

Grenada

Date and Venue

Friday, 27th October 2000 – Agency for Rural Transformation Boardroom, Marrast Hill, St. George's.

Participants:

Joseph Antoine	-	Friends of the Earth (Grenada)
Robert Alexis	-	Ministry of Legal Affairs
Leon Charles	-	Co-ordinator, First National Communication
Robert Dunn	-	Forestry Department
Steve Fassihi	-	Friends of the Earth (Grenada)
Sandra Ferguson	-	Agency for Rural Transformation
Alan Joseph	-	Forestry Department
Edward Lord	-	Grenada Ports Authority
Francis McBarnette	-	Organization of American States
Allison Miller	-	Ministry of Tourism
Jocelyn Paul	-	Ministry of Finance
Everson Peters	-	Ministry of Agriculture
Paul E. Phillip	-	Fisheries Division
Trevor Thompson	-	Land Use Division
John Tyme	-	Ministry of Legal Affairs
Hubert Whyte	-	Airport Authority
Judy Williams	-	Grenada Community Development Agency
Rawleston Moore	-	CPACC RPIU
G. de Berdt Romilly	-	CPACC RPIU

Agenda: See Annex A5 (Grenada)

Commentary:

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

- The *National Communication* is now drafted and to be submitted to Cabinet on Monday, 30th October 2000. It is anticipated that it will be presented to the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in November 2000. At page 10 of the *National Communication* it is recommended that a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* be formulated as a priority. This recommendation is supported by the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, it was agreed by participants that there was a need to develop a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* that would outline intervention options and an action plan for implementation.
- A comprehensive review of the existing legal regime and its adequacy for dealing with climate

change adaptation has been undertaken under Component 6 of CPACC.

- New tidal gauge stations are required in order that comprehensive data on tidal patterns and anticipated changes resulting from climate change can be obtained.
- It is important that a clear message be sent to industrialized countries that existing emission cut-backs under the Kyoto Protocol are inadequate to avoid climate change impacts in vulnerable small island States. It is considered that this message should be made clear to visiting tourists from industrialized nations in order that they may put pressure on their own governments to increase greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Grenada has undertaken an extensive public consultation process to develop the *Forestry Policy*, and experience from this exercise should guide the process to develop the *National Climate Change Policy*.
- The water sector is one that is extremely vulnerable to impacts from climate change. Grenada's current levels of water production are adequate to meet existing needs. Reports have indicated that there was an estimated 50% loss of water due to leakage. However, with the establishment of a metering system, it has been determined that wastage is in fact the cause of water loss. This highlights the need for an extensive public education campaign. It is uncertain as to what impacts climate change will have on water quality and quantity. The impacts of climate change combined with high demand during the tourist season (which coincides with the dry season) may affect Grenada's ability to adequately deal with seasonal high demand for water. The impact of 2 new golf courses on the country's ability to provide adequate water has not been considered when the projects were reviewed. The issue of water re-distribution needs to be evaluated. There is insufficient water storage capacity in the North of the country, while there is an excess storage capacity in the South. However, there is generally little surface water storage, with most water storage being in underground reservoirs and aquifers. The majority of dams and water catchment areas are heavily silted because of upstream agricultural practices (e.g. ploughing every year for peanut production, and overgrazing which seriously affects ground cover). There is a need to introduce low-flow toilets through economic incentives to hotels and the owners of residential properties that will encourage the installation of water saving equipment. There is an urgent need to conduct further research on the impacts of climate change on the quality and quantity of water resources (surface and underground).
- There is insufficient data available on saltwater intrusion and how existing underground water resources may be affected by climate change. Several cases of saltwater intrusion into existing underground water supplies have been recorded, but these have most probably resulted from excessive pumping. In Carriacou all wells are situated within 150 meters of the coast, and on other islands the set back is as little as 100 feet. As a result, there is likely to be more problems experienced with saltwater intrusion as a result of climate change.
- Most of Grenada's human settlement occurs in coastal plains areas, and some areas are under sea level (e.g. Grenville). Climate change and sea level rise would have a profound impact on

human settlement, and would result in considerable loss of human settlement and recreational areas. It should also be noted that major infrastructure such as the international airport and the industrial park are in low-lying areas that are extremely vulnerable to damage from storm surges.

- Grenada has a vibrant artisanal fishery which is likely to be affected by climate change impacts. The coastal pelagic fishery utilizing beach seine nets is most likely to be affected which will have profound social and economic consequences since it provides the major source of food for Grenada. Impacts on the reef fishery will not be as serious in social and economic terms since there is lesser reliance on this fishery as a source of food. However, climate change is likely to result in coral bleaching and increased incidents of fish kills resulting from algae blooms which are caused by high nutrient levels in coastal waters combined with higher water temperatures and a reduction in freshwater infusion because of changes to ocean currents.
- Most hotels and tourism infrastructure are located in vulnerable coastal or beach areas. There is an urgent need to identify the impacts of climate change on such facilities, and develop appropriate intervention options to prevent the development of further facilities in vulnerable areas. The new Building Code establishes a series of set-backs, but these are generally not being enforced, in part because the Building Codes do not bind the State. It is recognized that the finance and insurance sectors could play an important part in facilitating the enforcement of the Building Codes. The OECS “model” building codes are the basis for the legislation that has been enacted, However, it is recognized that this model Building Code was not developed with climate change in mind and may need to be revised.
- Climate change is likely to result in increased incidents of vector borne diseases. There is a need to assess the impacts of climate change on human health and identify appropriate intervention options together with the implications on health service delivery. However, before an appropriate health policy can be developed to respond to climate change, there is a need to collect data and information that can serve to justify anticipated policy changes.
- Climate change may cause Grenada to investigate a different tourism “product” since sand and sea as a product may not be sustainable. The development of tourism infrastructure may need to focus on facilities that are not constructed on vulnerable beach areas. There are a number of large homes which are in a state of disrepair which, with upgrading, could form the basis for the promotion of “villa tourism”. Such facilities would require considerably less water resources for their upkeep and maintenance.
- Existing laws are sectoral in nature and fragmented, and have not been developed with adaptation to climate change as a consideration. There is no environmental impact assessment process established by law, which is an urgent priority. Additionally, there is an urgent need to ensure that the consideration of climate change impacts constitutes an integral part of any environmental impact assessment process.
- The public at large needs to be actively involved in the development of the *National Climate*

Change Policy, and for this purpose it is essential that the message on climate change be presented to civil society in a form that is easily understood and which focuses on their concerns and interests. NGO's and community groups will play an important part in any public awareness program.

- 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.

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

- (a) It was agreed that the Climate Change Committee would co-ordinate the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan. However, the national focal point and members of the committee are considerably overworked, and do not have the resources to be able to commit any extra time to the development of the Issues Paper or the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan. A formal request would be made to the CPACC RPIU for support to retain a part time co-ordinator to facilitate work on the Issues Paper, and to oversee the public consultation process that would be established to develop the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan. It is foreseen that a "Climate Change Unit" may need to be established to facilitate the implementation of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.
- (b) Concern was expressed over the need to ensure active "participation" in the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan so as to ensure ownership and the effective implementation of the policy and action plan. While an extensive public participation process as undertaken to formulate the *Forestry Policy* would be preferred, it was considered that little value would be achieved from such an extensive process in view of the limited public knowledge about climate change impacts and adaptation options. Accordingly, it was considered that the policy document would best be developed by members of the Climate Change Committee with active participation from select stakeholders.
- (c) The Climate Change Committee would develop a work plan to develop and public education program to support the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan and by the end of January 2001 submit to the CPACC RPIU a breakdown of the resources that will be required to support these initiatives. It is anticipated that resources would be required from CPACC to assist with the costs associated with the printing and disseminating the Draft Policy document, and facilitating the public consultation process.
- (d) The *National Communication*, and outputs from Component 6 (Vulnerability and Adaptation)

would assist in the formulation of the Issues Paper. Work on finalizing the Issues Paper should be completed within the next few months. Thereafter, consultations with a variety of stakeholders will be held to obtain input to the Issues Paper. These consultations should be completed by the end of January 2001.

- (e) It was foreseen that a technical meeting would be needed to facilitate discussion on intervention options and discuss proposed management mechanisms. This technical meeting could be held in February 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 would undertake an extensive public consultation process leading up to the development of a draft Policy Paper.
- (f) It is anticipated that the Climate Change Committee 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, it is anticipated that the Climate Change Committee would undertake the development of an Implementation Plan.
- (h) It is anticipated that 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 for consideration.
- (i) It is anticipated that once agreement has been reached, the Climate Change Committee shall submit the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan to Cabinet for review and eventual approval.
- (j) It is anticipated that 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 champion 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.