

PRESS RELEASE

Basseterre, St. Kitts, Wednesday August 30th, 2000

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the US Department of Commerce is host to a five-day workshop on "Economic Decision-making Tools for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation."

The effort is based on two pilot components within the four year CPACC Project which aim to "assist pilot participating countries to apply the tools of resource valuation, environmental accounting, the application of economic and regulatory instruments and environmental decision-making for use in the development of policy frameworks and regulatory approaches within the context of the coastal and marine resources and the wider CPACC objectives."

The overall purpose of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project is "to support Caribbean countries in preparing to cope with the adverse effects of global climate change (GCC), particularly sea-level rise, on coastal areas through assessing vulnerability (physical and economic); planning and building capacity."

The Government of St. Kitts must be acknowledged for their support in the organisation and coordination of the workshop as well as their commitment to the CPACC Project in general. The OAS office in St. Kitts and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also provided significant support.

The five-day meeting has brought participants from across the region to discuss innovative approaches to environmental decision-making and policy development. It is hoped that the techniques discussed will better arm technicians and decision-makers in ensuring that development is truly sustainable. One theme, which was firmly established during the workshop, is the critical need for a region-wide integrated approach to

environmental management, particularly the management of coastal and marine resources and addressing environmental threats.

Representation straddled the region including participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis. Also represented were the Natural Resources Management Unit of the Organisation of American States (OECS), the University of Maryland, the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust, Solar Dynamics (Barbados) Ltd, the University of the West Indies, Centre for Resource Management Studies and others.

The meeting has also brought together participants from varying disciplines i.e. economics, finance, environmental and natural resource management, administration, legal and others.

The meeting is part of a continuing effort to encourage and facilitate an integrated regional approach to the sustainable management of our coastal and marine resources and their protection from significant threats such as sea-level rise.

For further information, pls contact:

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