

Antigua and Barbuda

Date and Venue

Friday, 20th October 2000 – Cortsland Hotel Conference Room, St. John's.

Participants:

Steve Archibald	-	Fisheries Division
Lyndell Butler	-	State Insurance Corporation
Brian Challenger	-	Co-ordinator Climate Change, Office of the Prime Minister
Nealyn George	-	Fisheries Division
Philmore Jones	-	CPACC Focal Point, Fisheries Division
Carlton Lake	-	Department of Tourism/Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank
Ato Lewis	-	Environment Division
Felicia Lovell	-	Fisheries Division
Keithley Meade	-	Meteorological Office
Arthur Nibb	-	Chairman, Barbuda Council
Hendren Parker	-	Ministry of Finance
Earl Skerritt	-	Ministry of Education
Frederick Southwell	-	Development Control Authority
Deborah Thomas	-	Development Control Authority
Dr. U O'D Trotz	-	CPACC RPIU
Judi Clarke	-	CPACC RPIU
Dr. Leonard Nurse	-	CPACC RPIU
G. de Berdt Romilly	-	CPACC RPIU

Agenda: See Annex A3 (Antigua and Barbuda)

Commentary:

The following comments were made during the meeting by various participants:

- A National Climate Change Committee has been established. Work on the Issues Paper has not been completed.
- The coastal zone in Antigua and Barbuda is controlled by a large variety of agencies under a number of laws (see “*Allocation of Responsibilities: Coastal Management*” and “*Legislation and Statutory Provisions*” attached as Annexure). The Development Control Authority (DCA) exercises planning control, and a National Land Use Plan has been prepared and is presently going through public consultation process. The Land Use Plan is to be reviewed periodically. It is an iterative process and can effectively integrate climate change into land use planning activities and address issues such a threats to biodiversity and the need to enhance

the resilience of natural eco-systems that are impacted by climate change. The National Land Use Plan is based on a GIS platform (arc/INFO).

- Many laws dealing with natural resources and land use are very old and have not been developed with adaptation to climate change as a consideration (e.g. *Fisheries Act, National Parks Act, Beach Control Ordinance*). A new bye-law is being developed in Barbuda for the management of mangrove areas, but no consideration had been given to the aspects of climate change and what changes in the legal framework may be required to ensure that adaptation planning forms an integral part of all planning processes. The *Land Development Control Regulations 1996* establish coastal zone set-backs, which are now being reviewed to address an anticipated increase in storm surges. In 1995, the *Land Development Control Act* was enacted which established compliance with the *Building Code* as a legal requirement. However, enforcement is a problem with the result that some buildings which cannot sustain hurricane or severe storm conditions continue to be constructed.
- It is recognized that policy makers have to be sensitized on the urgent need to develop an integrated approach to climate change adaptation planning and management. It was considered that obtaining support, consensus and buy-in from the public/private sectors is an essential part of the process to develop the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*. It was considered that the launching of Component 4 under the CPACC project presents an ideal opportunity to launch an extensive public awareness campaign on climate change.
- It was agreed that there was a need to develop a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* that would outline intervention options and an action plan for implementation. It is considered that a strong commitment is required from political directorate if the Policy is to be implemented. Public awareness on the need for a strategic approach to climate change will be critical to obtaining the level of political support that is required to effectively implement the Policy. Some work on sensitizing the public to climate change impacts and issues has already been undertaken, but there is a need to target the insurance/finance and tourism sectors. There is a need to target senior level policy makers as part of the consultation process leading up to the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*. It is considered that a presentation to Cabinet should be undertaken at an early stage in the process.
- There is a need to “internalize” climate change into all sectoral planning activities, and technical knowledge on climate change adaptation should be developed within all sectors. Planning for climate change adaptation should also be cross-sectoral and promote an holistic and integrated approach.
- The UNFCCC Focal Point and the CPACC Country Focal Point are not the same individual, with the result that co-ordination of climate change activities is not always efficiently undertaken.
- Work on the *National Communication* has been started, and it is anticipated that the development of the “Vulnerability and Adaptation” section of the *National Communication* will assist in the formulation of the “Issues Paper” and *National Climate Change Adaptation*

Policy formulated under Component 4.

Development of Climate Change Adaptation Policy - Proposed Work-Plan:

- (a) It was agreed that the Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point would co-ordinate the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.
- (b) Work on finalizing the Issues Paper should be completed within 2 weeks, with particular attention being focused on identifying current and proposed policies, initiatives and legislation which are relevant to climate change adaptation planning and management. A short-term local consultancy may be required to undertake the review of laws, policies and institutional structures from a climate change perspective. The evaluation of legal, policy and institutional frameworks may need to be reviewed externally, with support provided by CPACC. Thereafter, the Committee would circulate the draft Issues Paper to various government agencies and departments to obtain their input and comments on any outstanding issues that should be included.
- (c) The Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point would develop a work plan and public education program and within 30 days submit to the CPACC RPIU a breakdown of the resources that will be required to support these initiatives.
- (d) It was foreseen that a technical meeting would be needed to facilitate discussion on intervention options and discuss proposed management mechanisms. This technical meeting should be held in mid-January 2001 - comprising 2 half-day sessions. These sessions would result in the formulation of a Position Paper that would be submitted for broad-based consultation. Thereafter, the Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point would undertake an extensive public consultation process leading up to the development of a draft Policy Paper.
- (e) It is anticipated that resources would be required from CPACC to assist with the costs associated with:
 - (i) undertaking the legal, policy and institutional review;
 - (ii) printing and disseminating the Draft Policy document; and
 - (iii) facilitating the public consultation process.
- (f) The Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point would review comments submitted during the public consultation process, and make any necessary changes to the draft Policy document.
- (g) Once the draft Policy Paper had been formulated, the Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point would undertake the development of an Implementation Plan.
- (h) The draft policy paper and implementation Plan would be submitted to CPACC RPIU for review by a panel of technical experts. Comments arising from this technical review will be

submitted to the Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point for consideration.

- (i) Once agreement has been reached, the Climate Change Committee and the CPACC Country Focal Point shall submit the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan to the appropriate Ministry for onward transmission to Cabinet for review and eventual approval. It is anticipated that the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan would be ready for submission to Cabinet by the mid-to-end of 2001.
- (j) Assistance would be provided by CPACC to develop a “powerpoint” presentation and other materials that would assist in presentations to the Minister and other parliamentarians in order to obtain their support for the development and implementation of the *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan. Additionally, it was considered that an Information Note should be forwarded to Cabinet to advise them of the proposed activities to be undertaken in the formulation of the *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.

Public Awareness and Education

Currently there is no public awareness and education campaign that includes climate change issues. The strategy developed by Trinidad and Tobago was shared with the acting focal point who will use it as a template for developing one for Antigua and Barbuda. However, the Ministry of Tourism has an ongoing public awareness campaign that can be useful.

Proposed Public Awareness and Education Activities

- It was suggested that climate change be introduced in the initiatives from the Ministry of Tourism, particularly to show policy makers how climate change can impact on this crucial industry.
- It was agreed that to get policy makers on board, the campaign should highlight climate change impacts on the public sector, particularly how the economy of the country can be affected.

Next Steps

- Mr. Philmore James will select a committee who will develop a public awareness and education program, as well identify the resources needed. CPACC has committed to assisting in this regard.