

Annex of the Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories for the period 2021-2027

1. **The overall lines of the EU international cooperation in the region**

1.1 Basis for programming

The 13 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) are those countries and territories which have constitutional links to European Union (EU) Member States, but which do not form part of the EU territory. There are 7 Caribbean OCTs which will benefit from this regional programme:

- Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten (in special relations with the Netherlands)
- Saint-Barthélemy (in special relations with France).

Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and [Council Decision \(EU\) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021](#) on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland – DOAG)¹ form the legal framework for the relations between the EU and the OCTs. According to Article 1 of the DOAG, this decision establishes an association of the OCTs with the Union, which constitutes a partnership, to support the OCTs' sustainable development as well as to promote the values and standards of the Union in the wider world. Article 198 of TFEU emphasises that the association shall 'promote the economic and social development of the countries and territories and establish close economic relations between them and the Union as a whole'.

The mutually beneficial partnership between the EU and OCTs takes into account the geostrategic position of the OCTs and contribution to the international and maritime dimension of the EU Member States, their large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and marine resources, their exceptional biodiversity and the potential of their contributions to tackle major global challenges such as the fight against climate change and ocean protection.

As the path towards sustainable human development in the region and the world is becoming increasingly challenging, especially in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that the EU continues to contribute to the OCT's policy objectives.

1.2 Priority area of the EU's cooperation with the region

The OCT's specific characteristics (small size, remoteness, limited resource base and export products, etc.) make them highly vulnerable to external economic shocks, as well as global environmental

¹ OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6

problems. The effects of climate change and natural disasters, of which, specifically hurricanes and droughts are becoming increasingly frequent and intense, particularly affect the Caribbean OCTs.

In addition, the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the supply chain of essential goods and commodities as well as on the food and agricultural sector call for effective measures to be taken by the Caribbean OCTs to proactively ensure robust access to essential services and food supply chains in order to avoid socio-economic disruptions and to safeguard sustainable development of the Caribbean OCTs.

Biodiversity is as an important pillar and asset of the OCT's economies, which rely mainly on tourism and fishing. Likewise, they depend heavily on certain ecosystem services, which contribute to reducing their vulnerability to the main effects of climate change. Ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, where nature provides the infrastructure (e.g. coral reefs and mangroves to limit coastal erosion and protect against sea-level rise and hurricane impacts) are particularly suited to this context.

It is why the **priority area** of this MIP will be **“To improve and strengthen the sustainable management of Caribbean OCTs’ natural capital”**. This will be done through the development and implementation of best practices.

The four strategic and interrelated themes of intervention of this MIP will holistically contribute to this priority area:

- 1. The strengthening of food and nutrition security** will contribute to reducing the vulnerability of the islands to possible disruptions in supply chains and economic crises. This will be achieved through support to the development of sustainable and resilient local food value chains with reduced environmental impact (agriculture, fisheries, livestock, peri-urban production/short circuits, partnerships and regional exchange systems to facilitate the supply of islands where access to arable land is reduced).
- 2. Good water resources management** must ensure access to water in adequate quantity and quality for both consumption and production. Indeed, while the region is facing increasingly frequent droughts, the population of the islands is growing steadily, as is the flow of visitors attracted by a booming tourism sector. On the other hand, the risks of contamination of surface resources, aquifers and coastal ecosystems by wastewater, solid waste and various effluents are increasing in proportion to the growth of the population and infrastructure. The promotion and support for the implementation of good management practices should limit these risks (optimisation of water use, protection and management of watersheds and groundwater, development of collection and storage capacities, management and recycling of wastewater, waste and effluent in the framework of circular economy programmes).
- 3. The protection, restoration and good management of biodiversity** is important to sustain a pillar of OCT's economies, which rely heavily on fishing and tourism, but is also an essential complement to the first two axes in order to increase the islands resilience. Indeed, the vegetation of terrestrial ecosystems contribute to the protection of soils and water resources, (recharge of aquifers, watershed protection, erosion control). For their part, coastal ecosystems, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs provide well-documented protection against coastal erosion and tropical storms, as well as food, shelter, habitat and breeding grounds for many marine species. Different measures are needed to preserve and enhance this capital (protection/restoration of key ecosystems, reinforcement of existing protected areas, protection

of endemic and threatened species, control of invasive species, valuation and integration of natural capital in public accounting).

- 4. Strengthening cooperation between OCT's** and, possibly, other Caribbean states and other Outermost Regions, will facilitate collaboration as well as exchange of information and experience. It will also optimise the use of resources for capacity building and the definition of common strategic orientations in the three mentioned areas of intervention.

Although these themes are presented separately, it is important to bear in mind that food security and water management are interrelated, with biodiversity influencing both. Therefore, notably the first three themes should be dealt with in a concerted and sequenced manner in order to achieve sustainable results in each of them and make a cross-cutting contribution to job creation and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

1.3 Justification and context, including linkages with the DOAG, EU policies and SDGs

Decision on the Overseas Association (DOAG)

The priority area is well-aligned with the cooperation goals set out in Article 5(2) of the DOAG, namely (d) the promotion of green and blue economy and (e) the sustainable management of natural resources, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Moreover, cooperation on biodiversity also relates to (f) climate change mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change, as well as (g) the promotion of disaster risk reduction.

The development of sustainable food production combined with the protection and good management of biodiversity are also in line with Article 16 on the sustainable management and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services and Article 18 on integrated coastal zone management. Water resources management is aligned with Article 20 on sustainable water management, which aims at protecting water resources, water supplies in rural and urban areas for domestic, industrial or agricultural purposes, storage, distribution and management of water resources, the reduction of water loss and the efficient use of water and wastewater management.

Finally, the cross-cutting effects of this action are aligned with Article 7(2,3) on regional cooperation and integration and Article 24 on climate change. The Caribbean OCTs Regional MIP will also aim to contribute to the DOAG's objectives on climate and biodiversity to the best extent possible.

Green Deal

This MIP will promote the [Green Deal](#) orientations and the Just Transition related policies. The programme is particularly inspired by two of the Green Deal pillars, namely the [biodiversity strategy](#) and the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#),

Both seek to

- help mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- reverse the loss of biodiversity

Their main specific objectives include:

for biodiversity

- consolidate protected areas and connectivity between intact ecosystems;
- recover degraded marine and freshwater terrestrial ecosystems;

- move towards nature-friendly agricultural production systems;
- to protect soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter;
- reduce contamination and combat unsustainable natural resource exploitation practices;
- combat invasive species.

for Farm to Fork

- have a neutral or positive environmental impact;
- ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food;
- preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade.

As a result, this support will not only have a direct impact on strengthening food security, improving the management of water resources and biodiversity in OCTs, but should also have an impact on different sectors of activity as well as on the socio-economic development of its inhabitants and give an opportunity to create a green deal success story.

Referring to the [EU Gender policy \(GAP III\)](#), the programme will aim to mainstream gender perspective in all activities, and by the consideration of the principle of inclusiveness as key element in sustainable economic growth and decision-making. Particular attention will be given to the needs of women, for example by ensuring equal participation in training, capacity building activities, supervision, and execution. In line with the Youth Action Plan in EU's external action, the programme will also promote the participation of young people by mainstreaming their perspectives and needs and involving them throughout the EU policy and programme cycles.

SDG

The three specific objectives transcend the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with its multi-faceted benefits on the social and economic fabric of society.

More specifically, this programme will contribute directly to achieving:

SDG2: Zero hunger through contributions to 2.3: Improve the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers and 2.4: Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practice.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls notably through contributions to 5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

SDG6: Clean water, and sanitation with specific impact on 6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution, 6.4: Increase water-use efficiency, 6.5: Implement integrated water resources management and 6.6: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

SDG14: Life below water, specifically 14.2: Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, 14.7: Economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources.

SDG15: Life on land with particular attention to 15.5: Reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and 15.9: Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning strategies and accounts.

Indirectly, the intervention could also contribute to SDG1: No poverty, SDG3: Good health and wellbeing, SDG8: Decent employment, SDG12: Responsible consumption and production and SDG13: Climate action.

Other

The MIP can contribute to the implementation of the **Paris Agreement** on Climate Change² as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**), its Aichi Targets and the future Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

1.4 Duration of the MIP and option for synchronisation

For the Caribbean OCTs Regional MIP, the duration is 7 years. The MIP may be reviewed where and when necessary.

2) EU support per priority area

2.1. Priority area

The priority area of Caribbean OCTs Regional MIP is **“To improve and strengthen the sustainable management of Caribbean OCTs’ natural capital”**.

Four complementary strategic themes of intervention define its specific objectives: food security; water management; biodiversity; and regional cooperation. The interventions under the Caribbean OCTs Regional MIP will complement very well territorial cooperation around the Green Deal, including actions on renewable energy, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and sustainable agriculture.

The main actions will target activities whose implementation could be optimised if envisaged at this scale. For example, capacity building for monitoring the state of the environment and protected areas, spatial planning to support effective protected areas and marine protected areas management, early warning and reaction to natural disaster risks, monitoring of the implementation of regional policies, exchanges of experience and knowledge management; valuing natural capital, the ecosystems services they provide and integrating it into national accounts, regional integration through support for the definition and implementation of regional strategies, policies and standards³.

Strengthening skills and promoting good practices will also be sought for each island.⁴

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The specific objectives under the priority area, related to the four strategic themes of intervention, are:

SO1 – To strengthen food and nutrition security benefitting from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

SO2 – To improve the management of water resources.

SO3 – To foster Caribbean OCT biodiversity (terrestrial and marine).

SO4 – To strengthen regional cooperation in improved management of food and nutrition security, water resources and foster Caribbean OCT biodiversity.

² [Dutch OCTs did not sign up to the Paris Agreement](#). However, its objectives and role are very relevant in the broader framework of international action on climate change.

Besides, France proposed in an [annex updated Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\) taking into account its Overseas Countries and Territories \(OCTs\), including Saint-Barthélemy](#).

³ On this matter, as appropriate and relevant, cooperation with international organisations active in the region and in particular in Caribbean OCTs, will be sought.

⁴ It will be defined according to the specific context and needs expressed by beneficiaries.

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

The expected results are the following:

For SO1:

- a. Sustainable and innovative practices in agriculture, livestock breeding and fishing have been adopted at local level.
- b. Related sustainable agricultural and biodiversity-sensitive value chains are developed/strengthened.

For SO 2:

- a. Local strategic plans defined to address the long-term island's water needs.
- b. Capacities for collection, storage and treatment (drinking water, wastewater and irrigation) are reinforced.
- c. Policies/measures identified and implemented at local level to improve water resources management with particular emphasis on the protection of watersheds, springs and groundwater recharge areas.

For SO3:

- a. Local strategic plans for strengthening the protection and/or restoration of key ecosystems established and implemented
- b. Establishment of natural capital accounting ⁵mechanisms by local governments

For SO4:

- a. Enhanced capacity of relevant Caribbean OCTs' institutions in promoting good practices in food security, water management and use of biodiversity at the regional level
- b. Strengthened policies and strategic orientations related to food security, water management and biodiversity agreed at regional level
- c. Enhanced regional coordination on monitoring of key biodiversity areas and ecosystems

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

For SO1:

- a.1. Number of pilot experiences implemented agriculture, livestock breeding and fishing (disaggregated by type of practice and Caribbean OCT).

⁵ **Natural Capital accounting** is a tool to measure the changes in the stock of natural capital at a variety of scales and to integrate the value of ecosystem services into accounting and reporting systems at local, national and/or regional level. An integrated natural accounting system for ecosystems and their services and associated data sets will aim to provide a multi-purpose tool that can be used to help decision making for a range of policies, at different stages of the policy cycle, and that national authorities and research centres can access. It can enable to explicitly account for the range of ecosystems and their services and demonstrate in monetary terms the benefits of investing in nature and the sustainable management of resources. [Read more](#)

b.1. Number of local/regional sustainable agricultural and biodiversity-related value chains developed/strengthened – linked to [GERF 2.1](#): *Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land.*

b.2. Number of individuals holding full or part-time jobs/green jobs in sustainable agricultural and biodiversity-related chains, (disaggregated by sex/age if possible) – linked to [GERF 2.13](#): *Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU.*

For SO2:

a.1. Number of Caribbean OCTs with updated strategic water resources management plan.

a.2. Number of such plans formally adopted and being implemented.

b.1. Number of institutions and staff members (public administration, CSO) having gained and applying new skills on collection, storage and treatment of drinking water and wastewater (disaggregated by institution, sex/age if possible).

c.1 Number of local water resources management plan designed and implemented (disaggregated by type of measures, watersheds and Caribbean OCT) – linked to [GERF 2.9](#): *Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km²).*

For SO3:

a.1. Area of key ecosystems (with a focus on marine ones) subject to new protection/restoration measures (disaggregated by type of ecosystem and measures and Caribbean OCT) – linked to [GERF 2.8](#): *Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km²)* and [GERF 2.9](#): *Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km²).*

a.2. Increase in the area of natural space with formal protection status (disaggregated by Caribbean OCT).

b.1. Number of Caribbean OCTs that have carried out a natural capital assessment exercise.

b.2 Number of Caribbean OCTs monitoring their natural capital as part of their national accounts.

For SO4:

a.1. Number of regional meetings/workshops on good practice in food security, water management and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity (events disaggregated by type and matter; participants disaggregated by institution, sex and age).

a.2. Number of publications produced on good practice in food security, water management and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

b.1. Number of regional policy proposals/guidance documents produced on good practice in food security, water management and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity with EU support.

b.2. Number of joint declarations of at least 3 Caribbean OCTs for the adoption of strategic policies/guidelines.

c.1 Agreement and roadmap established for the construction or strengthening of joint socio-environmental monitoring capacities.

2.1.4. Risks

The major risks which may have an effect on the implementation of the Caribbean OCTs Regional MIP are the following:

Risks	Level	Mitigating measures
1. Biodiversity will further deteriorate	Medium	The MIP will support the development of new ‘blue’ and ‘green’ policies, economic and spatial development plans, decision-making and enabling legislation based on evidence from the economic valuation of biodiversity and other ecosystem services which may include incentives for restoration of damaged ecosystems, and protection, and stiff penalties for violators.
2. Political instability – changing OCT governments may create halt in activities	Low	The MIP will ensure that the entire approach is mainstreamed into policies, as well as sectoral and spatial development plans, with a strong awareness-raising approach. Tight linkages to existing international fora on biodiversity are essential.
3. Absence of necessary skills and expertise to support the water management, agricultural sector and biodiversity.	Medium	Technical assistance such as market studies and baseline assessments can be provided through EU funding.
4. Ineffective water management use to support food security	Medium	The MIP will develop sustainable practices to safeguard appropriate quality and quantity of water for food production (fisheries, crops and livestock).
5. Positive mentality shift in the local population to accommodate the necessary environmental changes are slow to come.	Medium	Communication and visibility to promote cooperation and raise awareness on the benefits of sustainable natural resource management can be undertaken through this action and/or through other EU and Member States (Netherlands and France) funding. Education awareness for biodiversity good practices can also be promoted through communication.
6. Lack of regional scope	Medium	The MIP is being designed to address common issues, based on joint discussions amongst all 7 OCTs. Lesson-learned from previous regional programmes will also be taken into account.

3) Complementarity with EU/MS initiatives in the proposed priority area

3.1. Integrated European initiatives

There is currently no Team Europe Initiative dedicated to OCTs in the Caribbean region since the scope for engagement of additional donors is very limited

However, cooperation between OCTs, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and other countries, as well as Outermost Regions (OR) will, whenever possible, be encouraged in areas of

common interest, notably the preservation of biodiversity. Therefore, it will be further explored with relevant OCT authorities and Member State to which they are linked to which extent OCTs can join Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) in the Caribbean region, or can engage in regional cooperation with ORs, ACP States and other countries or territories.

Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDs) and OCTs because of their geographical characteristics (like remoteness, insularity and difficult topography) are indeed facing similar existential challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation. The objectives of the Team Europe Initiative on the Green Transition-EUROCLIMA in the LAC region⁶ aims at i) supporting climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and protecting biological diversity, ii) assisting in the transition to a decarbonized economy as well as iii) ensuring a just and green recovery. Although not specifically targeted to OCTs, this programme will become increasingly relevant in the region, as it will extend its scope of intervention to the Caribbean islands during its new phase. Particular importance is given to the protection of biodiversity, in addition to adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The geographical proximity in the Caribbean region could facilitate the exchange of experiences and the development of synergies for capacity building at the regional level together with Caribbean countries, Outermost regions and OCTs. As appropriate and relevant, synergies would be sought.

The relevant services of the Commission shall discuss the implementing modalities and specific interventions, pursuant to draft Regulations DOAG (articles 72(c) and 82(4)) and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) (article 55), which will be reflected as appropriate in the relevant Annual Action Plans/measures and within the “Caribbean Area INTERREG programme”.

The Caribbean Regional MIP will complement very well territorial cooperation in terms of priority area (e.g. disaster risk management, sustainable energy, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation).

The MIP can build on work undertaken with the [Caribbean OCTs Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme \(RESEMBID\)](#), funded by the 11th EDF, which amongst others focuses on Marine biodiversity, with five key topics:

1. Marine ecosystem conservation
 - a. Corals reefs
 - b. Mangroves
 - c. Seagrass beds
 - d. Invasive species
2. Sustainable fisheries
3. Marine protected area management
4. Sustainable finance and the blue economy
5. Environmental education.

In addition, synergies with the thematic **OCT Green Overseas (GO) Programme** can be sought, as one of the two GO objectives is to provide technical support to the OCTs on resilience to Climate Change.

⁶ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/tei-jp-tracker/tei/green-transition-euroclima-latin-america-and-caribbean>

Horizon Europe is the new EU programme for research and innovation (2021-2027), to which the OCTs are eligible. Horizon Europe aims to strengthen the science and technology base of partner countries/territories, in particular by developing solutions for the ecological/green and digital transitions and fostering climate resilience. The innovative **EU Missions** [“Adaptation to Climate Change”](#), [“Restore our Ocean and Waters”](#) and [“A Soil Deal for Europe”](#) are in this context particularly relevant. Regarding SO3, it is to be noted that Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters will envisage a specific effort in the Atlantic basin on ecosystems protection and restoration (the “Atlantic-Arctic Lighthouse”), offering important opportunities for the Region.

Finally, this MIP can also build on lessons learned from the EU funded [BEST 2.0.+ programme](#), which aimed to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the OCTs. The OCTs are eligible to its successor programme, [the European programme for environment and climate \(LIFE\) 2021-2027](#). It is dedicated to environmental and climate objectives, notably to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.

3.2. Support measures

Additional support measures may be mobilised through the OCT Technical Cooperation Facility. Support measures will also ensure effective visibility and strategic communication of the EU-OCTs partnership.

3.3. Support to investments

The Caribbean OCTs⁷ can apply, on a competitive basis, to InvestEU. This scheme provides long-term support through financial guarantees and advisory services for a sustainable recovery, focusing in particular on policy priorities, such as the Green deal and greater resilience. InvestEU can be combined with grants or financial instruments (or both), funded by the centrally managed EU budget or by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Innovation Fund.

4. Financial overview

Overall indicative amount for the 2021-2027 period:

To improve and strengthen the sustainable management of Caribbean OCTs' natural capital	EUR 21 million	100%
Total	EUR 21 million	100%

A specific indicative amount or percentage may be identified with regard to the pooling of resources with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under European Territorial Cooperation (ETC/INTERREG) programmes or other EU funds and EU Member States funds.

⁷ It should be noted, however, that the approval from their related Member State could be needed to enter into loan agreements.

Appendix: Intervention framework

Priority area: To improve and strengthen the sustainable management of Caribbean OCTs' natural capital.			
Specific objective 1: To strengthen food and nutrition security benefitting from biodiversity and ecosystem services.			
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of Verification (Sources of data)
a) Sustainable and innovative practices in agriculture, livestock breeding and fishing have been adopted at local level.	a1) Number of pilot experiences implemented (disaggregated by type of practice and Caribbean OCT)	Baseline: 2022:0 (zero) Sustainable and innovative practices identified that will provide starting points for a national policy framework, implementation system and funding mechanisms Targets for 2027: To be quantified in the first year per Caribbean OCT. Accepted national policy formulated to recognize and promote sustainable and innovative practices.	Project Reports
b) Related sustainable agricultural and biodiversity-sensitive value chains are developed/strengthened.	b1) Number of local/regional related value chains developed/strengthened [GERF 2.1: Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land] b2) Number of individuals holding full or part-time jobs/green jobs in these chains, (disaggregated by sex/age if possible) [GERF 2.13: Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU]	b1) b2) Baseline 2022: 0 (zero) b1) b2) Targets for 2027: to be quantified in the first year per Caribbean OCT. Broadened access and participation in value chain development. Improvements have happened in terms of linking small producers and/or microenterprises to markets in general. Expanded economic opportunities for those engaged in producing agricultural and fishery products. Improved job generation.	OCTs' Statistics and policy documents Project Reports

Specific objective 2: To improve the management of water resources.			
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of Verification (Sources of data)
a) Local strategic plans defined to address the long-term islands' water needs.	a1) Number of OCT's with updated strategic water resources management plan a2) Number of plans formally adopted and being implemented	Baseline a1 and a2) Number of OCTs with updated water resources management plan – and plans formally adopted and being implemented (2024 tbc). Targets for 2027: a1) More than 50% (minimum of 4 Caribbean OCTs) have a strategic plan to address the long term islands water needs. a2) More than 50% of the plans have been formally adopted and implemented.	OCTs' policy documents
b) Capacities for collection, storage and treatment (drinking water and wastewater) are reinforced.	b1) Number of institutions and staff members (public administration, CSO) having gained and applying new skills (disaggregated by institution, sex/age if possible)	Baseline: Number of institutions and staff members per Caribbean OCT quantified in the first year of implementation (tbc). Target for 2027: Number of training sessions per Caribbean OCT finalized for new skills (tbc).	OCTs' Statistics and policy documents Project Reports
c) Policies/measures identified and implemented at local level to improve water resources management.	c1) Number of watersheds springs and/or groundwater recharge areas with new protection/restoration measures (disaggregated by type of ecosystem and measures and OCT) [<i>GERF 2.9: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)</i>]	Baseline: Per Caribbean OCT to establish number of watersheds springs and/or groundwater recharge areas (2024 tbc). Target for 2027: To be quantified in the first year of implementation per Caribbean OCT. Majority of Key watersheds and relevant springs and/or groundwater recharge areas per Caribbean OCT protected and/or restoration measures in place.	OCTs' Statistics and policy documents Project Reports

Specific objective 3: To foster Caribbean OCT biodiversity (terrestrial and marine).			
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of Verification (Sources of data)
<p>a) Local Strategic plans for strengthening the protection and/or restoration of ecosystems and their services assessed, established and implemented.</p>	<p>a1) Area of key ecosystems (with a focus on marine ones) subject to new protection/restoration measures (disaggregated by type of ecosystem and measures and OCT) [<i>GERF 2.8 Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)</i> <i>GERF 2.9: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)</i>]</p>	<p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) No common ecosystem/marine and terrestrial plan for protection and restoration of terrestrial and marine biodiversity for Caribbean OCTs.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: 1 (one) common ecosystem (marine/ terrestrial plan for protection and restoration of terrestrial and marine biodiversity per Caribbean OCT.</p> <p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) ground ring fenced and protected with the specific goal of land rehabilitation and food protection.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: Areas in m2 to be identified in all and/or selected Caribbean OCTs to be formally protected with the sole purpose of land rehabilitation and agriculture purposes.</p> <p>Development of a common criteria for the identification and selection of areas (marine/terrestrial) to be protected with the sole purpose of land rehabilitation and agriculture purposes.</p>	<p>OCTs' Statistics and policy documents Project Reports</p>
	<p>a2) Area of natural space with formal protection status (disaggregated by OCT)</p>		

<p>b) Establishment of natural capital accounting mechanisms by local governments.⁸</p>	<p>b1) Number of OCT's that have carried out a natural capital assessment exercise</p> <p>b2) Number of OCT's monitoring their natural capital as part of their national accounts</p>	<p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero)</p> <p>Targets for 2027: At least one natural capital assessment per Caribbean OCT.</p> <p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero)</p> <p>Targets for 2027: At least 50% of all Caribbean OCT monitoring their natural capital as part of their national accounts.</p> <p>Value of National asset incorporated in the national budget of each Caribbean OCT by 2026.</p> <p>Minimizing of carbon footprint or restoration of natural habitat associated/linked to a nature currency or international point system for reduced carbon footprint.</p>	<p>OCTs' Statistics and policy documents</p> <p>Project Reports</p>
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Specific objective 4:
To strengthen regional cooperation in improved management of food and nutrition security, water resources and foster Caribbean OCT biodiversity.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of Verification (Sources of data)
<p>a) Enhanced capacity of relevant Caribbean OCTs' institutions in promoting good practices in food security, water management and use of biodiversity at the regional level (number of stakeholders meetings).</p>	<p>a1) Number of regional meetings/workshops on good practice in food security, water management and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity (events disaggregated by type and matter ;participants disaggregated by institution, sex and age)</p>	<p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) non-virtual meeting/ workshop and 0 (zero) thematic meeting/workshop.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: 1 (one) overall kick-off meeting; and 1 (one) yearly (through the 7 budget years) progress meeting on rotation basis on each Caribbean OCT and 1 (one) joint thematic workshop on each Caribbean OCT. For the benefit of time, efficiency, synergy and</p>	<p>Project Reports</p>

⁸ As appropriate and relevant, it will be further explored during the design of the action on how payment-for-ecosystem services schemes can be of interest for OCTs and introduced/developed.

		<p>integration, it is proposed to organize these meetings and workshops at the same time.</p> <p>a2) Number of publications produced through these events</p> <p>Baseline 2022: 0 (zero) joint publication on the regional cooperation and 0 (zero) on the thematic priority areas.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: 1 (one) joint publication on the progress of the strategic regional cooperation and 1 (one) publication on each thematic priority area (3).</p>	
<p>b) Strengthened policies and strategic orientations related to food security, water management and biodiversity agreed at regional level.</p>	<p>b1) Number of regional policy proposals/guidance documents produced with EU support</p> <p>b2) Number of joint declarations of at least 3 Caribbean OCTs for the adoption of strategic policies/guidelines</p>	<p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) regional proposal/guidance document on the regional cooperation.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: 7 (seven) regional policy proposals/guidance documents on for the three themes.</p> <p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) joint declaration (of at least 3 Caribbean OCTs) on the adoption of the strategic policies/guidelines.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: at least 7 (seven) joint declarations (of at least 3 Caribbean OCTs) for the adoption of strategic policies/guidelines.</p>	<p>OCTs' policy documents</p> <p>Project Reports</p>
<p>c) Enhanced regional coordination on monitoring of key biodiversity areas and ecosystems.</p>	<p>c1) Status of agreement and roadmap for the construction or strengthening of joint socio-environmental monitoring capacities</p>	<p>Baseline: 2022: 0 (zero) agreement and roadmap.</p> <p>Targets for 2027: 1 (one) regional cooperation agreement and 1 (one) joint roadmap for the Caribbean OCTs.</p>	<p>OCTs' policy documents</p>