



Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change

Project Update: Component 5 - Coral Reef Monitoring for Climate Change Impacts

The objectives of Component 5 - Coral Reef Monitoring for Climate Change Impacts - are to establish a long term monitoring program in the region which over time would show the effects of global warming factors (such as temperature stress, sea level rise and hurricanes) on coral reefs. Component 5 has been implemented in three pilot countries - the Bahamas, Belize and Jamaica - with the understanding that the experiences gathered will be used to implement the monitoring programme in the other CPACC countries.

The data analysis protocol employed is based on the Aronson Method and was adapted to CPACC's needs by Jeff Miller, US Geological Survey, Biological Division, US Virgin Islands. This methodology was further refined by Mr Miller and Dr Jeremy Woodley, retired Head of the Centre for Marine Sciences, UWI, Jamaica to include a data capture process which involves the combination images and random dots. The data obtained is stored in a spreadsheet that records species and substrate categories which can be easily modified for the specific needs of a particular group.

Monitoring (video taping) has been completed at three target habitats in each of the pilot countries. The locations in each country are - The Bahamas - New Providence, Abaco and Eleuthra; Belize - Hol Chan, Glover's Reef and South Water Caye; Jamaica - Port Royal Cays, Portland and Discovery Bay. Data processing has commenced in all three pilot countries with Hol Chan in Belize and Discovery Bay in Jamaica already completed. It is expected that processing of data from the other locations will be completed by the end of 2000.

The Centre for Marine Science(CMS), UWI, Jamaica was selected to serve as the archiving and data analysis node for Component 5. CMS is currently the regional node for the Global Coral Reef Initiative and CARICOMP. Data storage includes video tapes, dotted and undotted captured images and spreadsheets. In addition to storing the monitoring data for Jamaica the CMS will also store copies of tapes, captured images and data spreadsheets for the Bahamas and Belize.

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