

# ***Update on C7 Implementation in Trinidad and Tobago***

## **Overview**

The following is a summary of discussions held with Kishan Kumarsingh, National Focal Point on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> in Trinidad and Tobago on the status of C7 implementation. The meeting was one segment of a two-part follow-up Mission to the C7 countries.

The meeting took place at the Environmental Management Authority in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Lisa James, the C7 Coordinator for C7 was unable to attend due to ill health.

The meeting addressed a number of issues as summarized below:

1. General overall progress with Component 7 implementation at the national level.
2. Progress and status of data collection efforts including the wetland survey which was conducted by the Town and Country Planning Department.
3. Any additional support required to finalize C7 implementation
4. The effectiveness of communication with the consultant.
5. Any outstanding issues and constraints.
6. The final report – format and timing for submission by country teams.

The meeting was very informative and successful. Trinidad and Tobago is well on its way to successfully executing the pilot study and submitting a Country Technical Report by mid-June 2001. They have also made good progress in a number of other areas associated with both CPACC and national climate change activities.

## **General overall progress with Component 7**

The Component Coordinator updated Mr. Kumarsingh on the state of play with Component 7 at the time. Though general overall progress was good despite delay, there was concern regarding progress in St. Lucia after the resignation of the Coordinator there. Though the National Focal Point has begun working to reconstitute the National Coordinating Team. It was noted that the Coordinator and the consultant hoped to follow-up with the St. Lucia team next week.

Despite some delay, Component 7 was progressing well and data collection was coming to an end.

The Coordinator noted that the follow-up Mission presently ongoing would seek to get a clearer picture of implementation in each country and develop recommendations as necessary.

The C7 project Coordinator also updated on the progress with the virtual office – its ongoing set-up and the hope that it would be fully operational by June 2001. Mr. Kumarsingh noted his continued interest as regards real-time observation by the team of ongoing analyses of the data collected as well as the potential for information sharing. He noted that he had informed the National Wetlands Committee of the virtual office and that it was eagerly anticipated at a number of levels.

### Progress and status of data collection

The Coordinator noted that the onsite survey and the telephone survey had been completed for Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Dwarika had performed excellently and would be considered for future work on Component 7.

Mr. Kumarsingh reported on the status of activities in Trinidad and Tobago as follows:

- Fisheries data (landings – number and type of species as well as seasonal differences) was being collected during the week of April 23-27<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Further to discussions, a representative from Tobago had traveled to Trinidad to follow-up with Fisheries Division regarding the type of information required. It was indicated that the data should be submitted by the end of the week.
- The wetland survey had been carried out over the last month. Mr. Kumarsingh noted that he had even been present during some of the data collection and it had proceeded smoothly. The Town and Country Planning Department had been in direct contact with Dr. Dharmaratne and were working on inputting the data as requested in Microsoft Access. This too should be submitted by April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001.
- Rainfall data had been supplied to Dr. Dharmaratne for the area.
- Revenue data for the Pt. Lisas Estate and for some of the commercial activities had also been successfully obtained and will be submitted to the Consultant.
- The last remaining data to be collected was the insurance rates for the Estate and types of activity(?). During the last meeting in January 2001, it had been proposed that the Team would work with one or more underwriters to obtain estimate costs of insurance rates under a number of plausible scenarios. The work had begun but was still being finalized. Rather than going for a specific size, it was suggested that a small, medium and large company be selected for the analysis. It was noted, however, that the consultant must still verify if quantifiable information such as the size of the plant would be preferable for the model.

Ms. Perch also noted that Ms. Dwarika had been asked to analyze and produce a report on the findings for the onsite and telephone survey regarding the existence and benefits value of the Temple. A report was expected by early May, This report would form part of the final report and give an overview of the perceived value attributed to the Temple.

#### 1. Additional support required to ensure effective execution

It was noted that no additional support was required. The Country Team had effectively discussed the issues and areas that were required for the data collection and agreed to

take responsibility for the work entailed – they had effectively carried out these activities and were near completion.

### Effectiveness of communication with the consultant

There were no difficulties etc in contacting or communicating with the consultant. He was found to be accessible and in regular communication with the country team and vice versa.

### Outstanding issues or constraints

The National Focal Point identified no outstanding issues or constraints. All was proceeding smoothly.

The Project Coordinator noted a couple of things:

- The report or written notes from the January meeting were still outstanding. She had contacted the rapporteur and they were to be faxed.
- The Coordinator noted her intention to ensure that most of the material associated with the project would be placed on the net. The National Focal Point was asked to send her copies of the data and other information sent to the consultants.

### Technical Report

The outline and shape of the Country Technical Reports had been discussed at the previous January meeting. During the discussions on April 25<sup>th</sup>, these were finalized and disseminated to the C7 Focal Points for their information and guidance. It was also sent to the Information Systems Coordinator for his information and for placement on the website under C7 Implementation.

The National Focal Point for Trinidad and Tobago also noted some progress with inputs and the formulation of the Country Technical Report. Much had been derived from the Issues Paper developed for Component 4 Implementation as well as from the other information sources noted during discussions over the last year. Most of the background information on the country and its resources had been integrated as well as information on the Pt.Lisas Estate. Ms. James was responsible for the section on the methodology, which is in progress. As agreed during the last meeting, Dr. Dharmaratne would provide the literature review for work conducted in the region and internationally on similar efforts as well as summarizing the actual analysis and results.

Furthermore, the consultant and the country teams have been provided with the most recent scenarios for sea-level rise and sea-surface temperature from the Third Assessment Report of the IPCC including the various estimations of likely impacts in terms of global temperature as well as impacts on both ecosystems, resources and socio-economic

sectors. These will be integrated into the model in terms of valuing losses under different scenarios.

It was noted by Ms. Perch that **Draft Final Reports would be expected by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and Final Reports by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001.** Every effort would also be made to present many of the outputs and discussions from C7 into reports and discussion papers for distribution both amongst the CPACC constituency and also regional and international interests.

### Other issues/developments

Mr. Kumarsingh also updated the Technical Coordinator on a number of ongoing developments in Trinidad and Tobago including public awareness and education and other activities.

#### *Public Awareness and Education*

- The SEA – which has replaced the Common Entrance – includes a number of sections dealing with climate change.
- A number of pamphlets had been developed including “Climate Change for Kids”.
- Posters on climate change had also been developed
- A journalist had contacted him regarding a piece being developed on Climate Change and further collaborated was anticipated. The piece was being developed for Traveller Magazine.
- Production of a video on the Environment was being discussed including a segment on CC,
- A thirteen part video series on the Environment was in development and would also include segments on climate change and its impacts.
- Public lectures and continued discussions with NGOs also formed part of the pa & e strategy, particular in an effort to target community level activism.

The airing of climate change factoids has commenced as part of the national Weather Report on television

In further discussions, it was noted that the products/ media being developed by Trinidad and Tobago should be shared with other Focal Points as models. It was also noted that this type of material would be useful for overall public awareness for the product.

#### *National Communications – Status*

The National Communications for Trinidad and Tobago had been effectively completed and only now awaited Cabinet approval.

It was proposed that another launch of the region’s First National Communications be held during COP 7 when it was hoped that a number of other countries would also have completed theirs. Continued discussions are expected to take place during the next few weeks.

#### *Integration of C7 outputs into C4*

It was noted that it was important to keep to the present schedule so as to facilitate the integration of the C7 findings into Component 4. Under Component 4, the NFP noted that the plan was to develop a Climate Change Policy as well as a Technical Policy Policy. The Climate Policy will be put out for public comments before Cabinet approval is sought.

#### *IEE workshop and Regional participation.*

It was noted that at least one representative from each of the C7 countries would participate in the IEE workshop in Dominica in June 2001. Hence the importance of finalizing the country reports by mid-June is high.

#### *Further Research*

A Nariva Swamp Vulnerability Assessment on flora and fauna was currently underway, coordinated by the EMA and the Climate Change Working Group.

A number of other studies are being contemplated by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago including 1) assessing CC impacts on turtle-nesting and the implications for global diversity given that Trinidad has the second largest population in the Western Hemisphere and 2) assessing impacts on crustaceans which may serve as critical biological indicators of salinity change in coastal freshwater systems. The Project Coordinator noted a number of funding possibilities to the NFP including Foundations such as Turner and MacArthur as well as the recently launched START programme under the IACCC of the IPCC. It was suggested that the government may want to package it in a more comprehensive scientific research programme which would have as one of its outputs the designation of viable and easily-monitored biological indicators for climate change.

#### *Handing-over of CPACC computers*

The C1 computers had been handed-over on World Met Day under the auspices of the OAS.

#### *Recent developments in international negotiations of the Kyoto Protocol*

The NFP and the Project Coordinator further discussed the recent development with the Kyoto Protocol, the statements of the Bush Administration and the present debate ongoing on the future of the Protocol. While concerned, both parties remained positive regarding the outcome and the survival of the Protocol, particularly in the absence of anything better.

Area	Activity	Progress (comments either as (✓), (✗) or in words)
Industrial Estate	1) Insurance rates	Ongoing
	2) Rainfall data	✓
	3) Revenue data for businesses	✓
	4) Level of coverage or sums set aside for hazard management	Proved to be difficult to obtain
Wetlands	1) Landings by type and size	Nearly completed
	2) Wetland survey	Nearly completed
	3) Changes in wetland area or impacts from climate	✓
Cultural heritage – Temple site	1) Background information on temple	✓
	2) Onsite survey	✓
	3) Telephone survey	✓
	4) Estimates for repairs	Ongoing