determine the impacts of existing policies on land degradation and institute changes to enhance and develop these policies;
4. To develop a compensatory mechanism/economic incentive for investment in SLM and the development of a costed SLM investment plan; and,
5. To promote **Public Awareness** programmes in an attempt to close the gaps between exiting national sustainable policies and that which is required for effective implementation of the NAP activities.

4.2 Linkages achieved with sub-regional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs)

St. Kitts and Nevis is currently finalizing the UNCCD NAP, which once adopted by the Cabinet, will be ready for implementation, and hence has not yet been directly integrated into the national economic and social development and environment protection programmes. However, the ongoing NCSA Initiative which will include UNCCD activities, is one of the significant attempts at integration into a national environmental plan.

At present there are seven regional projects that will enable St. Kitts and Nevis to meet some of the objectives under the UNCCD as focused on in the NAP:

- UNEP/UNDP/CEHI – Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management Programme
- OECS – Sustainable Livelihoods OPAAL Project, which addresses biodiversity conservation in the OECS through protected areas management and promotion and training for projects in sustainable livelihood activities.
- UNDP/GEF – LDC/SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management. This project is expected to promote the mainstreaming of SLM in St. Kitts and Nevis, through institutional, individual and systematic capacity building.
- Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Caribbean SIDS.
- Caribbean Youth Programme for Environmental Rehabilitation. The main aim of the project is to promote SLM by reforestation of degraded lands while creating a sense of ownership and appreciation for the natural environment through the empowerment of youth.
- CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Eco-systems through SLM.
- The FAO/CANARI project entitled ‘Participatory Forestry Management’ which addresses aspects of land degradation in managing forest resources. The project supports the improvement of the socio-economic and environmental benefits that can be derived from forest management by analysing, promoting and building capacity for participatory planning and management of forest resources at the regional, national and local levels. St. Kitts and Nevis is one of seven countries participating in this initiative.

These projects address some issues relevant to land degradation, i.e. soil erosion, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, as some of the priority issues highlighted in the NAP.

At present there are no national scientific and technical institutions participating actively and effectively in subregional, regional or international networks.

The Government has not yet officially adopted the Draft UNCCD NAP. However, it is proposed that the finalized NAP will be presented to Cabinet for adoption by October 2006. At present there is no specific national budget allocation for the implementation of the NAP.

4.3 The National Steering Committee (NSC) in support of the NAP

The NSC is comprised of both Government and NGO representatives, which brings a diverse knowledge base to the forum. However, there is a scarcity of senior-level management present within the NSC, which does not allow for timely decision-making, as all representatives must consult with their Permanent Secretary or Director after the NSC meeting on issues raised before a commitment can be made. This will make the process a long and difficult one.

The National Focal Point (NFP) for the UNCCD has been established in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Department of Physical Planning and Environment. The NFP was responsible for the selection of the National Steering Committee (NSC) members, listed in Section 2.4. The NFP reports directly to Director of the Department of Physical Planning and Environment and also advises on UNCCD issues. The NSC does not have financial autonomy to act as an independent body. All Government monies are channeled through the Consolidated Fund and then disbursed to line Ministries and/or project activities. However, in some cases, members of the NSC can rely on human and financial resources from their institution. The NFP relies on limited Government funding in executing its mandate and must therefore explore opportunities to access external funding. The Department of Physical Planning and Environment acts as a quasi-functional secretariat for the NSC. Private sector initiatives involving drylands are not applicable to St. Kitts and Nevis .

The NSC is composed of various agencies representing national multi-sectoral interests, from both islands, as well as the NFPs from the other Rio Conventions. The NSC convenes to advise on all the Rio Conventions, thereby ensuring synergies are acknowledged and promoted. The modality for nominating members to the NSC is a transparent one, where the main agencies/Ministries/NGOs involved in UNCCD issues are identified and the Head of the Agency nominates a representative who has the relevant knowledge and experience on these issues to participate.

The NSC acts primarily as an advisory body and is not responsible for the implementation of the NAP, but is involved in the monitoring and evaluation process.

Some of the specific capacity needs of the NSC and the NFP include: the need for sensitization of cross-cutting issues among the Rio Conventions and training of personnel to address these issues. There is also a need to include representation from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

There is a drive to encourage greater public participation in the Second National Consultation for the NAP, in an effort to ensure widespread participation in future NAP activities. No evaluation has been made to adequately assess stakeholder participation.

At present the NSC uses email communications for internal and external communication, which will be further developed as the NSC becomes more established; there is no existing database or information system as yet. The NSC is in the process of developing a link to the environment website which is under development. It is necessary to build capacity at the local and national level in order to establish a well functioning information exchange among the relevant stakeholders. In addition, capacity-building, in terms of additional staff for NGOs and Government agencies, and financial capacity is required. For this reason, capacity and institution building are Priority Areas of the NAP, which will be enhanced as the NAP is further developed and implemented.

4.4 Institutional, regulatory and legislative framework for coherent and functional desertification control

The NCSA initiative is currently underway and will address the issue of examining mechanisms for coordinating actions to combat land degradation at the national and local levels, which will contribute to strengthening coordination and implementation of UNCCD related activities. The thematic assessments of the NCSA seek to identify the capacity needs required for the effective implementation of MEAs in St. Kitts and Nevis.

There is a need to enhance training within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and at the NGO level, to develop and maintain an environmental website/clearing house, which would have links to UNCCD activities, to promote information exchange. There are some capacity and institution building activities being conducted at the national level.

Since the last report, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Planning have merged to become the Ministry of Sustainable Development. To date the stakeholder response has been positive. However, the new Ministry is still a young institution in need of restructuring as it develops. There is a need to upgrade the collective skill-set within the new Ministry with respect to environmental and planning issues.

St. Kitts and Nevis was one of the first Caribbean countries to have enacted a comprehensive and coherent Environmental Framework Legislation. This has since been amended and new legislation will be introduced shortly, which is coherent and functional. The concept of desertification is not a relevant one for the small islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, the focus is mostly on land degradation and drought, and at present there is no specific legislation dealing with these issues. The main constraint is limited enforcement, largely because of a lack of Regulations to accompany the existing legislation. In some

cases the regulations have been drafted but not gazetted; in other cases, only punitive measures are available. There is a need for awareness-raising through workshops, as well as, for better established institutional procedures for enhanced law enforcement, improved monitoring capabilities and the provision of adequate facilities for surveillance and communication. There is also a need for the provision of adequate funding for enforcement activities. The Historical Preservation Bill has been drafted and is pending adoption by Cabinet and Parliament. It denotes the historic sites, areas and buildings of architectural interest.

In terms of progress on land tenure issues, there has been a deliberate shift away from Deed Pole registration to registration by Title. However, there is need for a cadastral survey in an effort to improve the registration by Title process. At present surveys, are done from aerial photographs and satellite imagery, but these are not very accurate. However, aerial photography remains an easy way to identify illegal occupations on crown lands.

When the NAP is further developed and implemented there will be activities to strengthen the capacity of local populations and authorities to participate more effectively in the decision making relevant to land degradation issues in their area.

In order to enhance awareness raising on UNCCD activities and issues there is a need for improved media coverage, more panel discussions and informative community meetings. It is strongly advised that the Ministry of Sustainable Development re-introduces its newsletter, and restart Open Day activities at the Ministry, to inform the general public and schools on their ongoing and projected activities.

To enhance compliance with environmental regulations there is need for a strengthened institutional framework with more financial allocations from central government towards increased community involvement. In addition, the use of NGOs as project partners will serve to strengthen the capacity of local populations to participate in land degradation activities. The NGOs can benefit from the SGP NGO Institutional Strengthening project, which will enhance capacity of NGOs to develop and facilitate the implementation of community-based projects and to manage community-led land management initiatives.

There are no specific projects in the Draft NAP that directly deal with law enforcement to combat desertification, however through the NCSA process there will be a review of environmental legislation and its regulations to clarify the processes and procedures for enforcement on environmental issues and land degradation issues. Further, local authorities are to be strengthened through the LDC-SIDS on SLM project, which is to have a legislative component addressing issues such as land reform.

5 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

5.1 Methods of participation of various actors

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has ensured a fully participatory process in preparing the NAP and will retain this feature throughout its implementation. Gender and the private sector are not specific elements of any programme of the proposed NAP, as these are not issues pertinent to St. Kitts and Nevis's small community.

The private sector is targeted for financing of land degradation projects, with respect to implementing projects in an environmentally friendly way. There is also need for public awareness activities in the private sector. The Ministry of Agriculture has conducted sessions with farmers on good farming practices with respect to commercial farming and land conservation. In addition, there is control on quarry activities and sand-mining in an effort to minimize negative environmental effects. However, illegal mining and quarrying is becoming more prevalent but hard to police due to limited financial and human resources.

NGO capacity must be upgraded to assume a greater role in the participatory process of planning and implementing the NAP, through training in stakeholder analysis and field research. There is also capacity need for resource mobilization and training of the farmers involved in the initiatives and an information exchange mechanism among implementing partners. The NGO of St. Kitts highlighted the need to be more informed and involved in UNCCD related activities at an earlier stage, for maximum input into the development and implementation of projects.

The criteria used for selecting various actors in the identification of national priority issues are determined based on responsibilities of the actors with regards to various environmental factors, within government, CBOs and NGOs and ensures there are equal representation at all levels. The national scientific community is represented by government based institutions and is present at the local and national forums. The mechanism to ensure continuous consultations will be decided at the Second National Consultation for the NAP.

5.2 Nature and scope of information, education, and communications

Traditional knowledge has not been formally included in the UNCCD NAP but there are programmes being conducted with the farmers that incorporate good agricultural practices and include some traditional measures, e.g. re-vegetating slopes and ravines and the types of plants to be used.

Linkages with educational centers and/or governmental institutions responsible for education to promote environmental education are to be developed during implementation of the NAP.

At present the NSC uses the email medium for information exchange among stakeholders and there is in the project pipeline the development of an intranet for all Ministries. There is no formal mechanism to ensure that various categories of actors are involved in the process to provide information or to benefit from information networks.

There are ongoing disaster preparedness campaigns, sparked from hurricane experiences, which are in the form of participatory campaigns at local and regional levels and cover some aspects of land degradation; these include the ongoing climate change activities under the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and the regional FAO/CANARI project 'Participatory Forestry Management' which will address aspects of land degradation including undertaking stakeholder analysis to identify user groups and explore methods to encourage their involvement in managing natural resources. The UNDP/GEF LDC – SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management and the CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Ecosystems through Sustainable Land Management also have components on public awareness and sensitization on the growing threats to ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods. In addition, due to the closure of the sugar industry there is a focus on the displaced workers with respect to poverty alleviation initiatives. There have been some evaluations on lessons learned but these have not been disseminated into the mainstream.

5.3 Extent of uptake

The concerns and results of the national consultations with the Ministries and Agencies, civil society and private sector on the UNCCD NAP were used to inform the preparation of the NAP, and the NFP will coordinate the continued input of these sectors during the finalization of the NAP and during its implementation. Nominations of representatives from the sectors to participate in the consultations are made by the Director/Permanent Secretary and are based on the nominees experience and training in relation to the issues being discussed.

6 CONSULTATION PROCESS IN SUPPORT FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAP AND THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES

6.1 Degree of participation from international partners

There are Agreements signed by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis with UNDP and UNEP to secure funding for projects developed under the United Nations MEAs (e.g. UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD) through the GM, GEF, Convention Secretariat and SGP modality. The UNCCD Secretariat funded the process for the First and Third National Reports to the Convention, and the GM is funding the NAP process. As an organ of the UNCCD Secretariat, the GM is charged with sourcing funds to support UNCCD initiatives. The UNCCD Secretariat has been a major partner in the implementation of the convention thus far. In addition, there are commitments from other donor agencies (e.g. CIDA, DIFID, USAID, EU) to fund, via application, projects with an environmental component, which could include UNCCD related activities.

There are several projects as listed in Section 2 above that have a consultative component or workshop, which has been funded by the project budget, and include UNDP, UNEP, CEHI, OAS and OECS-ESDU as the funding agency. The UNCCD activities have a built in component in the budget to fund consultations.

The main source of support for the development of the UNCCD NAP is the GEF mechanism and the funds flowing from the UNCCD Secretariat. There is scope to apply to the GEF for funding of medium-sized projects as identified in the NAP, once it has been adopted by the Cabinet and recognized as priority areas for implementation and development.

No country is *chef de file* of the consultative process and there is no calendar of activities to ensure continuous monitoring.

6.2 Establishment of an informal consultation and harmonization process for actions between partner countries

The National Steering Committee acts as the consultative mechanism among partners at the national and local levels. Presently, the distribution of roles and tasks among the various partners are not well defined, but they are expected to be clarified during the implementation of the NAP and SLM projects.

The UNCCD Secretariat and the GM can assist in facilitating the consultative process through the provision of funding, technical assistance and information/materials.

The application process to the GEF is considered to be lengthy and not user friendly. It is also difficult, with the incremental funding concept not easily understood, there is limited capacity available to go through the application process. It is difficult to keep abreast

with the evolving financing framework as designed by GEF. There needs to be special attention given to SIDS, as they tend to get lost in the process due to their small size.

7 MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NAP

7.1 Adequate diagnosis of past experiences in natural resource management

There has been a diagnosis of past experiences during the process of formulating the NAP; a review of National Environmental and Development Plans and Strategies; a review of the NPDP to include issues related to the closure of the sugar industry, and these changes are reflected in the Draft NAP.

There is need for collection of environmental statistics as formulated by the MEAs in an effort to make the statistics collected more relevant for informing MEA reporting requirements. The traditional mode of data collection is not very relevant (as evidenced in the lack of information in the country profile - Annex A). The LDC-SIDS and the CEHI/OAS sustainable land management projects will improve data collection capabilities and develop human capacity in terms of specialist skills.

7.2 Established technical programmes and functional integrated projects to combat desertification

There are several ongoing sectoral projects which deal directly or indirectly with land management, and there are some cross-cutting areas with regards to sustainable land-use management, mountain eco-system preservation, reforestation and soil conservation programmes. At the national level implementation of the following projects address local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic manner and are related to the priority areas as identified in the UNCCD:

- The Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Caribbean SIDS.
- UNDP/GEF LDC – SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management
- CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Ecosystems through Sustainable Land Management
- Capacity Building in SLM – Youth in Desertification Project, currently a demonstration project within schools to develop plant nurseries for beautification and re-vegetation of slopes.
- GEF/UNDP/UNEP/CEHI Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management
- FAO Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Management in the Caribbean Initiative, where the main objectives are; to examine the status of soil fertility and plant nutrition management in the region; to exchange experiences on the constraints to improving or maintaining soil fertility and plant nutrition management; to examine possible mechanisms to overcome these constraints; and to evaluate the status of implementation of national and regional work programmes and projects of the network.

The UNCCD NAP has identified as Priority Areas: Drought Monitoring; Public Awareness and Education Programmes; Site Restoration and Rehabilitation; creation of a Land Management Unit and an Integrated Land Information System Project.

Some of the specific national activities identified to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty include:

- Capacity Building in SLM – Youth in Desertification Project.
- The Agriculture Plan with a focus on effective land use management and the preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the environment.
- The Sugar Adaptation Strategy, where the objectives are: to promote the economic diversification of sugar-dependent areas; and to address broader impacts generated by the adaptation process, possibly related, but not restricted, to employment and social services, land use and environmental restoration, the energy sector, research and innovation and macroeconomic stability.
- OECS OPAAL Project, which addresses biodiversity conservation in the OECS through protected areas management, promotion and training for projects in sustainable livelihood activities. This is an expansion, for a wider forest area, on a programme from the UNCCD, where the focus was a Watershed Project based on community maintenance of hiking trails, and training of tour guides.
- FAO St. Kitts and Nevis Agricultural Diversification Project – to address the promotion of agriculture development through improving cultivation practices; the continuation of soil monitoring, conservation/environmental activities in the sugar cane estates; strengthening of the Department of Agriculture and the Water Services Department; and support to private sector development, including entrepreneurs and traders, farmers, through the provision of credit, training and technical assistance.

No management indicators have so far been developed to ensure ongoing activities address the causes of land degradation, but this will be addressed when the NAP is implemented. No new methods to combat desertification have been generated recently.

Technical and scientific capacity will be addressed at the local level through workshops for target groups, e.g. farmers and through capacity building initiatives through the regional projects as mentioned in Section 2.4 above.

The Draft NAP identifies as a priority area “Institutional Strengthening and Coordination” which will: establish a NAP Coordinating Unit within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and develop the necessary regulatory framework for its operation; review and harmonise responsibilities for land management; and conduct training in the use of satellite imagery interpretation and GIS. The main features for capacity building will focus on human resource development, technical capacity and resource mobilization mechanisms.

At the level of the regional projects there are some specific actions to strengthen institutional capacity which include: the LDC SIDS Targeted Portfolio for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management project for technical and

scientific capacity building; the regional project activities of IWCAM including the review and development of policy and legislation, training and environmental monitoring; the CEHI/OAS – Preventing Land Degradation in Ecosystems through Sustainable Land Management; the OECS – OPAAL OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project; and the Capacity Building in SLM – Youth in Desertification Project.

7.3 Effectiveness of measures in local capacity building

Institutional strengthening; training of technical staff in relevant Ministries, as well as at the community and NGO level; training for deliverance of public awareness campaigns are needed to ensure implementation of the Convention at the local level. The Draft NAP addresses these issues and provides the objectives and activities for accomplishing these activities.

8 FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGET IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The UNCCD Secretariat, GEF and the Global Mechanism provided funding for national reporting to the Convention as well as start-up funding for preparation of the NAP. There is a limited national budget provision of funds to departments that have the mandate to implement projects that indirectly address land degradation, such as technical assistance to farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture.

A transparent private sector Green Fund is proposed in the NAP towards implementing environmental initiatives. There is no specific national budget allocation towards the implementation of the NAP at present due to the decline in revenue, resulting from closure of the sugar industry. When the NAP is formalized then the GEF can be approached for funding of medium sized projects as formulated in the NAP. There is no formal plan for requesting technical cooperation specifically for the NAP, but can be formulated for other initiatives that can be incorporated into NAP activities, e.g. activities from the Sugar Adaptation Strategy.

There is need for technical support and funding from the UNCCD Secretariat, to facilitate workshops in the region to train representatives from each country in using the formats and procedures as set out by the Convention. The order of priority of needs is:

- Funding
- Technical support
- Information

9 REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILISED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT

The processes and dynamics of land degradation are only partially being monitored with regard to beach monitoring, mining activities, fires, and overgrazing. At present there is monthly beach-monitoring to assess accretion and erosion of the beaches, with programmes to monitor other resources being developed. When the Draft NAP is implemented the NSC will need to determine what the benchmark positions for monitoring with regards to the Convention requirements will be.

At this time it is not known what rates of resource degradation can be attributed to drought or climate change. There is no current system in place for early warning of drought and mechanisms for mitigation; however this is highlighted as a priority area in the Draft NAP. There are early warning systems for hurricanes and other natural disasters such as flash floods.

St. Kitts and Nevis attended the UNCCD Workshop on the Development of Benchmarks and Indicators on Land Degradation and Drought in the Caribbean, February 24-27, 2003, in St. Lucia. The outcome of this forum saw the creation of a working group to develop indicators for the sub-region. There are inter-sectoral collaborations among the line Ministries; MOUs between the Ministries and NGOs with regard to specific projects; and efforts to formalize existing informal relations among government agencies.

A monitoring system to assess and evaluate the impact of the NAP, has not yet been developed as the NAP is still in draft stage. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted during and after the implementation phase. Evaluation will be conducted annually by independent parties and the reports on project activities will be submitted to the NSC.

ANNEX A

UNCCD Country Profile

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by:

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Biophysical indicators relating to desertification and drought

1. Climate

- 1.1 Index of aridity: Not available
- 1.2 Normal rainfall: 890 – 1000 mm in coastal areas, 2500 – 3800 mm in mountain areas
- 1.3 Rainfall standard deviation: Not available

2. Vegetation and land use

- 2.1 NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index): Not available
- 2.2 Vegetation cover (%) of total land area):
- 2.3 Landuse (percent of total land):

Landuse	1990 - 2005
Arable crop land	4,842 ha
Pasture	37 ha
Forest and woodland	9.7 ha
Other land	158.6 ha

- 2.4 Surface albedo: Not available

3. Water Resources

- 3.1 Fresh water availability (million m3): Not available
- 3.2 Fresh water resources per capita (million m3): Not available
- 3.3 Agricultural water use (million m3): Not available
- 3.4 Industrial water use (million m3): Not available

4. Energy:

Consumption

4.1 Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent): Not available

4.2 Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU): Not available

Production

4.3 Energy from renewable excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply): Not available

Renewables–Consumption by sector

4.4 Industry (% of total renewable consumption): Not available

4.5 Residential (% of total renewable consumption): Not available

4.6 Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption): Not available

5. Types of Land Degradation

Type of degradation	1990-2005
	Hectares (ha)
Overgrazing	N/A
Deforestation	N/A
Soil Erosion/degradation	N/A
Bush encroachment	N/A
Desertification	N/A
Partially Degraded Areas	N/A

6. Rehabilitation

Lands under rehabilitation	1990 - 2005
Rehabilitation of degraded cropland (km ²)	N/A
Rehabilitation of degraded range land (km ²)	N/A
Rehabilitation of degraded forest	N/A

Socio-economic indicators related to desertification and drought

7. People and economy

- 7.1 Population (Total): **39,129**
- 7.2 Population growth (annual %): **0.5%**
- 7.3 Life expectancy (years): **72.4**
- 7.4 Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births): **14.12**
- 7.5 GDP (current US\$): **\$339 million**
- 7.6 GNI per capita (current US\$): **\$6,980**
- 7.7 National poverty rate (% of population): Not available
- 7.8 Crop production (metric tons): **0.63**
- 7.9 Livestock production (metric tons): **0.23**

8. Human development

- 8.1 Primary education completion rate (%age group): Not available
- 8.2 Number of women in rural development (total number): Not available
- 8.3 Unemployment (% of total): **4.5%**
- 8.4 Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24): Not available
- 8.5 Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above): **2.2%**
- 8.6 Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above): Not available
- 8.7 Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above): Not available

9. Science and technology

- 9.1 Number of scientific institutions engaged in desertification-related work (total number): Not available

ANNEX B

List of Stakeholders Consulted

Deputy National Focal Point for UNCCD
Food and Agriculture Organisation
Department of Agriculture in St. Kitts
Department of Physical Planning and Environment
Department of Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Environment - Nevis
Land and Housing Corporation – Nevis
Solid Waste Management Corporation (SWMC)
National Focal Point for UNCBD
National Focal Point for UNCCD
National Focal Point for UNFCCC
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)