

Component 8 Mission – March 5th – 9th, 2001

Follow-up on Phase II – Design and Implementation Highlights

Overview

The Follow-up Mission to the Component 8 participating countries was carried out by the CPACC Technical Coordinator and the NOAA Lead Consultant, Dr. Clement Lewsey from March 5th – 9th, 2001.

The itinerary was as follows:

March 4th – Arrive Antigua

March 5th – Meet with NOAA Lead

- Meet with Antigua Project Local consultants

March 6th – Review of Project Documents and Draft proposal

- Meet with OAS Director
- Meet with Project Local Team

March 7th – Travel to St. Kitts

- Meet with Project Team Lead

March 8th – Meet with Project Local Team

- Meet with OAS Director

Friday 9th - Meet with Minister of Health and Environment and CPACC National Focal Point

Summary of Status

October 2000 was the last formal follow-up Mission with the Component 8 country team and was the occasion for in-depth discussion on Component 8 Implementation, final decisions on the types of instruments to be implemented and associated strategies.

At the meeting a comprehensive plan was developed including a programme for implementation. Included were critical steps in the design of country-specific programme and the development of presentations for Cabinet. Presentations to Cabinet were seen as a particularly critical step for ensuring the sustainability of the process and that the proposal would be absorbed into the national operating policy.

However, some momentum was lost since the meeting. Although Project Team Leaders continued work and activities in building support as well as baseline information of the proposals, the presentations and critical strategic progress in terms of the political process was lost. The follow-up Mission concentrated mainly on gaining a summary of recent and developing effective strategies for making up ground loss and ensuring that implementation was completed within the current operating timeline.

Antigua and Barbuda

Since the last meeting, the following had occurred:

- The Minister of Environment may no longer be the appropriate champion for the proposal;
- There has been a recent Cabinet re-shuffle which would indicate a need for a more sustainable approach to government;
- Mr. Frederick Southwell, one half of the Project Local team, has been transferred back to his previous post in Education and although this does not necessarily preclude his participation in the continued execution of the Project, it means that we must re-establish an institutional connection to the Development Control Authority whose participation is crucial;
- A Cabinet paper on sand management and giving some indication of forthcoming proposals was presented in November 2000;
- Discussions and ongoing research on alternative sources of sand have been identified;
- Clearer options have been developed.

From the discussions over the two-day meeting, the following was agreed:

- The Technical Paper was a strategic priority and should be completed as soon as possible. It was agreed that it would be submitted by the end of March 2001;
- Although other options for the establishment of the retail market were considered. It was agreed that the best course would be to promote the expansion and evolution of how Barbuda sells their sand re retail rather than wholesale and also ensure that the management of sand becomes a resource issue particularly given its importance to tourism;
- The Prime Minister will be approached again on the Project and asked to champion it himself rather than going through a Minister, giving the recent

- re-shuffles. It was noted that there was little point in sensitizing a new Minister and Ministry on the process and objective;
- The Project Local Team Leader will travel to DC to finalize the Technical Paper and to finalize the strategic plan with the CPACC Technical Coordinator and the NOAA Lead Consultant during the last week of March 2001;
 - A critical step would be a meeting with the Barbudan Council. This is to be held upon completion of the Technical Paper and before meeting with the Prime Minister and submission to Cabinet; and
 - An institutional link with the DCA would be re-established as soon as possible.

St. Kitts and Nevis

The following summarizes development since the last meeting:

- The Project Team has developed a proposal which has been discussed with the private sector regarding the plan for energy and water conservation;
- The setback guidelines have been approved by Cabinet but mainly refer to guidelines and are not an Act in themselves;
- Research has been carried to assess the economic benefits of the water and conservation measures and will be used and integration into the proposal; and
- Further discussion and thought was given to the incentive for existing properties, which would need to be part of the incentive package.

In summary not much significant progress was made and discussions focused on a way to bring things back on track. The following summarizes the agreed strategy:

- The project proposal will be expanded to include an overall comprehensive strategy to address development in the coastal zone in which the pilot programme will be part of the short-term strategy.
- Energy and water conservation were agreed on as the main pillars of the response and technologies identified including solar water heaters, low flush toilets, low flow aerators and low flow showerheads. Other suggestions included drought resistant vegetation for landscaping, changing laundry patters and key-operated air conditioning systems. Main selling point to government: reducing their vulnerability to drought; improving water resources management and

reducing wastage; reducing government reliability on fossil fuel and reducing import bill; fuel substitution.

- The short-term strategy would include: i) the setback guidelines and their implementation; ii) the incentive programme for energy and water conservation; iii) certification programmes and iv) incentives for existing properties for setbacks etc.
- The issue of whether damaged properties would be allowed to be built back or ordered to build further in was considered critical and will be reviewed with the physical planning department.
- It would be critical to begin a strategic dialogue with departments that would be responsible for implementing such policies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, the Electricity Department (under the Ministry of Utilities) and the Ministry of Health;
- Wastewater treatment was considered but was considered too complex to be address in the short-term context of the pilot project;
- The Country Report is to be submitted to the Project Coordinator by March 30th, 2001.
- In addition the package for presentation to government and the private sector would be presented by March 21st 2001 and would be published as an output of the Component.
- Presentation to Cabinet would be targeted for April 2001. Part of the strategy would include meeting with members of Cabinet. The Minister of Tourism was chosen as the champion for the proposal.
- Baseline information for the proposal would be sought and contact would be made with James Husbands of Solar Dynamics and Jill Whitley of Casuarina Beach Hotel in Barbados to provide information on energy and dollars saved and also for savings from laundry management and other energy and water conservation measures.

Conclusion

Despite the obvious delays, it is expected that with re-energised focus, that the pilot project will be implemented in time for completion by June 2001. It is anticipated that case studies from the pilot would be presented at a June workshop in Puerto Rico on "Managing Beaches in the Caribbean: Investing in our Future".

A number of discussion papers and reports are also to be finalised and published as a result of the project activity.