



St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2026-2030

*Aligning National Priorities with the Kunming–Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework*

Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

In collaboration with:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACE	Advancing Circular Economy (Facility)
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCSA	Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator
CDT	Catch Documentation and Traceability
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CWSA	Central Water and Sewerage Authority
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEE	Foundation for Environmental Education
FLII	Forest Landscape Integrity Index
FMAC	Fisheries Management Advisory Council
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
KM GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFW	Global Forest Watch
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GPS	Global Program on Sustainability
GWP	Global Wildlife Program
IADC	International Airport Development Company
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LMOs	Living Modified Organisms
MoHWE	Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBC	National Biosafety Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCC	National Coordinating Committee (Jamaica)
NEAC	National Environmental Appraisal Committee
NESDP	National Economic and Social Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPBRA	National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority
NPDP	National Physical Development Plan
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PA	Protected Area
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PPQU	Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit
PROBLUE	World Bank Blue Economy Trust Fund
PROFISH	Global Program on Fisheries (World Bank)
QA	Quality Assurance
SDU	Sustainable Development Unit
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SRO	Statutory Rules and Orders
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries (Guidelines)
SusGren	Sustainable Grenadines Inc.
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
TBE	To Be Established
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction

The **St Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2026-2030** builds on the achievements and lessons of the 2015-2020 cycle and aligns the country's ambition with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF). Adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP15 in 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) is the global roadmap to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve a 2050 vision of "living in harmony with nature." It is structured around four long-term goals and 23 action targets for 2030—among them conserving at least 30% of land and sea, restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing pressures from invasive species and pollution, mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, and mobilizing finance and capacity. SVG has developed its NBSAP 2026-2030 to align with the KM GBF so that national ambitions, targets, indicators, and monitoring are consistent with the global framework; to fulfill obligations as a Party of CBD, CITES, and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and to establish a coherent whole-of-government and whole-of-society agenda for delivery of National Targets. Alignment with KM GBF will also improve access of the country to international support (e.g., the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and GEF resources), sharpen measurable outcomes, and accelerate implementation on island priorities such as coastal and marine conservation, sustainable fisheries and agriculture, climate resilience, and community stewardship through 2030.

The National Targets to contribute to KM GBF and associated activities presented in this document were identified through a three-step, evidence-based process:

- **NBSAP Rapid Review (January – March 2025):** A desk assessment compared the SVG NBSAP 2015-2020 targets, the latest data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, and existing policy and institutional mandates against the 23 GBF targets. Gaps and priority themes (e.g., forest integrity, endangered species protection, invasive species control, sustainable financing, etc.) were distilled into a draft national matrix of 14 National Targets;
- **Multi-stakeholder NBSAP Workshop (19-20 March 2025, Kingstown):** Representatives from government ministries, statutory bodies, civil society organizations, local communities, academia, and the private sector validated priority issues and refined draft national targets. Consensus was reached on National Target wording, interim milestones, and indicative indicators for each target. 14 National Targets for NBSAP 2026-2030 were confirmed with stakeholders;
- **Target & Activity Verification (May-September 2025):** Bilateral and small-group sessions were held with the Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, Plant Protection & Quarantine Unit (PPQU), National Parks Rivers & Beaches Authority (NPRBA), Economic Planning Unit, Financial Planning Unit, Physical Planning Unit, and the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU). These consultations confirmed the feasibility, sequencing, institutional ownership, and resourcing needs of every activity, producing the verified National Target Activity framework.

The **National Targets** and associated **Activities** form the core of the SVG NBSAP 2026-2030 to achieve GBF Targets and guide national reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. They are complemented by the **Whole of the Government and the Whole of Society Management Framework, Monitoring Plan, Policy Coherence Plan, and Biodiversity Finance Plan**.

The SVG NBSAP 2026-2030 was developed in the framework of the UNDP/GEF project "GEF Enabling Activities for Biodiversity Planning, Finance and Reporting"

National Context

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is renowned for its ecological richness – a microcosm of Caribbean biodiversity encompassing rainforests, coastal woodlands, mangroves, coral reefs, and more. This small island nation consists of the main island of St. Vincent and a chain of smaller Grenadine islands, together hosting a remarkable diversity of species and habitats. SVG lies within the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, boasting high endemism and species richness¹.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines hosts a diverse range of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, with a total of 17 mammal species, including 12 species of bats. The country is home to 190 bird species, featuring two island endemics, the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*, EN) and the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishop*, EN), along with over 14 regional endemics. Additionally, there are two endemic bird subspecies: *Myadestes genibarbis* and *Troglodytes aedon*. The reptile population includes 21 species, with five endemics, comprising four lizards—*Anolis griseus*, *Anolis trinitatus*, *Sphaerodactylus kirbyi* (restricted to Bequia and Mustique), and *Gonatodes daudini* (limited to Union Island)—along with the Black Snake (*Chironius vincentii*). The marine ecosystem supports four turtle species, including Hawksbill, Green, Loggerhead, and Leatherback turtles, while amphibians are represented by four species, including the endemic *Eleuthrodactylus shrevei*. The country is also rich in flora, boasting 1,150 species of flowering plants, of which 16 are endemic, alongside 163 fern species, including the endemic Tree Fern (*Cyathea tenera*). The country also recorded 126 invasive alien species, many of them terrestrial, and at least 15 of these—including notorious invaders such as the small Indian mongoose (*Urva auropunctata*), cane toad (*Rhinella marina*) and Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*)—appear on the IUCN “100 worst” list².

Freshwater and marine biodiversity is extensive, with 25 species of fresh and brackish water fish and an estimated 500 marine species, including 450 species of finfish, 12 species of whales and dolphins, and 30 species of corals. The country also records one invasive species of fish, the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*, *Pterois miles*), and one invasive species of seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*). Other invertebrate diversity includes 25 species of diplopods (centipedes and millipedes), 220 arachnid species, 2,000 species of insects, and 35 terrestrial crustaceans. Additionally, 875 species of mollusks have been recorded, comprising 75 terrestrial and freshwater species and 800 marine species.

The terrestrial landscape is characterized by 12,700 hectares of tropical forest, accounting for 29% of the country's land area. This includes primary and secondary rainforest, palm brakes, elfin woodland, littoral woodland, dry scrub woodlands, and mangrove forests, providing crucial habitats for many endemic and ecologically significant species. Many of these ecosystems and species play key roles in ecological regulation and hold substantial economic value, provide critical ecosystem services.³

For example, upland forests regulate freshwater supplies and prevent soil erosion, protecting communities from landslides and maintaining water quality. Coastal ecosystems – including mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs – form a natural shield that stabilizes shorelines and buffers storm waves, thereby defending coastal settlements from flooding and erosion⁴. They also sustain local livelihoods: fisheries depend on healthy reefs and mangroves as breeding and nursery areas, and nature-based tourism (diving, snorkeling, hiking) is a cornerstone of SVG's economy. In 2013, over 200,000 visitors came to SVG, with tourism contributing an estimated 5.8% of GDP⁵, much of it drawn by the islands' natural beauty and wildlife.

¹Convention on Biological Diversity: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Country Profile [cbd.int](https://www.cbd.int/oc/stv)

² Global Invasive Species Database: <https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=47&utm>

³ Convention on Biological Diversity: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Country Profile [cbd.int](https://www.cbd.int/oc/stv)

⁴ Kramer, P. R., Roth, L. M., Constantine, S., Knowles, J., Cross, L., Steneck, R., Newman, S. P., Williams, S. M., & Phillips, M. (2016). *St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Coral Reef Report Card 2016*. The Nature Conservancy. [nature.org](https://www.nature.org)

⁵ Kramer, P. R., Roth, L. M., Constantine, S., Knowles, J., Cross, L., Steneck, R., Newman, S. P., Williams, S. M., & Phillips, M. (2016). *St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Coral Reef Report Card 2016*. The Nature Conservancy. [nature.org](https://www.nature.org)

Despite their importance, SVG's ecosystems are under increasing threat from human activities and climate-related stresses. In this context, safeguarding SVG's ecosystems is crucial for both environmental and socio-economic reasons.

SVG Key Ecosystems and Their Viability

Terrestrial Ecosystems

SVG's terrestrial ecosystems range from humid tropical forests in the highlands of St. Vincent to dry scrub vegetation on the low-lying Grenadines. The island's steep topography and varied micro-climates give rise to distinct habitat types at different elevations and exposures. The key terrestrial ecosystems of the country are **Rainforests**, **Elfin Woodlands**, **Littoral Woodlands**, **Mangrove Forests**, **Dry Scrub Woodlands**, and **Disturbed Lands** (areas impacted by volcanic activity or human disturbance). Each plays a unique role in SVG's ecology and each is subject to specific threats that have been addressed in the updated NBSAP. See full details of Ecosystem Viability Analysis in the Annex 1. *Rapid Review of NBSAP 2015-2020 Targets, National Biodiversity Monitoring System, Policy, and Institutional Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework*.

Rainforests. Rainforests cover the mountainous interior of St. Vincent, thriving in areas of high rainfall roughly between 300 and 700 meters elevation. These forests are the most biologically diverse terrestrial ecosystem in SVG, harboring a wealth of endemic and native species. Iconic fauna like the St. Vincent Parrot depend on mature rainforest habitat, and a myriad of plant species form a complex structure from canopy to understory. Rainforests also provide essential services: they capture and regulate freshwater (feeding rivers and reservoirs), prevent severe soil erosion on steep slopes, and store carbon. Currently, forest (including rainforest) covers about 66% of SVG's land⁶, but much of this is secondary growth and the quality of primary rainforest is under pressure. Overall, SVG's rainforests remain a critical ecosystem and are considered to have **Good** viability status with a tendency to decrease due to human pressures.

Elfin Woodlands. At the highest elevations of St. Vincent (generally above ~600–700 m, notably atop peaks like La Soufrière volcano), the rainforest gives way to Elfin Woodlands – stunted, mossy cloud forests characterized by gnarled trees and abundant epiphytes. These rare ecosystems occur in the frequently cloud-covered, windswept summit areas and have adapted to thin soils and high humidity. Typical species include moss-laden shrub-like trees and unique plants like *Chorizanthe* and *Freziera*, which form a low canopy often under 5 m tall. Elfin woodland patches are limited in area due to the small size of summit zones; while exact mapping is scarce, they form part of the ~32% of SVG classified as tropical forests (including cloud forests). The viability of Elfin Woodlands is considered vulnerable (**Fair**). Because these habitats occupy the highest elevations, they have no refuge to migrate higher as temperatures warm – making them particularly susceptible to climate change. Changes in cloud formation and moisture availability could drastically alter these ecosystems.

Littoral Woodlands. Littoral woodlands are the narrow bands of coastal forest and scrub found just inland of the shore, particularly on sandy or rocky coasts of both St. Vincent and some Grenadine islands. These woodlands feature salt-tolerant and wind-resistant trees such as Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) and White Cedar (*Tabebuia pallida*), and often transition between beach vegetation and interior forest. Although not extensive (historically covering only a few square kilometers), littoral woodlands play an outsized role in coastal stability – their root systems bind sand and soil, protecting against erosion, and their canopy shields inland areas from salt spray and storm winds. In SVG, it's estimated that littoral woodlands cover roughly 12 km² (about 3% of the country's area). Due to their limited extent and direct exposure, littoral woodlands are also vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme weather. Overall, littoral woodlands in SVG are in declining health (**Poor** status).

⁶ Global Forest Watch, 2024

Mangrove Forests. Mangrove forests are a specialized type of littoral ecosystem consisting of salt-tolerant tree species fringing sheltered coasts, lagoons, and estuaries. In SVG, mangroves are relatively scarce but highly valuable. An assessment in 2000 noted that only about 42 hectares of mangroves remained in the country, mainly on Union Island and Mustique and a tiny patch on St. Vincent's south coast⁷. Recent estimates suggest mangrove coverage around 0.9 km² (90 ha) when including scattered small groves across the islands⁸. The dominant species are Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*), and Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)⁹. Mangroves provide critical nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans, support birds (including herons and egrets), and protect shorelines by dissipating wave energy and trapping sediments. Presently, mangrove forests in SVG are considered in a precarious state (**Poor** viability).

Dry Scrub Woodlands. Dry scrub woodlands are found in the drier lowland areas of SVG, particularly in the southern coastal regions of St. Vincent and across several Grenadine islands where rainfall is lower. These areas support drought-resistant vegetation – acacias, cacti, and shrubs such as *Bursera simaruba* (locally known as red gum or turpentine tree) are common, and grasses and low herbs form the groundcover. The landscape is more open than rainforest, with patches of thorny thicket and bare rock. Dry woodlands are important for preventing soil erosion in arid zones and provide habitat for reptiles, birds, and insects adapted to dry conditions. They also often contain culturally important plants used for medicine or livestock fodder. It's estimated that dry scrub woodlands cover about 2,179 hectares in SVG (~5.6% of land area). The current status of these woodlands is under strain, rated as **Fair** in viability analyses.

Disturbed Lands (Volcanic or Development Impact Zones). “Disturbed lands” in the context of SVG include areas that have experienced severe disruption of the natural landscape, whether from human activities or natural events like volcanic eruptions. The most significant are the volcanic impact zones around La Soufrière volcano at the north of St. Vincent. La Soufrière's eruptions (most recently in 2021, and previously in 1979) blanketed large areas with ash and pyroclastic debris, devastating vegetation in the immediate vicinity. The upper slopes of the volcano and adjacent valleys periodically undergo primary succession as plant life recolonizes fresh lava deposits or ash fields. These zones are characterized by sparse pioneer plants (ferns, grasses, scrub) on bare rock or ash, gradually giving way to secondary forest over decades until the next eruption resets the cycle. In addition to volcanic areas, other disturbed lands include quarries, degraded agricultural lands, or infrastructure sites where natural vegetation has been removed and soil stability is low. It is estimated that up to 15% of SVG's land (around 58 km²) could be classified as disturbed or degraded land, though this figure includes anthropogenically degraded zones as well. Ecologically, these areas have the poorest condition, often rated Poor in viability because essential ecological functions are lost or greatly reduced.

Freshwater Ecosystems. Surface freshwater ecosystems in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) are relatively limited in extent but critically important. On the mountainous mainland of St. Vincent, dozens of short, steep streams and rivers drain 16 discrete forested watersheds radiating from the central highlands¹⁰, while the smaller Grenadine islands lack permanent rivers altogether (relying on rain catchments or desalination in the absence of springs and streams). There are no significant natural lakes. SVG's wetlands are confined to a few coastal areas – notably two small mangrove forests on St. Vincent's southeast coast and several mangrove stands in the Grenadines (dominated by red, white, black mangrove and buttonwood)¹¹. Scattered salt ponds (coastal lagoons) add another ~98 ha of brackish wetland habitat across both St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These freshwater and brackish habitats provide vital ecosystem services: they supply most of the country's potable water, support aquatic wildlife, and buffer coastal areas (mangroves and ponds serve as nursery grounds and offer flood protection). Despite their small size, SVG's

⁷Convention on Biological Diversity: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Country Profile [cbd.int](https://www.cbd.int/country/profile/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines)

⁸ UNESCO. (2022). *Mangrove ecosystems of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* [Poster]. UNESCO. [unesdoc.unesco.org](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/61906/0001/0000015123)

⁹ Kramer, P. R., Roth, L. M., Constantine, S., Knowles, J., Cross, L., Steneck, R., Newman, S. P., Williams, S. M., & Phillips, M. (2016). *St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Coral Reef Report Card 2016*. The Nature Conservancy. [nature.org](https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-reports-and-publications/our-reports-and-publications/our-reports-and-publications/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines-coral-reef-report-card-2016)

¹⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015). *AQUASTAT Country Profile – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*. Rome: FAO. [openknowledge.fao.org](https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/document/33622)

¹¹ Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, and Information Technology. (2017, October). *Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2020)*. Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Sustainable Development Unit. [cbd.int](https://www.cbd.int/country/profile/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines)

freshwater ecosystems host unique biodiversity and play key ecological roles. Only about 25 species of native fresh and brackish-water fish and invertebrates have been recorded, reflecting the naturally limited fauna of small islands. Freshwater streams are home to crustaceans like crayfish and crabs along with gobies and eels; for example, a survey of the Buccament River found it “teeming” with crayfish, crabs, and at least 25 fish species¹². Overall, the ecological condition of SVG’s freshwater habitats is mixed and showing signs of decline (**Fair Viability**).

Marine Ecosystems

Surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, SVG is endowed with marine ecosystems that rival its terrestrial ones in diversity and importance. The country’s waters include extensive coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and rich pelagic zones, especially around the Grenadine islands which sit on the shallow Grenada Bank. SVG’s marine area (including its Exclusive Economic Zone) is vast – the shelf area alone is about 2,074 km² ¹³ – and within this, habitats such as coral reefs and seagrasses are critical for fisheries and tourism. Five key marine ecosystem types are highlighted: **Coral Reefs, Seagrass Beds, Rocky Shores, Sandy Beaches, and Open Ocean Ecosystems**. These systems are highly interlinked (reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses often form a connected coastal mosaic) and collectively support the country’s marine biodiversity from coastal shallows to deep offshore waters.

Coral Reefs. Coral reefs in SVG are primarily fringing reefs that grow along the coasts of the Grenadines and in some parts of St. Vincent, as well as patch reefs and bank reefs in the shallow waters between islands. Notably, the southern Grenadines (Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, etc.) are encircled by extensive reef systems – for example, the famed Tobago Cays reef which is part of a marine park. These reefs are hotspots of marine life, built by hard corals (such as brain coral, star coral, elkhorn and staghorn coral) and hosting hundreds of reef fish species, crustaceans, mollusks, and other organisms. Approximately 168 km² of coral reefs are mapped within SVG’s waters¹⁴, underscoring their broad extent. They play a crucial role in supporting local fisheries (many reef fish and lobster are harvested there) and protecting shorelines by absorbing wave energy. Coral reefs also underpin tourism, attracting divers and snorkelers. Overall viability of coral reefs in SVG waters was assessed as **Poor** due to multiple anthropogenic and climate threats.

Seagrass Beds. Seagrass beds are underwater meadows formed by marine flowering plants (such as turtle grass, *Thalassia testudinum*) in shallow sandy or muddy areas, often in calm bays and around reefs. SVG’s seagrass ecosystems are extensive around the Grenadines and parts of St. Vincent’s coast, frequently found in the same locales as coral reefs and mangroves. According to regional habitat mapping, SVG has about 28 km² of seagrass beds ¹⁵, particularly around areas like the Tobago Cays, between the islets of the Grenadines, and in leeward bay areas of St. Vincent. Seagrass beds are incredibly important for fisheries and biodiversity – they serve as rich feeding grounds and nurseries for conch, lobster, juvenile reef fish, and endangered species such as green and hawksbill sea turtles, which graze on seagrass leaves. By stabilizing seabed sediments, seagrasses also improve water clarity (benefiting coral growth) and help protect shorelines. The condition of SVG’s seagrass beds is closely tied to water quality and coastal practices. Currently, these habitats are considered in **Fair** but declining condition.

Rocky Shores. Rocky shores are the intertidal and nearshore areas composed of rock outcrops, cliffs, and tide pools, commonly found along parts of St. Vincent’s coastline and some of the rockier Grenadine islets. Unlike beaches, rocky shores provide hard substrates where barnacles, mollusks, algae, and crustaceans thrive, forming a unique ecological zone that is alternately wet and dry with the tides. In SVG, sections of the leeward (western) coast of St. Vincent and windward cliffs, as well as shoreline in the northern Grenadines, feature rocky intertidal habitats. While not expansive in area, they are important for biodiversity – hosting tide pool fish, sea urchins, crabs, and serving as

¹² Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, and Information Technology. (2017, October). *Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2020)*. Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Sustainable Development Unit. cbd.int

¹³ Kramer, P. R., Roth, L. M., Constantine, S., Knowles, J., Cross, L., Steneck, R., Newman, S. P., Williams, S. M., & Phillips, M. (2016). *St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Coral Reef Report Card 2016*. The Nature Conservancy. nature.org

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

roosting sites for seabirds. Rocky shores also contribute to coastal resilience, as their presence helps break waves and reduce erosion of inland soils. The current state of rocky shore ecosystems in SVG is moderately degraded. They are rated Fair in viability, meaning they still maintain ecological functions but are facing growing threats.

Sandy Beaches. SVG’s sandy beaches, though relatively narrow and fringing, are an integral ecosystem connecting land and sea. They consist of coral sand or volcanic sand (black sand beaches are found on St. Vincent’s windward side due to volcanic geology) and shift dynamically with tides and weather. Key beaches are found on many Grenadine islands (e.g. the white sands of Palm Island, parts of Union Island, Bequia’s Industry and Princess Margaret beaches) and on St. Vincent (Indian Bay, Brighton Beach, etc.). Beaches are more than just tourist attractions; ecologically, several of SVG’s beaches serve as nesting sites for sea turtles, including Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles, which lay eggs on quiet beaches at night. Dune vegetation, where present (grasses, sea purslane, etc.), provides habitat for crustaceans and birds like plovers. In terms of area, SVG’s sandy beaches cover only around 2–3 km² in total (under 1% of land area). They are considered to have Fair viability status at best.

Open Ocean Ecosystems. Beyond the reefs and coastal shelf lies SVG’s open ocean environment, encompassing deep offshore waters and open sea in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that stretches far from the islands. These pelagic ecosystems are less visible but are crucial, forming part of migratory routes and supporting large marine life. The open ocean around SVG is home to pelagic fish (like tunas, mahi-mahi, flying fish), marine mammals (dolphins and occasional whales), and other megafauna such as migratory sea turtles that travel through. The health of the open ocean is linked to regional oceanographic conditions and far-field influences (currents, nutrient upwelling, etc.), as well as human activities like fishing and shipping. Viability of open ocean ecosystems is assessed as **Fair**.

Table 1. Summary of the SVG ecosystem viability

Ecosystem	Viability Rating
Rainforests	Good
Elfin Woodlands	Fair
Littoral Woodlands	Poor
Mangrove Forests	Poor
Dry Scrub Woodlands	Fair
Disturbed Lands (Volcanic/Development)	Poor
Freshwater Ecosystems	Fair
Coral Reefs	Poor
Seagrass Beds	Fair
Rocky Shores	Fair
Sandy Beaches	Fair
Open Ocean Ecosystems	Fair

Key Threats for SVG Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Multiple threats impact SVG’s ecosystems, often in interconnected ways. This section reviews the major threats: **Deforestation, Invasive Species, Agrochemical Pollution, Urban and Coastal Development, Overfishing, Climate Change Impacts, Sand Mining, and Tourism Pressure**, and others – and how each undermines the integrity of one or more ecosystem types (see full details in the Annex 1. *Rapid Review of NBSAP 2015-2020 Targets, National Biodiversity Monitoring System, Policy, and Institutional Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework*). Notably, many of these threats are cross-cutting, affecting terrestrial and marine environments alike (e.g., deforestation can

harm coral reefs through sediment runoff). The analysis highlights that it is the *cumulative* effect of these threats that is most concerning: for instance, a reef stressed by pollution will be less resilient to bleaching.

Deforestation. Deforestation in SVG stems from agriculture, infrastructure, and illicit activity. Though national forest cover remains high, loss has accelerated in hotspots: 2001–2023 saw 485 ha of tree cover lost (~1.7% since 2000). Expansion into hill forests for subsistence and commercial agriculture drives clearing, with illegal marijuana cultivation in remote watersheds a major contributor; plots are often abandoned, leaving degraded land. Traditional crops, pasture on accessible slopes, and road, residential, and tourism projects add pressure. Impacts are severe: habitat loss and fragmentation threaten endemics such as the St. Vincent Parrot; erosion on cleared slopes increases landslides and flood risk, as shown by the Christmas Eve 2013 floods when logs from denuded hills amplified damage, prompting the Prime Minister to call upland deforestation a “ticking time bomb.” Sediment also smothers coral reefs, worsening decline. Overall, deforestation is a **High** threat.

Invasive Species. Invasive alien species (IAS) are non-native organisms that become established and harm the environment, economy, or human health. SVG has faced repeated introductions that now affect forests, farms, freshwater, and coasts. On land, the Small Indian Mongoose (*Urva auropunctata*), introduced for rodent control, continues to depress native reptiles and ground nesting birds. The Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*) defoliates crops and ornamentals, damages seedlings and nurseries, and can spread pathogens, imposing ongoing control costs on farmers. The Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) outcompetes native frogs and preys on insects and small vertebrates, spreading via nursery plant stock and cargo. Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon spp.*) forms dense, flammable swards on disturbed slopes and coastal scrub, suppressing native regeneration and elevating wildfire risk. Agricultural pests and diseases compound these pressures: the West Indian fruit fly (*Anastrepha obliqua*) infests mango, guava, and other fruit, triggering quarantine and surveillance needs, while Banana Black Sigatoka (*Pseudocercospora fijiensis*) and Banana Moko disease (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) reduce yields and can devastate banana/plantain holdings without strict sanitation, tool hygiene, and planting material controls. In marine and coastal systems, Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) prey heavily on juvenile reef fish and invertebrates, suppressing recruitment and altering food webs; local culling and “eat-the-invader” campaigns help but require sustained effort. The invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* spreads rapidly across bays and anchorages, displacing native *Thalassia* and *Syringodium* meadows, changing sediment dynamics and nursery habitat for fish and invertebrates. On hard bottoms, *Xeniidae* soft corals can overgrow stony corals, trap sediments, and inhibit reef-building processes, reducing structural complexity and resilience. Because many AIS spread quietly via trade, travel, aquaculture, and boating (ballast water, hull fouling, anchors, contaminated tools/planting material), impacts often become visible only after establishment. Overall, AIS are rated as a **High** threat for terrestrial ecosystems and a **Very High** threat for marine ecosystems.

Agrochemical Pollution. Agrochemical pollution arises from fertilizers and pesticides used in SVG agriculture (bananas historically, now mixed crops). Heavy applications on steep, rain-soaked hillsides wash into rivers and coasts, enriching waters with nitrogen and phosphorus, fueling algal blooms, oxygen loss, and harm to aquatic life. Pesticide residues affect non-target species, reducing insects and pollinators, killing adjacent vegetation, and accumulate in soils and sediments. Freshwater, reefs, and seagrass near farmed catchments, notably along windward St. Vincent, show stress consistent with turbid, nutrient-rich runoff; some contaminants also seep into groundwater. Risks are amplified by improper handling/disposal of chemicals (including legacy or banned stocks) and climate extremes: intense rains drive runoff pulses, while droughts concentrate pollutants. Overall, this is a **High** threat to SVG biodiversity.

Urban and Coastal Development. Though smaller in scale, development pressure in SVG drives significant habitat loss, especially in coastal zones and lowlands. Urban growth (towns, housing, roads, industry) and coastal projects (tourism resorts/marinas, ports) remove littoral woodland and mangroves, while hillside building around Kingstown and other communities encroaches on secondary forests and wetlands. Expansion, including informal settlements on marginal slopes, often lacks drainage and waste services, increasing pollution and erosion. In the Grenadines, tourism villas and infrastructure consume scarce land; unplanned siting near beaches and reefs causes sedimentation and runoff, as noted in CBD reporting. Inadequate sewage treatment sends nutrients to nearshore

waters, harming coral and seagrass and posing health risks. More paved surfaces speed stormwater carrying pollutants to rivers and coasts. Construction also relies on beach sand mining and upland quarrying, removing natural coastal defenses and creating sediment plumes. Because conversion is typically permanent, ecological function is largely lost; and climate change heightens these risks. This threat is rated **High**.

Hunting, Overfishing, and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). Hunting, overfishing, and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) pose major threats to SVG's biodiversity. Due to IWT the Saint Vincent amazon parrot fell sharply but has rebounded from ~400 in the 1980s to 800+ through enforcement and outreach; the Union Island gecko, once targeted for the pet trade, is now under community-led protection. IWT also endangers the Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana, Grenada Bank Tree Boa, Grenadines Pygmy Gecko, and Caribbean Diamond Tarantula. At sea, Barrouallie's traditional small cetacean hunt raised sustainability concerns; in December 2024 the community voluntarily ceased orca hunts in exchange for support to shift toward tuna fishing with FADs. Fisheries from nearshore reefs to offshore pelagics show stress: reef fish (including key herbivores like parrotfish) are depleted, lobster and conch are heavily fished, and shared stocks (flying fish, tunas) face regional pressure. Unregulated effort, fishing at spawning sites, bycatch (e.g., turtles), livelihood strains, weak enforcement, and climate impacts on reefs and mangroves compound risks. Overall threat: **High**.

Sand Mining. Sand mining, the removal of beach or river sand for construction, poses a major risk in small island SVG where sand is limited. Historic extraction on St. Vincent's black sand beaches and in the Grenadines has accelerated erosion by disrupting sediment budgets, causing shoreline retreat, degrading tourism assets, and destabilizing turtle nests; mining near mangroves or dunes also weakens those habitats. In rivers, excessive extraction lowers beds, promotes saltwater intrusion, and can collapse banks. The CBD profile flags sand mining as a national driver of biodiversity change. Although government has designated and banned sites, illegal removal persists during construction booms. Tackling root causes, ensuring affordable imported or quarry sand, can ease pressure. With sea-level rise, retaining beach sand is vital coastal defense; each load removed erodes storm surge protection for the islands. Overall threat: **High**.

Tourism Pressure. Tourism is a double-edged sword in SVG: it funds local economy and conservation but, when unmanaged, degrades the very reefs, beaches, and forests that attract visitors. High use at Tobago Cays, La Soufrière, and popular beaches leads to coral breakage by snorkelers/divers and anchor scouring (now restricted in marine parks), plus trail erosion, litter, and noise. Wildlife is disturbed by night lighting and human presence on turtle-nesting beaches and by close approach in bird sanctuaries. Tourism also strains waste systems: yachts and cruise vessels generate sewage/greywater, and islands struggle with solid waste. Construction of hotels and marinas clears habitat and boosts water demand, affecting rivers and groundwater; tourism real estate reshapes small Grenadine islands. Visitor expectations can pressure wildlife (e.g., fish feeding/harassment), and unregulated souvenirs risk taking corals or shells. The COVID-19 pause showed how constant activity stressed sites; as visitation rebounds, tight controls on anchoring, waste, lighting, access, and footprints are essential. This threat is ranked **High**.

Climate Change Impacts. Climate change is a pervasive threat multiplier already affecting SVG and projected to intensify via sea level rise, higher air/sea temperatures, altered rainfall, stronger extremes, and ocean acidification. Even moderate sea level rise can inundate/erode beaches, mangroves, and saline lagoons; squeeze mangroves where inland migration is blocked; raise baseline water levels so storm surges and king tides penetrate farther; and drive saltwater into aquifers and wetlands, especially on low lying Grenadine islands. More intense storms and extreme rainfall, illustrated by the 2013 floods and several severe events since 2010, break coral frameworks, fell trees, and trigger landslides on deforested slopes, with slow ecological and community recovery. Heat stress, longer dry spells, and marine heatwaves (e.g., 2023) bleach corals, degrade montane/cloud forests, elevate wildfire risk in dry scrub, and reduce river flows, tightening water supply and pushing agriculture into marginal areas. Ocean acidification lowers carbonate availability, slowing growth of corals and other calcifiers and weakening reef structure, compounding bleaching and storm damage. Overall, climate change amplifies existing pressures and heightens disaster risk across SVG's ecosystems and communities and rated as **Very High** threat.

Table 2. Matrix of the key threats for SVG's ecosystems: L – Low, M – Medium, H – High, VH – Very High

Ecosystem	Deforestation	Invasive Species	Agrochemical Pollution	Urban & Coastal Development	Hunting / Overfishing	Sand Mining	Tourism Pressure	Climate Change	Overall Threat
Rainforests	H	M	M	M	M	L	M	H	H
Elfin Woodlands	L	H	L	L	L	L	M	VH	H
Littoral Woodlands	H	M	M	H	L	M	H	H	H
Mangrove Forests	VH	M	H	H	L	M	M	VH	VH
Dry Scrub Woodlands	H	H	M	H	M	L	M	H	H
Disturbed Lands	L	H	M	M	L	L	L	M	M
Freshwater Ecosystems	H	M	H	H	L	L	L	H	H
Coral Reefs	H	VH	H	H	VH	M	H	VH	VH
Seagrass Beds	H	M	H	H	M	M	H	H	H
Rocky Shores	L	M	L	M	L	L	M	H	M
Sandy Beaches	L	L	L	H	L	VH	H	H	H
Open Ocean	M	M	M	L	VH	L	M	VH	VH

Key Gaps in the NBSAP 2015-2020 Coverage

The review of SVG's 2015–2020 NBSAP targets found that while the targets addressed some national priorities, there were significant gaps in coverage, ambition, and alignment with global goals (see full details in the Annex 1. *Rapid Review of NBSAP 2015-2020 Targets, National Biodiversity Monitoring System, Policy, and Institutional Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework*). Key gaps identified include:

Incomplete Ecosystem Coverage: Most major ecosystem types in SVG were only indirectly addressed in the targets. Rainforests were the only ecosystem explicitly mentioned in the 2015–2020 targets, through references in habitat protection and restoration targets. Other important ecosystems, such as dry woodlands, mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and open ocean habitats, lacked dedicated targets or strategies. They were covered only in broad terms (e.g. via a general habitat loss reduction target), leaving many ecosystems without specific conservation actions tailored to their needs.

Uneven Threat Addressal: The NBSAP targets covered certain threats to biodiversity but missed many others. Invasive species were directly targeted (with a national target focused on invasives), and some threats like deforestation or climate change were touched upon under broader targets (e.g., habitat loss or ecosystem resilience). However, several critical threats were omitted entirely. Issues such as overfishing, pollution (e.g., agrochemical runoff, waste), coastal development, sand mining, and unsustainable tourism, farming, and fishing practices did not have specific targets. This uneven coverage means some major drivers of biodiversity loss in SVG were not being systematically tackled during 2015–2020.

Gaps in Alignment with GBF Targets: The analysis revealed that the NBSAP 2015–2020 targets only aligned with a subset of GBF targets, mainly those concerning habitat conservation, restoration, and awareness. Important GBF target areas were missing in SVG’s strategy. For example, there were no explicit national targets for species recovery, reducing pollution, promoting sustainable use in productive sectors, urban biodiversity, or biosafety. Cross-cutting themes like integrating biodiversity into economic planning, increasing conservation finance, and ensuring equitable participation (gender and local communities) were also absent. This indicates that SVG’s previous targets did not cover the full spectrum of actions envisioned under the global framework, leaving many GBF priorities unaddressed.

Limited SMART Specificity: Many of the 2015–2020 targets were not fully SMART. While generally relevant to SVG’s needs, some targets lacked clear quantitative indicators, baselines, or time-bound milestones. This made progress difficult to measure objectively. The targets did not specify who would implement actions or how they would be financed, causing them to remain aspirational. This gap in specificity and measurability reduced the effectiveness of the NBSAP, as stakeholders could not easily track accountability or outcomes for certain targets.

Overall, the rapid review concluded that SVG’s current targets need to be broadened and strengthened. To align with the GBF and effectively guide conservation, the next NBSAP’s targets must cover all key ecosystems and threats, include missing thematic areas (species protection, pollution control, sustainable use, etc.), and be formulated in a clearly measurable way. These findings directly informed NBSAP 2026–2030.

Key Gaps in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System

The assessment of SVG’s biodiversity monitoring system highlighted a mix of successful initiatives and critical gaps that limit the country’s ability to track and report on biodiversity progress (see full details in the Annex 1. *Rapid Review of NBSAP 2015-2020 Targets, National Biodiversity Monitoring System, Policy, and Institutional Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework*). The key gaps identified in the monitoring framework are as follows:

Lack of a Unified Monitoring Framework: SVG does not yet have an overarching, coherent national system for biodiversity monitoring. Monitoring efforts are fragmented: often carried out through individual projects, specific agencies, or short-term donor programs. There is no centralized strategy or coordination body ensuring comprehensive coverage across all ecosystems and species. This leads to important “blind spots”; for example, there is no consistent long-term monitoring for coral reefs, seagrass beds, or many endangered species at the national level. Many activities are ad hoc or reactive (launched in response to crises like natural disasters or invasive outbreaks) rather than part of a planned continuous program. This gap makes it difficult for SVG to assess overall biodiversity trends or gauge progress toward international targets in a systematic way.

Data Fragmentation and Accessibility Issues: Data collected from various monitoring efforts are not stored in a central repository or easily shared among stakeholders. Different agencies and NGOs hold pieces of biodiversity data (forests, marine resources, water quality, species sightings, etc.), but there is no operational national biodiversity database or clearing house mechanism to integrate this information. The absence of standard data-sharing protocols means that valuable data often remain siloed, are not fully utilized for decision-making, or even risk being lost. This fragmentation hampers the ability to produce comprehensive national reports (for example, compiling the Sixth National CBD Report was challenging due to scattered data) and to conduct analyses that span ecosystems (such as linking land-based activities to marine impacts).

Inconsistent Monitoring Continuity: Many monitoring programs in SVG suffer from irregular or short-term data collection, creating gaps in temporal coverage. For instance, some species surveys or habitat assessments have been one-off or infrequent, making it hard to establish trends. A noted example was a multi-year gap in the national SVG parrot population census, and irregular sea turtle nesting counts. Coral reef health surveys were only done in certain years. These discontinuities mean that long-term trends (e.g. gradual declines or recoveries) may go undetected, and data might not be sufficient to distinguish true changes in biodiversity from mere absences of monitoring. The stop-start nature of projects often results in “snapshot” data points rather than robust time series.

Capacity and Resource Constraints: Technical capacity for biodiversity monitoring is limited given the breadth of expertise needed. There are few specialists in areas like freshwater ecology, taxonomy, or data analysis within government institutions, and existing staff often juggle multiple roles. For example, fisheries officers must enforce regulations and also attempt to do scientific monitoring, stretching their capacity. Training is typically project-driven and not institutionalized, so when projects end or trained individuals leave, capacity is lost. Equipment and infrastructure for monitoring are also constrained – maintaining field instruments (like water quality sensors or camera traps) and employing advanced tools (like genetic analysis or remote sensing) is difficult under current budgets. Moreover, financial resources for monitoring are insecure. Government funding for environment departments is modest, and many monitoring efforts rely on external grants or volunteers. There is a lack of sustained funding for long-term programs, meaning activities can stall if a grant isn’t renewed. This financial uncertainty prevents strategic planning and investment in monitoring programs that require multi-year continuity.

Gaps in Global Alignment of Indicators: The current monitoring indicators and programs in SVG do not fully cover the range of metrics needed to track progress against GBF and SDG targets. The GBF and related global frameworks call for measuring things like species abundance indices, genetic diversity, ecosystem service values, and threat reduction effectiveness. SVG’s monitoring has focused on some areas (such as forest cover, a few flagship species counts, and basic water quality measures) but misses other important indicators: for example, pollinator populations, genetic diversity metrics, or comprehensive fisheries stock assessments. Without tracking these, SVG may struggle to report on certain GBF indicators (for instance, SDG indicators on sustainable fisheries or the Red List Index for species extinction risk). In short, the monitoring system is not yet fully outcome-oriented to capture all the biodiversity outcomes the country has committed to.

These gaps underscore the need for strengthening SVG’s biodiversity monitoring system. Addressing them will involve establishing a more coordinated national monitoring framework, improving data management and sharing, building technical capacity (human and equipment), securing sustainable funding, and ensuring monitoring efforts align with the GBF’s reporting needs.

Key Gaps Policy and Institutional Alignment with GBF Targets

The review of SVG’s policy and institutional landscape for biodiversity conservation found notable strengths, such as high-level commitment in recent policies and active community involvement, but also identified key gaps and misalignments that need attention (see full details in the Annex 1. *Rapid Review of NBSAP 2015-2020 Targets, National Biodiversity Monitoring System, Policy, and Institutional Alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework*). Major gaps in policy and institutional alignment with the GBF include:

Incomplete Coverage of GBF Target Areas: SVG’s previous NBSAP (discussed above) and related policies did not address the full breadth of themes in the GBF. For example, there were no explicit national policy targets corresponding to GBF Targets 7, 12, 13, and 15–23. Practically, this means areas like pollution control (GBF Target 7), urban nature (Target 12), access and benefit sharing of genetic resources (Target 13), private sector accountability (Target 15), integration of biodiversity into national accounting (Target 16), biosafety (Target 17), harmful subsidies reform (Target 18), and gender and youth engagement (Target 22, 23) were not prominent in SVG’s biodiversity policy framework. The lack of focus on these issues represents a policy gap that could hinder comprehensive biodiversity action. For instance, while SVG has some harmful subsidies (e.g., in agriculture and fisheries), there was no policy plan to reform these by 2030 as urged by the GBF. Going forward, the scope of national biodiversity policy needs to expand to incorporate these missing themes.

Marine Conservation Shortfalls: Marine and coastal biodiversity is under-protected and under-managed relative to GBF ambitions. SVG has made progress in terrestrial protected areas (about 22% of land protected¹⁶), but less than

¹⁶ <https://tradingeconomics.com/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines/terrestrial-protected-areas-percent-of-total-land-area-wb-data.html>

1% of its marine areas are under formal protection¹⁷, far from the GBF Target 3 goal of 30% marine protection by 2030. Important marine ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrass beds, fish spawning areas) remain largely outside protected zones and vulnerable to overfishing, habitat damage, and climate impacts. Enforcement of existing marine regulations is also limited due to capacity constraints (e.g., few marine wardens and patrols). Additionally, although SVG approved a National Ocean Policy in 2021, a comprehensive marine spatial plan is not yet in place to guide sustainable use across its exclusive economic zone. This gap in marine planning and protection means policies have not fully translated into conservation action, risking continued decline in marine biodiversity.

Pollution and Waste Management Gaps: Pollution control policies exist but their implementation is lagging, creating a gap between policy intent and on-ground impact (related to GBF Target 7 on reducing pollution). SVG has legislation for waste management and water quality, but many communities still face issues like improper waste disposal, plastics litter, and untreated sewage effluent reaching rivers and coasts. Agricultural runoff (fertilizers, pesticides) is not well regulated under a biodiversity framework, affecting freshwater and reef ecosystems. In essence, the “brown” environmental agenda (pollution, sanitation, waste) needs stronger enforcement and integration with the “green” agenda (conservation of species and habitats). Without better implementation of pollution controls, SVG’s biodiversity policies are missing a critical piece of ecosystem health management.

Outdated Laws and Overlapping Mandates: Several core environmental laws in SVG are outdated or fragmented, leading to overlaps and gaps in institutional mandates. Key legislation – such as the Wildlife Protection Act (1987), the Forest Resource Conservation Act (1992), and the Marine Parks Act (1997) – have not been comprehensively updated to reflect modern conservation approaches or the GBF targets. This has resulted in instances of unclear responsibility (for example, overlap between the NPRBA and the Forestry Department in managing forest reserves, or between the Fisheries Division and NPRBA in marine conservation areas). Outdated laws also mean certain new concepts (like marine protected area networks, invasive species management, payments for ecosystem services, or community co-management frameworks) are not adequately provided for in the legal structure. These gaps in legal and institutional clarity can impede effective action and coordination, making it harder to achieve targets that require cross-agency efforts (e.g., controlling invasive species or ensuring policy coherence across sectors, as in GBF Target 17).

Insufficient Funding and Resource Mobilization: Financial constraints are a cross-cutting gap impacting policy implementation. While SVG has established a national Conservation Fund (SVGCF) and tapped international funding for projects, overall funding for biodiversity initiatives remains limited relative to needs. Government budgets for environment and forestry agencies are small, and many conservation activities rely on short-term donor grants. There is no comprehensive biodiversity finance plan yet to mobilize and align resources with the GBF (Target 19 on resource mobilization). The Conservation Fund’s endowment is still modest, yielding limited returns so far. This funding shortfall affects the ability to enforce laws, expand protected areas, conduct research, and sustain community programs. Private sector engagement in funding biodiversity (beyond collecting tourism fees in parks) has been minimal, representing an untapped opportunity. Without boosting financial resources and incentives for conservation, even well-crafted policies might not be effectively implemented.

Gaps in Awareness and Data for Decision-Making: The policy review noted that biodiversity monitoring and information feedback into policy need improvement. While not a policy gap per se, the lack of up-to-date data (as noted in the monitoring assessment) means policymakers may not be fully informed on biodiversity trends. Public awareness campaigns and integration of biodiversity values into education and national accounting are still developing (GBF Targets 16 and 21 relate to awareness and information). Strengthening these areas would support policies by building public support and enabling evidence-based adjustments to strategies over time.

Generally, SVG’s policy and institutional framework has strong foundations (e.g. recent policies, political will, community engagement, and some financial mechanisms) but does not yet cover all necessary areas or operate with maximum effectiveness. Key gaps in thematic coverage (especially marine and pollution issues), legal frameworks, funding, and coordination need to be addressed.

¹⁷ https://www.cbd.int/pa/doc/dossiers/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines-abt11-country-dossier2021.pdf?utm_source

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2030

St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2026-2030 was developed based on lessons learned from NBSAP 2015-2020. It aligns national ambition with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) adopted at COP15, translating its four goals and 23 targets into 14 nationally verified targets that address spatial planning, protected areas and OECMs, endangered species recovery, invasive species control, pollution reduction, sustainable use, restoration, biosafety, gender-inclusive governance, and biodiversity finance. The plan was produced through a three step, evidence-based process in 2025: (i) a rapid review of the 2015–2020 cycle and data systems, (ii) a multi-stakeholder workshop in Kingstown (19–20 March), and (iii) bilateral verification with lead agencies, so that each activity reflects clear institutional ownership, sequencing, and resource needs. By design, the NBSAP advances a whole-of-government and whole-of-society agenda, strengthens access to international financing, and focuses delivery on island priorities such as coastal and marine conservation, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, climate resilience, and community stewardship through 2030.

NBSAP Vision

By 2030, St. Vincent and the Grenadines live well in harmony with nature as a climate-resilient archipelago where connected, effectively managed protected and conserved areas, restored ecosystems, and sustainable land- and seascapes along with resilient communities halt and reverse biodiversity loss, secure food, water and livelihoods, ensure climate adaptation, facilitate sustainable economic growth, and fully contribute to achieving the Kunming–Montreal GBF Targets at the national level.

NBSAP Purpose

The purpose of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines NBSAP 2026–2030 is to provide a clear, costed, and implementable national roadmap to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while strengthening climate resilience and a Blue and Green Economy. It translates the KM GBF Targets into 14 National Targets with prioritized activities, defined lead agencies, timelines, indicators, and financing pathways, thereby driving whole-of-government and whole-of-society action. The NBSAP’s purpose is to mainstream biodiversity across spatial planning, fisheries and agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and finance; expand and effectively manage protected and conserved areas and ecosystem restoration; prevent and control invasive species and pollution; safeguard biosafety; and ensure sustainable use and equitable benefits to local communities. It also establishes the national monitoring, reporting, and learning system via NBSAP Monitoring Plan with National Target and Activity Trackers to support adaptive management and CBD, Biosafety Protocol, and CITES reporting obligations. By setting institutional roles, policy reforms, and coordination mechanisms, the NBSAP serves as the central reference for public budgeting, partner programming, and private investment, enabling transparent resource mobilization and inclusive participation of communities, women, and youth in stewardship.

NBSAP Structure and Approach

NBSAP 2026-2030 has the following interconnected parts: **Action Plan, Whole of the Government and the Whole of Society Management Framework, Monitoring Plan with National Target and Activity Tracker, and Policy Coherence Plan.**

Action Plan. The NBSAP 2026–2030 is organized around a costed, time-bound Action Plan that operationalizes the 14 National Targets into sequenced activities with clear ownership and delivery logic. Each activity specifies the lead agency and partners, geographic scope, GBF and SDG alignment, key outputs, indicative budgets and financing

sources, and risks for achievement of the National Targets. The Action Plan prioritizes no-regrets measures and scalable demonstrations while identifying enabling policy and capacity actions needed for replication and long-term sustainability.

Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Approach. The NBSAP is implemented through a tiered governance model that mobilizes central ministries, line agencies, statutory bodies, and local authorities alongside communities, resource user groups, civil society, academia, and the private sector. This strategy is structured around three interrelated pillars that embed biodiversity into national governance structures, sectoral plans, local actions, and financing mechanisms: **Pillar 1** - High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee; **Pillar 2** - Biodiversity Focal Points in All Relevant Ministries; and **Pillar 3** - Civil Society and Private Sector Co-Management and Co-Financing. It aligns with the KM GBF and SVG's own development and climate agendas ensuring that biodiversity conservation supports sustainable development and climate resilience goals.

Monitoring Plan with National Target & Activity Trackers. NBSAP implementation is governed by an integrated Monitoring Plan that links annual results on the National Targets to quarterly delivery of National Target's Activities. A National Target Tracker consolidates baselines, annual targets, indicators (including GBF Headline Indicators where relevant), means of verification, and responsible data owners, supporting transparent national reporting and mid-course corrections. In parallel, an Activity Tracker records quarterly progress for every activity (implementation %), funds spent and source, jobs created (temporary/permanent), responsible agency, and notes on bottlenecks. Together, these tools feed adaptive management: quarterly reviews address delivery risks, and annual reviews update indicators and budgets as needed while generating inputs for CBD and related reporting obligations (e.g., Biosafety and CITES).

Policy Coherence Plan. To align incentives and reduce implementation friction, the NBSAP includes a Policy Coherence Plan that guides development/update of policies, strategies, plans, and regulations mentioned under different National Targets across sectors using coordinated whole-of-government approach. Measures include mainstreaming biodiversity into spatial and marine planning, agriculture and fisheries management, tourism and infrastructure permitting, pollution and biosafety regulation, public finance (e.g., budget tagging and subsidy reform), data sharing standards, etc. The Plan facilitate progress in development of national reforms in synchrony with the national planning and budget cycle so that legal, fiscal, and institutional changes directly enable Action Plan delivery and achievement of the National Targets by 2030.

National Targets and Action Plan

NBSAP 2026-2030 have 14 National Targets identified and formulated through participatory stakeholder consultation process in March-September 2025. They are:

- **Target 1. Spatial Planning:** By 2028, establish an integrated national spatial planning framework that includes all ecologically significant terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g., clean water, flood protection, soil fertility), incorporating key biodiversity areas and climate resilience strategies into national land use and marine planning;
- **Target 2. Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors:** By 2029, integrate biodiversity considerations into national economic policies, ensuring that all key industries (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) adopt nature-positive practices;
- **Target 3. Endangered Species:** By 2030, prevent extinction and improve conservation status of key nationally threatened species (e.g., St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*, VU), Union Island Gecko (*Gonatodes daudini*, CR), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, CR), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*, CR), Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana (*Iguana insularis insularis*), and St. Vincent Black Snake (*Chironius vincenti*, CR), St. Vincent Whistling Frog (*Pristimantis shrevei*, EN), and St. Vincent Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*, EN), St. Vincent Wren (*Troglodytes musicus*), Acroporid corals (*Acropora* sp.

CR), Parrotfish (*Sparisoma sp.*, LC), Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) through habitat protection, species recovery programs, and stronger anti-poaching enforcement;

- **Target 4. Deforestation:** By 2030, reduce the national deforestation rate by at least 50% and restore connectivity between fragmented forests;
- **Target 5. Protected Areas Expansion:** By 2030, legally protect at least 30% of terrestrial (including 100% of elfin woodlands) and 30% of marine areas, with Protected Areas and OECMs
- **Target 6. Invasive Species Control:** By 2030, contain the most dangerous invasive alien species — lionfish, small Indian mongoose, giant African snail, Cuban tree frog, Lemongrass, *Halophila stipulacea*, Xeniidae soft corals, and agrobiodiversity AIS (West Indian fruit fly, Banana Black Sigatoka, and Banana Moko Disease) — and establish effective biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions;
- **Target 7. Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste):** By 2030, reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems by 50%;
- **Target 8. Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use:** By 2030, bring all wild harvesting (fisheries, hunting) to sustainable levels and eliminate illegal exploitation;
- **Target 9. Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience:** By 2030, restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems nationwide (with key focus on rainforest, mangroves, littoral woodlands, beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) prioritizing climate vulnerable habitats;
- **Target 10. Sustainable Tourism:** By 2026, implement national eco-friendly tourism standards and by 2030 ensure all major tourism sites operate within ecological carrying capacity;
- **Target 11. Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion:** By 2027, stop illegal sand mining in all ecologically sensitive and adaptation value areas, including sea turtle nesting sites;
- **Target 12. Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies:** By 2030, mobilize at least US\$70 million in biodiversity financing from national, regional, and international sources, and phase out at least 50% of subsidies that harm biodiversity;
- **Target 13. Biosafety:** By 2030, establish and fully implement a comprehensive national biosafety framework that effectively manages risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs), biotechnology products, and genetic resources; and
- **Target 14. Gender Equality and Community Participation:** By 2027, ensure full participation of women, youth, and local communities in biodiversity decision-making, conservation, and sustainable use, with at least 50% representation via whole-of-government approach.

Each National Target has a number of specific Activities with lead agencies, key partners, estimated required finance, likely sources of funding, and indicative numbers of permanent and temporary jobs it can establish. Indicative budgets for each Activity were estimated by benchmarking costs recorded in comparable projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), World Bank PROBLUE/PROFISH windows, and other bilateral or multilateral initiatives across the Caribbean and peer Small Island Developing States. For every Activity, a preliminary shortlist of potential external funding sources has been mapped (e.g., GEF-8 and 9, GBFF, Green Climate Fund, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, bilateral climate finance facilities, etc.). This approach is intended to channel **additional resources from outside SVG** and **avoid placing new fiscal burdens on the national budget**. The total five year budget required to implement the NBSAP is estimated at **US \$ 68,880,000 – 87,510,000**.

Permanent and temporary job numbers for each Activity were derived from the same regional project set or similar projects in Small Island States. Permanent positions are mainly counted only where an institutional mandate or sustainable revenue stream (e.g., trust fund income, user fees) can maintain the post beyond the NBSAP 2026-2030 life. Temporary jobs include consultants, trainers, construction crews, field technicians, enumerators, and short-term interns, reflecting requirements observed in analogous activities¹⁸. Aggregated across all activities, these estimates illustrate the plan's contribution to Green and Blue Employment in SVG, reinforcing biodiversity outcomes, climate adaptation results, and socio-economic resilience. Overall, implementation of NBSAP Targets is expected to create **241-351 permanent jobs and 1,057-1,455 temporary jobs** in SVG between 20026 and 2030.

¹⁸ Temporary job is considered as a short-term employment for a period from 5 days to 12 months

Action Plan 2026–2030 is intentionally designed as an **opportunistic tool** to attract and leverage international investments for biodiversity and ecosystem protection. Recognizing the country’s limited fiscal space and heavy dependence on external financing, the Action Plan positions biodiversity priorities not only as national conservation needs but also as strategic opportunities for development partners, donors, and private investors to invest in sustainable development of the country. The Action Plan has been structured with a high degree of **flexibility** to maximize opportunities for financing and implementation. Each activity under the National Targets has been designed so that it can be **implemented as a stand-alone intervention** if funding or partnership opportunities arise. Dependencies between activities are kept to a minimum, ensuring that no single action is delayed or prevented by the sequencing of others. This modular design allows the NBSAP to function as both a comprehensive national framework and a portfolio of investable actions, making it easier for international partners, donors, and private investors to support specific priorities while still contributing to the overall national strategy.

Priority for delivering the National Targets should be placed on **National Target 12, National Target 1, National Target 2**, and on **policy and legislation measures** embedded across the Targets. National Target 12, focused on resource mobilization and partnerships, acts as the “fuel” for implementation by catalyzing financing, reducing transaction costs, and creating predictable support for field activities under other Targets; it should therefore be initiated as the **highest priority**. National Targets 1 (spatial plans) and 2 (biodiversity-inclusive policies) provide core foundations for safeguarding key biodiversity assets and reducing immediate pressures on biodiversity, delivering early wins that build momentum and confidence among partners and investors. At the same time, advancing policy and regulatory actions under multiple Targets is essential to secure long-term compliance, clarity, and scalability of results. Recognizing that, as is common in SIDS, policy and regulation approval processes can be lengthy, the Action Plan’s flexibility ensures that other activities, such as pilots, capacity building, data systems, and on-the-ground conservation and restoration, can proceed in parallel while formal approvals of the policies/regulations/plans are being finalized.

Summary of National Targets, Indicators, Budgets & Job Estimates

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
1	Spatial Planning: By 2028, establish an integrated national spatial planning framework that includes all ecologically significant terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g., clean water, flood protection, soil fertility), incorporating key biodiversity areas and climate resilience strategies into national land-use and marine planning. GBF Target 1 – Spatial planning; Target 11 – Nature’s contributions; and Target 8 – Climate resilience	GBF Headline Indicator 1.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans: % of national territory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government: % of national aquatory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government:	0% 0% 0%	100% 100% 100%	1,250,000-1,700,000	6-9 permanent 10-26 temporary
2	Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors: By 2029, integrate biodiversity considerations into national economic policies, ensuring that all key industries (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) adopt nature-positive practices. GBF Target 14 – Integrate biodiversity in policies; Target 15 – Business disclosure & impacts; and Target 10 – Sustainable agriculture/aquaculture/forestry/fisheries	GBF Headline Indicator 15.1 Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity: % economic sectors (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) that have biodiversity conservation integrated into sectoral policies, plans, and practice	0 33% (forestry and fishery)	>5 100%	2,250,000 – 2,800,000	17-21 permanent 38-50 temporary
3	Endangered Species: By 2030, prevent extinction and improve conservation status of key nationally threatened species (e.g.,	GBF Headline Indicator A.3 Red List Index:	0.70–0.71 (2020)¹⁹	>=0.72-0.73	3,130,000 – 3,730,000	10 – 18 permanent 55 – 87 temporary

¹⁹ UNCCD 2023. Preliminary analysis - strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
<https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2023-07/cric5-unedited%20advance.pdf#:~:text=%5BPDF%5D%20UNEDITED%20ADVANCE%20COPY%2A%20,2020>

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
	St. Vincent Parrot, Union Island Gecko, Hawksbill Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana, and St. Vincent Black Snake, St. Vincent Whistling Frog, and St. Vincent Whistling Warbler, St. Vincent Wren, Acroporid corals, Parrotfish (Scaridae), Queen Conch) through habitat protection, species recovery programs, and stronger anti-poaching enforcement. GBF Target 4 – Halt extinction & recover species; and Target 5 – Sustainable, legal use/trade of wildlife	Populations of key nationally threatened species:	St. Vincent Parrot: baseline TBE in 2026 Union Island Gecko: baseline TBE in 2026 Hawksbill Turtle: baseline TBE in 2026 Leatherback Turtle: baseline TBE in 2026 Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana: baseline TBE in 2026 St. Vincent Black Snake: baseline TBE in 2026 St. Vincent Whistling Frog: baseline TBE in 2026 Whistling Warbler: baseline TBE in 2026 St. Vincent Wren: baseline TBE in 2026 Acroporid corals: baseline TBE in 2026 Parrotfish (Scaridae): baseline TBE in 2026 Queen Conch: baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from baseline by 2030		
4	Deforestation: By 2030, reduce the national deforestation rate by at least 50% and restore connectivity between fragmented forests. GBF Target 10 – Sustainable forestry; Target 2 – Restore 30% ecosystems & connectivity; and Target 1 – Spatial planning	GBF Headline Indicator 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management, based on the following sub-indicators: - Annual forest area change rate (% per year): - Above-ground biomass in forest (tones per hectare):	0% 219.1²⁰	≥ 0.05% net gain ≥ 223 t/ha	9,300,000 – 10,280,000	11–20 permanent 140 – 209 temporary

²⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/vct>

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
		- Proportion of forest area within legally protected areas (%): - Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan (%): - Forest area under an independently verified certification scheme ('000 hectares):	46% ²¹ 15.9% ²² 0	≥ 50% ≥ 30% ≥ 0.2		
		Annual deforestation rate measured for last 5 years, ha/year	21.2 (2019-2023, GFW)	<=10.6 ha/year		
		Forest Landscape Integrity Index ²³	69.9 (2024)	>=75.0		
5	Protected Areas Expansion: By 2030, legally protect at least 30% of terrestrial (including 100% of elfin woodlands) and 30% of marine areas, with Protected Areas and OECMs. GBF Target 3 – Conserve 30% of ecosystems (PAs & OECMs)	GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine): % of terrestrial area under legal protection: % of marine area under legal protection:	21.1% 0.22%	30% 30%	8,100,000 – 9,700,000	22–42 permanent 75–105 seasonal/temporary
6	Invasive Species Control: By 2030, contain the most dangerous invasive alien species — Lionfish, Small Indian Mongoose, Giant African Snail, Cuban Tree Frog, Lemongrass, West Indian Fruit Fly, Banana Black Sigatoka, and Banana Moko Disease,	GBF Headline Indicator 6.1 Rate of invasive alien species (IAS/year) establishment in SVG during last 10 years:	≈0.5 IAS/year ²⁴	0.2 IAS/year	8,850,000-11,100,000	24-32 permanent jobs 191 – 255 temporary jobs

²¹ <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

²² <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

²³ https://epi.yale.edu/measure/2024/ECS?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/vc-nr-06-en.pdf#:~:text=,and%20invasive%20species%20verified>

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
	Halophila stipulacea, and Xenidae soft corals — and establish effective biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions GBF Target 6 – Invasive alien species	Population density of key IAS, ind./ha:	Lionfish: baseline TBE in 2026; Mongoose: baseline TBE in 2026; Giant African Snail: baseline TBE in 2026; Cuban Tree Frog: baseline TBE in 2026; Lemongrass: baseline TBE in 2026, West Indian Fruit Fly: baseline TBE in 2026; Banana Black Sigatoka: baseline TBE in 2026; Banana Moko Disease: baseline TBE in 2026 Halophila stipulacea: baseline TBE in 2026 Xenidae soft corals: baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction in key IAS population density		
7	Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste): By 2030, reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems by 50%. GBF Target 7 – Reduce pollution	GBF Headline Indicator 7.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication Potential (nutrients): GBF Headline Indicator 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (pesticides): Concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L) in freshwater streams and coastal marine areas:	~7 kg C/km ² /day, (circa 2015) ²⁵ baseline TBE in 2026 baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction 50% reduction 50% reduction in concentration	5,700,000 – 7,850,000	32–43 permanent 92–127 temporary

²⁵ <https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/7-1>

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
		Number (or weight) of plastic items per meter (or km) of shoreline:	baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction number (weight)		
8	Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use: By 2030, bring all wild harvesting (fisheries, hunting) to sustainable levels and eliminate illegal exploitation. GBF Target 5 – Sustainable, safe, legal use/trade of biodiversity; and Target 10 – Sustainable fisheries & aquaculture	% of fisheries harvested at sustainable levels (GBF Headline Indicator 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels): Number of IUU cases per year: Number of illegal hunting/harvesting cases per year:	0% baseline TBE in 2026 baseline TBE in 2026	100% Decreased by 70% Decreased by 70%	5,800,000 – 7,700,000	13–18 permanent 69–89 temporary
9	Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience: By 2030, restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems nationwide (with key focus on rainforest, mangroves, littoral woodlands, beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) prioritizing climate-vulnerable habitats. GBF Target 2 – Restore 30% ecosystems& connectivity; Target 8 – Climate resilience; and Target 11 – Nature’s contributions	Area of degraded habitat restored for the ecosystems (GBF Headline Indicator 2.1 Area under restoration (all ecosystems)): Rainforest: Elfin Woodlands: Littoral Woodlands: Mangroves: Dry Scrub Woodlands: Coral Reefs: Seagrass Beds: Sandy Beaches: Freshwater ecosystems:	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	600 150 30 15 300 1,000²⁶ 250 10 50	7,400,000 – 9,500,000	198-227 temporary
10	Sustainable Tourism: By 2026, implement national eco-friendly tourism standards and by 2030 ensure all major tourism sites operate within ecological carrying capacity. GBF Target 14 – Integrate biodiversity in policies; Target 15 – Business disclosure &	- % of tourism operators certified under eco-friendly tourist standards - % of tourism sites operating within ecological carrying capacity	0% baseline TBE in 2026	>=80% (2030) 100% (2030)	5,850,000 – 8,200,000	51-73 permanent 51–86 temporary

²⁶ 1 ha through active restoration; 999 ha via protection

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
	impacts; Target 16 – Sustainable consumption & waste					
11	Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion: By 2027, stop illegal sand mining in all ecologically sensitive and adaptation value areas, including sea turtle nesting sites. GBF Target 11 – Nature’s contributions (risk reduction); Target 8 – Climate resilience; and Target 3 – Area-based conservation	Presence of full ban on sand mining on beaches Number of sand mining violations per year	Absent baseline TBE in 2026	Present (2027) 0 violations (2030)	2,450,000 – 3,200,000	25–36 permanent 76–97 temporary
12	Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies: By 2030, mobilize at least US \$70 million in biodiversity financing from national, regional, and international sources, and phase out at least 50% of subsidies that harm biodiversity. GBF Target 19 – Mobilize \$200B/yr biodiversity finance; and Target 18 – Reform harmful incentives (\$500B/yr)	Total biodiversity funding mobilized in 2026-2030, US\$: GBF Headline Indicator 18.2. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed ²⁷ , US\$: GBF Headline Indicator D.1. International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year: GBF Headline Indicator D.2. Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:	\$0 \$0 (2024) \$3.5-5.0 mln. ~\$3.3 mln. (2024) ²⁸	>=\$70,000,000 => \$90-100 mln. (>50% reduction from the 2024 value) => \$10 mln. => \$6.0 mln.	5,450,000 - 7,150,000	26 – 34 permanent 28 – 45 temporary

²⁷ Estimated annual harmful subsidies in SVG currently amount to ~US\$180–200 million (2024)

²⁸ About for 4% of total SVG government expenses for environmental protection and climate resilience in 2024 (~\$82.4 mln.)

Target #	Target Statement	Indicators	Baseline	Target Indicator Value	Estimated Budget (USD)	New Jobs Estimates
		GBF Headline Indicator D.3. Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:	<\$1 mln.	>= \$5 mln.		
13	Biosafety: By 2030, establish and fully implement a comprehensive national biosafety framework that effectively manages risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs), biotechnology products, and genetic resources. GBF Target 17 – Biosafety & benefits of biotechnology	Presence of the operational National Biosafety Framework (NBF) (GBF Binary Indicator 17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19):	Absent	Present	2,450,000 – 3,350,000	1–2 permanent 19–32 temporary
14	Gender Equality and Community Participation: By 2027, ensure full participation of women, youth, and local communities in biodiversity decision-making, conservation, and sustainable use, with at least 50% representation via whole-of-government approach. GBF Target 22 – Inclusive, rights-based participation; and Target 23 – Gender equality	- % representation of women, youth, and local groups in biodiversity committees and conservation projects	baseline TBE in 2026	>= 50%	900,000 – 1,250,000	3 permanent 15-20 temporary
TOTAL BUDGET/JOBS:					68,880,000 – 87,510,000	241-351 permanent jobs 1,057-1,455 temporary

Action Plan 2026-2030

National Target 1. Spatial Planning

Target 1. Spatial Planning: By 2028, establish an integrated national spatial planning framework that includes all ecologically significant terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g., clean water, flood protection, soil fertility), incorporating key biodiversity areas and climate resilience strategies into national land-use and marine planning.					
Indicators:	% of national territory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government (GBF Headline Indicator 1.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans)			Baseline: 0%	Target Value: 100%
	% of national aquatory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government (GBF Headline Indicator 1.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans)			0%	100%
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 1 – Spatial planning; Target 11 – Nature’s contributions; and Target 8 – Climate resilience				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Comprehensive ecosystem and GIS-based mapping of terrestrial and marine ecosystems	200,000 – 250,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority	Global Environment Facility (GEF) World Bank PROBLUE/PROFISH Waitt Foundation/Blue Prosperity Coalition Caribbean Development Bank/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	1-2 permanent position in the Forestry Department or Fisheries Division to maintain the GIS database 2 – 5 temporary jobs (field surveyors, GIS technicians and data managers);
Activity 2. Ecosystem services valuation for terrestrial and marine ecosystems to be	200,000 – 250,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture,	Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	1 permanent economist or natural capital officer could be established within the

integrated into Marine and Land Spatial Plans (Activities 3 and 4)		Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	Surveys, and Physical Planning National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority Sustainable Development Unit Local and regional universities and research centers	UNDP BIOFIN initiative Regional universities & research centers Green Climate Fund Earth Economics	Sustainable Development Unit to integrate valuation into planning 2–4 temporary jobs , including environmental economists, data analysts and research assistants
Activity 3. Review/update and formally adopt a Marine Spatial Plan (<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan: Draft for Client Acceptance, March 24, 2021</i> ²⁹) that identifies critical marine biodiversity zones and designates clear sustainable-use and no-take zones	150,000 – 200,000	Sustainable Development Unit and Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning;	Fisheries Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority; SVG Maritime Administration; Sustainable Development Unit Local and regional universities and research centers Local communities	Global Environment Facility (GEF) World Bank PROBLUE Blue Prosperity Coalition/Waite Foundation UNESCO-IOC and EU Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)	1 permanent marine spatial planning coordinator within the Physical Planning Unit or Fisheries Division to oversee implementation 1–3 temporary jobs (marine spatial planner, stakeholder liaison, GIS analyst)
Activity 4. Develop and formally adopt a Land Spatial Plan that identifies critical biodiversity zones and designates clear sustainable-use and conservation zones. Integrate it into updated	300,000 – 450,000	Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning;	Forestry Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	Global Environment Facility (GEF) World Bank FAO & UN-Habitat	1–2 permanent positions (land-use planning officer and GIS manager) within the Physical Planning Unit to

²⁹ Dillon Consulting Limited, Acacia Consulting & Research, Ecoisle Consulting, and Environmental Systems Ltd. *St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan: Draft for Client Acceptance, March 24, 2021*. Prepared under the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) funded by the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank, for the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

National Physical Development Plan (NPDP 2026-2046)			National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority; Sustainable Development Unit; Local and regional universities and research centers; Local communities	European Union / Caribbean Development Bank	maintain and update the NPDP 2–7 temporary jobs (land-use planners, GIS specialists, community facilitators)
Activity 5. Strengthen policy and legislation for biodiversity-inclusive planning, e.g., revise the Town and Country Planning Act (integrate explicit duty to apply ecosystem-service values and biodiversity offsets); develop Marine Spatial Planning Regulation incorporating biodiversity	100,000 – 150,000	Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning;	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority Sustainable Development Unit	Global Environment Facility (GEF) UNDP and UNEP World Bank Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) Darwin Initiative/UK Aid	1 permanent policy officer within the Physical Planning Unit or Sustainable Development Unit to oversee legislative compliance 1–2 temporary legal and policy consultant positions to draft amendments
Activity 6. Capacity-building for local planners and policymakers on spatial planning management integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services	300,000 – 400,000	Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning;	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority Sustainable Development Unit	Global Environment Facility (GEF) World Bank Waitt Foundation/Blue Prosperity Coalition Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)	1–2 permanent posts (capacity-building coordinator and training officer) within the Sustainable Development Unit or Physical Planning Unit 2–5 temporary training jobs (trainers, curriculum developers, facilitators)

Total Budget:	1,250,000- 1,700,000				6-9 permanent jobs 10-26 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	• Changes in political leadership or shifting government priorities might delay or deprioritize spatial planning initiatives • Multiple agencies (Physical Planning, Forestry, Fisheries, Sustainable Development Unit, etc.) have overlapping mandates and limited inter-agency collaboration • Government budget allocations for planning can be modest, and donor funding may not be sustained • Few trained staff with expertise in GIS, marine planning, ecosystem valuation, and environmental economics • Biodiversity and land-use data reside in separate agencies, often in incompatible formats, with sporadic updates				

National Target 2. Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors

Target 2. Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors: By 2029, integrate biodiversity considerations into national economic policies, ensuring that all key industries (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) adopt nature-positive practices					
Indicators:	% economic sectors (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) that have biodiversity conservation integrated into sectoral policies, plans, and practice GBF Headline Indicator 15.1 Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity:			Baseline: 33% (forestry and fishery) 0	Target Value: 100% >=5
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 14 – Integrate biodiversity in policies; Target 15 – Business disclosure & impacts; and Target 10 – Sustainable agriculture/aquaculture/forestry/fisheries				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Update the National Economic & Social Development Plan (NESDP) for 2026-2046 and sector plans to include biodiversity safeguards, natural-capital accounting modules and green-budget tagging. Issue a Cabinet Circular requiring all ministries to screen new policies and public-investment projects for biodiversity impacts and update existing sectoral policies	250,000 – 300,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology	Sustainable Development Unit (SDU); Statistics Office Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	World Bank Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) UNDP BIOFIN, GEF, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)	2 permanent (policy specialist, NCA data manager) 3–4 temporary (consultants)
Activity 2. Develop and provide incentives to local farmers, fishers and businesses for integration of nature-positive practices (e.g., payments from CWSA to farmers to maintain riparian forest and plant shade trees around	200,000 – 250,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour Richmond Vale Academy & farmer co-ops;	FAO & EU Integrated Pest Management programmes IFAD, GEF Small Grants,	1–2 permanent (programme manager, finance officer); 3–4 temporary (extension officers, outreach staff)

agricultural plots; concessional loans (<4% interest, 4-year grace) for sustainable practices; market-price premium; amend Income Tax Act to allow 100% deduction of expenses for nature-positive practices)			FAO; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (EbA window)	UNDP BIOFIN, CBF (conservation finance)	
Activity 3. Develop a new 2026-2030 Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) & Pesticide Action Plan, and National Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Scheme (update existing draft).	150,000 – 200,000	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	Richmond Vale Academy; Farmer co-ops; FAO; Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	FAO/EU sustainable agriculture programmes GEF IFAD Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator (CCSA) UNDP BIOFIN	1–2 permanent (IPM coordinator, agriculture policy officer); 2–3 temporary (consultants, training facilitators)
Activity 4. Update National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2019 (or its Strategic Action Plan) to include explicit link to new Act & FMAC advice cycle; EAF & climate-resilience principles (coral-bleaching, hurricane risk); FAO Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines and gender-equity clauses; aquaculture biosecurity & feed standards: “access conditions”: compliance with VMS, CDT and MPA rules is prerequisite for license renewal	150,000 - 200,000	Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	National Fisherfolk Organisation; Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); WWF-US Blue Economy team; SVG Conservation Fund	World Bank PROBLUE FAO fisheries programmes CRFM GEF GCF	1 permanent (fisheries policy officer); 2–3 temporary (consultants, workshop facilitators)
Activity 5. Develop and adopt National Eco-tourism Standard based on Green Key/Blue Flag criteria for hotels, marinas & beaches: Gap-analysis vs. GSTC Destination Criteria and OECS	300,000 - 400,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority NPBRA Sustainable Development Unit;	FEE’s Blue Flag and Green Key programmes, Caribbean Tourism Organization	2–3 permanent (eco-tourism standard coordinator, inspector); 4–5 temporary (consultants, training facilitators)

Sustainable-Tourism Policy 2025-2035; - Public consultations; legal notice under Tourism Act; - Standards to cover energy, water, waste, visitor-management, biodiversity conservation & community benefits			SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Green Key International Eco-label for Hotels, Hostels, Campsites, Restaurants, Attractions and Other Tourism Facilities; Blue Flag Programme: International Eco-label Award for Beaches, Marinas and Sustainable Tourism Boats	CBF Nature-Based Economies programme UNDP BIOFIN private tourism sector	
Activity 6. Replace cruise-passenger tax with a single, branded <i>Island Conservation Levy</i> for all visitors earmarked for the SVG PA Trust Fund and coupled with a passport-stamp pledge à la Palau in which every visitor promises to protect reefs, turtles and forests during their stay.	300,000-350,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Sustainable Development Unit; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Immigration & Customs Department; SVG Port Authority & Argyle International Airport Company (IADC)	UNDP BIOFIN The Nature Conservancy CBF tourism and cruise ship partners	2 permanent (levy administrator, trust-fund manager) 4–5 temporary (marketing, legal drafting)
Activity 7. Develop and implement Green-construction code and Biodiversity-offset guidelines, based on revision of Building Code & Regulations (2005) and new Town-and-Country Planning Regulations (2025), to mandate green roofs/rain-gardens on new large hotels & public buildings and request projects with “residual significant impacts” to either	250,000-300,000	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Physical Infrastructure	National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC); Physical Planning Unit; SVG Conservation Fund	GCF GEF Adaptation Fund World Bank/IDB sustainable infrastructure grants	2 permanent (green-construction standards officer, offset compliance officer) 3–4 temporary (technical experts, training)

implement on-site offset or pay into fund					
Activity 8. Develop Circular Economy & Plastic Pollution Action Plan	150,000 – 200,000	Solid Waste Management Unit of Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA)	Ministry of Health & Environment; Beverage Industry Association of SVG Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	CBF ACE Facility (reduces marine litter via circular economy grants) WB PROBLUE UNEP and UNDP EU	1–2 permanent (circular economy coordinator, data/monitoring officer); 2–3 temporary (consultants, outreach)
Activity 9. Establish Watershed PES & Riparian-Buffer Fund filled with a surcharge to domestic water bills to pay selected farmers/community groups to replant/maintain native vegetation along six priority rivers (Buccament, Colonaire, Cumberland, Union, Canouan, Bequia) as well as Vermont, Kingstown, Argyle as secondary options	500,000 – 600,000	Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA)	Forestry Department; Local communities along the rivers	CBF EbA Facility GCF and GEF World Bank The Nature Conservancy national water utilities via surcharge	5 permanent (fund manager, monitoring and enforcement officers) 15–19 temporary (community tree-planters, nursery workers)
Total Budget:	2,250,000 – 2,800,000				17-21 permanent jobs 38-50 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	- Multiple ministries (Finance, Tourism, Agriculture, Planning, CWSA) must update regulations, but the NBSAP review highlights chronic “siloed” working and staffing gaps in inspectorates and the Physical Planning Unit; If green-construction rules, plastic ban extensions or GAP/IPM standards are not enforced, nature-positive practices stay on paper only; - Most activities rely on new levies (eco-cent water surcharge, Island Conservation Levy), donor grants or CSR fees. Delays in tariff legislation or a tourism downturn would starve the PES fund, recycling hubs and conservation-levy grants; Without predictable cashflow, farmers, fishers and hotels have no incentive to invest; - Volcanic eruptions (La Soufrière 2021), Category-4 hurricanes or multi-year droughts could force government to shift funds from green incentives to emergency response and rebuild damaged infrastructure, stalling Target 2 reforms; Extreme events can also wipe out restored riparian buffers or recycling facilities.				

National Target 3. Endangered Species

Target 3. Endangered Species: By 2030, prevent extinction and improve conservation status of key nationally threatened species (e.g., St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*, VU), Union Island Gecko (*Gonatodes daudini*, CR), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, CR), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*, CR), Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana (*Iguana insularis insularis*), and St. Vincent Black Snake (*Chironius vincenti*, CR), St. Vincent Whistling Frog (*Pristimantis shrevei*, EN), and St. Vincent Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*, EN), St. Vincent Wren (*Troglodytes musicus*), Acroporid corals (*Acropora* sp. CR), Parrotfish (*Sparisoma* sp, LC), Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) through habitat protection, species recovery programs, and stronger anti-poaching enforcement.

³⁰ UNCCD 2023. Preliminary analysis - strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2023-07/cric5-unedited%20advance.pdf#:~:text=%5BPDF%5D%20UNEDITED%20ADVANCE%20COPY%2A%20,2020>

Relevant SDGs:	SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Update Wildlife Protection Act 1987 and implement new Act: • Add a new Schedule 1: “Critically Endangered National Species” with <i>zero-take</i> and <i>zero-trade</i> provisions; • Increase penalties and introduce asset-seizure & restitution clauses for poaching/wildlife-trade offences (align with OECS peers); • Increase penalties for assaulting, hindering, obstructing, or inciting a wildlife protection officer with fine up to \$10,000, or up to 2 years’ imprisonment, or both; • Empower Forestry to declare short-notice “Critical Habitat Protection Orders” on private land for breeding/nesting sites of endangered species outside PAs; • Create a legal footing for community wardens (Action 2) – authority to search and file evidence while on patrol; • Designate a CITES Management or Scientific Authority; • Align CITES permit forms, validity periods and specimen definitions with Res. 12.3; • Provide regular trainings and refreshers to Forestry, Fishery, and Customs Officers to enforce new Wildlife Protection Act (detection, seizure, and investigation of	180,000 – 230,000	Forestry Department and Attorney General’s Chambers	Fisheries Division Ministry of Legal Affairs; Customs & Excise Department; OECS Commission – Environmental Sustainability & Law Units; CITES Secretariat (Legal Affairs & eCITES programme)	GEF European Union (ICCWC donors) UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund US Department of State / Wildlife Enforcement Networks German Polifund (GIZ)	3–5 permanent positions including Senior Wildlife Supervisor and a Deputy Director to handle growing mandate, and legal advisor, CITES coordinator, permit manager, enforcement trainer, administrative staff). 3–4 short-term positions for consultations, training facilitators and legislative drafting

wildlife crime)					
Activity 2. Develop and implement Integrated Endangered-Species Monitoring & Data Hub: - Standardized science-based protocols & QA for Endangered Species monitoring; - Train Forestry and Fishery staff as well as community wardens on the monitoring approach; - Provide necessary monitoring equipment, including camera-traps, GPS, SMART devices, acoustic recorders, drones, etc.; - Develop cloud-hosted Endangered Species database with mobile data-entry app and automated dashboards feeding National Red-List and CBD/CITES reports; - Organize baseline and regular population surveys for target species.	1,300,000 – 1,500,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	NPRBA; Union Island Environmental Alliance (UIEA); SusGren & WIDECAST network; SVG Conservation Fund (SVGCF); SCIENCE SVG; Local communities	GEF Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Darwin Initiative / FFI / WIDECAST World Bank ICCWC donors (EU/UK/US)	2-3 permanent positions (database administrator, data analyst, GIS specialist, biologist) 10–20 temporary jobs (local enumerators and community monitors for baseline surveys and equipment deployment)
Activity 3. Develop/revise National Recovery Plans for key Endangered Species: - St. Vincent Parrot, - Union Island Gecko, - Hawksbill Turtle, - Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana, - St. Vincent Black Snake, - St Vincent Whistling Frog, - St. Vincent Whistling Warbler,	300,000 – 350,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division;	NPRBA; Union Island Environmental Alliance (UIEA); SusGren; VG Conservation Fund (SVGCF); SCIENCE SVG;	UK Darwin Initiative GEF GWP GBFF Wildlife Conservation Society Fauna & Flora International (FFI) WIDECAST	1-2 permanent jobs (species recovery planner and coordinator) 5–10 temporary (consultants and local researchers for baseline surveys and stakeholder consultations)

• St. Vincent Wren, • Leatherback Turtle, • Acroporid corals, • Parrotfish, • Queen Conch			WIDECAST Caribbean Sea-Turtle Network; Fauna & Flora International (FFI) BirdsCaribbean EPIC	SVG Conservation Fund BirdsCaribbean EPIC	
Activity 4. Launch a Species Recovery Coordination Unit (2-3 officers) at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour to oversee species recovery plans, manage the national Endangered Species database, and report GBF Target 4 and CITES progress	250,000 – 300,000	Forestry Department and Fishery Division	NPRBA	GEF GWP GBFF Darwin Initiative SVG Conservation Fund ICCWC donors	2–3 permanent officers (unit head, data coordinator and support officer) 1–3 temporary interns or fellowships for graduate students or secondments
Activity 5. Provide Forestry and Fisheries with necessary equipment for regular patrols, including vehicles; expand and equip the network of community wardens; support regular patrolling of key endangered species habitats; allow secondment/augmentation of officers; provide trainings on law enforcement, investigation, and self-defense	600,000 – 700,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	NPRBA; Community wardens; Police	European Union and US (ICCWC donors) GEF GWP GBFF UK IWT Challenge Fund Community-based NGO support (FFI, WIDECAST, SusGren)	1–3 new enforcement positions (rangers/wardens supervisors) 30–40 temporary: community wardens trained and employed
Activity 6. Implement Judicial Sensitization & Capacity Building campaign for Wildlife Crime Prosecution, including: • National Judicial Colloquium on Wildlife-Crime; • Development of Wildlife Crime Sentencing Guidelines;	100,000 – 150,000	Forestry Department	Attorney-General's Chambers & Director of Public Prosecutions; SVG Bar Association; Fishery Division; Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)	GEF GWP GBFF German Polifund (GIZ) EU and UK (ICCWC donors)	0 permanent jobs 3-5 temporary jobs (coordinator, trainers)

Annual trainings for magistrates, High-Court judges and prosecutors (including 2-4 forestry officers) on wildlife crime					
Activity 7. Establishment and support of head-start facilities for St. Vincent Parrot (Dalaway Forest Reserve) and Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana (Ashton Cay, Union Island) to increase survival rate of the species Trainings husbandry specialist and wildlife vet	400,000 – 500,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	NPRBA; Union Environmental Alliance (UIEA); WIDECAST – Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network St Vincent & the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF)	GEF GWP GBFF WIDECAST, Disney Conservation Fund, World Wildlife Fund) GEF Small Grants Programme Darwin Initiative	3–4 permanent jobs (caretakers/technicians per facility, e.g., animal husbandry specialists, and wildlife vet) 3-5 temporary jobs for supporting seasonal staff
Total Budget:	3,130,000 – 3,730,000				10 – 18 permanent jobs 55 – 87 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	- If the new Wildlife Protection Act or its regulations stall in Cabinet/Parliament—or if Customs, Police and prosecutors do not apply the stronger penalties—illegal trade in geckos, parrots and turtle products will continue, wiping out gains from recovery and head-start work; - Monitoring, head-start pens, equipment, and warden stipends rely heavily on SVGCF/ donor grants. If post-2027 financing is not secured (e.g., via PA Fund or budget lines), surveys and patrols could lapse—as happened with the parrot census 2010-2020; - One severe storm could topple nest trees, flood turtle hatcheries or damage iguana pens; drought can reduce parrot food and chick survival; heat spikes skew turtle sex ratios; - Cats, mongooses or feral cats can reinvade iguana/turtle nesting sites; parrot and snake populations are vulnerable to avian pox, chytrid fungus or ophioidian pathogens— risks increase with trade and climate change; - Even after the Colloquium, high staff turnover, competing court dockets or absence of formal guidelines may see wildlife cases dismissed or trivial fines imposed, undermining deterrence.				

National Target 4. Deforestation

Target 4. Deforestation: By 2030, reduce the national deforestation rate by at least 50% and restore connectivity between fragmented forests					
Indicators:	Annual deforestation rate measured for last 5 years, ha/year:			Baseline: 21.2 (2019-2023, GFW)	Target Value: <=10.6
	Forest Landscape Integrity Index: ³¹			69.9 (2024)	>=75.0
	GBF Headline Indicator 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management, based on the following sub-indicators: - Annual forest area change rate (% per year): - Above-ground biomass in forest (tones per hectare): - Proportion of forest area within legally protected areas (%): - Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan (%): - Forest area under an independently verified certification scheme ('000 hectares):			0% 219.1 ³² 46% ³³ 15.9% ³⁴ 0	≥ 0.05% net gain ≥ 223 t/ha ≥ 50% ≥ 30% ≥ 0.2
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 10 – Sustainable forestry; Target 2 – Restore 30% ecosystems & connectivity; and Target 1 – Spatial planning				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Update Forest Resource Conservation Act 1992 to include: • declare all primary rainforest >700 m elevation and riparian buffers ≥5 m as Core Forest Reserves where new clearing and commercial harvest are prohibited (except for public	150,000-180,000	Forestry Department	Attorney-General’s Chambers / Ministry of Legal Affairs; Physical Planning Unit	GEF GBFF ITTO/FLEGT/REDD grants World Bank	0–1 permanent jobs (a legal adviser could be seconded to the Forestry Department) 3–4 temporary (lawyer, planner, GIS specialist, community outreach)

³¹ https://epi.yale.edu/measure/2024/ECS?utm_source=chatgpt.com

³² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/vct>

³³ <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

³⁴ <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

safety) and require Cabinet-level exemption for any infrastructure; • legal basis for voluntary Conservation Easements and Forest Stewardship Agreements with landowners to maintain canopy continuity between Vermont-Buccament, Cumberland and Montreal blocks; • raise fines for illegal felling from US\$ 1,850 to US\$ 10,000 + cost-of-restoration; • allow only tree-crop agroforestry cultivation on slopes $\geq 35\%$ and mandate using grass and tree buffers for cultivation on slopes $\geq 20-35\%$				Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub or OECS	
Activity 2. Organize and support Community Forest Wardens & Rapid-Response Patrols: recruit/train wardens from forest-edge villages, supply necessary equipment (GPS, SMART devices) and pay modest stipends to report illegal clearing and fires	300,000 – 400,000	Forestry Department	Local communities Police Richmond Vale Academy National Emergency Management Organization	GEF GBFF GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) UNDP Rainforest Trust/Packard Foundation Global Forest Watch Small Grants Fund NGO partners such as Richmond Vale Academy	1–3 permanent (patrol coordinators); 30-35 temporary posts: wardens receiving stipends.
Activity 3. Organize drone surveillance of illegal deforestation and forest fire activities with a real time dashboard at Forestry	200,000 – 300,000	Forestry Department	Police; National Emergency Management Organization;	GEF GBFF	0-2 permanent (system administrator and GIS analyst at Forestry Department);

Department (at least 4 rugged UAVs)			OECS GeoNode; Global Forest Watch	GCF Global Forest Watch (GFW) and World Resources Institute ITTO/FAO Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) Corporate partnerships	4-6 temporary posts: UAV operators and community liaisons
Activity 4. Organize trainings and refreshers for forest and police officers and judiciary on investigation, prosecution and sentencing of illegal forest clearing and forest fires	150,000 – 200,000	Forestry Department	Police; NPRBA; Attorney-General's Chambers & Director of Public Prosecutions; SVG Bar Association	GEF GBFF UNODC Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) Interpol (Project LEAP) Commonwealth Law Ministries or OECS	0 permanent jobs; 3-4 temporary: trainers and facilitators
Activity 5. Launch and support Agroforestry Incentive Scheme: convert ≥ 200 ha of forest-edge farms and abandoned cannabis plots to cocoa/coffee/shade-tree systems; provide seedlings, extension and certification support.	700,000 – 800,000	Forestry Department	Cocoa & Coffee Growers Co-ops; FAO; Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	FAO, IFAD and the Caribbean Development Bank GEF and GBFF Green Climate Fund (GCF) Fairtrade/Organic certification schemes Private sector partners (e.g., chocolate companies)	2-4 permanent: agronomists or foresters to run nurseries and deliver training 50-80 temporary: seasonal jobs for seedling production, planting and initial maintenance

Activity 6. Support and extend existing Forest reserves (King's Hill Forest Reserve, Charlotte Forest Reserve, Cumberland Forest Reserve, and Vermont Nature Reserve): re-locate squatters via land-swap grants (e.g., purchase land around King's Hill Forest Reserve); organize 100 m agroforestry buffer zone around reserves; provide equipment for wardens; repair trails and infrastructure	5,800,000 – 5,900,000	Forestry Department	NPRBA Cocoa & Coffee Growers Co-ops; Local communities around reserves	GEF and GBFF GCF and Adaptation Fund UN-REDD Programme FAO	50-80 temporary jobs for land clearing, planting and trail repair
Activity 7. Procurement of equipment and training for safe, effective urban tree maintenance, including for disaster risk reduction (bucket-trucks, chippers, trained crews and updated guidelines so trees near roads, power lines and buildings can be pruned or removed safely—particularly to reduce hurricane or bush-fire risk)	2,000,000 – 2,500,000	Forestry Department and NPRBA	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Physical Infrastructure	GCF and Adaptation Fund USDA Urban & Community Forestry Grants Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) World Bank Disaster Risk Management projects. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Private sector (utility companies/insurance companies)	8-10 permanent jobs (arborists and drivers)
New Forest Reserves are included under National Target 5: Protected Area Expansion	NA	NA			
Forest restoration activities are included under the National Target 9: Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience	NA	NA			
Total Budget:	9,300,000 – 10,280,000				11-20 permanent 140 – 209 temporary

Key Risks:	• Smallholders & landowners—especially in forest-edge villages and former cannabis areas—may clear or burn forest to expand farms before new restrictions take effect, or dispute boundaries of proposed buffer zones; • Forestry, police and courts may lack staff, field gear, or case-management systems to investigate, prosecute and sentence illegal clearing; fines may not be collected, eroding deterrence; • Cabinet-level exemptions for roads, utilities or tourism facilities could override new legal protections, fragmenting high-elevation rainforest despite the Act’s intent; • Hurricanes, droughts and lightning-ignited fires can trigger wind-throw, blow-down salvage logging or opportunistic clearing that outpaces restoration capacity, especially on steep slopes; • Farmers may consider cocoa/coffee returns too slow, seedlings might fail on degraded soils, or certification premiums could lag, reducing the 200 ha conversion target and leaving edge forests exposed.
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National Target 5. Protected Areas Expansion

Target 5. Protected Areas Expansion: By 2030, legally protect at least 30% of terrestrial (including 100% of elfin woodlands) and 30% of marine areas, with Protected Areas and OECMs					
Indicators:	% of terrestrial area under legal protection (GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine)): % of marine area under legal protection (GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine)):			Baseline:	Target Value:
				21.1%	30%
				0.22%	30%
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 3 – Conserve 30% of ecosystems (PAs & OECMs)				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Based on the Land Spatial Plan (National Target 1, Activity 4) gazette additional ~8% of land incl. entire elfin zone to achieve 30% target, including development PA Management Plans for new PAs: First Priority: - Soufrière National Park; - Buccament–Vermont–Richmond Ridge Corridor (extension of existing Vermont Nature Reserve to Richmond Peak); - Union Island Gecko Forest Reserve (Chatham Bay & Mount Taboi); - Kingstown Forest Reserve; - Campden Park Forest Reserve; - Balliceaux Island Landmark;	1,500,000 – 1,800,000	Forestry Department and NPRBA	Land and Surveys Department, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning; Chambers of the Attorney-General & Ministry of Legal Affairs; Village Councils; OECS Commission	GEF and GBFF; Rainforest Trust; Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	5-10 permanent ranger positions; 10–15 temporary jobs (mapping & surveys)

• Colonaire–Byrea & Sandy Bay–Big Sands Turtle Sanctuaries Second Priority: • Richmond Bay Protected Landscape • Bequia North-East Dry-Forest Reserve (Spring–Industry ridge); • Mustique L’Ansecoy Mangrove & Dry Forest Sanctuary; • Ashton Lagoon Mangrove Sanctuary (Union Island); • Brighton–Indian Bay Littoral Greenbelt (south-east St Vincent); Extension of existing Forest Reserves is covered by Activity 6, National Target 4.					
Activity 2. Based on the Marine Spatial Plan (Activity 3, National Target 1) increase area of Marine PAs to 30% of EEZ, including development PA Management Plans for new PAs: • South-Coast Marine Park (SCMP) – upgrade of the South-Coast Marine Conservation Area; • Tobago Cays–Mayreau Reef Complex Expansion (TCMP+) – extend existing park seaward & westward; • Leeward Coast MPA (Leeward (west) coast of St. Vincent); • No-fishing / no-take zones within SCMP & Leeward Coast MPA;	2,000,000 – 2,500,000	Fisheries Division and NPRBA	Coastal Guards; Local coastal communities; The Nature Conservancy; Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	GEF and GBFF; Blue Finance / Blue Alliance; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF);	10-20 permanent marine wardens & rangers; 10–15 temporary jobs (marine surveys, zoning & outreach)

- Ashton Lagoon – Mangrove nursery area (no-fishing zone); - Chatham Bay – Union Island MPA; - Isle a Quatre – juvenile conch habitat (core & extended area)					
Activity 3. Recognize & support private reserves and community-run OECMs (mangrove reserves, beach sanctuaries, lobster & conch banks): sign OECM agreements with private landowners and local communities, provide micro-grants & patrol stipends to community OECMs (in collaboration with Activity 3, national Target 8)	800,000 – 900,000	Fisheries Division and Forestry Department	NPRBA Local Communities; SusGren; SVG Conservation Fund; SVG Environment Fund	GEF and GBFF GCF GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP); Rainforest Trust Philanthropic donors	1–2 permanent project officers; 15–20 community temporary jobs
Activity 4. Provide training and equipment for existing and newly established PAs to ensure sufficient level of biodiversity protection, including patrol boats (for both Fisheries and Forestry), drones, Vessel Monitoring System	2,000,000 – 2,500,000	NPRBA Forestry Department; Fisheries Division;	SVG Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; Tobago Cays Marine Park	GEF and GBFF; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF); Blue Finance / Blue Alliance; The Nature Conservancy; Technology donors	10–20 temporary jobs (training & equipment procurement and deployment)
Activity 5. Develop “Ridge-to-Reef Eco-Experience” program – integrate land & marine PAs/OECMs into market-ready tourism products that generate new revenue for site management (includes booking platform, visitor infrastructure, training and certification, digital campaign)	1,800,000 – 2,000,000	NPRBA	Forestry Department; Fisheries Division; Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Sustainable Development Unit; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association;	GEF and GBFF; Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); Caribbean Tourism Organization (sustainable tourism grants); UNDP	6–10 permanent ecotourism guides & managers; 30–35 temporary jobs (infrastructure, digital marketing, training, tourist services)

			OECS Commission Local Communities Cruise/yacht associations	Private sector	
Total Budget:	8,100,000 9,700,000	–			22–42 permanent jobs 75–105 seasonal/temporary jobs
Key Risks:	- Chronic financing gap: New sites may be gazetted as “paper parks” with no rangers, boats or community grants, undermining credibility and GBF reporting; - Limited enforcement & overlapping mandates: NPRBA, Forestry and Fisheries all suffer staff/equipment shortages, while the dormant Protected Areas System Committee leaves unclear lines of authority for joint land–sea sites; - Incomplete legal & spatial-planning framework: Without clear legal zoning, PA boundary disputes or judicial challenges could delay gazettal and stall the 30% target timeline; - Stakeholder push-back from fishers, landowners and tourism operators: Non-compliance (illegal fishing, land-use appeals) slows designation or forces PA boundary compromises that reduce ecological representativeness; - Climate & natural-hazard shocks (hurricanes, bleaching, La Soufrière eruptions): Damage to reefs, trails and park infrastructure can absorb scarce budgets and reverse area-based gains				

National Target 6. Invasive Species Control

Target 6. Invasive Species Control: By 2030, contain the most dangerous invasive alien species — lionfish, small Indian mongoose, giant African snail, Cuban tree frog, Lemongrass, Halophila stipulacea, Xeniidae soft corals, and agro-biodiversity AIS (West Indian fruit fly, Banana Black Sigatoka, and Banana Moko Disease) — and establish effective biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions						
Indicators:	Population density of key IAS, ind./ha		Baseline: Lionfish: baseline TBE in 2026; Mongoose: baseline TBE in 2026; Giant African Snail: baseline TBE in 2026; Cuban Tree Frog: baseline TBE in 2026; Lemongrass: baseline TBE in 2026, in 2026 Halophila stipulacea: baseline TBE in 2026 Xeniidae soft corals: baseline TBE in 2026 AGRO-BIODIVERSITY: West Indian Fruit Fly: baseline TBE in 2026; Banana Black Sigatoka: baseline TBE in 2026; Banana Moko Disease: baseline TBE		Target Value: >=30-50% reduction in key IAS population density	
	GBF Headline Indicator 6.1 Rate of invasive alien species (IAS/year) establishment in SVG during last 10 years:		≈0.5 IAS/year ³⁵		0.2 IAS/year	
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 6 – Invasive alien species					
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).					
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity	
Activity 1. Support existing efforts of Fisheries and private sector to control population of Lionfish,	700,000 – 900,000	Fisheries Division	NPRBA; Dive shops;	GEF and GBFF;	50-60 temporary diver positions and 1-3 project coordinators/data managers	

³⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/vc-nr-06-en.pdf#:~:text=,and%20invasive%20species%20verified>

including quarterly derbies in selected MPAs/OECMs; fisher buy-back at US \$4/kg; targeted restaurant campaign; train and certify 50 divers; smartphone reporting app; ≥ 30,000 fish removed yr ⁻¹ .			Local restaurants; SVG Hotel and Tourism Association; Local communities	Dive shops and restaurants; Private sponsors for lionfish derbies and buy-back.	
Activity 2. Develop and implement Community Mongoose Control & Rat Eradication on Offshore Islet, including 2,000 live-catch traps; predator-proof bait stations; complete removal rats on 3 key seabird islets; 20 trained community wardens	1,000,000 – 1,300,000	Forestry Department	BirdsCaribbean; FFI; Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) Local Communities	GEF and GBFF; International conservation NGOs (BirdsCaribbean, FFI, EPIC) SVG Conservation Fund	20-30 temporary community wardens (temporary) and 3–5 field technicians and a programme manager to oversee trapping and eradication
Activity 3. Develop and implement Giant African Snail National Response – four-pronged baiting (iron-phosphate stations), quarantine checkpoints, farmer outreach, disposal units in every district; target ≥ 80 % population reduction	1,000,000 – 1,500,000	Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit (PPQU)	Ministry of Agriculture Extension Officers; Village councils; Local farmers; FAO	FAO/IICA technical & financial assistance; USDA; IFAD; Contributions from horticulture suppliers and agriculture cooperatives;	18–24 temporary jobs including 15-20 field workers to service bait/trap stations and disposal units and 3–4 extension/technical advisors and outreach specialists
Activity 4. Develop and implement Cuban Tree Frog Suppression & Endemic Amphibian Refuge, including night-capture teams, barrier fencing of two upper-stream refuges, port & nursery inspections, citizen-science alert system	450,000 – 600,000	Forestry Department and PPQU	Local communities; SCIENCE SVG	GEF and GBFF; International conservation NGOs (BirdsCaribbean, FFI, EPIC) SVG Conservation Fund	15-20 temporary night-capture team members; 2–3 temporary field biologists and outreach/community coordinators.
Activity 5. Integrated Lemongrass (<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>) Control & Fire Risk Reduction Programme: baseline mapping and fire risk zoning; organization of community fire-break & mechanical removal pilots around	750,000 – 850,000	Forestry Department and Agriculture Extension	Local communities; Richmond Vale Academy;	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Private investment in fodder pellet value chain.	4-5 permanent technical roles in pellet production 20-30 temporary laborers for fire-breaks and removal

high-altitude/leeward sites; “fodder-pellet” utilization & value chain demo to produce pellets for livestock; targeted herbicide & biocontrol trials to eliminate lemongrass on the most risky sites			National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) Fire Service Police		
Activity 6. Agro-biodiversity AIS: Contain existing <i>West Indian fruit fly (Anastrepha obliqua)</i> populations (now limited to Bequia and scattered hotspots) and prevent further spread to main fruit-growing islands, including surveillance network to ≥150 pheromone traps covering every commercial-fruit district; maintain a five-person rapid-response crew for delimiting surveys and bait-spray actions; train PPQU inspectors plus extension officers in fruit-fly diagnostics, trapping protocols and emergency procedures; distribute a pictorial field guide, run radio/TV spots each harvest season and hold farmer field-school sessions; integrate geo-referenced trap data into the national invasive-species database	1,000,000 – 1,200,000	PPQU	Local communities; Richmond Vale Academy; Farmers’ co-ops	FAO/IAEA and IICA support for sterile insect technique, bait sprays and surveillance; USDA; IFAD; Contributions from fruit growers and cooperatives.	5-6 permanent jobs for rapid response crew; 10-15 seasonal trappers for pheromone traps
Activity 7. Agro-biodiversity AIS: Organize Integrated Management of Banana Black Sigatoka (<i>Mycosphaerella fijiensis</i>) & Banana Moko Disease (<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>) and reduce national incidence of Black Sigatoka to ≤1% infected leaf area in commercial plantations and cut new Banana Moko outbreaks by 80%	1,100,000 – 1,200,000	PPQU	Local communities; Farmers’ co-ops; National Banana Services Division, Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI),	FAO, IICA and CARDI research grants; USDA; Taiwan ICDF’s Black Sigatoka control project; Contributions from banana exporters and farmers’ cooperatives.	4-5 permanent extension officers and plant pathologists; 15-20 temporary field laborers for monitoring and treatment

			FAO, IICA		
Activity 8. Border Biosecurity & Quarantine Upgrade: refit two inspection sheds (one at the port and one at the airport) with an X-ray scanners and sniffer-dog unit, fit out a cold-treatment room for seized produce; implement ballast-water protocol (Makes IMO BWM Convention D-1/D-2 standards enforceable in SVG waters), update Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations (e.g., Plant Protection Act 2005 and Animals (Diseases & Importation) Regulations 1994)	1,300,000 – 1,600,000	PPQU	Customs Department; SVG Port Authority & Argyle International Airport Company (IADC)	GEF-funded biosecurity projects; Infrastructure loans/grants from Caribbean Development Bank and UK Caribbean Infrastructure Fund; PPP contributions from port/airport operators and shipping lines	7-8 permanent jobs: 3 sniffer-dog handlers, 2 X-ray technicians and 2–3 quarantine officers; 10–15 temporary jobs: Construction & installation
Activity 9. Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) System – mini eDNA lab at PPQU, national IAS database, WhatsApp hotline, two rapid-response teams trained & equipped	800,000 – 900,000	PPQU	Forestry Department; Fisheries Division	GEF and GBFF; Research foundation grants	2-4 permanent positions: lab technicians for eDNA and IT/database specialists; 8-10 temporary positions for rapid response teams
Activity 10. Implement pilot monitoring and removal program for <i>Halophila stipulacea</i> and <i>Xeniidae</i> soft corals in one priority site (e.g., Admiralty Bay (Bequia), Britannia Bay (Mustique), or Salt Whistle & Saline Bay (Mayreau)), including: - Issuing a Port Notice referencing IMO 2023 Biofouling Guidelines; encourage biofouling plans for visiting yachts; partner with marinas to offer hull checks; - Monitoring using monthly	500,000 – 700,000	Fisheries Division	SVG Port Authority; SVG Coast Guards; Yacht owners; Local communities	GEF and GBFF SVG Conservation Fund	15-20 temporary positions for coordinator, divers, and technical experts

eDNA + quarterly diver transects in priority site; - Treat small, high-value <i>Halophila stipulacea</i> patches using benthic barriers on $\leq 2,000 \text{ m}^2$ patches, suction/hand clean margins; shield the site with moorings/ no-anchor signs to prevent reinvasion; - EDRR for xeniids, manual removal + tarping in 100 m^2 blocks					
Activity 11. “Stop the Invaders” Public Awareness Campaign – six TV/online PSAs, school modules, bilingual field guides, annual lionfish-recipe contest	250,000 – 350,000	PPQU and Ministry of Agriculture’s Communication & Information Technology Unit (CITU)	Forestry Department; Fisheries Division Ministry of Education and National Reconciliation; NRPBA; SCIENCE NGO Agency for Public Information	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; GEF Small Grants Programme; SVG Conservation Fund	5-8 temporary positions, including media/communications experts, education/outreach officers, event organizers and digital media creators
Total Budget:	8,850,000-11,100,000				24-32 permanent jobs 191 – 255 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	• Chronic funding shortfalls once donor seed-money ends – IAS work is labour- and consumable-intensive (baits, traps, lab kits). Government recurrent allocations to PPQU, Forestry and Fisheries are already thin; • Delay or dilution of the new SPS & biosecurity regulations: Customs and PPQU remain unable to refuse or destroy high-risk cargo or to fine violators; new IAS continue to arrive; WTO/SPS non-compliance exposes SVG exporters to retaliatory measures; • Patchy inter-agency coordination & role confusion (PPQU vs Forestry vs Fisheries vs Customs): Surveillance gaps (e.g., marine officers unaware of port interceptions); duplicate purchasing of traps and lab equipment; mixed messages to communities and tourists; • Community fatigue or resistance to trapping, baiting and reporting: Volunteer wards stop servicing trap lines; farmers revert to cheap metaldehyde slug bait; divers ignore lionfish derbies; public opposition to herbicide use in elephant-grass plots delays permits; • Extreme weather & climate variability (hurricanes, droughts, La Soufrière ash): Storms spread lionfish larvae and snail eggs; hurricane damage diverts staff and funds to disaster relief; drought weakens native vegetation, giving elephant grass a competitive edge.				

National Target 7. Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste)

Target 7. Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste): By 2030, reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems by 50%						
Indicators:	Concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L) in freshwater streams and coastal marine areas:			Baseline: baseline TBE in 2026	Target Value: 50% reduction in concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L)	
	Number (or weight) of plastic items per meter (or km) of shoreline:			baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction number (weight) of plastic items per meter (km) of shoreline	
	GBF Headline Indicator 7.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication Potential (nutrients):			~7 kg C/km²/day, (circa 2015) ³⁶	50% reduction from the baseline	
	GBF Headline Indicator 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (pesticides):			baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction from the baseline	
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 7 – Reduce pollution					
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).					
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity	
Activity 1. Enforce and expand the existing 2019 Disposable Plastics Regulations and 2017 EPS foam ban (many high-leakage single-use items (cutlery, cups, straws, snack wrappers, PET bottles < 500 ml, sachets) are not yet covered, and enforcement resources remain thin)	450,000 – 500,000	Environmental Health Division, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment (MoHWE);	Solid Waste Management Unit; Customs Department; Chamber of Commerce; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association	IUCN’s ‘Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap’ programme funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS); Producer responsibility/ deposit refund contributions from beverage and packaging companies;	3-4 temporary jobs (consultants)	

³⁶ <https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/7-1>

				GEF; EU circular economy programmes	
Activity 2. Establish baseline for the Target Indicators: (a) Concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L) in freshwater streams and coastal marine areas; and (b) Number (or weight) of plastic items per meter (or km) of shoreline	100,000 – 150,000	Environmental Health Division, MoHWE	Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU), CWSA; NPRBA; Fisheries Division; Forestry Department; Communities and NGOs	GEF and GBFF; GEF Small Grants Programme; Collaboration with regional universities and NGOs; Support from the Caribbean Development Bank or World Bank for water quality monitoring and data collection equipment	8–10 temporary enumerators/lab technicians for field sampling
Activity 3. Establish Island Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) & 3 island recycling hubs, including build/retrofit 1,500 m ² MRF at Diamond landfill; install baler & PET/HDPE line; set up drop-off hubs on Bequia & Union Island; launch producer-funded take-back for beverage containers	1,500,000 – 2,000,000	Solid Waste Management Unit of Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA)	MoHWE; Beverage Industry Association of SVG;	World Bank; Caribbean Development Bank; European Union's Caribbean Circular Economy programmes; Private investment from beverage producers through extended producer responsibility schemes	15–20 permanent positions (sorting, equipment operators, logistics) plus additional collection-route jobs depending on volumes 15–20 temporary jobs: construction and setup
Activity 4. Constructed wetland wastewater pilots (Arnos Vale & Port Elizabeth): two 1 ha free-water surface wetlands (≈2,500 m ³ /day) treating grey/black water to ≤10 mg N/liter, community	1,200,000 – 1,800,000	Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA)	Ministry of Health & Environment; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and	GEF and GBFF; Adaptation Fund and GCF;	2–3 permanent technicians and a part-time environmental educator

maintenance contracts; wetland boardwalks for education			Surveys, and Physical Planning; Forestry Department	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW); UNDP	10–15 temporary workers for construction
Activity 5. Launch Nutrient-Smart Agriculture & IPM program for farmers, including Soil testing service & digital fertilizer advisory app; 1,000 farmers trained on Global G.A.P./organic standards, IPM and sustainable pesticides management; 300 ha riparian buffer zones planted; 50% synthetic-N and P use cut in banana & root-crop catchments; 50% synthetic-pesticide cut	1,200,000 – 1,600,000	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour	Farmer co-ops; Richmond Vale Academy; FAO	FAO and IFAD; GEF; World Bank Agribusiness contributions CSR	25-35 temporary positions for administration and training, demonstration plots and riparian buffer planting
Activity 6. Ghost gear retrieval & recycling initiative: annual “Gear-Back” drives; bounty US \$0.70/kg; 60t nets & lines removed; nylon sent to Aquafil (Econyl®) plant via OECS shipping pool	400,000 – 600,000	Fisheries Division	Solid Waste Division of the Central Water & Sewage Authority (CWSA); Diving shops; Coast Guards; Fishers organizations Aquafil (Econyl®)	Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) grants and technical support; GEF and GBFF; Revenue from selling recovered nylon to recyclers like Aquafil’s Econyl plant;	3–4 permanent staff to coordinate collections, outreach and gear storage 8–10 temporary workers and divers to collect ghost gear
Activity 7. Install river mouth floating debris boom system: procure and install five high-flow trash booms (polyethylene curtain with surface skirt) at the lower reaches of the Buccament, Colonaire and Kingstown drainage channels (two on Buccament, two on Colonaire, one on Kingstown); fit each boom with GPS-enabled hydro-met sensors and CCTV for overflow alerts; contract local	250,000 – 400,000	BRAGSA and NPRBA	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning ; Central Water & Sewerage Authority; Kingstown Town Board & village councils) Forestry Department	GEF and GBFF; The Ocean Cleanup; Alliance to End Plastic Waste; IDB’s Blue Tech for Waste initiative	2–3 permanent jobs for ongoing boom clearing and sensor monitoring 5–8 temporary workers for installation

haulers for twice-weekly boom-clearing					
Activity 8. Hazardous-waste & used-oil collection network: 12 secure collection bays at gas stations & garages; export 1,000 t waste oil & 20 t agro-chem drums to certified processor	600,000 – 800,000	Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) of CWSA	Environmental Health Division; Auto-stations and mobile oil-change operators; Farmers and cooperatives	IDB's Blue Tech for Waste initiative World Bank Caribbean Development Bank Partnerships with regional waste-oil recyclers and the private auto sector; Contributions from service stations and agribusiness for collection infrastructure	4–5 permanent staff for maintenance, logistics, safety and outreach 8–10 temporary construction workers
Total Budget:	5,700,000 – 7,850,000				32–43 permanent posts 92–127 temporary posts
Key Risks:	- Financing gap once capital grants end: Capital-heavy items (MRF, wetlands, booms) have modest up-front grants in the plan, but no guaranteed revenue stream for 10-15 yrs of O&M (e.g., wetland dredging, boom clearing, MRF baler maintenance); - Weak enforcement capacity for expanded plastics ban: The 2019 regulations are only lightly policed; the extension to cups, sachets, PET < 500 ml etc. raises inspection load five-fold but Environmental Health & Customs still have <15 field officers; - Farmer uptake of nutrient-smart/IPM measures remains low: Most smallholders use blanket NPK blends and rely on cheap broad-spectrum herbicides. If fertilizer-advisory app, buffer fencing or IPM gear feel costly or complex, adoption stalls; - Institutional fragmentation across eight implementing bodies: Solid waste, water, transport, health, agriculture and fisheries sit in four different ministries. Without tight coordination, procurement, data sharing and reporting can drift; - Climate-shock damage & debris surges: Hurricanes, flash-floods and La Soufrière ashfall can overwhelm booms, wetlands and sediment traps, and scatter ghost gear.				

National Target 8. Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use

Target 8. Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use: By 2030, bring all wild harvesting (fisheries, hunting) to sustainable levels and eliminate illegal exploitation					
Indicators:	% of fisheries harvested at sustainable levels (GBF Headline Indicator 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels):			Baseline: 0%	Target Value: 100%
	Number of IUU cases per year:			Baseline TBE in 2026	Decreased by 70%
	Number of illegal hunting/harvesting cases per year:			Baseline TBE in 2026	Decreased by 70%
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 5 – Sustainable, safe, legal use/trade of biodiversity; and Target 10 – Sustainable fisheries & aquaculture				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Operationalize the new Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Bill (now before Parliament): - develop subsidiary regulation package: Licensing & Vessel Registry Regs, Total-Allowable-Catch (TAC) & Harvest-Control Rules Regs, VMS/Observer Regs, Port-State-Measures (PSMA) Regs; - form Fisheries Management Advisory Council (FMAC); draft 5-yr National Fisheries Management Plan & species-specific TAC advice; - train Port Inspectors, Customs & Coast-Guard officers in PSMA boarding & evidence chain; connect Kingstown port to FAO PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES); install	800,000 -1,000,000	Fisheries Division	Attorney-General's Chambers; Customs Department; Fishing cooperative and companies; SVG Environment Fund	World Bank PROBLUE; GEF and GBFF; FAO & UNDP technical assistance;	2 permanent posts (system administrator & compliance officer) 8–12 temporary jobs (legal consultants, IT developers, trainers) & about

handheld transceivers & cold-store evidence locker; • cloud-based licensing portal & e-Logbook app; stakeholder outreach; monitoring of compliance					
Activity 2. Operationalize EEZ-wide VMS/AIS surveillance & Community Sea Watcher Scheme; fit 180 vessels > 9 m with tamper-proof VMS/AIS devices; integrate Coast Guard radar & drone feeds to monitor compliance; train community spotters; organize hotline and rewards for reporting illegal activities; procure a 10–12 m enclosed-cabin patrol RIB or aluminum monohull with twin outboards for monitoring and surveillance by Fisheries Division	1,900,000 – 2,300,000	Fisheries Division	Customs Department; Coast Guards; Maritime Administration; SVG Port Authority Fisher Communities SVG Environment Fund	World Bank PROBLUE; Global Fishing Watch; Caribbean Development Bank; Co-financing from fishing companies	3–4 permanent positions to operate the VMS & manage the sea-watcher scheme 10–12 temporary jobs (installation technicians, community spotter trainers, hotline staff)
Activity 3. Develop and implement Fishery Management Areas (FMAs) and community co-management plans for lobster & conch banks (in collaboration with Activity 3 of National Target 5), including retrofit kits for traps, conch gauges, and rugged tablets for navigation. Train fishers in sustainable harvesting and digital catch reporting. Second Priority: Conduct MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0 GAP analysis and obtain MSC certification.	700,000 – 1,000,000	Fisheries Division	Fisher coops; SusGren; Marine Stewardship Council SVG Environment Fund	GEF and GBFF; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; FAO;	2–3 permanent posts (fishery biologists & data analyst) to manage FMAs & digital reporting 10–15 temporary jobs (community facilitators, consultants, trainers) &
Activity 4. Support maintenance of Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) & pelagic gear transition: manage 12 moored FADs provided by the	600,000 – 900,000	Fisheries Division	Fisher coops; Japan International Cooperation Agency–	World Bank UBEC & PROBLUE; JICA/CARIFICO;	1–2 permanent posts (FAD coordinator & monitoring officer);

World Bank's regional project <i>Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean</i> (UBEC); skipper training on hand-line & trolling; goal: shift 25% effort off reef fishery to offshore pelagics			Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism "Caribbean Fisheries Co-Management Project" (CARIFICO) SVG Environment Fund	GCF and Adaptation Fund; Partnerships with gear manufacturers & exporters	4–5 temporary jobs (FAD maintenance crew & trainers)
Activity 5. Launch Catch Documentation & Traceability (CDT) + e-Logbook system, including: - e-Logbook smartphone app to record date, gear, location (GPS auto-capture), species, weight and buyer at the end of every tri; - QR-coded catch certificates to link the trip records in the national CDT database; - Blockchain pilot for queen-conch exports: For the high-value, CITES-listed queen conch (<i>Lobatus gigas</i>), each QR record is simultaneously hashed to a permissioned blockchain (e.g., FAO-IFAD "FISHCHAIN") hosted on Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) servers	600,000 – 900,000	Fisheries Division	Customs & Excise Department; SVG Port Authority; Consumer Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Consumer Affairs Fisher coops; FAO FISHSTAT CRFM SVG Environment Fund	FAO-IFAD FISHCHAIN & FAO catch-documentation initiatives; International Seafood Sustainability Foundation; GEF and GBFF; World Bank PROBLUE	2–3 permanent positions (database administrator & verification officer) to run CDT & e-logbook system 7–8 temporary jobs (software developers, blockchain consultants, trainers)
Activity 6. Launch an Observer / Electronic Monitoring (EM) & By-catch Mitigation package, including: 100% human-observer coverage on industrial long-liners; - Electronic monitoring camera-box pilot on 25 semi-industrial vessels;	800,000 – 1,000,000	Fisheries Division	Customs & Excise Department; Coast Guards; Commercial fishing fleet SVG Environment Fund	GEF and GBFF; World Bank PROBLUE International Seafood Sustainability Foundation Co-financing from fishing companies	1–2 permanent posts (by-catch coordinator & EM system manager) 10–12 temporary observer & EM technician jobs

300 turtle-friendly circle-hook kits for artisanal & semi-industrial surface long-liners					
Activity 7. Wildlife Harvest Registry & Hunting License Reform, including: - Develop and approve Wildlife (Licensing & Reporting) Regulation (subsidiary to the Wildlife Protection Act 1987) that creates create: digital license classes, e-harvest return duty, and offence schedule & on-the-spot fines; - Cloud-based Wildlife Harvest Portal and app for hunters; - Equipment: 1,500 rugged NFC cards printed (hunter ID + QR); 60 hand-held QR scanners for Forest Guards & market inspectors; four drone kits (DJI Mavic 3 Classic) for patrols; - Strengthening enforcement: recruit & train 15-20 Forest Guards (wildlife identification, evidence, firearm safety); provide uniforms, GPS-enabled radios, chain-of-custody kits, 4 motorbikes for back-country patrols; - Wildlife and hunting surveys with participation of hunters; - Nation-wide outreach campaign, including public interest for hunting	800,000 – 1,000,000	Forestry Department	NPRBA; National Police; Local hunters; Union Island Environmental Alliance SCIENCE NGO SVG Environment Fund SCG Conservation Fund	GEF and GBFF; US Fish & Wildlife Service's Multinational Species Conservation Funds; Rewild; FFI; EU LIFE programme; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; Conservation NGOs (e.g., BirdLife International) License fees & fines	2 permanent posts (portal administrator & licensing officer) 20–25 temporary forest-guard jobs plus temporary roles for legal drafting, IT development & outreach
Total Budget:	5,800,000 – 7,700,000				13–18 permanent jobs 69–89 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	Legislative bottleneck – Parliament or Cabinet delays passage of the Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Bill, subsidiary VMS/PSMA regs, and Wildlife Licensing regs;				

	• Technology uptake & reliability failure: fishers/hunters don't use e-logbook/CDT apps or VMS units break and stay offline; camera boxes deliver poor footage; • Compliance push-back & livelihood fears: fishers resist observers, size limits, circle-hook swap, or see new fees as punitive; hunters mistrust QR cards; • Recurrent-cost gap once grants expire: observers, VMS airtime, server hosting, Forest-Guard patrol fuel depend on project funds but no earmarked revenue stream after 2028; • Coordination & data-integration failure across agencies: Fisheries, Forestry, Customs, Coast Guard, Police run parallel systems, data don't sync; evidence chain breaks in court.
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National Target 9. Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience

Target 9. Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience: By 2030, restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems nationwide (with key focus on rainforest, mangroves, littoral woodlands, beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) prioritizing climate-vulnerable habitats.					
Indicators:	ha of degraded habitat restored for the ecosystems (GBF Headline Indicator 2.1 Area under restoration (all ecosystems)):		Baseline:	Target Values:	
			Rainforest:	0	600
			Elfin Woodlands:	0	150
			Littoral Woodlands:	0	30
			Mangroves:	0	15
			Dry Scrub Woodlands:	0	300
			Coral Reefs:	0	1,000 ³⁷
			Seagrass Beds:	0	250
			Sandy Beaches:	0	10
			Freshwater ecosystems:	0	30
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 2 – Restore 30% ecosystems& connectivity; Target 8 – Climate resilience; and Target 11 – Nature’s contributions				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Cloud-to-Coast Rainforest Recovery – restore 600 ha lower-montane rainforest + 150 ha elfin woodland on Soufrière & Grand Bonhomme ridges: • Invasive-plant cut-back & assisted natural regeneration (ANR) plots; • 3 high-altitude fog-harvesting pilot fences (15 m each) to boost moisture for elfin seedlings; • 60 community silviculture trainees to support restoration	1,300,000 – 1,700,000	Forestry Department	NPRBA; Richmond Vale Academy; Local communities	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) FAO International Climate Initiative (IKI)	60 temporary jobs, comprising 4–6 project managers/forestry technicians and 54-55 seasonal tree-planting and maintenance workers.

³⁷ 1 ha through active restoration; 999 ha via protection and management

Activity 2. Coastal Xeric-Woodland & Littoral Greenbelt: 300 ha dry scrub + 30 ha littoral woodland on Bequia, Mustique, Richmond Head, Tobago Cays, Union Island Chatham Bay: - Goat-exclosure fencing, cactus & gumbo-limbo planting; - Biochar soil-amendment demo-projects (climate adaptation) and other soil conservation measures in the woodlands	1,000,000 – 1,300,000	Forestry Department	Fisheries Division; Tobago Cays Marine Park; UIEA; NPRBA; Private-island estates; Local communities	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI)	40–52 temporary jobs for 3–4 restoration technicians and 40 - 48 seasonal workers for exclosure fences, planting and maintenance
Activity 3. Blue Carbon Mangrove Boost – restoration of 15 ha degraded mangroves (Ashton Lagoon, L’Ansecoy, Brighton, Tobago Cays Marine Park): - Hydrology re-opening, sediment nourishment; - on-site “flying nurseries” with 20,000 nursery seedlings collected/produced and planted; 2 community wardens to monitor; - Carbon gains quantified for voluntary credit pilot (if feasible)	350,000 – 600,000	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	NPRBA; SusGren; UIEA; SVG Conservation Fund; Local communities	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; CEPF Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI) Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF) SVG Conservation Fund SVG Environmental Fund	8-12 temporary jobs for wardens and planting workers
Activity 4. “Fragments of Hope” Coral Micro Reef Network – restore 1 ha live reef surface: ≈25 rope & micro-fragment tree nurseries distributed among Buccament Bay, South-Coast Marine Park and Tobago Cays; ≈120,000 nursery-reared fragments (Acropora, Orbicella, Porites) out-planted on steel pins & ReefStars over three years;	2,500,000 – 2,700,000	Fisheries Division;	NPRBA; Richmond Vale Academy; SusGren; SVG Conservation Fund; Local communities	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI)	44-47 temporary jobs , including 2–3 permanent reef-guard/diving instructors and 42 -44 seasonal coral nursery and out planting workers

• 6 hurricane/insurance-funded reef-ball modules installed to protect restoration plots and reduce wave energy; • Community reef-guardian programme (15 trained divers, annual monitoring transects); • Installation of 70% UV-block HDPE mesh “socks” that slide over each rope-tree or PVC table during bleaching alerts					
Activity 5. Seagrass Meadow Regeneration & No-Anchor Moorings – 250 ha seagrass in South-Coast Marine Park & Grenadines bays: • “Heli-mooring” fields: a <i>grid</i> of 15–20 low-profile helix anchors screwed into the sand and linked by heavy rope for anchoring; • Conduct feasibility assessment of seagrass planting and if feasible: • 40 ha donor-plot transplant programme: plant donor plants on 20x20 m grids inside severely denuded areas in Calliaqua and Clifton; • “Rhizo-Drone” seeding flights: A small agricultural drone fitted with a pneumatic pod drops pelletised seagrass rhizome fragments and sediment “cookies” across patchy zones (especially 2–5 m deep flats in Tobago Cays); one drone can seed 5–7 ha/hour; repeated quarterly for two years.	1,200,000 – 1,600,000	Fisheries Division;	NPRBA; Richmond Vale Academy; Tobago Cays Marine Park SusGren; SVG Conservation Fund; Dive shops Local communities	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI) Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF)	20-25 temporary jobs, including 2 marine ecologists and 18-23 seasonal workers for mooring installation, plot transplants and drone seeding
Activity 6. Turtle-Beach & Dune Shield – restore 10 ha sandy-beach profile (Colonaire, Villa, Chatham):	250,000 – 400,000	NPRBA	Fisheries Division; Forestry Department;	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund;	6-7 temporary jobs, including 1 dune/monitoring

1,800 m of double-row wooden-slat or bamboo fencing placed 5 m apart, perpendicular to prevailing trade winds; traps aeolian sand, rebuilding a 0.5-1.0 m fore-dune over 18-24 months; - Native dune-planting: Vetiver grass (<i>Chrysopogon zizanioides</i>, non-native) on landward toe (deep root binds the dune); beach morning-glory (<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>) and seaside purslane (<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>) on fore-dune slopes; 25,000 rooted slips propagated at Richmond Vale Academy nursery; community “plant-a-strip” days; - Solar tide/erosion sensors: six compact ultrasonic “SmartBeach” stations (two per site) mounted on poles above spring-high-tide mark; log hourly shoreline position, wave run-up and water temperature; data beamed by LoRaWAN³⁸ gateway to NPBRA server.			Local communities	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI) GEF Small Grant Programme	coordinator and 5-6 seasonal fencing and planting workers
Activity 7. Freshwater Riparian Restoration – 50 ha riverbank & wetland (Buccament, Kingstown, Perseverance, Colonaire, Buccament, Union, Perseverance, Sandy Bay): Update the Forest Resource Conservation Act (1992) with provisions to protect and ban	800,000-1,200,000	Forestry Department;	Fisheries Division; Central Water & Sewerage Authority; Local Communities; Richmond Vale Academy; SVG Conservation Fund; SVG Environment Fund	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) International Climate Initiative (IKI) GEF Small Grant Programme	20-24 temporary jobs, including 2 river-keeper/monitoring roles and 18-22 seasonal planting and labor jobs

³⁸ Long Range Wide Area Network

logging/clearing inside 5 m wide forest buffers along rivers; • Live-stake vegetative buffers ≈ 30 ha: 1.5 m cuttings of fast-rooting <i>Gliricidia sepium</i>, <i>Inga laurina</i> and native river-trumpet (<i>Cecropia schreberiana</i>) into both banks every 3 m; under-storey seeded with vetiver and river-reed (<i>Gynerium sagittatum</i>) • Twelve low-crest stone weirs / “V” chevrons: dry-laid basalt blocks keyed into the channel bed at 200 m intervals; each weir drops water energy, forces sediment to settle, and scours pools for mullet and eel refugia; • Alien bamboo removal (≈ 7 ha): cut, chip and cart away dense <i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> clumps that monopolize light and destabilize banks with top-heavy stems.; stumps drilled and dabbed with glyphosate gel (< 1% active) to stop resprout; replant with river-dependent natives • Community “River-Keeper” PES scheme: 24 local residents (12 per river) sign 5-year Payment for Ecosystem Services contracts; Tasks: monthly litter sweeps, weir-stone checks, bamboo resprout spot-treatment, smartphone photo-logs; Stipend paid from SVG Conservation Fund or SVG Environment Fund					
Total Budget:	7,400,000 – 9,500,000				198-227 temporary jobs

Key Risks:	• Funding gaps after capital phase (O-&-M for nurseries, mooring-fields, fog fences, sensors and PES stipends is not yet locked into recurrent budgets); • Extreme-weather shocks & marine heatwaves (Category-4 hurricanes, coral-bleaching years like 2023) wipe out restoration gains; • Stakeholder non-compliance & land-use conflicts (yacht skippers ignore no-anchor grids, goats breach dry-scrub fences, farmers fell riparian cuttings); • Technical-capacity bottlenecks (Limited local divers, drone pilots, nursery technicians) to support restoration; • Monitoring & verification gaps across habitats (nine KPIs need consistent, compatible data streams); difficulties to prove 30 % degraded area has recovered.
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National Target 10. Sustainable Tourism

Target 10. Sustainable Tourism: By 2026, implement national eco-friendly tourism standards and by 2030 ensure all major tourism sites operate within ecological carrying capacity					
Indicators:	- % of tourism operators certified under eco-friendly tourist standards: - % of tourism sites operating withing ecological carrying capacity:			Baseline: 0% Baseline TBE in 2026	Target Values: ≥80% (2030) 100% (2030)
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 14 – Integrate biodiversity in policies; Target 15 – Business disclosure & impacts; Target 16 – Sustainable consumption & waste				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 5 of the National Target 2: Develop and adopt National Eco-tourism Standard based on Green Key/Blue Flag criteria for hotels, marinas & beaches	See National Target 2	See National Target 2			
Activity 1. National Green Key / Blue Flag certification & auditor-training roll-out: • Adopt Green Key (for accommodation & tour operators) and Blue Flag (for beaches, marinas, day-tour boats); • Build local audit capacity: 30 candidates from Ministry of Tourism, NPRBA, Environment Health & independent consultants + 15 community trainees; • Subsidized first-round certification blitz: Government covers 70% of the first audit fee (US\$1,700 average) for 50 hotels/guest-houses, 20 tour	700,000 – 1,000,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; NPRBA; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Green Key International Eco-label for Hotels, Hostels, Campsites, Restaurants, Attractions and Other Tourism Facilities; Blue Flag Programme: International Eco-label Award for Beaches, Marinas and	GEF; UNDP; IDB; CDB	10-15 permanent jobs (auditors, programme managers, data-hub staff) 5-10 temporary jobs for trainers and consultants during roll-out

operators and 5 priority beaches/marinas; • Digital compliance & marketing hub: All certified sites plug basic KPIs (water-use, waste, daily visitor counts) into the Tourism Data Centre dashboard; Green-Key and Blue-Flag icons published on the national booking engine, Google Travel “eco-certified” field and OTAs; • Annual audit cycle & carrying capacity trigger			Sustainable Tourism Boats		
Activity 2. Carrying-capacity studies & management plans and community tourism strategies for 10 high-pressure sites (Tobago Cays, Dark View Falls, La Soufrière trail, Villa Beach, etc.): • Visitor-flow counts, ecological indicators, local-benefit ratios; • Set daily/pool limits & booking rules; • Publish “traffic-light” dashboards	500,000 – 700,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; NPRBA; Forestry Department; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association;	GEF; UNDP; IDB; CDB	5-8 temporary positions for consultants, enumerators and data analysts
Activity 3. Introduction of Visitor Monitoring Tech Suite for 10 high-pressure sites (Tobago Cays, Dark View Falls, La Soufrière trail, Villa Beach, etc.): • Cloud ticketing & cap-enforcement app for visitors and/or tour operators to pre-book a <i>time-slot in sensitive area</i>; • 25 “eco-counters”: solar-powered infrared or LiDAR beam over trails, boardwalks or beach paths;	900,000 – 1,300,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; NPRBA; Forestry Department; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Protected Areas	GEF; UNDP; IDB; CDB	5-8 permanent jobs (ICT administrators, field technicians/ rangers) 5-8 temporary jobs for app developers, suppliers and trainers

• 12 smart mooring-buoy sensors: detects when a yacht ties on, logs length/beam, and pings the cap-enforcement app; • Real-time dashboard in the Tourism Data Centre: aggregates ticket scans + eco-counter + mooring data; • Hand-held ranger scanners & training: 60 rugged Android devices with QR scanner app + training for rangers/guides					
Activity 4. Green infrastructure upgrades at key sites: Solar trail lighting, compost toilets, boardwalks over dune/reef flats; 120 yacht moorings to replace anchor damage (links to Seagrass activity); solid-waste & grey-water facilities at trailheads.	1,500,000 – 2,000,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; NPRBA; Central Water & Sewerage Authority; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning	IDB; CDB; World Bank	8-10 permanent jobs (maintenance staff, rangers, facility operators) 10-15 temporary construction jobs
Activity 5. Community Eco-Enterprise Accelerator Program: micro-grants (US \$5-15 k) to local community enterprises + coaching for 60 guides, craft vendors & stay-at-home enterprises; “SVG Sustainable Experience” brand license; annual green-business fair.	600,000 – 800,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; SVG Chamber of Commerce; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association NPRBA; Local communities	GEF; UNDP; IDB; CDB; World Bank	20-30 permanent jobs (eco-guides, craft vendors, home-stay hosts) 10-15 temporary jobs (trainers, mentors, small-scale construction, seasonal workers)
Activity 6. Low-carbon visitor transport program: 4 electric shuttle boats (Blue Lagoon↔Bequia, Union I. lagoon); 10 e-minibuses on heritage loop; charging docks powered by on-site solar-electric panels	1,200,000 – 1,800,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning; SVG Tourism Authority;	IDB; CDB; World Bank	8-10 permanent jobs (electric boat captains, bus drivers, mechanics/maintenance technicians)

			SVG Chamber of Commerce		10-20 temporary jobs for dock builders, charging-station installers and trainers during roll-out.
Activity 7. SVG Naturally Genuine global campaign: Brand refresh, logo lock-up with Green Key / Blue Flag; Content library (drones, 360° reef & trail tours) for OTAs, cruise lines, influencers; sustainability landing-page integrated with booking widget that shows traffic-light capacity status; Annual “SVG Sustainable Tourism Impact Report”	450,000 – 600,000	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture	SVG Tourism Authority; SVG Chamber of Commerce; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; NPRBA	GEF; UNDP; IDB; CDB; World Bank	6-10 temporary jobs for videographers, graphic designers, drone pilots, digital marketing specialists, PR managers, content creators, campaign coordinators, and event staff involved in campaign bursts.
Total Budget:	5,850,000 – 8,200,000				51-73 permanent positions 51-86 temporary positions
Key Risks:	- Standards legislation stalls or is watered-down: the eco-friendly tourism standard (Green Key / Blue Flag-based) must be gazetted as a legal instrument, but could get delayed in Cabinet or face lobbying to soften criteria; - Technology adoption & data-quality failure: ticketing app, eco-counters, buoy sensors (Activity 3) may suffer low uptake, vandalism, or data gaps; - Industry push-back on capacity limits: cruise lines, taxi unions or beach vendors may resist daily caps that cut peak-day earnings; - Climate shocks & infrastructure under-insurance: hurricanes or heavy sargassum years can wreck boardwalks, e-bus chargers, moorings (Activities 4 & 6); - Eco-levy collection and funding for activities fail to materialize				

National Target 11. Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion

Target 11. Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion: By 2027, stop illegal sand mining in all ecologically sensitive and adaptation value areas, including sea turtle nesting sites					
Indicators:	Presence of full ban regulation on sand mining on beaches: Number of sand mining violations per year:			Baseline: Absent baseline TBE in 2026	Target values: Present (2027) 0 violations (2030)
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 11 – Nature’s contributions (risk reduction); Target 8 – Climate resilience; and Target 3 – Area-based conservation				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Issue “No-Go” Coastal Buffer Order & legal update of existing Gazette Notice and an internal Cabinet decision: - Map 26 km of ecologically sensitive shoreline (all turtle-nesting beaches, mangroves, dune systems); - Gazette Sand Mining & Dune Protection Regulations 2026-2027 under the Minerals (Vesting) Act (1966): including absolute ban inside 50-100 m landward/300 m seaward of these buffers; fines EC \$10,000 (first offence) \$50,000 (second offence) & mandatory vehicle seizure; warrant-free inspection powers for Coastal Police, NPRBA, and Forestry Rangers	150,000-200,000	SVG Roads, Buildings and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) and NPRBA	Attorney-General’s Chambers; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning; Forestry Department (Wildlife & Coastal Unit); Royal SVG Police Force – Coastal & Traffic Units SVG Coast Guard	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund grants Caribbean Development Bank climate finance support	8–12 temporary jobs , including GIS, legal & consultation roles

Negotiate with beachfront property owners to set back walls 30–40 ft, replenish beaches, and improve sea defenses with some compensation					
Activity 2. Establish Enforcement & drone-surveillance task-force: - Equip Police Coastal Unit, NPRBA & Forestry Rangers with 4 quad-copter drones, 6 night-vision cameras, 2 portable weigh-pads 24 officers complete the training; joint dusk-to-dawn patrol rotation at hot spots (Grande Sable, Colonarie, Brighton, Union I.); - Regular patrols in sand mining hotspots and vehicles	600,000 – 800,000	NPRBA	Royal SVG Police Force – Coastal & Traffic Units Forestry Department (Wildlife & Coastal Unit); SVG Coast Guard	GEF and GBFF; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund grants Caribbean Basin Security Initiative	5-6 permanent officer positions to strengthen beach patrols, drone pilot/technicians
Activity 3. Launch Community “Sand-Watch” PES scheme: - Contract 40 beach wardens (EC \$500 month) drawn from nesting-monitor groups; - WhatsApp hotline; US\$50 reward per verified tip → task-force response within 60 min	350,000 – 450,000	NPRBA	Local communities; Royal SVG Police Force – Coastal & Traffic Units; Forestry Department; SVG Environment Fund	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund grants SVG Conservation Fund SVG Environment Fund	35-40 temporary beach wardens
Activity 4. Legal quarry & Recycled-aggregate expansion with necessary EIA and community consultations: New inland sources and crushing lines: e.g., existing quarries (Rabacca, Argyle, and Richmon) and volcanic	1,200,000 – 1,500,000	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning	Central Water & Sewerage Authority (Solid-Waste Division); Forestry Department (EIA and restoration); Contractors	GCF and Adaptation Fund; IDB; CDB; World Bank	20-30 permanent quarry & concrete recycling jobs 30-40 temporary construction jobs

deposits (Rabacca Dry River, La Soufrière outwash zones; - Recycled concrete aggregate (RCA) line at Diamond landfill: 70 t h⁻¹ jaw crusher + magnetic separator + 2-deck screen; - Market & logistics support				Concessional credit for blue- and green-business start-ups	
Activity 5. National “Build Smart – Not from the Beach” campaign: bilingual radio/TV spots; QR-linked flyers at hardware stores; builders’ workshops on RCA mix design; school STEM module “Where does my sand come from?”	150,000 – 250,000	NPRBA	Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning SCIENCE NGO; SusGren	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Biodiversity Fund grants SVG Conservation Fund SVG Environment Fund	3–5 temporary jobs (media production, trainers, outreach)
Total Budget:	2,450,000 – 3,200,000				25–36 permanent 76–97 temporary
Key Risks:	- Delay in licensing the Montreal quarry & RCA plant: EIA objections, access-road dispute, or crusher procurement slippage; - Enforcement resources overstretched: only one drone operational, night patrol rotation breaks down; - Community warden/PES dropout: stipends delayed or perceived as unfair; - Climate shock sand demand spike: major hurricane in 2026-2030 destroys coastal roads & houses				

National Target 12. Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies

Target 12. Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies: By 2030, mobilize at least US\$70 million in biodiversity financing from national, regional, and international sources, and phase out at least 50% of subsidies that harm biodiversity.					
Indicators:	Total biodiversity funding mobilized in 2026-2030:			Baseline: 0	Target Values: >=US\$70,000,000
	GBF Headline Indicator 18.2. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed ³⁹ , US\$:			\$0 (2024)	>= \$90-100 mln. (>50% reduction from the 2024 value)
	GBF Headline Indicator D.1. International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:			\$3.5-5.0 mln.	>= \$10 mln.
	GBF Headline Indicator D.2. Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:			~\$3.3 mln. (2024) ⁴⁰	>= \$6.0 mln.
	GBF Headline Indicator D.3 – Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:			<\$1 mln.	>= \$5 mln.
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 19 – Mobilize \$200B/yr biodiversity finance; and Target 18 – Reform harmful incentives (\$500B/yr)				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Draft, approve, and implement the Biodiversity Finance & Subsidy Reform Bill (in accordance with Biodiversity Finance Plan 2026-2030): Legal mobilization target: Minister of Finance must show, in the annual Estimates, a trajectory that reaches ≥ US	300,000 – 400,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology	Attorney-General's Chambers; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour;	GEF and GBFF UNDP BIOFIN The Nature Conservancy	3–6 temporary legal and policy positions during drafting and adoption

³⁹ Estimated annual harmful subsidies in SVG currently amount to ~US\$180–200 million (2024)

⁴⁰ About for 4% of total SVG government expenses for environmental protection and climate resilience in 2024 (~\$82.4 mln.)

\$70,000,000 cumulative biodiversity finance by 2030; - Finance toolbox: authorizes issuance of green/blue bonds, eco-levy adjustments, debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity-enterprise guarantees; - Subsidy cap: any direct or indirect public outlay deemed “biodiversity-negative” in the PER may not exceed 50% of its FY 2024 level after FY2027; - Annual Biodiversity-Finance Report: appended to the national budget; certified by the Director of Audit; - Penalty: line ministries must table an exit plan for each harmful subsidy; Parliament can extend a subsidy only by special resolution citing biodiversity-neutrality tests.			Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning		
Activity 2. International Project-Pipeline Accelerator for GEF 8/9, GCF, Adaptation Fund, EU GCCA⁴¹, KfW, JICA, and CAF⁴² (expected mobilization volume >= US\$50 mln): - Create and train a Project Preparation Group (PPG) inside the Sustainable Development Unit (3 technical officers (or consultants) + 1 gender & safeguards specialist); - Create and train a Climate Finance Unit in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	1,700,000 – 1,900,000	Sustainable Development Unit and Economic Planning Unit	UNDP; UNEP; Donor Funds Consultants	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; UNDP EU GCCA KfW JICA CAF	1-2 permanent positions at SDU and EPU to coordinate project pipeline 10-15 temporary consultants for training and development of project proposals

⁴¹ EU Global Climate Change Alliance Plus

⁴² Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

(≥ 3 staff) to develop climate adaptation concepts and projects; • Provide BIOFIN training to the SDU and Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology; • Portfolio screen: map every activity in Targets 1-13 to the current donor windows (e.g., GEF-8 and 9, GCF SAP for <US \$25 m projects, AF, etc); • Concept-to-Full Proposal production: at least 12-15 high-quality funding proposals submitted (2 per year 2025-30) to the donor funds; • Readiness & co-finance coordination: secure GCF readiness grants, source national in-kind co-finance.; • Maintain donor-tracking dashboard shared with MoF and Permanent Representative to UN.				Caribbean Development Bank World Bank	
Activity 3. Launch PA Trust Fund that will be supported by the <i>Island Conservation Levy</i> for all visitors (Activity 6, National Target 2) (capitalization potential ≥ \$US20 mln): • Establish PA Trust Fund as a statutory entity; • Capitalization of the fund via <i>Island Conservation Levy</i>; • Secure two anchor donations for the fund; • Obtain long-term operational costs for the Fund (~US\$450,000/yr)	1,000,000-1,500,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology	Forestry Department; Fisheries Division; Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Sustainable Development Unit; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association;	GEF and GBFF; GCF and Adaptation Fund; Caribbean Development Bank World Bank	4-5 permanent staff for PA Trust Fund management 3-5 temporary consultants to prepare legal documents, ToRs, and other procedural mechanism for the Trust Fund

			SVG Port Authority & Argyle International Airport Company (IADC)		
Activity 4. SVG Blue Green Bond & Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Note Series (capitalization potential $\geq$ \$US30 mln): - MoF & Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) issue US \$30 mln 10-year Sustainability-Linked Bond (coupon step-up tied to $\geq$30 % PA coverage & 50 % pollution cut); - Listing on Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange; IFC advisory + Green Bond Framework.	900,000 – 1,200,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology	International Finance Corporation; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange	GEF and GBFF; International Finance Corporation; Caribbean Development Bank; World Bank; Credit Suisse-TNC Conservation Finance Platform	1-2 permanent bond management officers at MoF 2-3 temporary consultants to develop Blue Green Bond package
Activity 5. Debt-for-Nature/Climate Swap (capitalization potential up to US\$18 mln): - Buy back ~US \$35 mln of high-coupon external debt at 60–70 ¢/US\$ via Credit Suisse-TNC Conservation Finance Platform; - redirect US \$18 mln of savings into PA Trust Fund (Activity 3) to finance PA establishment and management, and reef, forest & other ecosystem restoration as adaption measure	650,000 – 850,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology	Credit Suisse-TNC Conservation Finance Platform; Paris Club creditors	Credit Suisse-TNC Conservation Finance Platform; Caribbean Development Bank; World Bank	2–3 temporary consultants required for document development
Activity 6. Concessional credit for blue- and green-business start-ups (eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries, organic inputs, agroforestry, mangrove-based enterprises, circular-economy ventures) by de-risking loans that local banks regard as high-risk or lacking collateral:	500,000 – 700,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology	Bank of St. Vincent & the Grenadines; Caribbean Development Bank; European Investment Bank / Caribbean Green Facility;	GEF and GBFF; Bank of St. Vincent & the Grenadines; Caribbean Development Bank	20-25 permanent jobs at Blue and Green SMEs 3-5 temporary consultant positions to develop and manage the portfolio and loans

- Bank of St. Vincent & the Grenadines (BOSVG) (or another bank in SVG) sets up a <i>Partial Credit Warranty</i> that covers up to 70% of principal on qualifying MSME loans; - BOSVG secures a counter-warranty / first-loss backstop from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and/or another development bank, allowing a leverage ratio of at least 1 to 5; 10-50 blue/green MSME loans issued; ≥ EC\$40 m (≈US\$15 m) private finance mobilized; - Progress reflected by annual biodiversity-impact scorecard published by BOSVG			Eastern Caribbean Partial Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECPCGC); Commercial banks & credit unions; Sustainable Development Unit (SDU); SVG Chamber of Industry & Commerce; Blue and Green Enterprises		
Activity 7. Subsidy repurposing & biodiversity-positive incentives (in alignment with Activity 2, National Target 2): - Gradual elimination of fuel-tax rebate on marine diesel (e.g., EC\$1.00 → 0 by 2028); revenues transferred to a <i>Green Gear Grant</i> for circle hooks, VMS units, e-boat pilots; - Replace 50% of chemical-fertilizer subsidy with tiered rebates for organic inputs & soil-testing; - Net fiscal neutral by 2028; biodiversity-negative subsidy expenditure cut ≥50 %.	400,000 – 600,000	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour;	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning	GEF and GBFF; Caribbean Development Bank; World Bank	5–8 temporary consultants, extension officers and coordinators for document development, training and monitoring
Total Budget:	5,450,000 - 7,150,000				26 – 34 permanent 28 – 45 temporary
Key Risks:	Biodiversity-Finance & Subsidy-Reform Bill stalls or is diluted: ministries nervous about hard mobilization target or subsidy cap lobby Cabinet to delay or soften clauses;				

	• Blue-/Green-bond market shock: global rates rise or ESG appetite dips; SVG's 10-yr note would price at 9 %+, wiping out conservation cash-flow; • Debt-for-nature swap face-value unavailable: commercial bondholders refuse tender or Taiwan loan not yet drawn; <\$25 m can be swapped; • Political & sector push-back on subsidy phase-out: fishers and farm lobbies rally against fuel-rebate and fertilizer-discount cuts; • Donor-pipeline execution capacity overload: SDU's three-person Project-Preparation Group can't push 12–15 full proposals while also managing safeguards; success rate falls.
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National Target 13. Biosafety

Target 13. Biosafety: By 2030, establish and fully implement a comprehensive national biosafety framework that effectively manages risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs), biotechnology products, and genetic resources.					
Indicators:	Presence of the operational National Biosafety Framework (NBF) (GBF Binary Indicator 17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19):			Baseline: Absent	Target Value: Present
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 17 – Biosafety & benefits of biotechnology				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Biosafety Policy & Bill package: - Draft and approve National Biosafety Policy (consultations, Cabinet note); - Draft and approve Biosafety & Biotechnology Bill: competent authority = PPQU; establishes National Biosafety Committee (NBC); clear-house obligations; offence schedule; - Draft and approve Biosafety Emergency Regulations (powers, quarantine, disposal, rapid response)	300,000 – 450,000	Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit (PPQU)	Attorney-General's Chambers; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment	GEF; European Union; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation FAO	2–3 temporary jobs (consultants and support staff during the drafting phase)
Activity 2. Border control & GMO detection lab upgrade: Retrofit PPQU lab (biosafety cabinets, PCR & strip-test platform, GMO reference kits);	800,000 – 1,100,000	PPQU	Customs Department; CAHFSA	GEF; FAO;	1–2 permanent technical jobs (a lab technician and possibly a biosecurity officer in PPQ)

ISO 17025 pre-audit & ring-test with Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) reference lab				Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA); USDA; JICA	5–10 temporary jobs (installers, trainers, consultants during implementation)
Activity 3. Organization of Risk assessment & decision-making system: - Train NBC members & regulators with CBD-FAO Biosafety Toolkit; - Develop checklist for environmental/food-safety Risk Assessment; - Sign peer-review MoU with Jamaica's NCC⁴³; - Knowledge exchange visits to Jamaica	350,000 – 400,000	PPQU	Customs Department; FAO; Jamaica's NCC	FAO; GEF; CARICOM; CAHFSA; USDA;	4–6 temporary expert trainers/consultants and support staff for workshops (e.g. organizers, report writers)
Activity 4. Launch E-permits & LM-cargo traceability: - Cloud-based biosafety permit portal issues import / contained-use / field-trial permits (QR code); - Border scanners for GMO e-permits; automatic customs integration with ASYCUDA for Kingstown Port & Argyle Airport	500,000 – 700,000	PPQU	Customs Department; Port and Airport Authorities	GEF World Bank IDB; EU; UNCTAD	3–5 temporary tech jobs at its peak (programmers, system integrator, IT trainer)
Activity 5. Establish EC \$500,000 revolving Biosafety Emergency Fund: ring-fenced account in the Treasury, administered by PPQU to pay for rapid PCR confirmation at CAHFSA lab, – additional containment fencing, – disposal	350,000 – 450,000	PPQU	CAHFSA (grants); Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology	CAHFSA; CARICOM; GEF; EU;	2-3 temporary consultants to develop documentation for the Fund

⁴³ Jamaica has processed multiple GMO events under its 2017 Biosafety Act

(high-heat incineration, deep burial), – emergency public-information notices, – compensation (within capped levels) to innocent parties				USDA	
Activity 6. Public-awareness & stakeholder inclusion: GMO awareness public campaign and forum; Biosafety Clearing-House web page for SVG	150,000 – 250,000	PPQU	CAHFSA (grants); Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment; SCIENCE NGO	FAO; GEF; CARICOM; CAHFSA;	3–5 individuals on a temporary or part-time basis: one coordinator, a couple of media/content specialists, a web/IT support, and a team of facilitators for outreach events
Total Budget:	2,450,000 – 3,350,000				1–2 permanent positions 19–32 temporary positions
Key Risks:	• Legislative grid-lock: Biosafety Bill, Policy or Emergency Regulations stall in Cabinet / Parliament or are diluted under lobbying pressure; • Border-lab upgrade overruns & staff attrition: PCR gear arrives late, ISO-17025 audit fails, or trained technicians leave for better-paid hospital labs; • E-permit / ASYCUDA integration glitch or cyber-breach: QR verification fails at ports or system is hacked; • Emergency Fund under-capitalized or diverted: revenues from permit fees & levies come in slower than expected; Finance reallocates cash for other priorities; • Public mistrust & anti-GMO misinformation: social media rumors trigger push-back; farmers hide seed imports, leading to underground trade.				

National Target 14. Gender Equality and Community Participation

Target 14. Gender Equality and Community Participation: By 2027, ensure full participation of women, youth, and local communities in biodiversity decision-making, conservation, and sustainable use, with at least 50% representation via whole-of-government approach.					
Indicators:	-% representation of women, youth, and community groups in biodiversity committees and conservation projects (GBF Binary Indicator 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders): - Women: - Youth: - Local community:			Baseline:	Target Value:
				baseline TBE in 2026 baseline TBE in 2026 baseline TBE in 2026	>= 50% >=25% >=30%
Relevant GBF Targets:	GBF Target 22 – Inclusive, rights-based participation; and Target 23 – Gender equality				
Relevant SDGs:	SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).				
Activities:	Estimated Budget, USD:	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Potential source of funding for the Activity	Potential number of jobs that can be established by the activity
Activity 1. Establishment of Biodiversity Governance Rule: • “Principle of Parity in Biodiversity Governance” Paper approved by the Cabinet: no biodiversity-related board or committee may meet quorum unless at least 50% of voting members are women, 25% youth (18-35) and 30% local community representatives; • Attorney-General drafts Statutory Rules & Orders (SROs) amending the	100,000 -150,000	Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement	Attorney-General’s Chambers; Local Community Organizations; The Garifuna Heritage Foundation; Other NGOs	GEF and GBFF; GEF Small Grant Programme	2-3 temporary consultants (legal and outreach experts) to draft legislation and lead consultations

constitutive regulations or Terms of Reference for biodiversity-related boards or committees in SVG; • National Roster of qualified candidates for Biodiversity Governance					
Activity 2. Launch of Community Conservation Leadership Academy: three annual cohorts; with 120 local community (>=50% are women and >=30% are youth) people trained in project design, GIS, advocacy; mini-internships inside Forestry & Fisheries.	600,000 – 800,000	Sustainable Development Unit	Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement SusGren; Richmond Vale Academy The Garifuna Heritage Foundation; Local Community Organizations; Other NGOs	GEF and GBFF; GEF Small Grant Programme; SVG Conservation Fund	2 permanent positions at NGO: programme coordinator and administrative staff; 5-7 temporary facilitators/instructors, short-term internships or field-assistant positions for youth
Activity 3. Run TEK & Oral-History Digitization Drive: hire 10 community researchers; record & geotag 150 traditional ecological-knowledge (TEK) stories from Indigenous elders and fisher grandmothers; integrate into NBSAP knowledge portal; suggestions for TEK integration in biodiversity-related policies and plans	200,000 -300,000	Sustainable Development Unit	Richmond Vale Academy The Garifuna Heritage Foundation; SVG Community College; Local Community Organizations	GEF and GBFF; GEF Small Grant Programme; SVG Conservation Fund UNESCO	1 permanent digital heritage coordinator housed in a university, library or NGO; 8-10 temporary community researchers
Total Budget:	900,000 – 1,250,000				3 permanent jobs

					15-20 temporary jobs
Key Risks:	• Political push-back on “50:50 Rule”: some ministries or sitting board members oppose quota, lobby Cabinet or Parliament to defer/amend SROs; • Thin pipeline of qualified women, youth & Indigenous candidates: roster cannot supply skilled nominees for all technical committees; burnout / drop-outs after first year; • Cultural/IP mistrust around TEK digitization: elders fear loss or misuse of knowledge; withhold stories or veto web publication; • Funding gap for Academy & roster upkeep: eco-levy or donor tranche delayed; training sessions postponed, roster not updated; • Tokenism & low decision influence: even with 50 % numeric parity, women/Indigenous reps have little sway (agenda-setting, budget allocation).				

Whole-of Government and Whole-of Society Approach

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030 (SVG NBSAP 2026–2030) will be implemented through a comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of society approach. This strategy is structured around three interrelated pillars that embed biodiversity into national governance structures, sectoral plans, local actions, and financing mechanisms. It aligns with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and SVG’s own development and climate agendas (the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013–2025) (NESDP) approved 11 January 2013 and in force, the National Climate Change Policy (2018–2030) (NCCP) adopted 30 October 2019, the Town and Country Planning Act, No. 45 of 22 October 1993 (as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 22 April 2024, now awaiting gazette), the National Ocean Policy (2018–2030) (NOP) adopted 18 July 2018, ensuring that biodiversity conservation supports sustainable development and climate resilience goals. Each pillar below details a tailored implementation plan, clear institutional roles, key performance indicators (KPIs), and a 2026–2030 timeline of actions, emphasizing pragmatic steps that reflect SVG’s resource constraints and political realities.

The following whole-of-government approach pillars are suggested (Fig. 1):

- **Pillar 1:** High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee
- **Pillar 2:** Biodiversity Focal Points in All Relevant Ministries
- **Pillar 3:** Civil Society and Private Sector Co-Management and Co-Financing

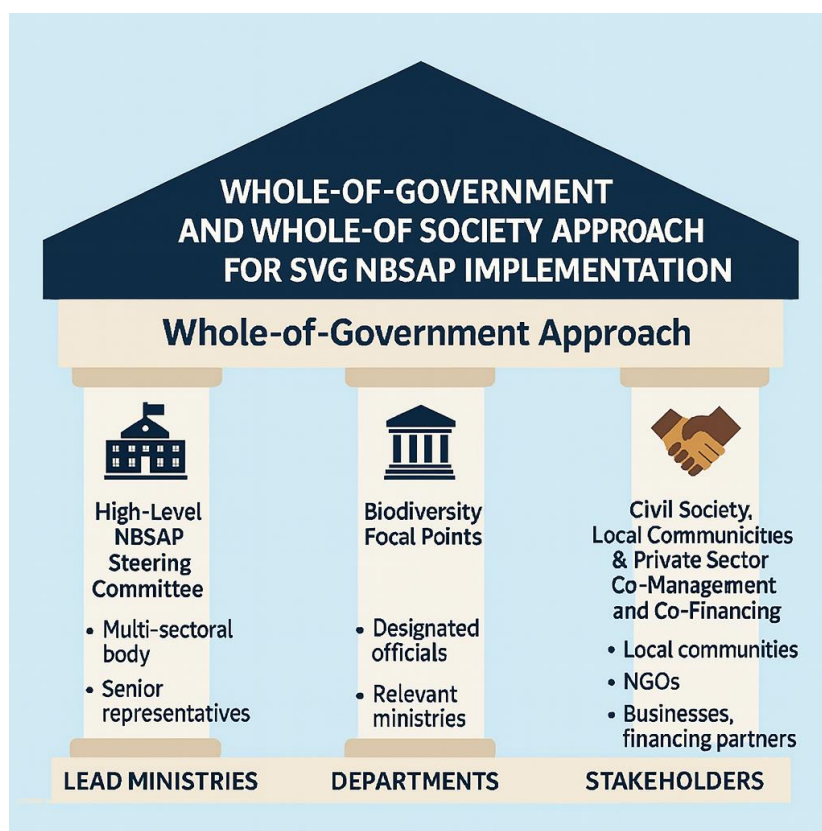


Figure 1. Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Approach in SVG

Pillar 1: High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee

Implementation Plan: SVG will revitalize a high-level multi-sectoral body to steer NBSAP implementation. This committee – effectively the reactivated National Environmental Commission (NEC) under the 2009 Environmental Management Act (draft, not yet enacted)– will be chaired by a senior official (e.g., Minister of Tourism or his deputy) and convene high-level representatives from all key ministries and agencies. For that SVG can upgrade the existing GBF-EAS Project Steering Committee. Core membership of the **High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee** should include all lead agencies for Activities of NBSAP 2026-2030:

- Sustainable Development Unit (SDU), Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture (MTCSDC), including National CBD Focal Point;
- Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, and Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour (MOA), National Focal Point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA);
- Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment (MoHWE);
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Information Technology (MoFEP);
- Central Water & Sewerage Authority (CWSA);
- Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning (MTW);
- Roads, Buildings and General Services Authority (BRAGSA);
- National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO);
- Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing & Informal Human Settlement (MoNM);
- Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF); and
- Representatives of civil society, academia, private sector, and local communities.

The committee's mandate will be to coordinate and mainstream implementation of NBSAP 2026-2030 across government agencies and sectors in an equitable and gender-responsive manner: reviewing progress on the NBSAP Targets and Activities, resolving inter-agency overlaps, achieving synergies on different activities, and ensuring biodiversity is integrated into policy and management decisions across sectors. It will meet at least biannually with action-oriented and progress reporting agendas and publish brief reports and decisions regarding implementation of NBSAP 2026-2030, including development of 7th and 8th National CBD Reports. A small secretariat (within SDU) should support the committee's work with scheduling, minutes, and follow-up, addressing past gaps where lack of dedicated support led to limited follow-through. High-level political endorsement (e.g., a mandate from the Cabinet of Ministers (the Cabinet) will ensure this committee has authority to request data and actions from line ministries and to align resources with NBSAP priorities. Additionally, the Committee will have a **Biodiversity Finance Sub-Committee** led by MoFEP and responsible for finance mobilization required for delivery of the National Targets.

Key Performance Indicators: *KPIs to track this pillar's progress include:*

- **Establishment and Legal Mandate:** High-level NBSAP Committee formally established by Q2 2026 (the Cabinet approval obtained);
- **Participation and Frequency:** At least 2 high-level meetings per year with >80% attendance by all member ministries and agencies; meeting minutes and reports published within 2 weeks of each meeting;
- **Cross-Sector Actions:** Number of inter-ministerial initiatives launched or reviewed by the committee (at least one per sector by 2028: e.g. a joint coastal ecosystem restoration project, or climate adaptation - biodiversity program) and percentage of National Target and Activity delivery progress achieved in these initiatives;
- **Obtained Biodiversity Finance:** Total biodiversity and adaptation funds obtained for implementation of NBSAP 2026-2030;
- **Policy Integration:** Instances of national policies or legislation influenced by the committee's recommendations (e.g., biodiversity considerations integrated into new sector plans, NESDP, etc.);

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Inclusion of private sector and community representatives (e.g., at least 3 non-governmental members on the committee), in line with GBF Target 22 on participatory planning and conservation;
- **Gender Equality and Inclusion:** ~50% of women participating in NBSAP coordination and activities, to measure the extent to which women are involved.

Timeline 2026–2030:

Activities	2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2026: Inception. 2026-Q1: Secure Cabinet endorsement and nominate members from each ministry; Submission of the 7 th National CBD Report																				
2026-Q2: First convening to adopt Terms of Reference, set 2026–27 workplan for NBSAP implementation																				
2026-Q4: Second meeting to review NBSAP target implementation framework and activities; create thematic working groups (terrestrial, marine, finance, etc.).																				
Throughout 2027-2030: Operationalize coordination mechanisms. Quarterly meetings (or at least biannual) focusing on integration with sector plans.																				
Mid 2027: Joint session with the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) to embed NBSAP actions into the next National Development Plan till 2046																				
Late 2027: Issue a “Year 1 and 2 Progress Report” on NBSAP implementation, summarizing achievements and bottlenecks, to be tabled in Parliament or Cabinet for high-level review																				
2028: Drive mid-term course corrections. 2028-Q1: Commission a mid-term NBSAP review to evaluate what’s on/off-track. Initiate development of the 8 th National CBD Report																				
2028-Q2: Use results in Q2 meeting to adjust strategies, identify funding opportunities, or push for policy reforms (e.g. if marine protection is lagging, initiate emergency measures). Ensure each ministry presents how they are integrating biodiversity in sectoral policies (creating a healthy inter-ministerial “peer review” dynamic).																				
2028-Q4: High-level review meeting inviting development partners (UNDP, OECS, etc.) to synchronize donor support with NBSAP needs.																				

2029: Deepen integration and local linkages. 2029-Q2: Work with Pillar 3 to aggregate local accomplishments and needs up to the national level. Convene a special session on resource mobilization																				
2029-Q3: Development and submission of the 8th National CBD Report																				
2029-Q4: Launch planning for the post-2030 biodiversity framework so that lessons inform future commitments.																				
2030: Ensure culmination and transition. Mid-2030: Oversee completion of all NBSAP 2026–2030 actions																				
Late 2030: Final meeting to assess achievement of NBSAP targets, document outcomes, and institutionalize successes (e.g. recommend which mechanisms or funding streams should continue beyond 2030). Prepare a brief for the development of NBSAP 2031–2035, ensuring continuity of whole-of-government and whole-of-society momentum.																				

Pillar 2: Biodiversity Focal Points in All Relevant Ministries

Implementation Plan: To operationalize cross-sector collaboration for NBSAP, embed Biodiversity Focal Points in every relevant ministry and agency (members of NBSAP Committee). By mid-2026, each ministry and agency will designate a **Biodiversity Focal Point** (a mid-level officer). These focal points will be the internal champions ensuring that NBSAP Targets and Activities are “on the table” in their ministry’s decisions. Concretely, they will liaise regularly with the High-Level Steering Committee (Pillar 1), serving as the technical working group feeding sectoral data and updates to the committee. They will also coordinate implementation of NBSAP actions within their sectors. A formal network of biodiversity focal points should be created, meeting quarterly to share progress and troubleshoot inter-sector issues at the working level. The Sustainable Development Unit can host these meetings to provide guidance and consolidate reports. Importantly, focal points will be tasked with coordination of implementation of relevant NBSAP Activities in their ministry/agency, thereby mainstreaming biodiversity early in decision-making. The government can support focal points with capacity building (training on GBF targets, project design and management, financial proposal development) so they are effective advocates. Where possible, include this role in their job descriptions or performance targets, to institutionalize accountability. Additionally, the focal points can be incentivized with additional payments from international projects obtained for NBSAP implementation. Focal points should also link with non-state partners relevant to their sector, e.g. the Sustainable Agriculture focal point liaising with farmer cooperatives, or Fisheries focal point with fisherfolk organizations to extend outreach beyond the ministry and implement gender-responsive and community-inclusive whole-of-society approach.

Key Performance Indicators: *KPIs for monitoring integration of focal points:*

- **Designation and Training:** 100% of targeted ministries/agencies have an official Biodiversity Focal Point appointed by mid-2026 (with a Government Circular or Order confirming names). At least 2 multi-agency training workshops per year conducted for focal points;
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Regular focal point network meetings held (target: at least 3 per year) and reporting to the Steering Committee bi-annually;
- **Sectoral Action Implementation:** Each ministry/agency integrates at least one NBSAP National Target into its annual work plan by 2027 (with focus on National Target Activities where the agency leads or mentioned as a key partner), as verified by ministry reports. By 2030, all relevant ministries should have implemented multiple NBSAP Activities for relevant National Targets led or facilitated by their focal point (target: minimum 2 completed Activities per ministry/agency).
- **Policy Screening:** Adoption of a biodiversity screening protocol for new policies/projects in each ministry by 2027 (yes/no), and number of policies or major projects screened using this protocol (target: 100% of Cabinet-submitted policies from relevant ministries include a biodiversity screening statement by 2028);
- **Performance and Retention:** Focal points remain active and retained in role: track focal point turnover (target: <20% turnover over 5 years to maintain continuity) and inclusion of NBSAP Targets and Activities in their performance appraisals (target: 80% of focal points have biodiversity KPIs in their annual reviews by 2028).

Timeline 2026–2030:

Activities	2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2026: Appointment & setup.																				
2026-Q1: Issue official directives to all ministries to nominate Biodiversity Focal Points; finalize nominations by mid-year.																				
2026-Q3: Conduct an inaugural Focal Point Induction Workshop covering SVG’s NBSAP Targets, GBF																				

overview, and roles/responsibilities.																			
2026-Q4: Establish a communication platform (email group or online workspace) for focal points to share information. Focal points participate in drafting their ministry's input to the NBSAP.																			
2027: Capacity building and early action. 2027-Q1: Provide specialized training (perhaps with regional experts from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) or OECS) on integrating biodiversity into sectoral planning (e.g. training on how to do biodiversity impact checklists).																			
2027-Q2: Each focal point completes a baseline sector biodiversity audit – a short report on how their ministry's current activities include NBSAP Activities and identifies opportunities for improvement. Use these audits in a mid-2027 network meeting to formulate sector-specific action plans.																			
2027-Q3/Q4: Focal points begin implementing quick-win actions in their ministries (e.g. organizing staff awareness sessions, inserting biodiversity criteria in project TORs).																			
2027-Q4: First annual focal point report compiled, highlighting cross-sector achievements and challenges for Steering Committee review.																			
2028: Mainstreaming in processes. 2028: Q2/Q3: Focal points work to formally integrate NBSAP Activities into their ministry's planning and budget cycles.																			
2028 - Q2: Multi-agency exercise led by focal points to update or develop sector policies with biodiversity content and implement relevant NBSAP Activities																			
2028-Q3: Joint an inter-ministerial field mission to a critical ecosystem (e.g. mangrove or forest reserve) for focal points and ministry officials to see on-the-ground issues, enhancing their appreciation and facilitating cross-agency cooperation at local level.																			

2028-Q4: Review and refine the focal point mechanism at the Steering Committee's mid-term evaluation (adjust ToRs if some ministries were less active; rotate fresh personnel if needed; celebrate successes of active focal points).																			
2029: Scaling up and institutionalization. Focal points mentor deputy focal points or ministerial working teams to ensure continuity (especially if individuals transfer or retire). 2029-Q1: If not already in place, advocate for formal inclusion of NBSAP Activities in the Cabinet submission template for policy proposals and projects																			
Throughout 2006-2030: Focal points drive the implementation of NBSAP Activities under supervision of the high-level NBSAP committee																			
2029-Q1-Q3: Input of the Agency focal points to the 8 th National CBD Report																			
2029-Q4: Cross-sector knowledge exchange forum – focal points present case studies of successful integration of NBSAP Activities to a public audience, promoting transparency and accountability.																			
2030: Evaluation and transition. Early 2030: Evaluate each ministry's progress on NBSAP implementation (perhaps via an independent audit or via the Public Service Commission) – highlighting which ministries excelled or lagged. Use this to make recommendations: e.g. if each ministry should continue having a focal point beyond 2030, and how to further empower them.																			
Mid-2030: Focal points assist in final NBSAP progress data collection for the end-of-term report on NBSAP implementation.																			
2027- 2030: Recognize the contributions of the network – a "Biodiversity Leadership Awards" events could be held to commend outstanding focal points or ministries (driving competition and motivation). Ensure that in the next cycle of planning, the concept of																			

ministry biodiversity focal points is retained or upgraded (possibly evolving into permanent environment units in key ministries).																				
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Pillar 3: Civil Society and Private Sector Co-Management and Co-Financing

Implementation Plan: NBSAP implementation is not only the government's business, the private sector (tourism operators, agriculture businesses, industry) and civil society (NGOs, community groups, including women groups and organizations) are critical partners. Many NGOs and community groups are mentioned as the key partners for different activities under all National Targets 2026-2030. This pillar aims to actively engage non-state actors in both funding, managing, and influencing NBSAP Activities through NBSAP lead agencies and Biodiversity Focal points. SVG can establish formal mechanisms to bring these stakeholders into the fold, recognizing that currently local community and private sector involvement in biodiversity is minimal and an untapped opportunity for ensuring inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive conservation action. Key strategies include:

- **Co-management and Implementation Agreements:** Expand implementation of NBSAP Activities and formalize co-management of natural resources and protected areas with communities and NGOs. SVG has positive experiences with co-implementation of conservation activities and co-management, such as community groups helping manage the Tobago Cays Marine Park and other local sites. However, these are often ad-hoc; by 2026–2027 formalize co-management agreements for key NBSAP Targets and Activities: e.g., sign agreements between lead ministries /agencies (members of NBSAP Steering Committee) and NGOs and community groups. The NBSAP 2026-2030 calls for such collaboration and coordination across lead agencies. Involving diverse stakeholders, including women, youth, local communities, and persons living with disabilities in decision-making fosters effective co-management and compliance and eases enforcement burdens for achievement of NBSAP Targets.
- **Civil Society Empowerment:** Strengthen civil society's capacity to engage. Support NGOs and community organizations (including women groups) through technical training, funding, and inclusion in national processes (the high-level NBSAP committee includes NGOs, Pillar 1). Encourage joint projects: e.g. an NGO-governed or community-led project to restore degraded ecosystems or to run public education campaigns. Emphasize social inclusion: involve women's groups, youth clubs, and local communities in co-managed projects. This ties into GBF Targets 22 and 23 for equitable participation.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Create a Business and Biodiversity Council or similar forum where businesses and government meet regularly to identify win-win actions for nature and collaborative activities for NBSAP Targets. Launch this council by 2026 under the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SVGIC), inviting major industries (tourism/hospitality, fisheries, agriculture exporters, utilities like water/electric, and emerging sectors like quarrying or manufacturing). Through this platform, encourage companies to incorporate biodiversity into their operations and corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs and participate in implementation of NBSAP. The council can facilitate green accreditation schemes (e.g. eco-labels for biodiversity-friendly tourism), implementation of investment package for Blue and Green enterprises and startups, advise government on incentive policies (like tax breaks for conservation actions). It also provides a space to share best practices and success stories from other countries.
- **Co-financing Mechanisms:** Develop avenues for private entities to co-finance NBSAP Activities. Additionally, promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) for Activity implementation. The NBSAP lead agencies can also encourage private land conservation: work with large landowners (like estates or hotels with large properties) to set aside parts of their land as private reserves or conservation easements, with technical support and possible tax incentives. Another co-financing angle is to tap into corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. Ensure mechanisms to track and acknowledge these contributions (perhaps an annual report on private sector contributions to NBSAP, and award "Biodiversity Champion" status to high-contributing companies).

Overall, make sure to recognize, celebrate and incentivize private and civil sector contributions: public recognition, award schemes, showcasing their efforts in media, and making collaboration with government straightforward (reduce bureaucratic hurdles for partnerships). By the end of the NBSAP period, aim for a scenario where conservation funding and management in SVG is a shared responsibility: government sets the framework and supports, while businesses, NGOs, and communities actively invest in and manage the natural heritage that

ultimately underpins their own livelihoods and missions and is implemented in an equitable and gender-responsive manner, upholding the rights of local communities.

NGOs (like SVGNT, SusGren, birds and wildlife NGOs like BirdsCaribbean) often act as execution partners: for example, an NGO might receive a grant (with private co-funding) to carry out a community restoration project. They also can hold co-management agreements: e.g. the SVGNT might formally co-manage certain historical/natural sites, SusGren could coordinate multi-island marine initiatives. Community groups and cooperatives (fisherfolk, forest users, farmers) have roles in co-management – they’ll create internal rules and norms in line with agreements (like a community fisheries committee enforcing no-fish zones agreed with government). The NPBRA, Forestry Department, and Fisheries Division must be open to sharing management responsibilities: training and guiding community co-managers rather than doing it all alone, and enforcing rules jointly. They must also be sure to uphold the rights of local communities and diverse and marginalized groups within these local communities, such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities, ensuring that this management is conducted prioritizing equitable and inclusive action, so as not to exclude those often impacted directly by management decisions. On the funding side, banks or financial institutions could be engaged to develop products (maybe green loans or microfinance for conservation-linked livelihoods and Blue and Green enterprises), an innovative role if capacity allows. International NGOs or donors (like The Nature Conservancy, WWF, etc.) might also partner by matching private contributions or providing technical assistance (for instance, if SVG pursues a debt-for-nature swap or blue bond, they often involve NGO facilitation – though that might be beyond immediate pragmatic scope, it’s worth keeping in mind).

Key Performance Indicators: KPIs to measure private sector and civil society engagement:

- **Private Sector Participation:** Membership and activity of the Business & Biodiversity Council. Target: Council established by 2026 with at least 5 companies participating, and meeting at least twice per year thereafter. KPI: number of formal commitments or pledges made by businesses through the council (e.g. a pledge by dive shops to cover annual reef monitoring, or by an agribusiness to phase out harmful chemicals). Aim for at least one new corporate biodiversity initiative per year launched via the council from 2027 onward;
- **Financial Contributions:** Amount of co-financing mobilized from private sector. KPI: Track annual non-government funds flowing to biodiversity. Target: By 2030, increase private sector funding by 100% compared to baseline 2025 (when it was noted as minimal). Specific sub-targets: e.g. Conservation levy yields ~US\$800,000 annually if implemented as planned (which would vastly exceed baseline); number of companies contributing to SVGCF endowment or projects (target: at least 3 major companies by 2028). Also measure in-kind contributions (e.g. equipment, staff time) from private partners;
- **Co-management Coverage:** Sites under co-management arrangements. KPI: count of protected areas or key biodiversity sites with formal co-management agreements involving communities (with at least 50% of women involvement) and NGOs; number of NBSAP Activities co-implemented by communities and NGOs. Target: By 2028, 5 new gender-responsive co-management agreements signed (for example: 2 marine reserves with fisherfolk groups, 2 forest or nature reserves with local communities or National Trust, and one species conservation program with an NGO). By 2030, at least 30% of protected areas (marine and terrestrial) are co-managed or have active community management partnerships (with 50% involvement of women), up from essentially none formally in 2025. Also track outcomes: these sites show improved management effectiveness (possibly via Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores or similar, target: co-managed sites have >20% increase in management effectiveness by 2030);
- **Private Land/Resource Stewardship:** KPI: area of private lands or community lands under conservation management. Target: Some measurable increase – e.g. 500 ha of private or community land voluntarily managed for biodiversity by 2030 (through private reserves, easements, or community conserved areas, OECMs). Similarly, fisheries co-management zones established (target: e.g., at least 2 community-led no-take zones by 2029, covering 500 ha of reef).
- **Civil Society Capacity:** KPI: growth in NGO/CBO involvement – number of NGOs/CBOs receiving grants for NBSAP Targets (target: 10+ by 2030), and number of joint government-NGO projects executed (target: at least 1 per year). Also track volunteer engagement: e.g. number of volunteers in conservation activities (target: increase by 50% by 2030, reflecting more citizens drawn into efforts via NGOs). Another indicator: diversity of participation– ensure women and youth-led groups are among beneficiaries (target: by 2028 at least 30% of co-management committee members are women; youth involved in every project).

- **Policy and Incentives:** KPI: Incentives established for private sector, e.g. count of new tax incentives, award programs, or recognition events. Target: at least 2 incentive schemes in place by 2027 (maybe a tax deduction for conservation donations and an annual “eco-business award”). Monitor usage: how many companies take up the tax incentive (target: increasing uptake year by year).
- **Attitude and Awareness:** Though harder to quantify, one KPI could be survey of private sector attitudes by 2030 showing a positive shift (e.g., X% of surveyed businesses now consider biodiversity important to their operations, up from baseline). Also, media presence of private engagement – target: local news features at least 4 stories per year on businesses or communities doing conservation, indicating raised profile of biodiversity in society. Also, it may include gender-disaggregated indicators for community co-management (e.g., proportion of community leaders who are women) and track changes in women’s and men’s participation in biodiversity decision-making over time. For example, at least 30% of community co-management initiative leaders are women.

Timeline 2026–2030:

Activities	2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2026: Initiate partnerships. 2026-Q1: Review stakeholder mapping completed at the NBSAP development stage and reconfirm/identify key private players (tourism assoc., big farms, etc.) and active NGOs/CBOs.																				
2026-Q2: Convene an inaugural Private Sector Roundtable on Biodiversity, possibly hosted by the SVGCIC, to present the NBSAP and solicit ideas and commitments. Form the Business & Biodiversity Council out of interested champions. Also early on, government and SVGCF explore a mechanism for private donations																				
2026-Q3: Implement a quick pilot PPP: for instance, partner with a hotel chain and an NGO to adopt a local marine area for cleanup and monitoring – use this as a showcase. Also in 2026, sign at least one co-management MOU as a pilot (e.g. formalize an existing arrangement at Tobago Cays or a community forest initiative) to demonstrate the model.																				
2026-Q4: Incorporate additional private sector and NGO roles explicitly in the NBSAP action plan document so everyone sees where they fit (if needed). Launch a communication campaign “Nature is Everyone’s Business” to raise awareness of this pillar among businesses and communities.																				
2027: Establish structures and incentives. 2027-Q1: Formal launch of the Business & Biodiversity Council, with a charter and workplan. Hold a meeting to set targets (like collective funding goals, or areas each sector will focus on).																				
2027-Q2: Government introduces at least one policy incentive: e.g. in the 2028 budget, include a tax incentive for companies donating to approved conservation projects, or reduce import duties on equipment for conservation (drones for monitoring, etc.), or institute the tourism conservation levy																				
2027-Q3: Expand co-management: identify 2-3 new sites and negotiate agreements. Possibly, form a co-management task force that drafts standard agreements and helps																				

community groups get organized to take on management.																				
2027-Q4: Capacity building – run training workshops for NGOs and community groups on project management and fundraising, so they can better partner and handle funds. Also perhaps a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) training for businesses, on how investing in nature can benefit them (brand enhancement, etc.). By end of 2027, aim to have raised at least an initial tranche of private funding – e.g. get a few hotels to collectively put \$50k into the Conservation Fund to kickstart a small grants program for community eco-projects.																				
2028: Scale up co-financing and co-management. 2028-Q1: Evaluate early contributions – produce a report on private sector contributions 2026-27 to show what’s been achieved (transparency will encourage more to join). Recognize contributors publicly (e.g. at Independence Day awards or a World Environment Day event).																				
2028-Q2: Expand the conservation levy or similar funding: if not already, this is the time to implement the “Island Conservation Levy” on tourists or other fees that feed into biodiversity funding (coordinate with the MoFEP, likely integrated in national budget or a legal instrument by mid-2028).																				
2028-Q3: New co-managed protected areas declared: e.g. formally gazette a community nature reserve (OECM) or collaborative management arrangement for a marine area, marking a milestone that communities are now official custodians, including active women participation.																				
2028-Q3/Q4: Start seeing private sector-led initiatives: perhaps a dive shop network runs an annual reef health survey, or an agricultural company sponsors agroforestry training for farmers to protect pollinators. These should be happening by 2028 as relationships solidify. Government should act as facilitator and remove barriers (fast-track any permits needed for such initiatives, etc.). Also mid-2028, host a National Biodiversity Partners Symposium – bring all NGOs, businesses, communities together with the government to share results and strengthen networking.																				
2029: Deepen and institutionalize partnerships. 2029-Q1: Review incentive effectiveness – are companies utilizing tax breaks or contributing to funds? If uptake is low, adjust the strategy or increase outreach (maybe one-on-one meetings with business CEOs to make the case).																				
2029-Q2: Possibly launch a “Biodiversity Steward” certification for businesses meeting criteria (could be done via the Business & Biodiversity Council). This year, try to mainstream these partnerships: e.g. incorporate private sector co-financing assumptions in government budgets (if private is funding some park operations, note that in budgets and plan accordingly).																				

2029-Q3: Further co-management: ensure maintenance of co-managed areas – by now some agreements are a year or two old; evaluate their success. Are communities effectively patrolling? Are conflicts arising? Are women involved in conservation? Are GBV risks effectively identified, monitored, and managed? Solve issues (maybe provide more training or adjust benefit-sharing arrangements). Look to bring any holdout communities or resource user groups (including women) into the fold (if some fishers were skeptical, show them results from pilot areas to convince them).																			
2029-Q4: Engagement of broader civil society: perhaps engage religious institutions (churches adopting environmental stewardship messages) or sports/cultural groups (e.g. dive and hiking clubs doing conservation service). The idea is biodiversity becomes a common societal cause. Track media and public discourse – ideally by 2029 biodiversity and its champions outside government are regularly featured in positive light, indicating widespread engagement.																			
2030: Assess and celebrate multi-stakeholder impact. Early 2030: Document all contributions made by non-state actors in a comprehensive “Biodiversity Partnership Report 2026–2030”. This might list funds contributed, areas managed, volunteer hours donated, etc. – making clear how these partnerships helped meet GBF targets (for instance, how private funding enabled reaching 30% protected areas, or how community co-management helped reduce overfishing). Share this report with the partners as a sense of shared achievement.																			
Mid-2030: Commission an independent review of co-management arrangements to formally feed into future policy – perhaps recommend which ones should be renewed or scaled up. For example, if community management significantly improved outcomes in marine reserves, recommend expanding to more areas, and consider giving legal weight																			
Late 2030: Host a Biodiversity Partners Gala (or integrate into national awards) to honor businesses, NGOs, and communities for their contributions over the NBSAP period – solidifying relationships and motivating continued support. By end of 2030, private and civil sectors in SVG should feel that biodiversity conservation is part of their mission too, and not just a government program – a crucial cultural shift for long-term sustainability of efforts.																			

How the Three Pillars Interlock

The three pillars will operate like interlocking gears that collectively turn the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2026-2030 from a written commitment into measurable impact.

Pillar 1 – High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee: SVG will establish NBSAP Committee as a Cabinet-mandated steering body chaired by a senior minister. It brings together every lead agency named in the NBSAP plus representatives of civil society and academia to *coordinate and mainstream implementation across government*, track progress and resolve overlaps. A dedicated secretariat in the Sustainable Development Unit keeps the engine running, while a Biodiversity Finance Sub-Committee led by the Ministry of Finance mobilizes the funds that the other pillars require.

Pillar 2 – Biodiversity Focal Points in all ministries: By mid-2026 each ministry and key agency must appoint a mid-level officer as its Biodiversity Focal Point. These officers *liaise regularly with the High-Level Committee*, supply sector data, and coordinate the day-to-day delivery of NBSAP actions inside their organizations. The network meets at least quarterly to troubleshoot issues, align budgets, and feed evidence back upstairs for policy adjustment.

Pillar 3 – Civil-Society & Private-Sector Co-management and Co-financing: NBSAP implementation is expressly opened to tourism operators, agri-businesses, banks, NGOs and community groups to contribute to a whole of society approach and ensure gender-responsive and inclusive action across NBSAP implementation. Lead agencies and the ministry focal points broker co-management agreements, PPPs and a Business & Biodiversity Council, turning non-state actors into investors and co-implementers of NBSAP Activities such as protected area stewardship or ecosystem restoration. Their financial and in-kind contributions flow through mechanisms designed or approved by the Steering Committee's finance sub-group, ensuring transparency and alignment with national priorities.

Thus, the entire whole-of-government approach above create the reinforcing loop for NBSAP 2026-2030 implementation:

- **Direction & resources:** Pillar 1 sets annual priorities, approves KPIs and, via the finance sub-committee, secures budget lines, conservation levy revenues or donor grants for agreed NBSAP activities;
- **Mainstreaming & execution.** Pillar 2 translates those priorities into sector work plans, procurement, staff KPIs and district projects of NBSAP lead agencies; focal points keep implementation visible and on schedule in mutual coordination;
- **Partnership & scaling:** Pillar 3 packages these lead agency pipelines into investable proposals, signs co-management deals, and mobilizes private funding, community labor, and NGO expertise and finance, multiplying the reach of public budgets and ensuring implementation of NBSAP Activities on the ground;
- **Feedback & adaptation:** Monitoring results, finance reports and stakeholder feedback move back through the focal-point network to Pillar 1, where the Steering Committee can adjust policy, re-allocate resources, or issue new guidance at its bi-annual sittings to ensure adaptive management of NBSAP.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Pillar 3 ensures local communities and diverse populations are engaged with as champions for implementation, and that historically marginalized groups such as women, youth, remote local communities, are included as key partners

Through this continuous policy-mainstreaming-finance loop, the three pillars convert the NBSAP 2026-2030 from a strategy into a whole-of-society, funded programme that can meet SVG's Kunming-Montreal GBF commitments on time and at scale.

NBSAP 2026-2030 Monitoring Plan

This NBSAP 2026-2030 Monitoring Plan provides the practical system St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG) will use to track, learn from, and report on delivery of its 2026–2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). It translates each National Target into a small set of measurable indicators with agreed baselines/targets, data sources, measurement frequency, and responsible entities, so that progress can be evidenced consistently across land and sea, from species recovery to pollution reduction and sustainable finance. The Plan is fully aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and uses GBF Headline Indicators wherever applicable (e.g., 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 7.2, 10.2, A.3, 17.b, 18.2, D.1–D.3, 22.b).

For each of SVG’s National Targets, the Plan lists: (i) indicator definitions; (ii) the baseline and 2026–2030 target values; (iii) authoritative data sources (e.g., official registries, Global Forest Watch, protected-area polygons, national surveys); (iv) frequency of measurement (annual, quarterly where relevant inputs exist, or five-yearly for ecological baselines such as endangered species); and (v) the lead “Responsible Entity” accountable for compiling and submitting results. Where methods matter (e.g., IAS density, shoreline plastics, forest loss), short, fit-for-purpose methodological notes are included to standardize fieldwork and analysis across years.

The Monitoring Plan sits on top of the NBSAP’s verified National Target–Activity framework, which specifies the 14 National Targets, their indicators, and the portfolio of activities, budgets and expected jobs they are likely to create. This ensures that every metric in this Plan is directly anchored in the actions Government and partners will implement and finance through 2030.

To keep reporting simple and routine, the Plan is implemented through two companion Excel tools managed by the data-owning agencies and consolidated by the High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee and Biodiversity Focal Points at lead agencies (Annex 2. National Target and Activity Tracker):

- **National Target Tracker (annual):** the tracker captures *indicator* performance for every Target once per reporting year, using the definitions in this Plan. One row per indicator under each Target, with columns reflecting the Plan’s fields (baseline, latest year value, target, data source, frequency, Responsible Entity, notes/QA). The National Target Tracker is updated annually (with five-year entries for indicators scheduled less frequently, e.g., endangered species population surveys in 2026 and 2030);
- **Activity Tracker (quarterly):** This tool monitors *implementation* and spending for every approved Activity under each Target, and document short-term results such as jobs created. A simple, uniform sheet with columns for Activity # and full Activity title; Year; Quarter; Implementation Progress (%) (milestone-weighted), Funds Spent (USD) and Source of Funds; Temporary and Permanent Jobs Created; Responsible Agency (the lead agency named for the Activity); and Notes on Progress (outputs, blockers, re-phasing). This same template is used across all Targets to maintain comparability. The Activity Tracker is updated at the close of each quarter for all ongoing Activities.

Responsible Entities (Lead Agencies for Activities under National Targets) enter quarterly implementation and disbursement data in the **Activity Tracker**. At year-end, they compute indicator values (using the methods in this Plan) and enter them in the **National Target Tracker**. The High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee consolidates both files to prepare the annual performance brief and GBF-aligned summary. The quarterly sheet shows whether spend and delivery are on schedule; the annual sheet shows progress on the National Target delivery. When an indicator is off-track, managers can look back to the Activity sheet to diagnose bottlenecks (e.g., procurement delays, staffing gaps) and agree course-corrections in the next quarter. Because each Activity record captures funds spent and jobs created, the quarterly data can be rolled up to the NBSAP’s budget and job estimates and cross-checked against the finance related indicators (D.1–D.3, 18.2) in the annual Tracker.

Each Responsible Entity listed in this Plan is the custodian of its indicator data, accountable for quality assurance (method adherence, evidence files, and sign-off). The High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee maintains the master

copies of both Excel trackers, a change log, and an evidence repository (source exports, survey datasheets, GIS layers). Where the Plan specifies a method (e.g., how to compute five-year average deforestation or survey IAS density), agencies must apply it consistently and record any deviations in the Notes column so that time-series remain comparable and CBD/GBF reporting is defensible.

The consolidated data from the National Target Tracker (annual indicator results) and the Activity Tracker (quarterly implementation, spending and jobs) will be used to populate SVG's mandatory international reports on the exact due dates. Specifically, they will feed: (i) the Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), due 28 February 2026, and the Eighth National Report, due 30 June 2029; (ii) the Fifth National Report under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, due 28 February 2026 via the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) online system; and Annual CITES Trade Report (Article VIII(7)(a)): due 31 October of the year following the reporting year (e.g., the 2026 trade report is due 31 Oct 2027).

This Monitoring Plan is also the adaptive management engine for the 2026–2030 NBSAP. Data from the Activity Tracker (quarterly) and the National Target Tracker (annual) are used not only to report, but to course-correct implementation in real time. Each quarter, the High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee convenes a short Target-by-Target review using the latest Activity Tracker entries; annually, a deeper review aligns indicator results with the next year's NBSAP workplan and budget. If some activities are not delivered (e.g., due to lack of funds) the High-Level NBSAP Steering Committee may re-phase activities, apply another approach for delivery, reallocate budget between activities, adjust procurement, add technical assistance and hire consultants, revise partnerships, or update field monitoring methods (with justification recorded).

National Target 1. Spatial Planning

Target 1. Spatial Planning: By 2028, establish an integrated national spatial planning framework that includes all ecologically significant terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g., clean water, flood protection, soil fertility), incorporating key biodiversity areas and climate resilience strategies into national land-use and marine planning.					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
% of national territory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government (GBF Headline Indicator 1.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans)	0%	100% (by 2028)	Approved by SVG Government land use spatial plan documents; national land use GIS data (area coverage)	Annual	Physical Planning Unit; Forestry Department
Methodology: Calculated as (area of land under approved biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans / total national land area) × 100. Uses GIS analysis of plan coverage and official land area statistics to determine percentage.					
% of national aquatory covered with biodiversity-inclusive and climate-resilient spatial plans approved by Government (GBF Headline Indicator 1.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans)	0%	100% (by 2028)	Approved by SVG Government Marine Spatial Plan; marine spatial planning GIS datasets (EEZ coverage)	Annual	Physical Planning Unit; Fisheries Division
Methodology: Calculated as (area of national marine waters under approved biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans / total national marine area) × 100. Relies on GIS data from the Marine Spatial Plan and total EEZ area to compute percentage.					

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

National Target 2. Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors

Target 2. Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors: By 2029, integrate biodiversity considerations into national economic policies, ensuring that all key industries (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) adopt nature-positive practices					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
% economic sectors (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) that have biodiversity conservation integrated into sectoral policies, plans, and practice	33% (forestry and fishery)	100% (by 2029)	Cabinet approved/gazetted sector policies, strategies, plans, regulations, and standards	Annual	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology
Methodology: Measures integration across six priority sectors: agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management. Formula. $\% \text{ sectors integrated} = \frac{\text{Number of sectors that meet the "integration" threshold}}{6} \times 100$ Define "integration" and the evidence required: A sector is counted as "integrated" in a given reporting year if it meets all of the following four criteria (A–D). These map directly to National Target 2 activities and instruments in the NBSAP: A. Policy/plan adopted (on paper). A Cabinet-approved, gazetted, or otherwise officially adopted sector policy/plan/regulation that embeds biodiversity B. Implementing guidance issued. Sector specific implementing instruments exist (e.g., ministerial guidelines, SOPs, checklists, technical standards) translating the adopted policy into actionable requirements. C. Budgeted & institutionalized. The ministry's annual Estimates/workplan include budget lines and named responsible units or posts to implement the biodiversity provisions (e.g., IPM coordinator, ecotourism standard inspector, offset compliance officer). D. Practice & compliance evidence. At least one of the following is documented for the year: permits with biodiversity/offset conditions; audits/certifications issued under the ecotourism standard; IPM/GAP trainings delivered and farm audits logged; fisheries license access conditions enforced (VMS/PSMA/e-logbook); EPR/MRF throughput for waste; or offset payments/projects executed. Counting rule: A sector is "integrated" only if A + B + C + D are all evidenced for that year. Drafts, un-gazetted documents, or unfunded actions do not qualify					
GBF Headline Indicator 15.1: Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity	0	>=5 (by 2029)	Public sustainability/ESG reports and annual reports on company websites that include biodiversity sections/metrics (e.g., GRI 304, nature-positive commitments)	Annual	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology
Methodology: Count of unique companies registered and/or operating in SVG that publicly disclose biodiversity risks, dependencies and/or impacts in a given reporting year. This is a simple number, not a percentage. A company is counted 1 (otherwise 0) if, during year Y (or for fiscal year ending in Y), it publishes any of the following that explicitly addresses biodiversity/nature risks, dependencies, and/or impacts: A sustainability/ESG or integrated annual report with a biodiversity/nature section (e.g., GRI 304 topics) posted on the company website.					

- A TNFD-aligned, GRI-reported, CDP (Forests/Water), or UN Global Compact CoP filing that contains biodiversity content and is publicly accessible.
- A dedicated webpage or PDF statement (company-issued) that sets out biodiversity/nature risks/dependencies/impacts with at least one of: metrics, risk assessment, targets, mitigation actions.

Non-qualifying: certifications/audit reports alone (e.g., Green Key, GLOBALG.A.P.) without a company-issued biodiversity disclosure; media articles/NGO profiles; social-media posts.

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

National Target 3. Endangered Species

Target 3. Endangered Species: By 2030, prevent extinction and improve conservation status of key nationally threatened species (e.g., St. Vincent Parrot (<i>Amazona guildingii</i> , VU), Union Island Gecko (<i>Gonatodes daudini</i> , CR), Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> , CR), Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> , CR), Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana (<i>Iguana insularis insularis</i>), and St. Vincent Black Snake (<i>Chironius vincenti</i> , CR), St. Vincent Whistling Frog (<i>Pristimantis shrevei</i> , EN), and St. Vincent Whistling Warbler (<i>Catharopeza bishopi</i> , EN), St. Vincent Wren (<i>Troglodytes musicus</i>), Acroporid corals (<i>Acropora</i> sp. CR), Parrotfish (<i>Sparisoma</i> sp. LC), Queen Conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)) through habitat protection, species recovery programs, and stronger anti-poaching enforcement.					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Populations of key nationally threatened species:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)	Population survey reports by Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	Every 5 years (2026 and 2030)	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division
St. Vincent Parrot:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
Union Island Gecko:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
Hawksbill Turtle:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Fisheries Division
Leatherback Turtle:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Fisheries Division
Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
St. Vincent Black Snake:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
St. Vincent Whistling Frog:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
Whistling Warbler:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
St. Vincent Wren:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Forestry Department
Acroporid corals:	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Fisheries Division
Parrotfish (Scaridae):	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Fisheries Division
Queen Conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>):	baseline TBE in 2026	No population decline from the baseline (by 2030)			Fisheries Division
Methodology: Primary metric: Species-specific abundance or density (or a standardized index where true abundance is not feasible).					

“No decline” decision rule (2030): For each species, estimate the 2026 baseline (N_0) and 2027–2030 trends using models that correct for detectability. Conclude “no decline” if the 2030 estimate (or the slope over 2026–2030) is not significantly lower than baseline at $\alpha = 0.10$ (i.e., 90% CI of change includes 0 or model slope ≥ 0). Report species-by-species outcomes and an overall summary (e.g., “10/12 species non-declining”).

Sampling framework (baseline 2026, then every 5 years):

- **Design:** Stratified design using permanent sampling units (PSUs) in core habitats; ≥ 2 –3 replicates/visits per PSU per season to model detection.
- **Analysis backbone:** Detection-corrected methods (Distance sampling, N-mixture/occupancy models, mark-recapture/mark-resight), or standardized underwater visual census (UVC) for marine taxa.
- **Frequency:** Once in 5 years for all species during peak detectability (breeding/nesting/settled season); marine species/fish in the same month window.

Species-group protocols (primary metric & method):

A. Forest birds (Parrot, Whistling Warbler, St. Vincent Wren)

- **Metric:** Density (ind./km²) + occupancy (ψ) as secondary.
- **Method:** 10-min point counts with distance sampling (laser-range estimate), double-observer to estimate detection; ≥ 40 points stratified by elevation/forest type; repeat each site 2–3 $\times$ in the breeding season. For the Parrot, add roost counts at known sites as a secondary index.
- **Analysis:** Distance or hierarchical models (density); trend via GLMM or GAM on annual density indices.

B. Amphibian (St. Vincent Whistling Frog)

- **Metric:** Acoustic activity index (calls/5-min) + occupancy (ψ).
- **Method:** Night acoustic point counts along permanent routes; ≥ 30 points, 3 revisits; humidity/temp logged.
- **Analysis:** Occupancy models with detection (p) and/or an index-trend model (state-space) for call rates.

C. Terrestrial reptiles (Union Island Gecko; Pink Rhino Iguana; Black Snake)

- **Union Island Gecko – Metric:** Density (ind./ha) or abundance. **Method:** Nocturnal visual encounter surveys along fixed transects + photo-ID mark-resight; ≥ 20 transects, 3 revisits. **Analysis:** Spatial mark-resight or N-mixture.
- **Pink Rhino Iguana – Metric:** Abundance/density; **Method:** Daytime distance sampling transects + PIT-tag mark-recapture; nest counts at key sites. **Analysis:** Closed capture models + distance density.
- **Black Snake – Metric:** Occupancy (ψ) + encounter rate. **Method:** Time-constrained searches on ridge/leaf-litter transects; artificial cover boards; 3–4 revisits per PSU. **Analysis:** Multi-season occupancy (ψ , γ , ϵ) with detection.

D. Sea turtles (Hawksbill, Leatherback)

- **Metric:** Number of nesting females per season (derived from nest counts $\div$ clutch frequency), nests laid, and hatching success.
- **Method:** Nightly beach patrols on index nesting beaches (tag-recapture, track counts, nest validation); standard WIDECAS-style datasheets.
- **Analysis:** Convert nests $\rightarrow$ females (species-specific clutch frequency); trend analysis on females/season and hatching success%.

E. Coral (Acroporid corals)

- **Metric:** Colony density (#/m²) and live tissue cover (%) of *Acropora* spp.; disease prevalence as a covariate.
- **Method:** Fixed photo-quadrats (e.g., 0.5 m²), line-intercept or point-intercept transects at permanent stations in reef zones supporting acroporids; ≥ 30 quadrats/site, 3–5 sites per region.
- **Analysis:** Percent cover and colony density with bootstrap CIs; trend via linear mixed models.

F. Reef fish (Parrotfish, Scaridae)

- **Metric:** Biomass (kg/ha) and density (ind./ha) by size class.
- **Method:** Diver UVC belt transects (e.g., 30 $\times$ 4 m), length estimation to nearest 5 cm; ≥ 30 transects/region, random within habitat strata (fore-reef, patch).

• Analysis: Convert lengths to biomass with L-W parameters; yearly biomass index and trend. G. Queen Conch (<i>Lobatus/Strombus gigas</i>) • Metric: Adult density (ind./ha) and size structure (shell length, lip thickness); juvenile density as secondary. • Method: Snorkel/SCUBA belt transects in seagrass/sand at 3–20 m, stratified by depth/habitat; ≥30 transects/stock area. • Analysis: Density and mature: juvenile ratio; trend via GLMMs; integrate with fishery CDT to check consistency. Power & sample-size notes (pragmatic): Aim for designs that detect a ≥20% change over 4–5 years with power ≥ 0.8 ($\alpha = 0.10$). Roughly: birds ≥40–60 points; gecko ≥20 transects; coral ≥120 photo-quadrats across ≥3 sites/region; fish ≥30–50 UVCs/region; conch ≥30 transects/stock. Calibrate using pilot-year variance.					
GBF Headline Indicator A.3 Red List Index:	0.70–0.71 (2020) ⁴⁴	≥0.72–0.73 (by 2030)	UCN Red List categories for SVG species; national assessments/Red List updates; peer-reviewed surveys and the Endangered-Species Monitoring collected by Forestry Department and Fisheries Division	Every 5 years (2026 and 2030)	Forestry Department and Fisheries Division
Methodology: Purpose: Track aggregate extinction risk of native species groups in SVG. Scope & species set: • Build a country list of native, extant species in agreed taxonomic groups (e.g., terrestrial vertebrates and key marine groups present in SVG). • Exclude: introduced/domestic species and clear vagrants. Document endemics separately. • Keep the list fixed across years (except genuine extinctions or newly recognized natives) to ensure comparability. Category weights: Assign each species its IUCN Red List category for the assessment year t and apply standard weights: LC = 0, NT = 1, VU = 2, EN = 3, CR = 4, EX/EW = 5 Genuine vs non-genuine changes: When a species' category changes between assessments, label the reason: • Genuine (real improvement/worsening from conservation actions, threats, population change). • Non-genuine (new information/taxonomy/method). • Use back-casting: adjust the earlier category for non-genuine changes so they do not create artificial trend signal. Formula:					

⁴⁴ UNCCD 2023. Preliminary analysis - strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
<https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2023-07/cric5-unedited%20advance.pdf#:~:text=%5BPDF%5D%20UNEDITED%20ADVANCE%20COPY%2A%20,2020>

For N species in the SVG set at year t , with weight $w_i(t)$ for species i :

$$RLI_t = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i(t)}{N \times 5}$$

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

National Target 4. Deforestation

Target 4. Deforestation: By 2030, reduce the national deforestation rate by at least 50% and restore connectivity between fragmented forests					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Annual deforestation rate measured for last 5 years, ha/year:	21.2 (2019-2023, GFW)	<=10.6 (by 2030)	Global Forest Watch data	Annually	Forestry Department
Methodology: Open GFW, select Country → St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Add Tree cover loss layer; set Canopy density = 30% (keep constant). In the loss widget/table, select the five years you're measuring (e.g., 2019–2023). Export or note the annual loss (ha) for each of the five years. Sum the five annual values and divide by 5 to obtain the annual deforestation rate (ha/yr).					
Forest Landscape Integrity Index: ⁴⁵	69.9 (2024)	>=75.0 (by 2030)	Forest Landscape Integrity Index (FLII) global dataset/portal https://www.forestintegrity.com/?utm_source	Annually	Forestry Department
GBF Headline Indicator 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management, based on the following sub-indicators:					Forestry Department
Annual forest area change rate (% per year):	0%	≥ 0.05% net gain (by 2030)	Global Forest Watch data	Annually	Forestry Department
Above-ground biomass in forest (tones per hectare):	219.1 ⁴⁶	≥ 223 t/ha (by 2030)	National Forest Inventory plots (if available) with allometric AGB estimates managed by the Forestry Department NASA GEDI L4A AGBD (2019–2023) aggregated over SVG's forest mask; ESA CCI/Glob Biomass rasters for historical comparison	Annually	Forestry Department

⁴⁵ https://epi.yale.edu/measure/2024/ECS?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/vct>

Proportion of forest area within legally protected areas (%):	46% ⁴⁷	≥ 50% (by 2030)	NPRBA/Forestry official protected-area polygons + legal gazette notices; national forest mask from Forestry	Annually	Forestry Department
Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan (%):	15.9% ⁴⁸	≥ 30% (by 2030)	Forestry Department registry of approved, in-force Forest Management Plans	Annually	Forestry Department
Forest area under an independently verified certification scheme ('000 hectares):	0	≥ 0.2 (by 2030)	Company submissions to Forestry; any national certification records	Annually	Forestry Department
Methodology: see GBF Indicators https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/10-2?utm_source					

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

⁴⁷ <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

⁴⁸ <https://target-tracker-stg-01.unep-wcmc.org/en/country/VCT/goalTarget/10>

National Target 5. Protected Areas Expansion

Target 5. Protected Areas Expansion: By 2030, legally protect at least 30% of terrestrial (including 100% of elfin woodlands) and 30% of marine areas, with Protected Areas and OECMs					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
% of terrestrial area under legal protection (GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine)):	21.1%	30% (by 2030)	Official list of PAs in SVG from NPRBA and Forestry Department	Annually	NPRBA/Forestry Department
% of marine area under legal protection (GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine)):	0.22%	30% (by 2030)	Official list of PAs in SVG from NPRBA and Fisheries Division	Annually	NPRBA/Fisheries Division
Methodology: GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs (terrestrial & marine) https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/3-1					

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

National Target 6. Invasive Species Control

Target 6. Invasive Species Control: By 2030, contain the most dangerous invasive alien species — lionfish, small Indian mongoose, giant African snail, Cuban tree frog, Lemongrass, Halophila stipulacea, Xenidiidae soft corals, and agro-biodiversity AIS (West Indian fruit fly, Banana Black Sigatoka, and Banana Moko Disease) — and establish effective biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Population density of key IAS, ind./ha:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction in key IAS population density (by 2030)	Population survey reports by Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, and PPQU	Once in 5 years	Fisheries Division/Forestry Department/PPQU
Lionfish:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Once in 5 years	Fisheries Division
Mongoose:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Once in 5 years	Forestry Department
Giant African Snail:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Annual	PPQU
Cuban Tree Frog:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Annual	Forestry Department
Lemongrass:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Once in 5 years	Forestry Department
Halophila stipulacea:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Once in 5 years	Fisheries Division
Xeniidae soft corals:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Once in 5 years	Fisheries Division
AGRO-BIODIVERSITY:					
West Indian Fruit Fly:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Annual	PPQU
Banana Black Sigatoka:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Annual	PPQU
Banana Moko Disease:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30-50% reduction		Annual	PPQU
Methodology: Lionfish (Pterois volitans/miles) — individuals/ha: • Where: Fringing/patch reefs and reef-seagrass edges, depth-stratified (e.g., 5–15 m; 15–25 m). • How: Underwater visual census (UVC) belt transects. Lay 50 m × 10 m (500 m²) or 25 m × 4 m (100 m²) belts; swim slowly, searching crevices. Count all lionfish; record size class (optional). Replicates: ≥8 transects per site per depth stratum. • Detection check (optional): Double-observer or two-pass removal (pre- and post-cull) and use removal estimators to adjust counts.					

- **Density:** $(\Sigma \text{lionfish} / \Sigma \text{area}) \times 10,000$

Halophila stipulacea (seagrass) — shoots/ha (report as “ind.” = shoots):

- **Where:** Known meadows; stratify by depth and exposure.
- **How:** Line-intercept with quadrats. Along each 50 m transect, place 0.25 m² quadrats every 5–10 m. In each quadrat: count shoots and estimate % cover. Replicates: ≥5 transects per meadow.
- **Density:** $(\Sigma \text{shoots} / \Sigma \text{quadrat area}) \times 10,000$.

Xeniidae soft corals — colonies/ha (report as “ind.” = colonies):

- **Where:** Reef flats/slopes; depth stratified.
- **How:** SCUBA belt transects. 10 m × 2 m belts; count colonies (clearly separated bases). Add 1 m photo-quadrats every 5–10 m for % cover QA. Replicates: ≥10 belts per site.
- **Density:** $(\Sigma \text{colonies} / \Sigma \text{area}) \times 10,000$

Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) — individuals/ha:

Preferred (most robust): Spatially explicit capture–recapture (SECR) with live traps. Design: 5–10 ha grid, ~50 m spacing (e.g., 6×6 = 36 traps). Effort: 5 consecutive nights; bait with fish/egg; check at dawn. Marking: Ear tags or temporary fur dye; record captures with coordinates. Analysis: SECR model gives density directly (no ad-hoc buffer needed). **Lower-effort alternative:** Camera traps + Random Encounter Model (REM). Deploy cameras 300–400 m apart for ≥14 days; measure each camera’s detection zone (angle, range) and estimate mongoose speed (v) from literature or GPS follows. Use REM to convert encounter rate to density; validate at a subset of sites with live-trapping.

Giant African Snail (*Lissachatina fulica*) — individuals/ha:

- **When:** Night (2–4 h after sunset) after rainfall; avoid drought spells.
- **How:** Fixed-width strip transects, e.g., 50 m × 2 m (100 m²). Search leaf litter, walls, trunks, culverts; collect/count. Replicates: ≥10 transects per land-use class (gardens, plantations, edges). **Detection check (optional):** Two-pass removal on consecutive nights or add refuge boards/bait traps checked daily for 3–5 days.
- **Density:** $(\Sigma \text{snails} / \Sigma \text{area}) \times 10,000$.

Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) — individuals/ha:

- **When:** Nocturnal (start 30–60 min after sunset), warm/wet season.
- **How (Option A—plot CMR):** Mark–recapture in fixed plots. Establish 1 ha plot (100 × 100 m) or multiple 0.25 ha plots. Use PVC refuges (3–5 cm dia, 60–100 cm long) on trees + nocturnal visual encounter along fixed paths. Survey 3–5 nights; mark with VIE elastomer; closed-population estimate ($\hat{N}$), then density = $\hat{N} / \text{plot area}$.
- **How (Option B—N-mixture):** Repeated belt transects (e.g., 100 m × 4 m) over 3–5 nights; fit N-mixture to adjust for detection and convert to ind./ha.

Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon* spp.) — clumps/ha (report “ind.” = clumps):

- **How:** Vegetation plots along transects. Every 10 m, place 1 m² quadrat; count clumps (tussocks) and tillers; estimate % cover. Replicates: ≥20 quadrats per site; sample edges, disturbed ground, plantations, roadsides.
- **Density:** $(\Sigma \text{clumps} / \Sigma \text{quadrat area}) \times 10,000$.

GBF Headline Indicator 6.1 Rate of invasive alien species (IAS/year) establishment in SVG during last 10 years	≈0.5 IAS/year ⁴⁹	0.2 IAS/year	GRIIS – Saint Vincent & the Grenadines checklist https://www.gbif.org/dataset/bba03061-2924-4716-a3e8-8b8c268cfb89	Once in 5 years	Fisheries Division/Forestry Department/PPQU
Methodology: GBF 6.1 – Rate of invasive alien species establishment (factsheet): https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/6-1					

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

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⁴⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/vc-nr-06-en.pdf#:~:text=,and%20invasive%20species%20verified>

National Target 7. Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste)

Target 7. Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste): By 2030, reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems by 50%					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
GBF Headline Indicator 7.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication Potential (nutrients):	~7 kg C/km ² /day, (circa 2015) ⁵⁰	50% reduction from the baseline (by 2030)	UN SDG Global Database / UN Stats (indicator 14.1.1a: ICEP; official metadata and downloads) curated by UNEP (with IOC-UNESCO) – updated every 5 years Or compile river-mouth loads of Total N, Total P, Dissolved Silica (kg km ⁻² day ⁻¹) for main catchments using monitoring or a national model	Every 5 years	Environmental Health Division, MoHWE
Methodology: GBF Headline Indicator 7.1 https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/7-1?utm_source=chatgpt.com					
GBF Headline Indicator 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (pesticides):	baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction from the baseline (by 2030)	SVG's annual pesticide sales/use (disaggregated by active ingredient) from the Pesticides Control Board (PCB) under the Ministry of Agriculture (regulated by the Pesticides Control Act)	Annually	Environmental Health Division, MoHWE
Methodology: GBF Headline Indicator 7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/7-2					
Concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L) in freshwater streams and coastal marine areas:	baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction in concentration of nitrate, phosphate, and pesticide residues (µg/L) (by 2030)	Data of Environmental Health Division, MoHWE;	Annually	Environmental Health Division, MoHWE

⁵⁰ <https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/7-1>

			Data of NPRBA Water Quality Monitoring Programme		
Methodology: Sampling design. Sites: sentinel river/stream mouths draining agri-areas + control sites; paired nearshore coastal stations at river plumes and reference bays. Align with the Caribbean LBS Protocol monitoring approach. Frequency: monthly (wet & dry seasons), plus post-storm event sampling. Replicates & QC: ≥10% field duplicates; equipment and field blanks (for pesticides). Follow GEMS/Water guidance for sampling, preservation and field QA.					
Number (or weight) of plastic items per meter (or km) of shoreline:	baseline TBE in 2026	50% reduction number (weight) of plastic items per meter (km) of shoreline	NPRBA data	Annually	NPRBA
Methodology: Metric (primary): plastic items per meter of shoreline (convert to per km by ×1,000). Formula: $items_per_m = total\ items\ counted / surveyed\ shoreline\ length\ (m)$. Optional metric: mass per meter (g or kg/m). Formula: $mass_per_m = total\ mass\ of\ items\ collected / surveyed\ length\ (m)$. Sites: establish 5–10 fixed “reference” beaches covering urban/recreation, river mouths, tourism beaches, and remote/windward types. Fix one 100 m segment per site using permanent GPS coordinates and landmarks. Frequency: at least quarterly (4×/yr) for trend detection (wet/dry seasons); add monthly “accumulation” surveys at 1–2 hotspots if you want flux (items/time).					

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National Target 8. Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use

Target 8. Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use: By 2030, bring all wild harvesting (fisheries, hunting) to sustainable levels and eliminate illegal exploitation					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by Year)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
% of fisheries harvested at sustainable levels (GBF Headline Indicator 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels):	0%	100% (by 2030)	FAO 14.4.1 national questionnaire submitted biannually by Fisheries Division	Annually	Fisheries Division
Methodology: 5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/5-1?utm_source=chatgpt.com					
Number of IUU cases per year:	Baseline TBE in 2026	Decreased by 70% (2030)	Fisheries Division data	Annually	Fisheries Division
Methodology: A single IUU case is one detected incident (at sea or in port) involving a vessel or person that meets the FAO IPOA-IUU definitions of illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing and triggers an official enforcement action (warning, citation, seizure, administrative sanction, or prosecution). Count one case per offending vessel per incident (multiple offences in the same incident still = 1 case; record the offences separately). Typical violations to include: fishing without/against licence; closed area/season breaches (e.g., MPAs); prohibited gears/mesh; undersize/bycatch violations; falsified or missing logbooks; VMS/AIS tampering; illegal transshipment; PSMA port-entry/landing violations. Primary national records: Fisheries Division MCS/compliance logs (boardings, inspections, seizures, case files), Coast Guard patrol/boarding logs, Port State inspection reports (PSMA forms), observer reports, VMS/AIS alerts, and court/prosecutor outcomes for fisheries offences. Use the standard inspection & documentation framework under the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).					
Number of illegal hunting/harvesting cases per year:	Baseline TBE in 2026	Decreased by 70% (2030)	Forestry Department statistics	Annually	Forestry Department
Methodology: A case is one detected incident involving a person or party that violates SVG's wildlife laws and triggers an official enforcement action (warning, citation/charge, seizure/forfeiture, compounding, or prosecution). Count one case per offending party per incident (multiple offences in the same incident still = 1 case; record offences separately). Use offences defined in the Wildlife Protection Act (e.g., hunting protected species, hunting in reserves/close seasons, prohibited methods, possession/sale).					

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National Target 9. Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience

Target 9. Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience: By 2030, restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems nationwide (with key focus on rainforest, mangroves, littoral woodlands, beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) prioritizing climate-vulnerable habitats.					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by 2030)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Area of degraded habitat restored for the ecosystems (GBF Headline Indicator 2.1 Area under restoration (all ecosystems)), ha:	0				
Rainforest:	0	600	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Elfin Woodlands:	0	150	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Littoral Woodlands:	0	30	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Mangroves:	0	15	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Dry Scrub Woodlands:	0	300	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Coral Reefs:	0	1 ha through active restoration; 999 ha via protection and management	Fisheries Division data	Annually	Fisheries Division
Seagrass Beds:	0	250	Fisheries Division data	Annually	Fisheries Division
Sandy Beaches:	0	10	NPRBA data	Annually	NPRBA
Freshwater ecosystems:	0	30	Forestry Department data	Annually	Forestry Department
Methodology: field or remote sensing data measurements of restoration sites for different ecosystems annually. Compiling data from Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, and NPRBA					

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National Target 10. Sustainable Tourism

Target 10. Sustainable Tourism: By 2026, implement national eco-friendly tourism standards and by 2030 ensure all major tourism sites operate within ecological carrying capacity					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by 2030)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
% of tourism operators certified under eco-friendly tourist standards:	0%	>=80%	Ministry of Tourism / SVG Tourism Authority lists of licensed hotels, tour operators, marinas	Annually	SVG Tourism Authority
Methodology: Share of licensed tourism operators (e.g., hotels/guesthouses, tour & transport operators, dive/boat charters, attractions) holding a valid eco-certification from a recognized scheme during the reporting year. Recognition criteria: Accept certifications that are (a) GSTC-recognized/accredited or (b) adopted by the Government of SVG for this indicator. Examples: Green Key, Travelife, EarthCheck, Green Globe; sector-specific schemes where applicable (e.g., Green Fins for dive operations). Exclude corporate-only/brand pledges without site audits. Scope & counting rules: Unit of count = licensed establishment/business (each licensed property/outlet counted once). “Valid” = certificate active at any point in the reporting year (not expired or suspended). If a chain holds corporate certification, count an establishment only if the site is covered by an audit or listed by the scheme. Data assembly (annual): Denominator (D): Export the list of all <i>active</i> licensed operators from the SVG Tourism Authority (snapshot as of 31 Dec of the year). Clean duplicates; keep license ID, legal/trade name, category, parish/island. Numerator (N): Pull certified-operator lists from each accepted scheme’s registry (CSV/website/API) for “Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.” Capture operator name, site address, certificate ID, validity dates. Match & verify: Fuzzy-match names to license IDs; manually resolve mismatches. Keep only certificates valid within the year. Save PDF/links of certificates as evidence. $\text{Indicator (\%)} = \frac{N_{\text{valid certified}}}{D_{\text{active licensed}}} \times 100$					
% of tourism sites operating within ecological carrying capacity:	Baseline TBE in 2026	100% (2030)	Site manager records: NPRBA (parks/beaches), Forestry (trails), Fisheries (marine sites) routine reports on compliance with set daily/pooled limits	Annually	SVG Tourism Authority
Methodology: Share of priority tourism sites that stayed within their approved <i>ecological carrying-capacity</i> limits during the reporting year. What counts as “ecological carrying capacity”: A site-specific maximum use threshold (e.g., visitors/day, boats/day, dives/day, moorings occupied, trail users/day) set in an approved plan or study based on ecological criteria (erosion/trampling, reef damage risk, wildlife disturbance, turbidity, etc.).					

Scope & site types: Beaches/berms, reefs & dive sites, cays/islets, trails/viewpoints, waterfalls/rivers, marine parks/mooring fields. Use pooled caps where a cluster shares a single limit.

Compliance rule (default): A site is “within capacity” if: observed use $\leq$ approved cap on $\geq 90\%$ of monitored open days in the peak season (you may set 85–95% as the tolerance band in policy); and any exceedances are $\leq 10\%$ above cap and not > 3 consecutive days; and no “red-flag” ecological breach recorded (e.g., emergency closure for wildlife disturbance).

Denominator (D): Number of priority sites that have both (i) an approved ecological capacity limit, and (ii) an operational monitoring method (ticketing logs, counters, mooring/boat logs, ranger tallies, etc.) for the year.

Note: Track separately the number of priority sites still lacking caps/monitoring.

Numerator (N): Number of those sites meeting the Compliance rule above for the year.

$$\text{Indicator (\%)} = \frac{N_{\text{sites compliant}}}{D_{\text{sites with caps \& monitoring}}} \times 100$$

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National Target 11. Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion

Target 11. Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion: By 2027, stop illegal sand mining in all ecologically sensitive and adaptation value areas, including sea turtle nesting sites					
Indicators	Baseline	Target	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Presence of full ban regulation on sand mining on beaches:	Absent	Present (2027)	ministerial Orders/Regulations issued under the Act that establish an explicit nationwide ban or designate protected beaches (and confirm they're in force)	Annually	NPRBA
Number of sand mining violations per year:	baseline TBE in 2026	0 violations (2030)	NPRBA records verified with Police	Annually	NPRBA
Methodology: Count of unique enforcement incidents in the calendar year where an offence related to beach sand mining was officially recorded under applicable laws (e.g., illegal extraction, transport, sale, or possession of beach sand). What counts as a "violation": An incident with at least one of: charge sheet/ticket, written warning, seizure/confiscation, or court filing under the relevant Act/Regulations. Multiple charges from the same incident (same time/place/offender) count as one violation. Separate incidents by the same offender on different dates/locations count separately. Exclude cases formally closed as "no offence" after investigation.					

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National Target 12. Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies

Target 12. Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies: By 2030, mobilize at least US\$70 million in biodiversity financing from national, regional, and international sources, and phase out at least 50% of subsidies that harm biodiversity.					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by 2030)	Data Source	Frequency Measurement	of Responsible Entity
Total biodiversity funding mobilized in 2026-2030:	0	>=US\$70,000,000	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology records	Annually	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology
Methodology: Sum of all in-country disbursements (not commitments) in 2026–2030 that principally or significantly support biodiversity outcomes, from domestic public, external public, NGO/philanthropy, and private sources. System boundary & inclusions: • On-budget and off-budget spending in SVG. • Grants, budget allocations, project operating costs, and biodiversity components of loans. • Trust funds: count disbursements to activities (exclude endowment capital). • In-kind: include only if documented and monetized (staff time, facilities, materials). Exclusions: Unspent commitments; general admin not tied to biodiversity; tax breaks; double-counted pass-throughs (count once, at point of final spend in SVG).					
GBF Headline Indicator 18.2. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed ⁵¹ , US\$:	0 (2024)	>= \$90-100 mln. (>50% reduction from the 2024 value)	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology records	Annually	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology
Methodology: https://gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/18-2					
GBF Headline Indicator D.1. International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:	\$3.5-5.0 mln.	>= \$10 mln.	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology records	Annually	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology
Methodology: https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/D-1					

⁵¹ Estimated annual harmful subsidies in SVG currently amount to ~US\$180–200 million (2024)

GBF Headline Indicator D.2. Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:	~\$3.3 mln. (2024) ⁵²	>= \$6.0 mln.	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology records	Annually	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology
Methodology: https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/D-2					
GBF Headline Indicator D.3 – Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, US\$/year:	<\$1 mln.	>= \$5 mln.	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology records	Annually	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology
Methodology: https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/D-3					

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⁵² About for 4% of total SVG government expenses for environmental protection and climate resilience in 2024 (~\$82.4 mln.)

National Target 13. Biosafety

Target 13. Biosafety: By 2030, establish and fully implement a comprehensive national biosafety framework that effectively manages risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs), biotechnology products, and genetic resources.					
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by 2030)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity
Presence of the operational National Biosafety Framework (NBF) (GBF Binary Indicator 17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19):	Absent	Present	CBD Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)	Annually	PPQU
Methodology: Binary (or 3-tier) indicator showing whether SVG has a functional biosafety system for LMOs consistent with the Cartagena Protocol: policy, legal/regulatory measures, administrative procedures, monitoring/enforcement, and public information—demonstrably in use. What you must verify (five core pillars): 1. Institutions: Named National Focal Point(s) (Cartagena & BCH) and at least one Competent National Authority (CNA) designated. 2. Legal/regulatory measures in force: Act/Regulations or administrative measures covering notification/authorization, risk assessment/management, transboundary movement/HTPI, monitoring, emergency response, and penalties. 3. Administrative system: Written SOPs/flowchart for applications, timelines, forms, RA committee/expert roster, decision issuance and appeal. 4. Monitoring & enforcement: Roles for customs/quarantine/inspectors, inspection SOPs, and (if applicable) lab capacity or referral procedure. 5. Public information & participation: Procedures for public notice/consultation; active BCH entries (national measures, contacts, reports/decisions). Operational proof (evidence you need in the year of assessment): Count as a “proof” each of the following met in the last 24 months: • BCH activity: NFP/CNA entries current; national measures and guidance uploaded/updated. • Reporting: Latest Cartagena Protocol/National Report submitted or formally acknowledged. • Procedures in use: Application/notification forms published; RA/decision SOPs issued; even if no applications, “no applications received” statement and readiness documented. • Enforcement activity: Training, inspections, or border-control circulars; designation letters for biosafety inspectors. • Budget/staffing: A unit and/or named officer(s) with time/budget for biosafety tasks (may be within Environment, Agriculture, or Quarantine).					

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National Target 14. Gender Equality and Community Participation

Target 14. Gender Equality and Community Participation: By 2027, ensure full participation of women, youth, and local communities in biodiversity decision-making, conservation, and sustainable use, with at least 50% representation via whole-of-government approach.						
Indicators	Baseline	Target (by 2030)	Data Source	Frequency of Measurement	Responsible Entity	
-% representation of women, youth, and community groups in biodiversity committees and conservation projects (GBF Binary Indicator 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders):			Current membership rosters kept by the convening ministry/agency (e.g., NBSAP Steering Committee, National Ocean Coordinating Committee (NOCC), National Technical Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NTACCC), National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC))			
	Women:	baseline TBE in 2026	>= 50%	Gender disaggregated records of participants of biodiversity conservation projects	Annually	Sustainable Development Unit
	Youth:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=25%		Annually	Sustainable Development Unit
	Local community:	baseline TBE in 2026	>=30%		Annually	Sustainable Development Unit
Methodology: Share of filled voting seats (or project decision/implementation roles) held by each target group in the reporting year. Target groups: • Women — self-identified women. • Youth — persons within the national youth definition (use the official age band; if none, use 15–29 as a default and state it). • Community groups — representatives formally nominated by a recognized CBO/CSO/IPLC/community council/association (verified by ToR, MoU or nomination letter). Include: National/local biodiversity governance bodies (e.g., NBSAP SC, IAS WG, PA co-management committees, Fisheries advisory/co-management groups, NPRBA boards), and project steering/technical committees for conservation projects active that year. Exclude: General public consultations, ad-hoc workshops, non-voting observers, and vacant seats						

Monitoring of the National Target Activities using simple NT Activity Monitoring Tracker in Excel:

Same template is used for quarterly tracking of progress for all Activities under National Targets

Activity #	Activity (Full Name)	Year	Quarter	Implementation Progress (%)	Funds Spent (USD)	Source of Funds	Temporary Jobs Created	Permanent Jobs Created	Responsible Agency	Notes on Progress
Official Activity number	Full Activity title	Reporting Year	Reporting Quarter	0-100% milestone-weighted completion achieved this quarter	Actual disbursements attributable to this Activity in the quarter	Funding source for the spend reported	Number of time-bound roles engaged this quarter	Number of posts expected to continue beyond project	Accountable entity (lead Agency for this Activity)	Key outputs, blockers, re-phasing decisions

Policy Coherence Plan

Policy Coherence approach related to the SVG NBSAP

Policy coherence refers to the systematic alignment of policies across different government departments, levels, and even countries to ensure they work together, reduce conflicts, and promote synergies towards common objectives. The goal is to create an integrated approach that avoids undermining policy goals and enhances overall effectiveness, particularly for achieving sustainable development.

In terms of this document Policy Coherence is viewed as a guidance to coordinate efforts among key stakeholders for the development of policies, plans, and legislation to successfully implement SVG NBSAP 2026-2030.

Expected Outcomes of Policy Coherence Plan:

- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** working towards shared goals and common objectives established in the SVG NBSAP by aligning different policy areas, minimizing wasted resources and maximizing successful outcomes;
- **Reduced Conflict and Avoid Contradictions:** identifying and mitigating contradictions between various policies. It helps avoid situations where one policy's efforts are negated by another, ensuring that stated goals are not undermined;
- **Promoting Synergies, Integration, and Systemic Thinking:** actively fostering policies that reinforce each other to achieve shared goals, and emphasizing joined-up thinking and systemic approaches to policymaking, rather than siloed departmental efforts. Systemic Thinking considers how actions in one area may impact others, both within a region, country and globally;
- **Accountability:** holding agencies accountable for the consistency of their policies and the impact of their actions;
- **Sustainability:** Policy Coherence is crucial for the transformation needed to achieve by integrating economic, social, and environmental policies.

An Action Plan to ensure Policy Coherence for Implementation of the SVG NBSAP involves establishing strong leadership and a clear mandate for policy coherence, developing a strategic approach with defined priorities and indicators, integrating a "whole-of-government" perspective across all policy-making processes, and strengthening capacities for policy co-ordination through training and knowledge sharing. Key elements of policy coherence include applying a human-rights and gender perspective, conducting stakeholder engagement to build awareness and support, and monitoring and evaluating progress against established goals.

Integrated Planning

The Policy Coherence Plan guides Integration of NBSAP policy and planning activities into SVG's national agenda. A top priority is to embed biodiversity goals into the updated National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) 2026–2046, along with sector-specific plans. A Cabinet Circular should require all ministries to screen new policies and public investment projects for biodiversity impacts, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed in decision-making. This will institutionalize cross-sector alignment so that infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, climate adaptation and other plans actively support (or at least do not undermine) biodiversity targets. For example, integrating natural capital accounting and ecosystem service values into development planning can make biodiversity benefits visible in economic decisions.

Legislative and Regulatory Reform.

The key idea of the Policy Coherence Plan is to develop a coordinated legislative agenda for biodiversity in the first 2 years of NBSAP implementation. Effective achievement of many National Targets depends on new or updated policies, laws, or plans, including spatial planning regulations, a Wildlife Protection Act, forest conservation amendments, invasive species/biosecurity regulations, pollution and waste controls, sustainable fishing rules, a Biodiversity Finance Bill, and biosafety legislation.

The Attorney General's Chambers (in consultation with sector ministries) should prioritize drafting and enacting these instruments by 2027. Without timely legal reform and enforcement capacity, some National Targets may remain "paper" goals. For instance, the plan to halt wildlife poaching and illegal trade hinges on passing the new Wildlife Act and its stronger penalties; similarly, eliminating illegal sand mining requires gazettement a strict ban and enforcement regulations. Clear legal mandates will reduce overlapping authorities and empower agencies to act. Where regulations already exist (e.g., plastics ban), SVG should ensure they are expanded and enforced, not just on paper.

Sustainable Financing

Mobilization of adequate and sustained funding by implementing the National Target 12 and the Biodiversity Finance Plan is the key priority for NBSAP 2026-2030. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology must lead on innovative financing: issuing green/blue bonds, securing debt-for-nature swaps, environmental levies, conservation trust funds, and other financial mechanisms for biodiversity. The Action Plan sets an ambitious target of US\$70 million mobilized by 2030. To achieve this, Parliament should enact the Biodiversity Finance & Subsidy-Reform Bill (National Target 12) and resist attempts to dilute its provisions. The bill will formalize resource streams (e.g., dedicated conservation fees, bond frameworks) and impose accountability (annual biodiversity finance reports and subsidy phase-out schedules).

Additionally, establish a Climate/Biodiversity Finance Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology to coordinate proposal writing for international funds (GEF, GBFF, GCF, etc.) avoiding the capacity overload risk noted if only the small SDU team handles all project development. By 2026, SVG should create a Project Preparation Group at SDU to actively develop high-quality funding proposals to implement NBSAP activities. Finally, integrate biodiversity into annual budget planning through green budget tagging so that domestic funding is steadily increased and less dependent on short-term donor grants.

Institutional Capacity Building

Address human and technical capacity gaps that could impede implementation. The NBSAP assessment highlighted shortages of trained personnel in key areas, for example GIS experts and spatial planners, marine biologists, park rangers, biosecurity officers, environmental inspectors, and biodiversity data managers. A capacity development program should be rolled out across agencies by 2026. This could include: training on biodiversity finance and project development; specialized training (e.g., GIS and spatial planning workshops; invasive species control techniques; wildlife law enforcement and prosecutorial training; community co-management skills), staff exchanges or twinning with regional/international agencies, and filling critical staff vacancies (many targets already budget for new permanent posts, and these hires must be fast-tracked in Forestry, Fisheries, Physical Planning, etc.).

Monitoring, Accountability, and Lessons Learning

NBSAP Monitoring Plan provide a robust monitoring & evaluation (M&E) system to track progress on all national targets and inform adaptive management. The Sustainable Development Unit (as CBD focal point) should lead on the NBSAP implementation monitoring. This would compile data from all implementing agencies (Forestry, Fisheries, Environmental Health, Planning, etc.) on target indicators and make it accessible for analysis and reporting.

Establish annual progress reviews where the NBSAP Steering Committee evaluates progress across national targets and activities, publishing an annual progress report for Cabinet and stakeholders. Regular reporting to the CBD will also be guided by this framework. To strengthen accountability, consider integrating NBSAP targets into the government's performance management: e.g., requiring relevant ministries to report their contributions in budget speeches or Annual Reports. This whole-of-government M&E approach will help identify early where policy coherence is lacking or additional action is needed, enabling course corrections before 2030.

"Whole-of-Society" Participation, and Peer-Learning

Engage non-governmental actors – communities, NGOs, academia, and the private sector – in implementation through formal mechanisms. The Whole-of-Society element means leveraging community knowledge and buy-in, and ensuring benefits are shared. For example, reactivate or establish multi-stakeholder advisory bodies like

a Protected Areas System Committee (to involve park authorities, community groups and tourism operators in protected area expansion decisions); currently its dormancy causes unclear authority and stakeholder conflicts. Institutionalize local participation via community co-management agreements, liaison officers, or village environment committees for on-the-ground activities (reforestation, reef monitoring, invasive species trapping, etc.). The plan for a Community Conservation Leadership Academy under National Target 14 (training 120 local people, 50% women and 30% youth, in conservation skills) should be implemented to build local capacity and trust. Additionally, integrate private sector partners by promoting corporate biodiversity pledges and public–private partnerships (e.g., hotels cooperating on waste reduction and reef protection under National Target 10, or agribusiness supporting sustainable farming under National Targets 2 and 7). A communications and outreach strategy is essential to raise public awareness and counter any misinformation (for instance, around new biosafety measures or subsidy reforms).

Transparency and inclusivity in decision-making, such as public consultations on new regulations or community representation on biodiversity conservation committees will improve legitimacy and compliance. Finally, ensure gender and social inclusion principles (National Target 14) are applied across all initiatives so that women, youth, and indigenous communities are empowered as equal partners in biodiversity governance.

Target-by-target actions for Policy Coherence

The following sections provide **target-by-target action plans**, highlighting institutional roles, gaps, and priority measures to enhance policy coherence and effective delivery for each National Target.

National Target 1: Integrated Spatial Planning for Biodiversity

National Target 1 – Spatial Planning: By 2028, establish an integrated national spatial planning framework that includes all ecologically significant terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services (e.g., clean water, flood protection, soil fertility), incorporating key biodiversity areas and climate resilience strategies into national land-use and marine planning.

Institutional context: Key agencies include the Physical Planning Unit (within the Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands, and Surveys), which leads on land-use planning; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Department and Fisheries Division) for resource management; and the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA) for protected areas. The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) will provide overall coordination on sustainability aspects for marine and land planning. Currently, policy coherence is lacking in national planning: terrestrial and marine planning are fragmented, and agencies have overlapping mandates with limited collaboration. There is no unified spatial plan in place (baseline 0% coverage of territory with biodiversity-inclusive plans) for marine and terrestrial environment. Critical gaps include outdated land use legislation, absence of marine zoning regulations, separate data systems, and insufficient integration of climate/biodiversity data in development planning.

Priority Actions for Target 1

Action	Explanation
1. Establish an Inter-Agency Planning Task Force	Form a technical working group with representatives from Physical Planning, Forestry, Fisheries, NPRBA, and SDU to steer the development of the national spatial plan. This task force will ensure inter-ministerial coordination, resolving the overlapping mandates and limited inter-agency collaboration identified as a risk. It should meet frequently and share data (e.g., on critical habitats, ecosystem service maps) and make joint decisions on land and marine use designations.
2. Legislate Biodiversity-inclusive Planning	Fast-track revision of the Town and Country Planning Act and related laws to explicitly require incorporation of ecosystem services and biodiversity in land use decisions. This could include an obligation for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) or strategic environmental

	assessments for major land-use plans, and a mandate to consider climate resilience (e.g., flood zones, coastal buffers) in zoning. Simultaneously, develop Marine Spatial Planning Regulations under existing fisheries or environmental legislation to enable marine spatial plan approval by Cabinet. These regulations should delineate clear authority for marine areas (perhaps formalizing co-jurisdiction between Fisheries Division and NPRBA for marine protected zones), filling the current legal gap in marine spatial governance. Lead Agency: Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning. Key partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour; National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority; Sustainable Development Unit.
3. Integrate Plans into National Development Frameworks	Ensure the completed national Marine and Land Spatial Plans are embedded in the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) 2026–2046 and formally approved by Government. This guarantees that all future development must align with the biodiversity-inclusive spatial vision. A Cabinet endorsement or parliamentary approval of the spatial plan by 2028 will cement high-level commitment for many years. Lead Agency: Physical Planning Unit Key partners: Fisheries Division and Forestry Department, NPRBA, SVG Maritime Administration, Sustainable Development Unit, local and regional universities and research centers, local communities.
4. Enhance Technical Capacity and Data Sharing	Invest in training and tools for planners and GIS specialists. Conduct capacity-building programs for local planners and policy-makers on spatial planning that integrates biodiversity, climate and socio-economic data. At least 20–30 officers across agencies should be trained by 2027 in modern GIS, marine and land spatial planning, and natural capital valuation. Establish a shared geo-database or online mapping portal accessible to all relevant agencies, to address the current fragmentation where biodiversity and land-use data reside in separate agencies often in incompatible formats. This will support joint monitoring (e.g., tracking how much of SVG’s land and marine area is under sustainable plans, with a target of 100% by 2028).
5. Coordinate Climate and Biodiversity Objectives	Use the spatial planning process to align biodiversity conservation with climate adaptation (e.g., identify areas for ecosystem-based adaptation like mangroves for flood protection). Key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and climate-vulnerable zones should be given special land use designations. This integration ensures nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation are part of land use planning, reflecting the target’s linkage to climate resilience.
6. Risk Mitigation	To prevent political or economic pressures from derailing spatial planning, secure buy-in from Cabinet early. Present the draft marine and land spatial framework to Cabinet by 2027 to institutionalize it beyond electoral cycles (addressing the risk of shifting government priorities). Also, given budget constraints, leverage international support (from GEF, GBFF, World Bank, etc.) which have been identified for funding spatial planning activities.

	Finally, revive coordination bodies such as the National Environmental Advisory Committee (if existing) to review spatial plan progress, ensuring continuity through any political changes.
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Impact: By implementing these measures, Target 1 will create a cohesive marine and land spatial plans that guides sustainable development and protects critical ecosystems. The result will be a more harmonized approach where ministries of planning, environment, agriculture and others make land-use decisions together, rather than at cross-purposes.

National Target 2: Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors

National Target 2 – Integrating Biodiversity into Economic Sectors: By 2029, integrate biodiversity considerations into national economic policies, ensuring that all key industries (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, construction, and waste management) adopt nature-positive practices

Institutional context: This target cuts across multiple sectors and ministries: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour; Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Physical Infrastructure; and Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA).

Currently, majority of sectoral policies ignore biodiversity. Regulations and standards exist in some areas (e.g., some pesticide controls, a tourism policy, etc.) but are incomplete or weakly enforced. There are also staffing gaps in inspectorates (e.g., for pollution, planning) that hinder compliance monitoring.

Priority Actions for Target 2

Action	Explanation
1. Strengthen Cross-Ministerial Coordination on Green Economy Reforms	Establish a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Working Group under the NBSAP Steering Committee, focusing specifically on economic sectors. This group should include the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour; Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Physical Infrastructure; and Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA). Its mandate: coordinate updates of sector regulations and policies to internalize biodiversity values. The need for such coordination is clear: without it, multiple ministries may update regulations in isolation and at different paces, risking inconsistencies. For example, if green construction guidelines and agricultural practices are revised independently, opportunities for synergy or trade-offs could be missed. The working group will ensure policies are jointly developed and not contradictory.
2. Incorporate Biodiversity Criteria into Sector Regulations and Standards	By 2026–2027, each key sector should review and revise its regulations to be nature-positive: Agriculture: Finalize and implement the National Sustainable Agriculture Strategy with clear provisions for agro-ecology, soil conservation, pesticide reduction and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Introduce Integrated Pest Management (IPM) standards and restrict harmful agrochemicals (tying into National Target 7 on pollution). Legislate incentives (and possible penalties) so that farmers adopt biodiversity-friendly methods (organic farming, crop diversity, maintaining river buffers, etc.). Lead Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour.

	Key partners: Richmond Vale Academy; Farmer co-ops; FAO; Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Fisheries: Expedite passage of the update National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and its subsidiary regulations (for licensing, catch limits, monitoring). Operationalize the Fisheries Management Advisory Council (FMAC) for inclusive, science-based fisheries management. Enforce sustainable fishing practices (minimum sizes, gear restrictions like circle hooks) and link compliance to license renewals. This will directly integrate biodiversity conservation (protection of fish stocks, reef species) into the fishing industry. Lead Agency: Fisheries Division. Key partners: Attorney-General's Chambers; National Fisherfolk Organisation; Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); WWF-US Blue Economy team; SVG Conservation Fund Tourism: Develop and adopt National Eco-tourism Standard based on Green Key/Blue Flag criteria for hotels, marinas & beaches through the Tourism Authority or legislation. By 2027, require major hotels, tour operators and sites to meet these standards or equivalent, which include waste reduction, habitat protection, and community benefit criteria. This action is complementary with National Target 10 on mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism. Lead Agency: Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture Key partners: SVG Tourism Authority; NPBRA; Sustainable Development Unit; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Green Key International Eco-label for Hotels, Hostels, Campsites, Restaurants, Attractions and Other Tourism Facilities; Blue Flag Programme: International Eco-label Award for Beaches, Marinas and Sustainable Tourism Boats Construction & Infrastructure: Issue Green construction code and Biodiversity-offset guidelines, based on revision of Building Code & Regulations (2005) and new Town-and-Country Planning Regulations (2025), that mandate habitat impact assessments and nature-based solutions. For example, update building regulations to protect watershed integrity (no construction in key biodiversity areas without mitigation) and to integrate green infrastructure (like wetland buffers for stormwater). Lead Agency: Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Physical Infrastructure Key Partners: National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC); Physical Planning Unit; SVG Conservation Fund Waste Management and Pollution Control: Develop Circular Economy & Plastic Pollution Action Plan and regulations on waste (solid waste and wastewater) to minimize ecosystem harm (aligning with National Target 7). For instance, extend the ban on single-use plastics to additional items (as noted in National Target 7 actions) and enforce proper waste disposal especially in coastal areas. The Central Water & Sewerage Authority (CWSA) and Environmental Health Division must collaborate to ensure regulations are enforced across the waste management chain.
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	Lead Agency: Solid Waste Management Unit of Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) Key Partners: Ministry of Health & Environment; Beverage Industry Association of SVG; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour
3. Use Economic Instruments and Incentives	Implement financial measures to drive nature-positive practices across sectors, as recommended in the NBSAP activities. The Ministry of Finance, CWSA, and Ministry of Agriculture guided by the Biodiversity Finance Plan, should roll out financial tools and incentives such as: replace cruise-passenger tax with a single branded <i>Island Conservation Levy</i> for all visitors; Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes (e.g., pay farmers to maintain forested river buffers: a watershed PES fund was proposed for six rivers); tax breaks or low-interest green loans for businesses adopting sustainable practices, and reform of subsidies that currently encourage harmful practices (redirecting them towards sustainable alternatives). For example, if fishers get fuel subsidies, gradually shift those into support for better boats or gear that have less ecological impact. By 2028, all major fiscal policies should reflect biodiversity priorities, responding to the “mobilization target” set in Target 12 and removing perverse incentives.
4. Improve Enforcement and Compliance Capacity	Integration on paper means little if not enforced. Therefore, expand inspectorate teams and cross-training: hire more environmental inspectors, forestry officers, fisheries wardens, and tourism product inspectors, and train them in the new standards. The plan notes that staffing in these compliance roles is currently inadequate. By 2027, each sector agency should have a dedicated biodiversity compliance unit or officer. Additionally, deploy inter-agency enforcement teams for cross-cutting issues (e.g., a task force for land-use violations that includes physical planners and forestry officers; joint health and environment inspections for pollution). Utilize community-based monitors (like river wardens or community rangers) where possible to extend reach, coupled with citizen reporting apps to flag violations. Strengthening enforcement addresses the risk that without it, nature-positive practices stay on paper only.
5. Inter-Ministerial Policy Screening	As mentioned under the whole-of-government approach, enforce the Cabinet directive that all new sector policies or large projects undergo biodiversity impact screening. For instance, if the Ministry of Transport proposes a new road, or Agriculture proposes a new farming initiative, they must demonstrate how it aligns with NBSAP Targets (or at least does not harm them). The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology can make this part of the policy approval and budget release process. This ensures continuous alignment of sectoral actions with biodiversity goals.
6. Mitigate Funding and External Risks	Many policy/regulation activities under this target rely on new funding sources like levies or grants (e.g., an “eco-cent” surcharge on water bills for watershed PES, an island conservation levy on tourism). Prioritize establishing these funding mechanisms and necessary legislation early (by 27) to avoid delays that could starve initiatives of cash. Additionally, be prepared for external shocks: for example, a volcanic eruption or hurricane could force diversion of government funds away from green initiatives. To safeguard progress, integrate nature targets into disaster recovery plans (so rebuilding includes eco-friendly measures and funding). Also, maintain a small emergency fund or contingent financing for key programs so they can continue through a crisis.

Impact: Through these measures, biodiversity will be systematically woven into the fabric of sectoral development. By 2030, all major industries should have internal policies aligned with conservation (e.g., forestry and fisheries achieving 100% integration of biodiversity in their practices as targeted) and government as a whole will function with far greater policy coherence on sustainability. Progress must be regularly evaluated via indicators like the percentage of sector policies updated and the uptake of nature-positive certifications or practices in each industry.

National Target 3: Endangered Species

National Target 3 – Endangered Species: By 2030, prevent extinction and improve conservation status of key nationally threatened species (e.g., St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*, VU), Union Island Gecko (*Gonatodes daudini*, CR), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, CR), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*, CR), Grenadines Pink Rhino Iguana (*Iguana insularis insularis*), and St. Vincent Black Snake (*Chironius vincenti*, CR), St. Vincent Whistling Frog (*Pristimantis shrevei*, EN), and St. Vincent Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*, EN), St. Vincent Wren (*Troglodytes musicus*), Acroporid corals (*Acropora* sp. CR), Parrotfish (*Sparisoma* sp, LC), Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*)) through habitat protection, species recovery programs, and stronger anti-poaching enforcement.

Institutional context: The Forestry Department and the Fisheries Division are the lead agencies for this Target. Other key players include the Attorney General’s Chambers, NPRBA, Union Island Environmental Alliance (UIEA); SusGren & WIDECAST network; and SVG Conservation Fund (SVGCF). The legal framework is in flux a new Wildlife Protection Act needs to replace outdated wildlife laws. Policy coherence issues include weak enforcement of existing wildlife regulations, insufficient coordination between environment authorities and law enforcement/prosecutors, and heavy reliance on short-term project funding for species programs. Additionally, disease surveillance and invasive predator control (which link to National Target 6) need coordination to protect endangered species.

Priority Actions for Target 3

Action	Explanation
1. Enact and Enforce the new Wildlife Protection Act and Regulations	Top priority is to get the new Wildlife Protection Act and its regulations approved by Parliament by 2026-2027. The act should include strong penalties for poaching/trafficking, protection for critical habitats of listed species, and powers for wildlife officers. As the NBSAP warns, if the new Wildlife Act or its regulations stall... or if Customs, Police and prosecutors do not apply the stronger penalties, illegal trade in geckos, parrots and turtle products will continue, wiping out gains. To avoid this, engage policymakers early: brief Cabinet and MPs on the importance of the Act (perhaps leveraging SVG’s 2024 “Best Nature Destination” award to show global expectation). Once passed, immediately roll out training for Wildlife and Customs officers, police, and prosecutors on the new law and how to implement it. Publish clear enforcement guidelines (e.g., charging standards) so wildlife cases are taken seriously in court. The Attorney General’s Chambers should issue a directive to treat wildlife crimes as priority cases, to prevent the past pattern of cases being dismissed or trivial fines imposed. Establish a Wildlife Crime Task Force combining Forestry wildlife wardens, Fisheries officers, Customs, police, and community informants to improve detection and prosecution of poaching and smuggling. Lead Agency: Forestry Department and Attorney General’s Chambers Key partners: Fisheries Division, NPRBA, National Police, local hunters, Union Island Environmental Alliance, SCIENCE NGO, SVG Environment Fund, SCG Conservation Fund.

2. Secure Sustainable Funding for Species Recovery Programs	Move beyond ad-hoc donor funding and incorporate core species conservation activities into government or trust fund budgets. Currently, monitoring programs and warden patrols often rely heavily on SVGCF/donor grants and could lapse if post-2027 funding isn't secured. By 2026, develop a Species Conservation Funding Plan: allocate a portion of the national environmental fund or tourism revenues for species protection, and encourage SVGCF to set up dedicated endowments for flagship species (parrot, gecko, sea turtles). Also explore innovative financing like eco-tourism contributions (e.g., a voluntary Wildlife Conservation Fee for visitors who see the parrots or turtles). This will mitigate the risk of programs halting due to funding gaps: e.g. the lapse in parrot population surveys from 2010–2020 is a cautionary tale. Integrate key activities (annual parrot census, sea turtle nesting patrols, gecko monitoring, etc.) as line items in agency budgets or multi-year projects so they have secure funding through 2030.
3. Strengthen On-the-Ground Protection and Recovery Actions	Expand and institutionalize the species recovery actions via National Recovery Plans for key Endangered Species approved by the Forestry Department and Fisheries Division. For critically endangered wildlife like the Union Island Gecko, continue the successful community-based patrols and head-start captive breeding programs (raising juveniles for release). For the St. Vincent Parrot, implement a full species recovery plan including nest monitoring, supplemental feeding in drought years, and maintaining a viable captive assurance colony (possibly at the botanical garden or a sanctuaried facility). Similarly, protect turtle nesting beaches with nightly patrols and predator control. Many of these efforts exist but need scaling up and better coordination. Clarify institutional roles: e.g., the Forestry Department's wildlife unit can lead habitat protection and captive breeding, while NGOs and community groups can co-manage monitoring. Formalize partnerships through MOUs: for example, an MoU between Forestry, Fisheries, NPRBA and NGOs and community groups to share enforcement authority (perhaps granting community wardens limited enforcement powers under the new Wildlife Protection Act).
4. Predator and Disease Management	Recognize that controlling invasive predators and diseases is vital for species recovery (linking with National Target 6). Implement biosecurity measures around critical habitats: e.g., fencing key nesting areas to keep out mongooses and feral cats, systematic trapping around iguana nesting sites, and rapid response if invasive predators are detected on offshore islets (for seabirds and geckos). Enhance veterinary capacity to monitor wildlife health: train or hire a wildlife veterinarian to assist with disease surveillance (avian pox in parrots, chytrid fungus in frogs, etc., which are noted risks). Develop contingency protocols with the Forestry, Fisheries, and Ministry of Health for handling outbreaks affecting wildlife. This proactive stance will reduce vulnerability of small populations to catastrophic losses.
5. Climate Resilience for Species	Integrate climate adaptation into species recovery plans. As highlighted, one severe storm could topple nest trees, flood turtle hatcheries or damage iguana pens; drought can reduce parrot food and chick survival; heat spikes skew turtle sex ratios. To address this: secure critical parrot nesting trees (consider artificial nest platforms or plantings to replace lost trees), elevate and storm-proof turtle hatcheries (and perhaps relocate eggs if necessary in a bad season), collect eggs or individuals for captive safety if extreme events threaten a population. Incorporate these actions into disaster preparedness plans.

	Additionally, habitat restoration under National Target 9 (e.g., reforestation to ensure food sources for parrots, or coral restoration for marine life) will bolster ecosystem resilience for these species.
6. Monitoring, Research and Adaptive Management	Establish an Endangered Species Monitoring Program as a part of the National Recovery Plans under the Forestry Department and Fisheries Division (or jointly with an NGO/University) to track the species populations regularly (annually or once in 3-5 years). This program should also compile enforcement data (number of poaching incidents, prosecutions) and conservation measures taken, to evaluate effectiveness. Regularly report to the NBSAP Steering Committee and adjust strategies accordingly (adaptive management). Encourage local and international researchers to contribute (e.g., universities monitoring coral health or bird breeding success), coordinated through a national research permit system to focus efforts on NBSAP priorities. Lead Agency: Forestry Department and Fisheries Division. Key partners: NPRBA, Union Island Environmental Alliance (UIEA), SusGren, SVG Conservation Fund (SVGCF), SCIENCE SVG, WIDECAST Caribbean Sea-Turtle Network, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), BirdsCaribbean, EPIC.

Impact: By executing these actions, SVG can significantly improve the status of its emblematic and endangered species by 2030. This requires bridging institutional gaps passing and enforcing robust wildlife laws, ensuring long-term financing and inter-agency cooperation (Forestry, Fisheries, police, courts, communities), and linking species outcomes with habitat protection in other targets. Successful delivery of Target 3 will be evident when no species goes extinct and key populations show stabilization or growth, validated by monitoring data and international indices (like an upward tick in the country's Red List Index).

National Target 4: Deforestation

Target 4 – Deforestation: By 2030, reduce the national deforestation rate by at least 50% and restore connectivity between fragmented forests

Institutional context: The Forestry Department is the lead agency for forest management and enforcement of forest laws. The Physical Planning Unit and Lands & Surveys Department also play roles in land-use decisions affecting forests. Local communities (especially those near forest reserves and in former agricultural or cannabis cultivation areas) are key stakeholders, as their activities often directly impact forest cover. Current policy gaps include an outdated Forest Resource Conservation Act (1992) that needs strengthening, weak enforcement of land clearing regulations, and a lack of formal mechanisms to engage private landowners in forest conservation. Institutional coordination with the Planning authorities is crucial, as forest loss often results from land-use conversions that should be controlled via planning permission. Additionally, alternative livelihoods programs may be needed to ease pressure on forests.

Priority Actions for Target 4

Action	Explanation
1. Amend and Strengthen Forestry Legislation	Update the Forest Resource Conservation Act (1992) by 2026 to incorporate stronger protections and modern tools for forest conservation. Key amendments should: declare all remaining primary rainforests (e.g., above 700 m elevation) and riparian buffer zones as strict protection areas where new clearing or

	commercial logging is prohibited; enable creation of Conservation Easements and Forest Stewardship Agreements with private landowners to maintain or restore forest cover on their lands (giving a legal basis for voluntary conservation on private property); raise penalties for illegal forest clearing substantially (the plan suggests increasing fines from ~US\$1,850 to \$10,000 plus cost of restoration); and incorporate sustainable land management practices (e.g., only allow agroforestry on steep slopes, requiring buffers on slopes >20%). Fast-tracking this legislative reform is critical to send a strong signal and create enforceable tools well before 2030. Lead Agency: Forestry Department. Key partners: Attorney General’s Chambers/Ministry of Legal Affairs, Physical Planning Unit,
2. Enhance Enforcement and Monitoring of Forests	The Forestry Division, possibly in conjunction with the Police and community forest guards, must bolster enforcement to curb illegal deforestation. Immediate actions include: deploying more Forest Rangers and equipping them (patrol vehicles, drones for surveillance of remote areas, etc.), and coordinating with the Physical Planning Unit so that any unauthorized land clearing can be quickly flagged and stopped. The risk of landowners clearing or burning forest to expand farms before new restrictions take effect has been noted; to mitigate this, consider issuing an interim moratorium on new forest clearing in sensitive areas as soon as the intent to strengthen laws is announced, so as to prevent a surge of pre-emptive deforestation. Also engage local police to assist in enforcement sweeps in known hotspot areas (e.g., edges of forest reserves). Introduce satellite or aerial (drone) monitoring (perhaps using the FAO SEPAL or Global Forest Watch tools) to detect forest cover change in near-real-time, improving the response speed to illegal activities. By 2028, aim to have near zero illegal clearing incidents, with any detected deforestation quickly investigated and offenders prosecuted under the tougher penalties.
3. Inter-sectoral Coordination on Land Use	Many drivers of deforestation are outside the forestry sector (agricultural expansion, housing, infrastructure). Therefore, strengthen coordination mechanisms between Forestry, Physical Planning Unit, and the Lands Department. For example, require Forestry Department sign-off on any land clearance permits or development projects in forested areas: a “no objection” system where planners must consult Forestry before approving changes in forest land use. Integrate Forestry Department representative into the Physical Planning and Development Board (PPDB) to review large land developments, ensuring forest impacts are considered. Embedding a forestry official within the PPDB can also help integrate forest connectivity concerns into planning decisions (e.g., maintaining wildlife corridors when approving subdivisions). This addresses the institutional gap where deforestation can occur due to lack of communication between agencies regulating land.
4. Community Engagement and Incentives	Work closely with communities in forest-edge areas and those historically involved in activities like shifting cultivation or cannabis growing in forest lands. Introduce alternative livelihood programs and incentives: for instance, support agroforestry (fruit tree planting under forest canopy or on degraded land) so farmers can earn income without clear-cutting, provide training in sustainable farming, and consider conditional transfers or subsidies for communities that refrain from slash-and-burn clearing.

	The new Forest Resource Conservation Act's provision for Forest Stewardship Agreements should be operationalized and offer landowners or communities agreements where they receive technical or financial support (perhaps payments from the national Conservation Fund or PES schemes) in exchange for conserving or replanting forest on private or communal land. This collaborative approach will reduce the incentive to illegally clear land and build local stewardship.
6. Address Underlying Causes and Pressures	The NBSAP should address drivers of deforestation such as agricultural policy and land tenure issues. Coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture (tying to Target 2's sustainable agriculture actions) to intensify agriculture on existing cleared lands so there's less push to clear new forest. Where feasible, regularize land tenure for farmers outside forest reserves to discourage encroachment (people sometimes clear forests to establish claims). Support the Police in enforcing anti-marijuana cultivation laws inside forests (if that's a significant cause, work with security agencies to find alternative livelihoods for those communities as mentioned). Essentially, a mix of carrots (incentives) and sticks (enforcement) is needed.

Impact: By pursuing these actions, SVG should achieve a major drop in deforestation (at least 50% reduction in annual forest loss as targeted) and start to register net forest gains in some years through restoration. The forest connectivity improvements will benefit biodiversity and watersheds, and demonstrate effective inter-ministerial cooperation working in concert. Monitoring via remote sensing/drones and forest inventories will verify progress and provide accountability for this target.

National Target 5: Protected Areas Expansion

Target 5 – Protected Areas Expansion: By 2030, legally protect at least 30% of terrestrial (including 100% of elfin woodlands) and 30% of marine areas, with Protected Areas and OECMs

Institutional context: The National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA) is central to establishing and managing protected areas (PAs), in collaboration with the Forestry Department (which manages forest reserves) and the Fisheries Division (for marine reserves). The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture and Sustainable Development Unit also have an interest since many PAs overlap with tourism sites and biodiversity goals. Achieving this “30x30” target will require designating new protected areas (both terrestrial and marine), which involves legal gazetting and Cabinet approval.

Current gaps: limited financial and human resources for PAs (risk of “paper parks”), overlapping agency roles (NPRBA vs Forestry vs Fisheries) without a clear coordinating mechanism, incomplete policy framework for OECMs (conservation outside formal PAs), potential stakeholder resistance (e.g., from fishers or private landowners), and the Protected Areas System Committee is currently dormant, leading to unclear authority especially for integrated land-sea sites.

Priority Actions for Target 5

Action	Explanation
1. Develop a PA Expansion Roadmap and Gazette New PAs	By 2026, prepare a detailed Protected Areas Expansion Plan identifying specific terrestrial and marine areas to reach the 30% coverage goal. Prioritize ecosystems like remaining elfin cloud forests (to get 100% of those protected) and under-represented marine areas (coral reefs, seagrass beds). For each proposed site, clarify the protection mechanism (national park, marine reserve, forest reserve,

	community conserved area, etc.) and responsible authority. Present this plan to Cabinet to get political endorsement. Then, legally gazette new PAs in phases: e.g., gazette additional terrestrial reserves by 2028 (to raise terrestrial coverage from ~21% to the interim 30%), and establish new marine protected areas or OECMs by 2030 (marine baseline is only ~0.22%, so significant new designations needed). Ensure each gazettal clearly defines boundaries and management authority to avoid disputes. Use OECMs (like private reserves, community conserved areas, or fisheries management zones) as flexible tools especially where full government-owned PAs are not feasible. Coordination with the Attorney General is necessary to draft any new regulations or orders for declaring these areas under relevant laws. Lead Agencies for the terrestrial protected areas: Forestry Department and NPRBA. Key partners for the terrestrial protected areas: Land and Surveys Department and Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys; Chambers of the Attorney General/Ministry of Legal Affairs, Village Councils, OECS Commission. Lead Agency for the marine protected areas: Fisheries Division and NPRBA. Key partners for the marine protected areas: Coastal Guards, Local coastal communities, The Nature Conservancy, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.
2. Re-Activate the Protected Areas System Committee (PASC)	Revive or reconstitute the PASC (or equivalent multi-agency PA coordination body). This committee should include NPRBA, Forestry, Fisheries, Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, key NGOs (e.g., National Trust) and community representatives. Its role: oversee coherent expansion and management of the PA network, resolve jurisdictional issues, and harmonize land-sea conservation efforts. The dormant status of this committee currently leaves unclear lines of authority for joint land–sea sites; so its reactivation will clarify roles (e.g., who manages a marine park that abuts a terrestrial park, how to coordinate enforcement across land/sea). The PASC can also serve as the technical advisory body to review new PA proposals, management plans, and advise Cabinet. Aim to have the PASC meet quarterly, and involve it in reviewing progress towards 30x30 annually. This is a key institutional fix to improve inter-agency collaboration and policy coherence in protected area governance.
3. Secure Sustainable Financing and Staffing for PAs	A major risk is creating new PAs without resources – “paper parks” with no rangers or management, which undermines credibility and global reporting. To avoid this, establish a Protected Areas Trust Fund or financing mechanism dedicated to PA management (National Target 12). Possibly channel a portion of tourism revenues (e.g., an eco-tourism levy or park fees) into this fund, supplemented by grants (SVGCF, GEF, etc.). The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) has mechanisms for conservation trust funds which SVG can tap. Also integrate PA funding needs into national budget planning (e.g., justify ranger salaries as critical public service). By 2029, ensure each existing and new PA has a basic operating budget and staff allocation (rangers, wardens, community co-managers). The plan estimates need for 22–42 permanent jobs and 75–105 temporary jobs for PAs expansion; recruiting and training these personnel is an immediate task. Collaborate with the Police/Coast Guard where needed (for patrols in remote or marine areas). Additionally, pursue co-management agreements with local communities or NGOs for some sites to leverage additional capacity (with training and small grants to those partners). By providing adequate resources and clarity of responsibility, SVG can avoid

	hollow designations and instead have well-managed PAs that deliver real conservation outcomes and community benefits.
4. Strengthen Spatial and Legal Frameworks for PAs	Ensure that new PAs are integrated into national marine and land spatial plans (National Target 1). If new PAs clearly mapped in the land/marine use plan all ministries know these areas are off-limits to incompatible development. If there are pending legal designations (like government forest lands awaiting formal reserve status), prioritize clearing those bottlenecks by working with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Land and Survey Department to officially declare them.
5. Stakeholder Engagement and Conflict Resolution	Expanding PAs to 30% will inevitably affect certain groups (fisherfolk losing access to some fishing grounds, landowners near new terrestrial reserves, tourism operators concerned about restrictions). Pre-empt and manage stakeholder push-back through consultation and inclusion. Before gazettement each new area, conduct community consultations to explain benefits and jointly design management measures (e.g., define fishing zones vs. no-take zones in a marine park that fishers can accept). Consider establishing Community Management Committees for new PAs, giving locals a voice in rule setting and benefit sharing. This can turn potential opponents into stewards. Additionally, develop livelihood mitigation or enhancement programs: support alternative income for fishers (like training as tour guides or support for offshore fishing), and for private landowners impacted by restrictions, consider compensation or incentives (like tax breaks, inclusion in ecotourism initiatives). This directly addresses the risk of “stakeholder non-compliance (illegal fishing, land-use appeals) slowing designation or forcing boundary compromises”. By engaging stakeholders and providing solutions, the government can reduce conflicts and ensure PAs are respected on the ground.
6. Integrate Climate Resilience into PA Management	Recognizing that climate and natural hazards (hurricanes, coral bleaching, volcanic ash) can damage protected area ecosystems and infrastructure, incorporate resilience measures. This includes: designing reef protected areas with climate refugia in mind (areas less prone to bleaching), building sturdy park infrastructure or having insurance/emergency funds to repair trails and facilities after disasters, and coordinating with disaster management agencies to prioritize protected area recovery (so that an area devastated by a hurricane gets restoration support). Also, maintaining healthy ecosystems through PAs can mitigate climate impacts (e.g., intact mangroves buffer storm surges). Emphasize these co-benefits in policy to secure broader support (such as climate funding for PAs).

Impact: If these actions are executed, by 2030 SVG will have a representative and well-managed network of protected and conserved areas covering at least 30% land and sea. This will not only fulfill international commitments but also create a coherent framework where multiple agencies and local communities work in unison to conserve nature. Regular monitoring of PA coverage and management effectiveness (through tools like METT scores or biodiversity health indicators) will be important to demonstrate that the 30x30 target is met in quality, not just quantity.

National Target 6: Invasive Species Control

National Target 6 – Invasive Species Control: By 2030, contain the most dangerous invasive alien species — lionfish, small Indian mongoose, giant African snail, Cuban tree frog, Lemongrass, *Halophila stipulacea*, Xeniidae soft corals, and agro-biodiversity AIS (West Indian fruit fly, Banana Black Sigatoka, and Banana Moko Disease) — and establish effective biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions.

Institutional context: Managing invasives involves several agencies: the Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit (PPQU) under the Ministry of Agriculture is key for biosecurity at ports and handling agricultural pests (fruit fly, crop diseases); the Forestry Department and Fisheries Division handle terrestrial and marine invasive species control (mongoose, lionfish, etc.) in the wild; Customs is critical at entry points; and the Environmental Health Division may be involved for pests affecting public areas. Additionally, NGOs and community groups (dive shops for lionfish removal, farmers groups for snail control, etc.) are important partners.

The current institutional challenges include chronic underfunding of IAS programs (most efforts are donor-driven pilot projects), lack of a unified biosecurity policy or chain-of-command (leading to confusion between PPQU, Forestry, Fisheries, and Customs on roles), outdated or insufficient quarantine laws, and limited public awareness leading to low community engagement in invasive control. Coordination and sustained resourcing are the core needs for policy coherence here.

Priority Actions for Target 6

Action	Explanation
1. Establish a National Biosecurity Committee and Clarify Roles	Biosecurity is a broader umbrella of policies and measures that protect people, animals, plants, and the environment from biological threats—natural, accidental, or deliberate. It spans plant/animal health (quarantine), invasive species, public health (IHR), lab security, dual use controls, and anti-bioterrorism measures. Form a permanent Invasive Species & Biosecurity Committee with PPQU, Forestry, Fisheries, Customs, Environment Health, and key experts (e.g., from the agriculture research station or university). This body will coordinate all IAS surveillance, rapid response, and prevention measures. Clearly delineate who leads on different invasive taxa: e.g., PPQU for plant pests and diseases, Forestry for terrestrial vertebrates (mongoose) and pests in forests, Fisheries for marine invasives (lionfish, seagrass), but with mechanisms for joint action and information sharing. Develop standard operating procedures so that, for instance, if Customs interdicts a potential invasive organism at the border, they immediately involve PPQU, Forestry, and other relevant units. This addresses the current patchy inter-agency coordination & role confusion (PPQU vs Forestry vs Fisheries vs Customs) which has led to surveillance gaps and duplicated efforts. The Committee should meet at least bi-annually to solve IAS problems and plan adequate actions.
2. Pass and Implement New Biosecurity Legislation/Regulations	Strengthen the legal framework by pushing through the new Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations (e.g., update Plant Protection Act 2005 and Animals (Diseases & Importation) Regulations 1994) and biosecurity regulations that have been drafted. It's noted that if these regulations are delayed or diluted, Customs and PPQU remain unable to refuse or destroy high-risk cargo or fine violators; new IAS will continue to arrive. By 2028, enact regulations that give clear authority to PPQU officers to seize and destroy contaminated goods, to quarantine vessels if needed, and to impose penalties for smuggling plants/animals. Ensure alignment with WTO SPS requirements to avoid trade issues (indeed, the risk of non-compliance is exposure to retaliatory measures).

	Once in force, train Customs and PPQU staff on these new powers and procedures. Consider establishing on-the-spot fines for travelers or importers who violate biosecurity rules as a deterrent. Also, update import permit systems (potentially integrating an electronic permitting and ASYCUDA link for Customs, as mentioned in National Target 13 for biosafety) to track incoming biological material. This legislative empowerment is critical to prevent new invasive introductions – essentially plugging the gaps at the borders. Lead Agency: PPQU Key partners: Customs Department; SVG Port Authority & Argyle International Airport Company (IADC)
3. Secure Sustainable Funding and Resources for IAS Control	As flagged, invasive species work is labor- and consumable-intensive and current budgets are already thin. Develop a financing strategy for IAS: allocate recurring government funding for key programs (like maintaining trapping networks for mongoose and snails, and continuous lionfish removal incentives). Tap external funding strategically: e.g., GEF projects, GBFF and CBF grants, but design them to build capacity and not just one-off removal events. Explore user-fee funding: for example, a small conservation fee on scuba divers or marine park users could support lionfish control, or agricultural export fees could support PPQU's quarantine operations. Also consider product-oriented approaches: promote the local consumption of lionfish (in restaurants) or use of invasive lemongrass for crafts or biofuel, which can create a self-driven removal incentive. The Biodiversity Finance Plan (National Target 12) can incorporate invasive species funding needs so that by 2030, IAS control is not purely donor-dependent.
4. Implement Priority Invasive Control Campaigns	Focus on the high-risk invasives listed in the target with organized campaigns: Lionfish: Continue and expand lionfish derby programs, incentivize fishermen via buy-back schemes (the plan calls for paying ~\$4/kg for lionfish). By training and certifying at least 50 divers and launching a smartphone reporting app, aim to remove ≥30,000 lionfish per year. The Fisheries Division and dive shop community must lead this, with support from tourism and environment sectors. Track lionfish population density indices to measure impact. Mongoose and Rodents: Deploy extensive trapping campaigns, especially around vulnerable wildlife areas (tying to Target 3 species protection). As planned, implement the Community Mongoose Control & Rat Eradication on Offshore Islets, providing equipment (2000 traps, bait stations) and training 20 community wardens. Forestry and community partners (possibly NGOs like BirdsCaribbean, Fauna & Flora International as mentioned) should coordinate these operations. Ensure follow-up maintenance trapping to prevent rebound. Giant African Snail & Cuban Tree Frog: Scale up the response plan, e.g., distribute bait (iron phosphate) widely, establish community “snail bounty” programs for collection, and set up quarantine checkpoints between islands (to stop spread to the Grenadines). For tree frogs, focus on known hotspots (like around cargo ports, since they often hitchhike) and involve the public in reporting sightings.

	Aquatic invasives (Halophila seagrass, Xeniidae soft corals): Work with the Fisheries and dive community to monitor spread and test control methods (perhaps manual removal trials, shading, or in the case of soft corals, possibly chemical or biological controls if safe). This might require research partnerships (with universities or other countries that have dealt with these invasives). Ensure new MPAs account for these invasives in their management. Agricultural pests (fruit fly, Banana diseases): PPQU should intensify surveillance (trapping networks, field inspections) and rapid response plans. Invest in improved lab diagnostics so that plant disease outbreaks can be quickly identified and contained. Collaborate with farmers via extension services – for instance, train farmers to recognize and report pests early, and to adopt on-farm biosecurity (like cleaning tools, not moving infected plant material).
5. Community Engagement and Public Awareness	Invasive species control requires broad support. It's noted that community fatigue or resistance is a risk: volunteers may stop trapping, farmers revert to cheap toxic baits, divers tire of derbies, or public opposition to certain measures (like herbicide use on invasive weeds) can arise. To counter this, run continuous awareness campaigns highlighting why invasives threaten livelihoods and biodiversity. Recognize and reward community participants (stipends, public recognition). For example, the plan to have volunteer beachhead wardens for turtles (National Target 11) can be mirrored here with "invasive wardens" in communities, given modest compensation or support. Also, ensure use of safe and community-approved methods: if herbicide use on invasive plants faces pushback, consult with communities for alternative methods or clearly communicate safety. Integrate invasive species education into school curricula and farmer field schools, building a culture of vigilance. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility and providing modest incentives, the chances of sustained community involvement will improve.
6. Improve Emergency Response and Climate Resilience	Recognize that extreme weather events can worsen invasive spread (e.g., storms dispersing lionfish larvae or snail eggs). Incorporate IAS response into the national disaster response framework. For instance, after a hurricane, mobilize teams to check for new invasive outbreaks (like blown-in plant pests or marine invasives spread to new sites) and allocate emergency funds to contain them. Climate-proofing also means strengthening ecosystems to resist invasives (healthy native ecosystems are less invasible). So, link with restoration (National Target 9), e.g., restore degraded sites to prevent colonization by invasives like lemon grass, which gains edge after drought when native vegetation is weakened.

Impact: With these actions, by 2030 SVG should see measurable containment or reduction of invasive populations (e.g., a 30–50% reduction in densities of key IAS as targeted), and a significantly lower rate of new invasions (target is cutting the rate of new IAS establishment to 0.2 per year from ~0.5). Achieving this will demonstrate a highly coordinated policy response from border security to on-ground eradication exemplifying improved institutional coherence among agriculture, environment, and customs authorities.

National Target 7: Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste)

National Target 7 – Pollution Reduction (Agrochemicals and Waste): By 2030, reduce nutrient, chemical and plastic pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems by 50%

Institutional context: Pollution management involves the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment (MoHWE), the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) for wastewater and solid waste, the Ministry of Agriculture (for nutrient runoff and pesticide use), the Fisheries and Forestry, and NPRBA (since litter and coastal water quality affect coastal ecosystems, fisheries and tourism).

Municipal bodies may also play roles (e.g., managing flood-related runoff). Currently, multiple bodies (solid waste, water, agriculture, transport, health, etc.) span at least four ministries. Institutional gaps include fragmented responsibilities (no single entity coordinating water quality and pollution control), weak enforcement of existing regulations like the plastics ban, insufficient monitoring of water quality, and lack of incentives for farmers to adopt nutrient-smart practices. The need for inter-agency coordination is high, as pointed out by the fragmentation across eight implementing bodies risk.

Priority Actions for Target 7

Action	Explanation
1. Establish a Water and Pollution Control Coordination Mechanism	Create a multi-agency Pollution Reduction Task Force or Committee that brings together the CWSA (for water/wastewater), Environmental Health Division, Agriculture (extension and Soil & Water Conservation Unit), Fisheries, Forestry, and NPRBA. This group will coordinate the implementation of pollution reduction initiatives, ensuring data and effort sharing among the different agencies involved. It should develop an integrated National Water Quality Improvement Plan covering rivers, coastal waters, and solid waste leakage, aligning the efforts of each agency. Regular meetings will prevent the drift in procurement, data sharing and reporting noted as a risk if coordination is weak. The group can report to the higher NBSAP Steering Committee to maintain accountability.
2. Strengthen and Enforce Pollution Control Regulations	Fully enforce the Disposable Plastics Regulations 2019 and EPS foam ban 2017, and extend these regulations to cover additional high leakage items (plastic cutlery, straws, small PET bottles, sachets, etc.). As planned, update the law or issue new regulations by 2028 to include these items and implement a robust enforcement strategy. The Environmental Health Division and Customs must collaborate closely: e.g., training customs to intercept banned imports, and inspectors to police retail outlets. Given that the 2019 regulations are only lightly policed and expansion will raise inspection loads five-fold, increase the number of inspectors (hire and train at least 5–10 more environmental health officers or auxiliary inspectors) and equip them (vehicles for site checks, possibly drones to monitor illegal dumping). Additionally, implement the planned deposit-refund or producer responsibility schemes for beverage containers and other plastics to provide economic incentives for collection and recycling. On the agricultural side, enforce existing pesticide regulations: ensure banned or highly toxic chemicals are not in use and that fertilizers aren't misused (maybe require larger farms to have nutrient management plans). If needed, formulate new standards or guidelines for nutrient application near waterways. Lead Agency: Environmental Health Division, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment (MoHWE). Key Partners: Solid Waste Management Unit, Customs Department, Chamber of Commerce, SVG Hotel & Tourism Association.

3. Promote Sustainable Farming to Curb Nutrient Runoff	Work with the Ministry of Agriculture to increase adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and nutrient-smart farming. For instance, roll out the fertilizer advisory app mentioned in NBSAP activities, set up demonstration plots for using organic fertilizers or precision application, and subsidize or facilitate access to less harmful inputs. The risk noted is that small farmers may stick to blanket NPK⁵³ fertilizers and cheap herbicides if new measures seem costly or complex. To overcome this, provide incentives: e.g., fertilizer vouchers that encourage blends based on soil testing, cost-sharing for IPM equipment, or a “Green Farmer” certification with market benefits. Also, possibly mandate buffer strips or fencing along waterways on farms (with support as in National Target 2’s PES scheme paying farmers to maintain riparian buffers). By 2027, aim to have a substantial fraction of farmers trained in IPM and participating in nutrient management programs, which will directly reduce agrochemical runoff. Lead Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour. Key Partners: CWSA, Richmond Vale Academy, Farmer coops, FAO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
4. Upgrade Waste Management Infrastructure	Implement key infrastructure projects to capture and treat pollutants: Wastewater and Runoff: Ensure the planned constructed wetlands and retention ponds for treating agricultural or urban runoff are built at critical locations (perhaps around major river mouths or drainage canals) to filter nutrients before they reach the sea. Also improve sewage management: extend sewer networks or use package treatment plants in unserved communities to reduce raw sewage pollution. CWSA must prioritize investments here, potentially with climate adaptation funding (since wetlands also act as flood control). Solid Waste and Plastics: Establish the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for recycling and improve landfill management to prevent leakage of plastics into waterways. Expand community recycling collection points, especially on outer islands, and ensure regular removal to the MRF. Install debris traps or booms at river mouths and harbor areas to catch floating trash and sargassum, coupled with routine cleanup. These infrastructure moves need maintenance funding. The risk is identified that after capital grants, there’s no guaranteed revenue stream for 10–15 years of O&M for things like wetlands, booms, and the MRF. Therefore, commit part of CWSA’s budget or create a maintenance fund (possibly funded by a small waste management fee or tourism eco-levy) to cover ongoing operation of these facilities. Build these recurrent costs into multi-year budgets now to avoid future neglect.
5. Monitoring and Data Driven Management	Baseline data for water quality and plastics is to be established. By 2027, execute the planned baseline studies for nutrient levels in key rivers and coastal areas, and for shoreline plastic densities. Assign responsibility for regular monitoring: perhaps the Environmental Health Division for water quality (conducting quarterly sampling at river mouths and near reefs), NPRBA, and the CWSA or NGOs for beach litter surveys. Use the indicators listed (nutrient concentrations, coastal eutrophication index, pesticide toxicity indices, plastic counts) to track progress annually.

⁵³ Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P₂O₅ expressed as P), and K (potash, K₂O)

	Share data among agencies via the Pollution Reduction Task Force or Committee, and publish results to maintain public and political pressure for pollution control. Data transparency can also spur community action (e.g., if a certain river is consistently polluted, local groups might step in for cleanup). Additionally, link monitoring to enforcement: e.g., if a hotspot of nutrient pollution is found, trace it upstream to a source (farm, piggery, etc.) and have the task force ensure remedial action there.
6. Climate Resilience in Pollution Management	Recognize that hurricanes, heavy rain, and volcanic ash can cause pollution spikes by overwhelming systems and scattering debris. Include contingencies in waste management planning: e.g., have protocols to rapidly deploy extra booms and cleanup crews after storms, to manage sudden surges of sediment or garbage. Ensure that infrastructure like retention ponds are designed with enough capacity for extreme weather. Also integrate pollution control into climate adaptation projects: for instance, any post-disaster reconstruction should rebuild better waste systems. The task force should coordinate with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) so that after a disaster, environmental issues like pollution are addressed alongside humanitarian needs.

Impact: By implementing these actions, SVG aims to cut fertilizer runoff, pesticide residues, and plastic leakage in half by 2030 – resulting in visibly cleaner rivers and beaches, healthier coral reefs (less algal overgrowth), and improved public health. Achieving this will exemplify policy coherence through inter-ministerial action: agriculture working with environment on fertilizers, health working with tourism on waste, etc. Success will also support the country’s image as a pristine ecotourism destination, reinforcing why these efforts matter beyond just hitting numeric targets.

National Target 8: Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use

National Target 8 – Sustainable Fisheries & Wildlife Use: By 2030, bring all wild harvesting (fisheries, hunting) to sustainable levels and eliminate illegal exploitation

Institutional context: The Fisheries Division is primary for marine fisheries management, while the Forestry Department oversees terrestrial hunting. Enforcement agencies including the Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, Customs (for illegal export/import of wildlife or fish), and the Police are crucial to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) activities. The Attorney General’s Chambers will be involved in developing and applying legal frameworks (like fisheries regulations and licensing). Local fisherfolk organizations and community groups are key stakeholders, as are local hunters. There are clear linkages with National Target 3 (for endangered species protection) and with international obligations (e.g., Port State Measures for IUU fishing (PSMA)).

Current gaps: outdated or pending laws (a new Fisheries Act is in progress), insufficient monitoring (no full vessel monitoring system yet, limited observer coverage), weak prosecution of illegal fishing/hunting cases, and some resistance from resource users to new restrictions. Multi-agency data integration is also an issue, as mentioned – fisheries, forestry, coast guard, and police often run separate enforcement systems.

Priority Actions for Target 8

Action	Explanation
1. Enact and Operationalize the new Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Bill	The new comprehensive Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Bill (currently before Parliament) must be passed as soon as possible, ideally by 2025. This law will provide updated legal backing for sustainable fisheries (licensing, catch limits, Marine Stewardship measures, etc.). Once passed, focus on drafting and adopting the crucial subsidiary regulations under the Act: licensing rules and vessel registry, catch

	limits/TAC and harvest control rules, regulations for the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and observers, and Port State Measures (PSMA) to combat IUU fishing. Each of these should be in force by 2026. Develop these regulations in consultation with fisherfolk to ensure practicality. Alongside regulations, formally establish the Fisheries Management Advisory Council (FMAC) as mandated: this multi-stakeholder body (with fishers, government, scientists) will advise on quotas and management plans. It institutionalizes joint decision-making and helps gain fishers' buy-in for sustainable measures. Lead Agency: Fisheries Division. Key partners: Attorney-General's Chambers, Customs Department, Fishing cooperative and companies, SVG Environment Fund.
2. Implement Comprehensive Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Fisheries	Scale up MCS capacity to eliminate illegal fishing: Vessel Monitoring System (VMS): As planned, fit all commercial fishing vessels >9m with tamper-proof VMS/AIS devices and integrate their signals with a national surveillance center. By 2028, 100% of these vessels should report location data in real-time (target indicator is to have all fish stocks harvested sustainably, which implies effective monitoring). The Fisheries Division should work with Coast Guard to monitor this feed. Port State Measures: Train port inspectors, Customs officers, and Coast Guard in implementing the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (to which SVG is presumably party). Connect Kingstown Port to the global PSMA Information Exchange System to share info on illegal vessels. Also establish evidence handling protocols (cold storage for seized fish, etc.) so that cases can be successfully prosecuted. Patrol Assets: Procure and deploy the recommended patrol vessel (10–12m RIB) for fisheries enforcement, and ensure joint operations with the Coast Guard. Increase at-sea patrol frequency especially in known poaching hotspots or MPAs. Community Co-surveillance: Launch the "Community Sea Watchers" program where coastal communities and fisherfolk act as the "eyes" on the water, reporting suspicious activities via a hotline (with rewards for tips leading to enforcement action). This leverages local knowledge and builds trust. Train volunteer sea observers and equip them modestly (binoculars, communication). Enforcement and Prosecution: Strengthen the legal pursuit of offenders. For domestic cases, ensure illegal fishing (like using banned nets or fishing in marine reserves) carries meaningful penalties (fines, gear confiscation, possible license suspension). For foreign IUU vessels, utilize PSMA to detain and sanction them. Coordinate with the judicial system to sensitize them that fisheries violations should be handled seriously (not just minor fines). A specialized environment/fisheries prosecutor or task force could improve conviction rates.
3. Manage Harvests with Science-Based Quotas and Plans	With the FMAC in place, develop by 2028 at least one National Fisheries Management Plan covering major fisheries (e.g., for conch, lobster, reef fish, pelagics). Set sustainable catch limits or effort controls based on stock assessments. Use the best available data (including traditional knowledge from fishers). Implement adaptive management: e.g., seasonal closures or gear restrictions when needed. Also integrate ecosystem-based approaches (protecting nursery habitats,

	respecting marine reserves as sources for replenishment with links to National Target 5). By 2030, all commercial fisheries should be under some form of management plan aligned with sustainable yields. For wildlife hunting on land, ensure those are similarly regulated with quotas or seasons scientifically determined, and potentially halt hunting on any species that cannot sustain it. Essentially, legal harvesting should only occur where populations are healthy, which links to achieving 100% of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. Lead Agency: Fisheries Division (fisheries) and Forestry Department (wildlife hunting) Key partners: Attorney General's Chambers, Customs Department, Police, Fishing cooperative and companies, hunters, SVG Environment Fund.
4. Eliminate Illegal Hunting and Wildlife Trade	In synergy with National Target 3, ensure that any illegal wildlife exploitation is curbed. If traditional hunting (e.g. of iguanas, birds) persists illegally, strengthen community outreach and enforcement to stop it. Provide alternatives or permit systems for sustainable use where appropriate (for example, if there is local demand for certain game that can be sustained, consider a regulated hunting season; if not, enforce a ban). Work with communities and use the Wildlife Licensing provisions (the risk noted includes ensuring Wildlife Licensing regulations come through with the Fisheries regs). Publicize anti-poaching successes to deter others.
5. Engage Stakeholders and Address Livelihood Concerns	Fishers and hunters must be partners in this shift to sustainability, not adversaries. The plan notes possible push-back and livelihood fears: fishers resisting observers or new fees, hunters mistrusting new permit systems. To mitigate this: Stakeholder consultations and inclusion: Involve fisherfolk cooperatives in designing regulations (e.g. co-create the rules for gear restrictions or closed areas). Ensure FMAC has strong fisher representation so they have a real say. For terrestrial wildlife, engage community leaders in conservation planning. Education & Awareness: Educate fishers on the long-term benefits of sustainable practices (better catches over time) and train them in new tech (like using electronic logbooks or VMS equipment). For hunters or communities, explain the ecological role of protected species. Incentives: Provide support to comply: e.g., subsidize the cost of VMS devices or give free smartphones for e-logbooks; offer alternative livelihood training (such as helping small-scale fishers diversify into tourism or aquaculture if their fishing needs to reduce). For any new fees (like licenses), ensure transparency in how that money benefits the industry (e.g. going into infrastructure or services for fishers). Phase-in measures: Where possible, phase in restrictions to allow adjustment. For instance, if certain gear is to be banned, give fishers time and maybe help in acquiring alternative gear. By taking these steps, the trust and cooperation of resource users will increase, reducing non-compliance.
6. Integrate Enforcement Data and Inter-Agency Collaboration	As highlighted, currently Fisheries, Forestry, Customs, Coast Guard, Police run parallel systems and data don't sync; evidence chain breaks in court. Solve this by creating a central enforcement database where all agencies log incidents of illegal fishing/hunting. Perhaps housed at the Fisheries Division or Forestry Department, this system would track offenses, repeat offenders, and case outcomes.

	Conduct joint operations: e.g., a multi-agency IUU Task Force meeting monthly to review intelligence and coordinate actions (similar to how narcotics or customs task forces operate). This ensures everyone is on the same page and evidence is handled properly from field to court. The Attorney General's Chambers can facilitate training on evidence collection, so chain-of-custody is maintained (especially important for successful prosecutions of cases involving multiple agencies).
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Impact: By executing these actions, SVG should see a sharp decline in illegal fishing and hunting incidents (targeting a 70% decrease in IUU cases by 2030), and improvement in stock status for key fisheries (moving towards 100% sustainably fished stocks). This target's success hinges on strong inter-ministerial cooperation – fisheries, law enforcement, justice, community development – all aligning their efforts. In doing so, SVG will safeguard its marine and terrestrial resources while supporting the livelihoods that depend on them for the long run.

National Target 9: Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience

National Target 9 – Habitat Restoration and Climate Resilience: By 2030, restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems nationwide (with key focus on rainforest, mangroves, littoral woodlands, beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) prioritizing climate-vulnerable habitats.

Institutional context: The Forestry Department will lead terrestrial ecosystem restoration (rainforests, woodlands), the Fisheries Division – marine restoration (coral reefs, seagrass) and NPRBA – beach/dune restoration with climate adaptation aspects coordinated by the Sustainable Development Unit. NGOs and academic institutions (e.g., Richmond Vale Academy, which has been active in local tree planting and climate adaptation projects) are key partners, as are community groups in affected areas. This target is broad and cross-cutting, requiring input from multiple sectors: agriculture (to retire or restore degraded farmlands), coastal zone management (beaches, mangroves), and even infrastructure (since restoration can be nature-based solutions for infrastructure protection).

Gaps and challenges: financing and maintaining restoration projects long-term (nurseries, coral nurseries, etc.), technical capacity (SVG may lack enough local experts in reef restoration or native plant propagation), potential land-use conflicts (restoration areas might conflict with land development or goat grazing), and monitoring difficulties to verify restoration success. The need for coordination is high because nine different habitat types are targeted, each with possibly different responsible entities and data requirements.

Priority Actions for Target 9

Action	Explanation
1. Create a National Restoration Strategy and Task Force	By 2026, formulate a simple National Ecosystem Restoration Strategy that identifies priority sites and quantifies the 30% restoration goal for each ecosystem. For example: 600 ha of rainforest (as in NBSAP), 150 ha elfin woodland, 300 ha dry forest, 15 ha mangroves, etc., which align with the target values listed. A cross-agency Restoration Task Force (Forestry, Fisheries, NPRBA, SDU, NGOs like Richmond Vale) should steer this strategy's implementation, ensuring whole-of-government support. This group will coordinate resources, technical expertise, and policy support (like aligning with the NESDP or climate adaptation plans). It also will address any land-use conflicts, e.g., negotiating with landowners or goat herders in restoration zones. The risk of stakeholder non-compliance, like goats breach dry-scrub fences, farmers fell riparian cuttings, indicates the need for such coordination and negotiation.
2. Secure Funding and Maintenance for Restoration Projects	Restoration often receives initial funds but struggles with upkeep. The plan warns of funding gaps after the capital phase for nurseries, mooring fields, fog fences, sensors, PES stipends, etc. To tackle this, integrate restoration financing into the Biodiversity Finance Plan (National Target 12): earmark a portion of the US\$70M target

	specifically for restoration initiatives. Establish or strengthen revenue streams: e.g., an eco-tourism levy and tax could fund coral reef restoration (divers might pay a fee that goes to reef nurseries), or water tariffs fund riverbank tree planting (as PES). Government should also allocate budget for maintenance of restoration infrastructure (like replacing broken sensors or maintaining nurseries). For instance, commit to funding the operation of the high-altitude fog fences installed for elfin woodland recovery for at least 10 years. Engage international climate funds since restoration provides adaptation benefits: the GCF and Adaptation Fund are potential sources (as acknowledged in the plan). Essentially, make restoration a sustained program rather than a one-off project.
3. Build Technical Capacity for Restoration	Address the technical capacity bottlenecks identified: limited local divers, drone pilots, nursery technicians for restoration. Initiate training programs: for example, certify at least 10–15 local divers in coral gardening and reef restoration techniques (perhaps through exchanges with countries like Jamaica or organizations like The Nature Conservancy), train community members in mangrove replanting and beach dune stabilization, and expand the forestry nursery staff and knowledge (propagating native tree species, including rare ones). The planned Community Conservation Leadership Academy (National Target 14) can play a role by producing local restoration leaders. Also, leverage regional expertise: collaborate with OECS initiatives or UWI researchers on restoration science. If needed, bring in international experts to train locals at the project outset with the goal of handing over responsibility. By 2028, aim to have a dedicated cadre of restoration practitioners across all key ecosystems in SVG.
4. Implement Priority Restoration Projects	Launch or upscale restoration in each key ecosystem, ensuring responsible agency oversight and community involvement: Rainforests and Elfin Woodlands: Continue the “Cloud-to-Coast” ridge restoration in areas like Soufrière and Grand Bonhomme as outlined: invasive plant removal and assisted natural regeneration on 600 ha rainforest + 150 ha elfin woodlands. Install and maintain innovative measures like fog-harvesting fences to support moisture for elfin forests. Engage local communities (60 trainees as planned) in planting and maintenance, providing jobs and stewardship. Dry Scrub and Littoral Woodlands: Restore 300 ha dry forest and 30 ha coastal woodland on islands (Bequia, Mustique, Union etc.) using goat exclusion fencing and planting of native drought-resilient species (cacti, gumbo-limbo trees, etc.). The Tobago Cays Marine Park and local stakeholders (island estates, tourism operators) should be involved. Demonstrate techniques like biochar soil amendment to help these dry areas retain water. Work with the Ministry of Agriculture to control goat populations in those areas, offering alternatives to goat farmers if needed. Mangroves and Coastal Areas: Replant mangroves in all suitable degraded sites (especially where they act as storm buffers near communities). Also restore beach dunes and littoral vegetation on key beaches: perhaps coupling with National Target 11 (sand mining ban) so that once mining stops, dunes are replanted with native grasses and sea grapes, etc. Involve local youth groups or hotels in beach planting efforts. Aim for at least 15 ha of mangroves restored (as per target values) and key beaches stabilized by 2030. Coral Reefs and Seagrass: Establish coral nurseries (in-water or land-based) for climate-resilient coral species, outplant thousands of coral fragments onto degraded

	reefs (like those impacted by bleaching or storms). Also, if feasible, restore seagrass meadows by transplanting shoots, especially in areas like Tobago Cays or others where seagrass has been lost. The Fisheries Division should partner with NGOs or regional experts on this, as it's specialized. Set quantitative goals (e.g., 1,000+ corals outplanted, 1 ha of reef area actively restored). Use the presence of new MPAs (National Target 5) as sites to concentrate restoration so they are protected afterward. Freshwater ecosystems: Rehabilitate riverbanks and wetland areas – remove invasive weeds, replant native riparian trees along rivers (connected to the PES scheme in National Target 2, Activity 9), and dredge or clean clogged waterways to restore flow (which might double as flood mitigation). Also consider restoring any upland wetlands or springs that have degraded (e.g., due to ash from La Soufrière).
5. Integrate Restoration with Climate Adaptation Plans	Emphasize the climate resilience aspect of restoration to garner broader support. For example, highlight that restoring coral reefs and mangroves will help protect shorelines from storm surge, and reforestation reduces landslide and flood risk. Coordinate with the National Technical Advisory Climate Change Committee (NTACCC) so that ecosystem-based adaptation is a prominent component. This can also unlock climate funding and ensure that, say, post-volcano or post-hurricane recovery efforts invest in ecosystem restoration (build-back-better principle).
6. Community Co-management and Benefit Sharing	To avoid stakeholder non-compliance & land-use conflicts, involve communities at all stages. If fishermen worry about no-anchor zones for reef regrowth, involve them in placing mooring buoys and they will benefit from the fishery improvements. If farmers see riparian replanting as lost land, give them incentives (PES payments or fruit trees that still give them yield). If goat farmers are affected by woodland restoration fences, perhaps provide improved pasture elsewhere or feed. In essence, ensure restoration projects improve local livelihoods: jobs in planting, potentially ecotourism opportunities (restored sites becoming attractions), or long-term ecosystem services (clean water, etc.). Establish local restoration committees to co-manage sites and monitor for issues like vandalism or grazing intrusion.
7. Monitoring and Verification of Restoration Outcomes	Develop a robust M&E plan to track the 30% restoration goal. This is challenging (how to measure “30% of degraded ecosystems recovered”), but one approach is using indicators like area under active restoration, survival rates of plantings, or remote-sensing of vegetative cover increase. The NBSAP highlights the need for consistent, compatible data streams and difficulties proving the 30% area recovered. Address this by setting up a restoration database that logs every project's area and status. Employ new tech like drones to periodically photograph sites, and citizen science (communities reporting growth). Possibly use ecological health metrics (for reefs, measure coral cover; for forests, canopy cover or biodiversity returning). By 2030, document and report the hectares restored vs. baseline, aiming to demonstrate that at least 30% of identified degraded areas have improved ecological function. Engaging an academic partner to independently assess outcomes can also validate progress.

Impact: If these actions are executed with strong inter-agency collaboration and community support, SVG will make major strides in reversing ecosystem degradation. Not only will biodiversity benefit (with more habitat for species), but communities will gain from enhanced ecosystem services (water, protection from disasters, etc.). Achieving Target 9 will showcase SVG's commitment to climate resilience through nature-based solutions, and serve as a unifying initiative that involves virtually every part of government and society in healing the environment.

National Target 10: Sustainable Tourism

National Target 10 – Sustainable Tourism: By 2026, implement national eco-friendly tourism standards and by 2030 ensure all major tourism sites operate within ecological carrying capacity

Institutional context: The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture is the lead for this target, working through the SVG Tourism Authority and Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning on standards and site management. Environment-related agencies (NPRBA for parks/beaches, Forestry for trail sites like La Soufrière, Fisheries for attractive coral reefs) must coordinate closely with the Ministry of Tourism.

Private sector stakeholders include the Hotel & Tourism Association, tour operators, cruise operators, and community tourism groups. Currently, there is no official national ecotourism standard, though global programs like Green Key and Blue Flag are recognized. Carrying capacity studies for sites are not routinely done, and popular sites (like Tobago Cays, La Soufrière trail, etc.) can get overcrowded or degraded. Issues include potential resistance from industry to strict standards or visitor limits (as it might limit profits), and data gaps on what the carrying capacities are. The NBSAP activities propose developing standards and doing studies for high-pressure sites.

Key institutional challenges: ensuring the Ministry of Tourism and conservation authorities work hand-in-hand, and integrating the standards into the legal framework (so they are not just voluntary).

Priority Actions for Target 10

Action	Explanation
1. Establish and Enforce National Eco-Tourism Standards	By 2026, develop a National Sustainable Tourism Standard program (National Target 2), drawing on internationally recognized criteria (Green Key for accommodations/tours and Blue Flag for beaches/marinas). The process should include a gap analysis against global standards and OECS Sustainable Tourism Policy, and wide consultation with industry. Once finalized, formally adopt the standards via a legal instrument, e.g., issue regulations or an order under the Tourism Authority Act 2007 to make these standards a requirement for tourism businesses (or at least to create an official certification program). The plan notes legislation might be needed (a legal notice under Tourism Act). Aim to have at least 50 hotels/guesthouses, 20 tour operators, and key beaches certified by 2030 (as the NBSAP suggests). Provide auditor training for local inspectors (Ministry staff, independent consultants, community members) to audit and certify sites. Government can kick-start uptake by subsidizing first-year certification costs (the plan proposes covering 70% of the first audit fee for initial participants). After that, make it clear that eco-certification will be expected for operation (if not mandatory, then strongly incentivized through marketing and maybe tied to licensing). Lead Agency: Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture Key Partners: SVG Tourism Authority; NPRBA; SVG Hotel & Tourism Association; Green Key International Eco-label for Hotels, Hostels, Campsites, Restaurants, Attractions and Other Tourism Facilities; Blue Flag Programme: International Eco-label Award for Beaches, Marinas and Sustainable Tourism Boats
2. Integrate Carrying Capacity Assessment into Site Management	Conduct carrying capacity studies for at least 10 high-traffic tourism sites by 2027 (as planned, sites like Tobago Cays, Dark View Falls, La Soufrière trail, Villa Beach, etc.). These studies should evaluate environmental indicators (trail erosion, reef health, wildlife disturbance), visitor flow and experience, and local community impact. From the studies, derive concrete management measures: e.g., maximum number of visitors per day (or per time slot), required guide-to-visitor ratios, infrastructure needs (boardwalks, viewing platforms to protect nature), etc.

	Then implement these measures via site-specific management plans. For example, establish a reservation or quota system for sites like Tobago Cays or the volcano trail to prevent overcrowding (the plan mentions setting daily limits & booking rules and even a “traffic-light” dashboard showing site status). Use the Tourism Authority’s booking engine and on-site signage to enforce these limits. At sensitive sites, consider mandatory guided tours (to control behavior) and time limits for visits. Working with communities and tour operators is crucial so they understand and support these limits for long-term sustainability.
3. Enhance Inter-Agency Coordination for Site Management	Many tourism sites are natural areas (waterfalls, reefs, trails) under the purview of environmental agencies. Formalize coordination between the Ministry of Tourism and NPRBA, Forestry Department, and Fisheries Division for co-management of these sites. Perhaps develop MoUs or joint management committees for each major site where tourism and conservation intersect (like Tobago Cays Marine Park Board). This ensures that ecological limits set by conservationists are respected in tourism promotion, and vice versa, tourism needs (safety, amenities) are addressed without harming nature. The overall tourism product will thus be managed coherently with conservation objectives.
4. Improve Infrastructure and Visitor Management Systems	Invest in infrastructure that supports sustainable tourism at sites. For example: install moorings in marine parks so boats don’t anchor on reefs (done in some places but needs maintenance and expansion: connect with National Target 9 restoration too); build boardwalks or designated trails to reduce trampling in sensitive areas; set up proper waste facilities at sites to achieve zero litter; and use technology like visitor counting sensors to monitor usage in real-time (the plan suggests eco-counters and buoy sensors to track usage and impacts). Also implement ticketing or fee systems (if not already) to control entry and generate revenue for site upkeep: digital ticketing can help manage numbers and collect data. For cruise tourism, coordinate with cruise lines to stagger arrivals or limit passengers allowed to disembark for eco-tours at once. If necessary, enforce rules such as mandatory advanced booking for popular tours. All these need to be integrated into daily operations by Tourism Authorities and site managers.
5. Mitigate Industry Pushback and Economic Impacts	Recognize that imposing capacity limits or stricter standards might initially face industry resistance, e.g. taxi associations or vendors worried about income loss on days with lower tourist caps, or cruise lines opposed to limits. Address this by engaging stakeholders early: show them data from carrying capacity studies that preserving the quality of the site (and avoiding overuse) will keep tourists coming in the long run and possibly even allow charging higher fees. Emphasize that overcrowding can kill the goose that lays the golden egg (e.g. coral reefs could degrade with too many tourists, ruining future tourism). Provide alternatives: for example, if one site is limited, help develop additional attractions or tours so taxi drivers or vendors can still find business elsewhere (spreading tourism benefits). Government might also consider compensation or adjustment periods, e.g., gradually reducing maximal number visitors rather than a sudden cut, to allow business model changes. For standards, highlight marketing benefits: certified eco-friendly businesses could attract more discerning travelers and be featured in promotions (the plan to put Green Key/Blue Flag icons in the national booking engine and Google Travel is exactly to incentivize compliance). Also, possibly tie compliance to certain advantages, like priority in government event hosting or inclusion in official tourist routes.

6. Legislate the Carrying Capacity Rule	If needed, institutionalize carrying capacity enforcement. The NBSAP risk for tourism notes standards legislation could stall or be watered down. To guard against that, push through any required amendments to give legal weight to standards (as mentioned above). Additionally, consider a policy requiring any new tourism development or expansion to include a carrying capacity assessment and mitigation plan. For existing sites, perhaps a government policy or Cabinet conclusion can mandate that by 2030 all major sites must comply with assessed capacity limits, giving teeth to the commitment.
7. Collect Data and Monitor Continuously	Establish a Sustainable Tourism Dashboard to compile key indicators: percent of operators certified (target $\geq 80\%$ by 2030), percent of sites with visitation within set limits (target 100% by 2030), visitor satisfaction, and ecological indicators (e.g., no increase in waste or habitat damage). The NBSAP even suggests real-time traffic-light dashboards for site crowding. Such transparency can encourage compliance (tourists may avoid “red” crowded times, etc.). Also, track economic outcomes (to reassure that sustainability isn’t hurting overall tourism revenue). Publish annual reports on sustainable tourism performance as part of NBSAP monitoring, to keep all ministries and stakeholders informed and accountable.

Impact: By implementing these measures, SVG will become a regional leader in eco-tourism, where growth in visitor numbers is balanced with environmental limits. This target exemplifies integrating biodiversity into a key economic sector (tourism), reinforcing Target 2 and demonstrating practical whole-of-government action: tourism authorities, environmental regulators, and the private sector collaborating on a common agenda. Ultimately, meeting Target 10 will protect the natural attractions that drive SVG’s tourism, ensuring long-term viability of both the industry and the ecosystems.

National Target 11: Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion

National Target 11 – Sand Mining and Coastal Erosion: By 2027, stop illegal sand mining in all ecologically sensitive and adaptation value areas, including sea turtle nesting sites

Institutional context: Historically, sand mining (beach sand removal) has been an issue in SVG, often for construction needs. Key institutions include the Ministry of Transport, Works, and Lands (which houses the Physical Planning Unit and perhaps the agency that issues mining licenses); the SVG Roads, Buildings and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) which might oversee aggregate resources; the NPRBA and Forestry (who manage beaches and coastal habitats, including turtle nesting areas), and law enforcement (Police Coastal Unit, Coast Guard) for enforcement. The Attorney General’s Chambers will be needed for the legal ban. Additionally, the National Technical Advisory Climate Change Committee (NTACCC) may have interest because sand mining exacerbates coastal erosion and climate vulnerability.

Current status: A gazette notice exists identifying areas where sand mining is prohibited or restricted, but enforcement has been weak. There’s a plan to license an inland sand quarry and a recycled aggregates (RCA) plant as alternatives to beach sand supply.

Institutional gaps: lack of a comprehensive ban regulation with strong penalties, insufficient surveillance (especially at night, when illegal mining often happens), and delayed development of alternative material sources. Community involvement is also key, as some local community members or trucking businesses have been involved in sand mining historically.

Priority Actions for Target 11

Action	Explanation
1. Legally Establish a Comprehensive Sand Mining Ban	By 2026, formalize the “no-go” coastal buffer order into law. This should update and strengthen the existing Gazette Notice by clearly delineating protected coastal zones (e.g., 50–100 m landward and 300 m seaward of sensitive shorelines) where all sand mining is prohibited. Include in the regulation a schedule of specific beaches by name (covering all known turtle nesting beaches, mangroves, and dunes as identified) and possibly all beaches generally. Incorporate strict penalties: as proposed, fines of EC\$10,000 for a first offence and \$50,000 for second, plus seizure of vehicles/equipment used. Also grant warrant-free inspection powers to designated officers (Police, NPRBA rangers, Forestry wildlife officers for turtle beaches) so they can act swiftly on beaches. Push this regulation through Cabinet and have it gazetted by 2026 to meet the 2027 deadline for elimination of illegal mining. Broadly communicate the new rules to the public and construction sector. Legal Agency: SVG Roads, Buildings and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) and NPRBA. Key Partners: Attorney-General’s Chambers, Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning, Forestry Department (Wildlife & Coastal Unit), Royal SVG Police Force – Coastal & Traffic Units, SVG Coast Guard.
2. Activate Alternative Sand Supply Solutions	One underlying reason for illegal mining is the demand for sand. Accelerate the licensing and operationalization of alternative quarries and Recycled Concrete Aggregate (RCA) plant, which is intended to provide legal alternatives. The risk is noted: delay in licensing the quarry & RCA plant: EIA objections, access-road dispute, or equipment delays. To address this, treat this project as a national priority: expedite any remaining environmental impact assessments by engaging stakeholders (address EIA concerns by planning mitigation at the quarry), resolve land access issues (perhaps via government acquiring or right-of-way negotiations for the road), and assist the investor or public works with procurement. Ideally, by 2027 have this facilities producing construction aggregates so that contractors have no excuse to use beach sand. Additionally, promote use of crushed stone or imported sand if needed in the interim. Government might consider a subsidy or price control to ensure the alternative sand is affordable, undercutting the black market.
3. Strengthen Enforcement via a Multi-Agency Task Force	Form a dedicated Beach Mining Enforcement Task Force consisting of NPRBA officers, Forestry staff, the Police, and Coast Guards. Equip them with the necessary gear for surveillance: the plan suggests acquiring 4 drones with night-vision, 6 night-vision cameras, 2 portable weigh-pads for trucks. Train 24 officers (likely a combination from different units) for joint dusk-to-dawn patrols at known hotspots like Grande Sable, Colonarie, Brighton, and Union Island beaches. Conduct regular coordinated operations: for example, surprise night patrols with checkpoints using weigh-pads to catch sand-laden trucks on routes from beaches. The presence of drones will help catch activity in remote or extensive beaches. Ensure any violators are swiftly prosecuted to set examples.

	The clear overlap of mandates necessitates this joint approach: each entity alone has limited capacity, but together they can cover land and sea (Coast Guard can intercept boats if sand is moved by sea, police handle trucks on roads, NPRBA/Forestry rangers patrol the beaches themselves).
4. Community Surveillance and Incentives	Engage local communities through a “Sand-Watch” program as planned. Contract about 40 community beach wardens, perhaps residents near key beaches, including members of turtle monitoring groups – with a modest stipend (e.g., EC \$500 per month) to keep an eye on beaches and report any mining activity. Provide them a hotline or WhatsApp group direct to the task force and guarantee rapid response (the plan suggests a 60-minute response for verified tips, with a US\$50 reward per tip). This not only increases surveillance coverage but also gives locals a stake in protecting their beach. Conduct public education in these communities about how sand mining damages their coastline and increases erosion risk (losing beaches, which also hurts tourism and fishing). Over time, this can shift community norms to where illegal mining is socially condemned, not abetted.
5. Coastal Rehabilitation and Protection Measures	In tandem with stopping sand removal, implement coastal protection projects to address existing erosion. Work with landowners on setback agreements: as in the plan to negotiate with beachfront property owners to set back seawalls by 30–40 ft and replenish beaches as needed. Provide some compensation or technical help for those who comply (perhaps through climate adaptation grants). Where beaches have been damaged by past mining, undertake restoration (dune rebuilding, planting sea grapes and other stabilizing vegetation – this links to National Target 9). Also deploy “soft” engineering like dune fencing to trap sand and offshore breakwaters or artificial reefs where appropriate to encourage sand accretion (National Target 9). The idea is to demonstrate that government is not just banning sand mining but also helping ensure construction gets materials and coasts are protected through other means.
6. Resilience and Emergency Preparedness	Recognize that climate shocks can spike demand for sand: e.g., a major hurricane might create urgent rebuilding needs, tempting a return to illegal mining if other supply can’t meet demand. Plan for this by having contingencies: maintain a strategic stockpile of construction sand or quickly import sand in post-disaster scenarios so that local supply shortage doesn’t become an excuse. Incorporate this into the national disaster management plan (NEMO could coordinate with Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands & Surveys & Physical Planning to ensure materials supply post-event). The enforcement task force should be on alert especially after disasters, as that’s when desperation might lead to renewed illegal extraction. Emphasize that, even in emergencies, the ban holds, but provide a legal avenue (e.g., government-sanctioned borrow pits inland or expedited import) to fill the gap.

Impact: By carrying out these actions, SVG can effectively eliminate illegal sand mining by 2027-2028. Success will mean no more trucks loading sand on protected beaches and turtle nesting sites being left intact. This target illustrates a case where legislative reform, law enforcement, and economic planning must all align stop the illicit activity, provide legal alternatives, and engage communities. It’s a classic whole-of-government problem requiring coordination between environment, law enforcement, public works, and local governance and the solution set here addresses each facet. Achieving Target 11 will preserve beaches (vital for biodiversity and tourism) and strengthen SVG’s coastal resilience against climate change.

National Target 12: Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies

National Target 12 – Increasing Biodiversity Finance & Reducing Harmful Subsidies: By 2030, mobilize at least US\$70 million in biodiversity financing from national, regional, and international sources, and phase out at least 50% of subsidies that harm biodiversity.

Institutional context: The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology is the linchpin for this target, as it controls budgeting, fiscal policy, and external financing efforts. The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) coordinates the development of the Biodiversity Finance Plan (BioFin) and resource mobilization strategy. Sector agencies (Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, etc.) are involved because they administer subsidies and can integrate biodiversity into their budgets. International partners (GEF, GBFF, Green Climate Fund, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, UNDP BIOFIN) are key for technical and financial support.

Key challenges include: political resistance to cutting certain subsidies (fuel, fertilizer, etc.), the complexity of structuring new financial instruments (bonds, swaps), and limited human capacity to develop and manage multiple funding proposals simultaneously (as flagged in NBSAP). Ensuring policy coherence here means aligning finance and economic decisions with biodiversity goals, a significant shift requiring high-level commitment.

Priority Actions for Target 12

Action	Explanation
1. Enact the Biodiversity Finance & Subsidy Reform Bill	Prepare and pass the comprehensive Biodiversity Finance & Subsidy Reform Bill outlined in the NBSAP activities. This legislation should legally commit the government to the \$70M mobilization trajectory (embedding it in annual budget documentation) and set enforceable rules for phasing out harmful incentives. For example, it can mandate that each year's budget estimates show increasing biodiversity expenditures and decreasing allocations to harmful subsidies. It should authorize the Ministry of Finance to pursue specific finance mechanisms: green/blue bonds issuance, debt-for-nature swaps, adjustments to environment-related levies, and establishment of guarantee facilities for green and blue enterprises. Crucially, include the subsidy cap clause: that any public subsidy identified as biodiversity-negative cannot exceed 50% of its 2024 level by 2029, with ministries required to plan reductions. Also require an annual Biodiversity Finance Report appended to the budget, certified by Audit, to track progress. This Bill may face legislative gridlock or lobbying pressure (ministries nervous about hard targets or sectors against subsidy cuts); to mitigate, undertake strong advocacy: the Ministry of Finance and Sustainable Development Unit should champion it, framing it as fiscally responsible and development-smart. Possibly sequence the reforms so that easier wins happen first (e.g., cut obvious wasteful subsidies) while giving time for harder adjustments. Passing this Bill by 2026 will set the legal framework to drive financial coherence. Lead Agency: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology. Key Partners: Attorney-General's Chambers; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry, and Labour; Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development, and Culture; Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning.
2. Design and Launch Innovative Financing Mechanisms	Work on multiple fronts to reach the \$70M target: Green/Blue Bonds: Structure a sovereign or quasi-sovereign bond where proceeds fund biodiversity/climate projects. However, heed the risk noted: rising global interest rates

	could make a bond costly (SVG's 10-year could price at 9%+, eroding benefits). To address this, seek concessional backing, e.g. partial guarantees from development banks or interest buy-downs from donors to make the bond viable. Alternatively, time the issue for when market conditions improve. Perhaps start with a smaller pilot "blue note" to test waters. Debt-for-Nature Swap: Engage with creditors (especially any willing bilateral like the UK or organizations like The Nature Conservancy) to swap a portion of SVG's external debt for conservation funding. The risk is that if the Taiwan loan or sufficient bondholder participation isn't there, swap volume might be <\$25M. So, start dialogues early with major creditors to gauge interest. Even a smaller swap can contribute, and multiple rounds can accumulate. The Ministry of Finance could hire expert advisors (perhaps via UNDP BIOFIN or others) to negotiate the swap structure. Aim to conclude at least one significant swap by 2028. Trust Funds and Endowments: Launch PA Trust Fund that will be supported by the <i>Island Conservation Levy</i> for all visitors and capitalize the existing SVG Conservation Fund (SVGCF) further, through contributions from the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (when operational) or other donors. Encourage the CBF to allocate more to SVG if certain results are met. Levies and Fees: Adjust existing fees (like tourism eco-levies, water resource fees, yacht mooring fees) to generate new revenue earmarked for biodiversity. Implement the recommended Islands Conservation Levy on tourism (possibly a per-visitor fee, which was hinted in risk about tourism downturn affecting levy). Also apply "polluter pays" principles: e.g., a plastics import fee whose revenue goes to recycling or invasive species fees for cargo. External Grants: Aggressively pursue GEF-8/9, GBFF, GCF, Adaptation Fund, EU and others essentially creating a pipeline of projects. The plan to create a Project Preparation Group (3 technical officers + 1 safeguards/gender specialist inside SDU) and a Climate Finance Unit in Finance (≥3 staff) is crucial. This significantly bolsters capacity to crank out proposals. The risk identified was the SDU's small team being overloaded with 12–15 proposals: by adding staff and possibly outsourcing some proposal writing to consultants, maintain a high success rate. Set targets like submitting 4-6 proposals per year and securing an average \$10M+ per year in approved projects (which would meet the \$70M in 7 years). Private Sector Engagement: Encourage private sector funding such as CSR donations for conservation (e.g., banks sponsoring reforestation, hotels funding marine conservation, some may prefer direct involvement vs taxes). Also explore biodiversity offsets if any large developments occur (ensuring offsets are used to fund NBSAP actions, but carefully governed). Also, implementing a National Parks user fee or expanding the marine park fees can bring in more domestic private funding. Track all sources meticulously so by 2030 it's clear the \$70M target is hit (or hopefully exceeded).
3. Systematically Reduce Harmful Subsidies	Identify and quantify all subsidies and incentives that negatively affect biodiversity: e.g., subsidies on chemical fertilizers, fuel subsidies for fishing or transport that encourage overuse, any concessions for activities that lead to habitat loss, etc. Work with each relevant ministry to develop a Subsidy Reform Plan by 2027, aligning with the new Biodiversity Finance & Subsidy Reform Bill requirements. This might mean gradually raising prices (e.g., if fertilizer is underpriced, or gasoline subsidies exist) or replacing subsidies with more sustainable support. The risk is significant political pushback from sectors like fishers or farmers who rely on subsidies. To address this:

	Stakeholder dialogue: Clearly communicate the intention and timeline of subsidy reforms to those affected and involve them in designing compensatory measures. Phased approach & conditional support: For example, instead of a blanket fertilizer subsidy, provide targeted support for those adopting organic or precision farming (so it's a positive incentive, not a general subsidy). Or for fishers, gradually reduce fuel subsidies but perhaps invest in programs that reduce their fuel use (like helping them get efficient engines or subsidizing ice machines to preserve catch). Legislative support: The Bill's provisions and requirement for line ministries to produce exit plans for each harmful subsidy will backstop this, but oversight is needed. Possibly set up a Subsidy Reform Committee under Ministry of Finance to monitor implementation across ministries. Aim to showcase early successes by eliminating a few clearly harmful subsidies by 2027 (e.g., if any destructive fishing gear was subsidized, cut that; or redirect any incentive that leads to wetland conversion, etc.). By 2030, the goal is >50% reduction in total value of harmful subsidies. This should be visible in budget documents (which the annual Biodiversity Finance Report will highlight).
4. Integrate Biodiversity into National Budgeting	Work toward "green budgeting" where biodiversity considerations are mainstream in the budget process (echoing National Target 2 and Whole-of-Government approach). For example, introduce a requirement that each ministry in its budget submissions identify biodiversity-related expenditures and harmful expenditures (a simple tagging system). The Ministry of Finance can then evaluate if overall government spending is becoming greener. As capacity grows, consider using natural capital accounting to inform budget decisions (e.g., showing the economic value of ecosystem services lost or gained with certain allocations). Also, ensure the Ministry of Finance's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) criteria include biodiversity: no major capital project should be approved without reviewing biodiversity impact or mitigation costs (tie-in with the Cabinet circular requiring biodiversity screening of projects). This fosters long-term coherence by not funding biodiversity destruction in one hand while funding conservation with the other.
5. Monitoring and Transparency	Establish a transparent system to track both financing and subsidy indicators. For financing, maintain a dashboard of cumulative funds mobilized by source (ODA grants, loans, private, domestic public, etc.), which aligns with GBF headline indicators D1, D2, D3. The baseline is \$0 of new mobilized biodiversity funding in 2025, aiming for ≥\$70M by 2030. For subsidies, measure baseline harmful subsidies (estimated ~\$3.3M in 2024 for domestic subsidies) and track annual reductions (target ≥50% reduction by 2030, meaning < \$1.65M). Publish these figures each year in budget documents and NBSAP progress reports. If progress falters, the NBSAP Steering Committee should intervene with corrective measures.

Impact: By executing this plan, SVG will align financial flows with biodiversity objectives: a hallmark of policy coherence. It ensures that government spending, incentives, and resource mobilization all push in the same direction of sustaining natural capital. While this target is technical and high-level, it underpins the success of all other targets by providing the needed funds and removing perverse incentives. Achieving Target 12 would be transformative, showing that even a small island state can innovatively finance its environmental ambitions in line with global goals.

National Target 13: Biosafety

Target 13 – Biosafety: By 2030, establish and fully implement a comprehensive national biosafety framework that effectively manages risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs), biotechnology products, and genetic resources.

Institutional context: The Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit (PPQU) under the Ministry of Agriculture is likely to be designated as the Competent Authority for biosafety (as suggested by the draft Biosafety Policy & Bill). The National Biosafety Committee (NBC) will be established as a multi-stakeholder body for biosafety decisions. Other key players include the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment (for food safety aspects), Customs (for border control of LMOs), Port and Airport Authorities (points of entry) and Ministry of Finance (to assist with Biosafety Emergency Fund). Currently, SVG lacks a dedicated biosafety law (fulfilling Cartagena Protocol obligations), and capacity to detect and manage GMOs is limited (lab needs upgrading).

Institutional gaps: no formal system to assess/approve GMO imports or releases, limited public awareness or trust on GMO issues, and need for lab and regulatory capacity. The NBSAP outlines specific steps for policy, legislation, lab upgrades, and training.

Priority Actions for Target 13

Action	Explanation
1. Enact the National Biosafety Policy and Biosafety/Biotechnology Act	By 2026, finalize the National Biosafety Policy (setting the overarching approach and commitment) and draft the Biosafety & Biotechnology Bill. This Bill should implement Cartagena Protocol requirements: define LMOs, establish the PPQU as the Competent Authority, set up the National Biosafety Committee (NBC) for review of applications, outline risk assessment procedures, public consultation processes, and emergency measures for any biosafety incidents. It should include an offenses and penalties schedule for violations (e.g., unauthorized import or release of GMOs). Push this Bill through Cabinet and Parliament by 2026. The risk is legislative delay or dilution due to lobbying (perhaps by importers of GM seeds or others). To mitigate: sensitize policymakers to biosafety being about precaution and trade safety, not anti-technology per se. Possibly tie its passage to international obligations (and funding prospects). Ensure that the Bill also covers establishing any necessary funds (like an emergency fund for a biosafety incident). Lead Agency: Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit (PPQU). Key Partners: Attorney General's Chambers; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment; Customs Department
2. Implement Biosafety Regulations and Emergency Protocols	Following the Act, by 2027 develop Biosafety Regulations (or Emergency Regulations) that detail how to handle specific scenarios, e.g., procedures for applying for import or field trial of an LMO, risk assessment guidelines, how to handle accidental release, etc. The NBSAPn mentions drafting Biosafety Emergency Regulations for rapid response and disposal measures. Ensure Customs and PPQU have clear authority to detain or destroy unapproved biotech products at the border (linking with National Target 6 on IAS and biosecurity). Put in place an LMO permitting system integrated with existing trade systems: importers of any GM seeds, biocontrol agents, etc., should need a permit reviewed by NBC. The NBC (comprising experts from agriculture, health, environment, perhaps legal and consumer reps) should meet regularly to consider applications or

	issues. Also link to the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) so that information exchange internationally is facilitated.
3. Upgrade Laboratory and Quarantine Detection Capacity	A critical component is enhancing the PPQU lab to detect GMOs or other biotech products. Implement the planned lab retrofit: install biosafety cabinets, acquire PCR machines and LMO test kits. Work with the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) to get ISO 17025 accreditation through training and ring testing. Ideally, by 2028 the lab should be capable of routine GMO screening (e.g., test imported corn or seed stock for GM content). Train at least 1–2 lab technicians in molecular techniques and possibly designate a biosecurity officer in PPQU (the plan suggests 1–2 permanent tech jobs for lab and biosecurity). Additionally, ensure Customs officers have portable test kits or at least sampling protocols to send suspicious seeds to the lab. Retention of trained staff is a risk – technicians leaving for better pay. Mitigate by creating attractive career paths or bonding agreements for those funded for training, and by paying competitive allowances (could use project funds initially then integrate into gov’t budget). Perhaps partner with Ministry of Health labs to share personnel or create a combined lab facility to attract and keep talent.
4. Operationalize the National Biosafety Committee (NBC) and Decision-Making System	Form the NBC as soon as the policy is adopted (even before the law if possible, in an interim capacity). Train NBC members and regulators using international toolkits (the NBSAP mentions using CBD-FAO Biosafety Toolkit). Develop standard risk assessment checklists for evaluating any GMO application covering environmental impact, food/feed safety, socio-economic considerations, etc. Establish formal guidelines for decision-making including timeframes, public notice/comment provisions, etc. Sign an MoU with Jamaica’s National Biosafety Committee (their NCC) for peer review and knowledge exchange as suggested: this can help SVG learn from a country with an existing system. Also consider cooperation with the BCH Regional hub. By 2028, the NBC should have processed at least some hypothetical or real cases (e.g., even if no one applies to import an LMO, run simulation exercises or consider any research projects involving biotech). This ensures the system is truly functional and not just on paper.
5. Develop a Funding Mechanism and Staffing for Ongoing Biosafety	Implement a cost-recovery scheme for biosafety administration, e.g., application fees for permits, and maybe a levy on certain imports to fund the operations (like lab tests and NBC meetings). Also establish the Biosafety Emergency Fund as per the plan, funded by permit fees or small levies, to cover any incident response. The risk is that permit fees & levies might be slow to accumulate and Ministry of Finance might reallocate them. Ensure through the law that these funds are ring-fenced for biosafety use and ideally held in a special account. Make the case that a well-funded biosafety system protects agriculture and trade, thus deserving its dedicated funds.
6. Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement	The plan notes public mistrust & anti-GMO misinformation could cause push-back or underground trade. Indeed, if people fear or misunderstand biosafety measures, they might hide seed imports or oppose legitimate biotech. To prevent this, launch a communication strategy: explain in simple terms what the biosafety framework is (ensuring safe use of modern biotech) and what it isn’t (not an outright ban on all GMOs, unless country chooses so).

	Engage farmer groups: reassure them that the system will be transparent and for their benefit (e.g., preventing unregulated seeds that could harm local crops). Also involve consumer groups and NGOs early, possibly including some on the NBC. Transparency is key: make non-confidential information available via a national Biosafety Clearing House website so the public sees what decisions are being taken. Conduct outreach at ports and among import businesses so they know the new requirements (to avoid unintentional violations). Aim for a broad understanding by 2028 that any GMO or biotech products must go through a proper check, and that this protects both the environment and trade (by keeping SVG compliant with international standards).
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Impact: By achieving these actions, SVG will have a fully operational biosafety framework by the latter part of the decade. That means legislation in place, labs and staff able to detect and manage GMOs, a committee making decisions on any applications or incidents, and public confidence in the system. This target’s fulfillment shows policy coherence by connecting agricultural quarantine, environmental regulation, and international protocol compliance into one coordinated system. It also intersects with the National Target 6 on invasive species. Ultimately, Target 13 ensures SVG can safely navigate the opportunities and risks of modern biotechnology, protecting biodiversity and farmers while allowing beneficial innovation.

National Target 14: Gender Equality and Community Participation

Target 14 – Gender Equality and Community Participation: By 2027, ensure full participation of women, youth, and local communities in biodiversity decision-making, conservation, and sustainable use, with at least 50% representation via whole-of-government approach.

Institutional context: This target is cross-cutting, involving the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, and Youth as a key player for gender and youth inclusion, alongside the Sustainable Development Unit and all environment-related agencies that have boards or committees. It also involves community organizations (fisherfolk associations, community conservation groups, or local groups like the Garifuna Heritage Foundation). Essentially, it calls for mainstreaming inclusivity in the institutional structures governing biodiversity – meaning changing committee compositions, building capacity of underrepresented groups, and safeguarding their influence.

Current gaps: biodiversity boards/committees may currently lack strong representation of women, youth, or community stakeholders; decision-making may be top-down with token community input; and there might not be formal mandates or processes to ensure representation. Also, limited capacity or pipeline of qualified women/youth in some technical areas could be an issue (e.g., fewer female forestry officers historically, etc.).

Priority Actions for Target 14

Action	Explanation
1. Institute Parity Requirements in Biodiversity Governance Bodies	Adopt the “Principle of Parity in Biodiversity Governance” policy (or Cabinet paper) by 2026, which mandates that no official biodiversity-related board or committee can meet quorum unless at least 50% of members are women, 25% are youth (18–35), and 30% are local community representatives. This should then be given legal force: the Attorney General’s Chambers should draft Statutory Rules & Orders (SROs) or amendments to the terms of reference of each relevant committee to embed these quotas. Relevant bodies include (but not limited to): the NBSAP Steering Committee, National Technical Advisory Climate Change Committee (NTACCC), National Ocean Coordination Committee

	(NOCC), Protected Areas System Committee, Fisheries or Forestry advisory committees, etc. Ensure that by 2027, all such bodies have been reconstituted to meet these criteria. Expect some political or institutional push-back from those who might see quotas as forced or from incumbents who might lose positions. To mitigate, emphasize that this is government policy to improve decisions and reflect society, not a discredit to current members. Perhaps introduce by attrition (when terms expire, replace with candidates meeting criteria). Garner Cabinet backing to override objections.
2. Develop a Roster of Qualified Women, Youth, and Community Experts	To address the risk of a thin pipeline of qualified women, youth & Indigenous candidates, create a National Roster of Biodiversity Governance Candidates. Identify and train potential women leaders, young professionals, and community reps with relevant interest or experience (they might be graduates in biology, community conservation leaders, fishers who have led local projects, etc.). Maintain this roster in a database, and actively use it to nominate individuals to committees or boards. The Community Conservation Leadership Academy (discussed below) will help supply skilled candidates. Also collaborate with entities like the Garifuna Heritage Foundation and other NGOs to tap into indigenous and local knowledge holders. By 2027, aim to have an ample pool such that no committee struggles to find capable representatives to meet the quotas, preventing the burnout or overloading of a few individuals.
3. Launch the Community Conservation Leadership Academy	Implement the plan for a Community Conservation Leadership Academy with at least three annual cohorts up to 2027 (and beyond if successful). Train a total of ~120 local community members (with >=50% women and >=30% youth each cohort) in skills like project design, GIS, advocacy, and give them mini-internships in Forestry Department or Fisheries Division. This not only builds capacity at the grassroots but also prepares participants to take on roles in projects and committees. Partner with Richmond Vale Academy, SusGren, and similar organizations for training delivery. Secure funding through GEF Small Grants, CBF, etc., and possibly institutionalize it under an NGO or educational body for continuity. The Richmond Vale Academy addresses both skill gaps and also empowers historically underrepresented groups to engage confidently. By 2027, its graduates should be visibly contributing, e.g., leading local conservation projects, or filling some of the roster slots for committees, etc. Monitor diversity in those benefiting: make sure at least 50% women, plus target youth and indigenous persons. Lead Agency: Sustainable Development Unit. Key Partners: Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement; SusGren, Richmond Vale Academy; The Garifuna Heritage Foundation, Local Community Organizations, Other NGOs.
4. Ensure Genuine Influence, Not Just Representation	Hitting numeric parity is important, but the quality of participation matters too. The risk of tokenism & low decision influence is real if new members are sidelined or lack confidence.

	To combat this: require that in committees, some leadership roles are also held by the target groups (e.g., co-chair a committee with one male, one female; or ensure youth rep can set part of agenda). Provide mentoring to new women/youth/community members when they join boards so they can contribute effectively. Possibly pair them with experienced members initially (“buddy system”). In decision processes like community consultations, actively defer to local voices to incorporate their input. Track outcomes: e.g., percentage of women’s or community recommendations that get adopted to gauge influence. Additionally, incorporate gender and social analysis in biodiversity planning (this ties to whole-of-society approach): e.g., how do conservation actions affect women vs men, or how can youth be engaged in implementation (like via internships, as done). Show that their involvement shapes outcomes (for example, maybe more attention to family livelihoods or education emerges in project design due to women’s input).
5. Empower Local Community Organizations in Implementation	Beyond committees, ensure local communities are partners in on-the-ground work (many targets already integrate this, like community wardens in National Targets 6 and 11, community restoration in target 9, etc.). Formalize community co-management agreements for protected areas or resource management where feasible, giving them a recognized role and possibly devolved decision-making in local matters. Support the creation or strengthening of community environment committees at village level that feed into national processes. Provide small grants (through SGP or SVGCF) to community-led biodiversity projects, especially those led by women or youth groups, to build experience and credibility. By 2030, aim for a vibrant network of community conservation initiatives that link up with government efforts – a manifestation of “whole-of-society”.
6. Safeguard Traditional Knowledge and Foster Trust	Inclusion also means respecting and protecting local and indigenous knowledge (e.g., traditions of the Garifuna or other groups). If the strategy includes digitizing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) for wider use, proceed carefully with consent protocols to avoid the mistrust mentioned (elders fearing misuse of knowledge). Work with cultural organizations to ensure knowledge is recorded and shared in a way that communities approve (e.g. community-owned databases or only sharing non-sensitive parts). UNESCO and the Garifuna Heritage Foundation involvement can help safeguard cultural respect. This will build trust that the push for inclusion is genuine empowerment, not exploitation.
7. Institutionalize Gender and Social Analysis in Biodiversity Programs	Require that all NBSAP-related projects incorporate gender analysis and actively include women and youth in activities. Possibly revive or designate a Gender Focal Point at SDU to oversee mainstreaming and alignment with national gender policy. Work with the Gender Affairs Division to develop indicators: e.g., track how many women lead conservation teams, or proportion of youth in trainings – and report on these in NBSAP progress.

	Meeting the target of >=50% representation of women, >=25% youth, >=30% local community in committees should be celebrated and used as an example for other sectors too.
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Impact: By fulfilling these actions, SVG’s biodiversity governance will be significantly more inclusive and equitable by 2027. This will not only meet fairness and human rights considerations but improve the quality of outcomes – diverse groups bring new ideas, and local buy-in improves project success. Target 14 is an enabler for all other targets when women, youth, and communities actively shape conservation, policies are more grounded and widely supported. Achieving this target will demonstrate a whole-of-government commitment to participatory governance, ensuring that the national biodiversity agenda truly reflects the voices of the people it affects the most.

Conclusion and Cross-Sectoral Priorities

The above action plan lays out a comprehensive, prioritized roadmap for each of St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ 14 National Biodiversity Targets, addressing policy coherence and institutional gaps. Several **common themes** emerge across targets, indicating cross-sectoral priority measures:

Inter-Ministerial Coordination: Many targets cite siloed efforts and overlapping mandates as barriers. Establishing strong coordinating bodies (NBSAP Steering Committee, specialized task forces for invasives, pollution, etc.) is a top priority to enable joint planning and decision-making. Regular information flow and collaboration among different agencies tagged in NBSAP will enhance synergy and prevent conflicting actions.

Legislative and Policy Reform: Nearly every target requires updating or enacting laws/regulations from spatial planning and wildlife protection to biosafety and finance. Prioritizing a legislative reform package early (2026–2028) will provide the necessary authority and clarity for implementation. This includes streamlining approvals in Cabinet and guarding against delays by engaging policymakers early and often. Legislative coherence ensures all sectors operate under modern rules aligned with biodiversity goals.

Resource Mobilization and Financial Alignment: Sufficient funding underpins success. Operationalizing the Biodiversity Finance Plan (National Target 12) is urgent, as it supports implementation of all targets. Integrating biodiversity into national budgets and phasing out harmful subsidies will align economic incentives with conservation. Likewise, innovative financing (bonds, PES, trust funds) must move from planning to execution with responsible agencies and timelines. A financed NBSAP is a feasible NBSAP.

Capacity Building: Building human and technical capacity is a recurring need whether rangers, inspectors, scientists, or community leaders. A strategic capacity development program (including training, new hires, and retention incentives) should be implemented in the plan’s first years, targeting areas highlighted as weak (enforcement, GIS, biosecurity lab skills, etc.). Partnerships with regional institutions and tapping local knowledge through training academies (as in National Target 14) will create a skilled workforce to drive implementation through 2030 and beyond.

Monitoring, Data, and Accountability: Establishing integrated monitoring systems and transparent reporting will ensure accountability and adaptive management during NBSAP implementation. Quarterly and annual multi-sector progress reviews of NBSAP progress are critical. They allow early identification of policy incoherence or lagging actions so adjustments can be made. It also keeps all agencies accountable to their commitments (e.g., ministries must report on how they contributed to targets, per the Cabinet directive on policy screening).

Stakeholder Engagement and Whole-of-Society: Engaging communities, NGOs, and the private sector is both an end in itself (National Target 14) and a means to achieve all other targets. Institutionalizing mechanisms for their input (committees, consultation processes) and participation on the ground (co-management, community wardens, citizen science) improves legitimacy and results. Cross-sector alignment is enhanced when stakeholders outside

government also align their efforts, e.g., private businesses adopting biodiversity-friendly practices, communities championing local conservation, academia providing research support. The government should facilitate and coordinate these contributions, truly embracing the “whole-of-society” implementation strategy.

In implementing this action plan, it is important to prioritize sequence and address dependencies: enabling actions like passing legislation, securing funding, and setting up coordination structures should be tackled in the first 1–2 years (2026–2028), as they unlock progress on many fronts. For example, passing the Wildlife Act and Fisheries regulations early empowers enforcement agencies to achieve National Targets 3 and 8; establishing the finance mechanisms early funds community programs and capacity building that benefit multiple targets. Likewise, simultaneously launching public communication (to manage expectations and build support) will smooth implementation: communities must hear not just about new restrictions, but about new opportunities and support being provided.

By 2030, if SVG follows this coherent, inclusive, and well-resourced path, it will have not only met its national targets but also strengthened the underlying institutions and policies for biodiversity management. Biodiversity considerations will be embedded in development planning, legislation across sectors will be mutually supportive of sustainability, and a broad spectrum of society will be actively involved in safeguarding natural heritage. Such outcomes will fulfill the vision of the NBSAP’s Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Implementation Strategy, positioning St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a model for integrated and participatory biodiversity governance.