

6. Lessons Learned

There are several significant lessons that can be learned from the implementation of the current project. These include:

- The realisation that environmental benefits from a project may be critical at the island level but not be considered globally significant. For example, while the project outcomes will not have a global environmental impact, the project set the stage for the preservation of the former sugar lands of St. Kitts and Nevis and the creation of awareness on livelihood challenges to the people.
- There is a limited awareness of the value of biodiversity in St. Kitts and Nevis, even among senior government officials. One consequence is that government significantly underestimates the economic benefits that can be derived from biodiversity. A second consequence is that biodiversity conservation has a low priority in St. Kitts and Nevis. This emphasises the need for significant public awareness programmes on biodiversity in the country.
- Current policies, legal frameworks and institutional arrangements for biodiversity management are inadequate in St. Kitts and Nevis. There is a significant need for upgrading the legal framework within which biodiversity is managed and conserved.
- Inter-ministerial collaboration and coordination is essential for the successful implementation of projects at a national level, since it allows all sectors of government and civil society to share information and share views.

- Projects that have relevance to livelihoods and poverty alleviation readily gain the attention of stakeholders and government and are good vehicles for transposing knowledge, attitudes and skills intended for sustainability.
- The involvement of local persons, particularly technical experts, in all phases of the project cycle results in stronger project outputs that bear meaning and significance to national development and the way of life of the people. Future project development should consider a heavier use of local personnel.
- Education programmes targeting youths and children are vital to ensuring the preservation of traditional knowledge and the transfer of knowledge on conservation across generations.