

Component 8: Formulation of Economic/Regulatory Proposals (Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts/Nevis)

Component 8 was originally planned for completion by December 2000, ending with a regional workshop to discuss lessons learned and to share the experiences of the two participating countries. However, the consultative process involved both nationally and within the overall coordination team has necessitated a slower paced approach to ensure that the final recommendations are viable in the long-term.

Completed activities as of Dec 2000:

- Methodology Definition
- Review of Legal Regulations and Options for Coastal Zone Management
- Joint workshop with C7 on Economic Decision-making Tools for Climate Change Adaptation Policy
- Cross-sectoral consultation of stakeholders
- Development of National Capacity (still ongoing)
- Development of draft recommendations for pilot instruments
- Begun seeking high-level support for recommendations

Over the next six months implementation will be mainly focused on the completion of the pilot study.

The following activities are to be carried out in this period under Task II: Implementation of Pilot Study:

- Finalization of recommendations and pilot study pilot implementation strategies (February 2001)
- Follow-up country visits (March 4 –9, 2001)
- Implement pilot implementation studies (March – June 2001)
- National Consultations on the proposed pilot studies (April/May 2001)
- Preparation of Pilot Implementation Technical Country Reports 1 (May 2001)
- Review of applicability of economic instruments for the region (May 2001)
- Sub-regional meeting/workshop – preparation and development of technical report (June 2001)

Finalization of Pilot Implementation Strategies

Efforts will be focused on finalizing the project implementing strategy for the participation countries. Both countries will continue to encourage wide participation and to finalize decisions on which instrument or combination of policy instruments is to be piloted over the next six months. This activity will be finalized by the end of February 2001.

The definitive strategy would detail innovative approaches to address the two priority issues selected by the countries: (i) sand management and (ii) beach conservation.

Awareness and Capacity-Building (Ongoing)

A critical aspect of the Pilot Implementation Strategy in Antigua and Barbuda is the continuing effort to educate the public on sand as a resource. Part of the ongoing efforts in this area will be focused on innovative public awareness and disseminations activities.

Equally efforts will be maintained to share and disseminate information between the implementation teams of C7 and C8 and relevant materials will be distributed. The Project has subscribed both countries to Environmental Finance – a British publication addressing various options such as market trading, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), new development in stocks and derivatives associated with climate change and weather markets, taxes, etc., and is intended to support the countries as they continue to look for innovative approaches to implementing climate change adaptation policy. This will be maintained for the life of the project.

Further efforts will continue to access other relevant materials and research in this area.

Ensuring Sustainability of the Project (Ongoing)

A meeting and consultative session with Government Ministers on the proposed pilot instruments has been identified as a critical step early on in the project. Although this has occurred at informal levels and through Ministerial participation in meetings and through briefing sessions, this has not as yet been executed at a formal level in either country. A focused effort will be maintained during early 2001 to ensure that a formal meeting is held on pilot recommendations. This consultative process will be the basis of an effort to develop a core of support at the political level towards ensuring the sustainability by the efforts in the project to use economic instruments to achieve environmental goals.

In addition, a presentation to Cabinet will be prepared, including the recommending appropriate methodologies for the design of modelling of instruments and their long-term applicability to implementing environmental policy. This activity should be completed by April 2001.

Implementation of the Pilot Studies (March – June 2001)

After the identification of specific issues and instruments, countries will develop operating plans for implementation of specific aspects of the pilot strategy. This will include continued efforts in building public awareness and political support in terms of sustainability of project efforts.

Further, specific instruments will be tested during the next six months and both countries will present the results of these efforts at national workshops.

Other outputs expected from the Project are:

1. Pilot implementation technical report (for each country); and
2. Review of applicability of economic instruments for the region.

Remote sensing imagery acquired as part of C3 allows for the mapping of the pilot areas in order to document the loss of sand and degradation of beaches and coastal areas. This is expected to provide a data set, which countries can build upon in terms of future monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies on environmental management, as well as the environmental efficiency of present and future environmental policies.

In addition, the Post-Georges Disaster Mitigation Project (PGDM), funded by USAID-Jamaica/Caribbean Regional Programme and executed by the OAS, is working on similar areas as are focused on in C8, and is expected to produce valuable maps and

information on coastal erosion and risk and hazard. This information is critical to C8 in providing a sound basis for recommendations and informing discussions and establishing critical baselines for further policy development. Greater communication is expected between the two projects and information sharing is ongoing. It is hoped that PGDM will be able to directly contribute to C8 training and discussions.

A continued and regular exchange between the two country teams is seen as being critical in building a sub-regional coordinated effort and support mechanism. As such, meetings and regular communications between the two countries will be supported by the OAS/RPIU.

In addition, an e-group will be established early in this period to foster a forum for discussion between the two countries as well as between the other components and other interested parties.

As part of the pilot implementation process it is expected that the C8 Project team will participate in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Coast and Beach Stability in the Caribbean (COSALC) project workshop on Managing Beach Ecosystems in the Caribbean in June 2001 in Puerto Rico.