

Jamaica

Date and Venue:

Wednesday, 11th October 2000 – 7th Floor Boardroom, Ministry of Water and Housing, Kingston.

Thursday, 12th October, 2000 – 2nd Floor Conference Room, Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), Kingston.

Participants:

Leonie Barnaby	-	Senior Director, Ministry of Land and Environment
Philbert Brown	-	Emergency Management and Weather Services
Carol Excell	-	Legal Officer, Natural Resources Conservation Authority
Clifford Mahlung	-	National Meteorological Service
Franklin MacDonald	-	Executive Director, National Environment and Planning Agency
Ms. Mathis	-	Legal Counsel, Natural Resources Conservation Authority
Rainee Oliphant	-	Forestry Department
Dr. U O'D Trotz	-	CPACC RPIU
Dr. Leonard Nurse	-	CPACC RPIU
Rawleston Moore	-	CPACC RPIU
G. de Berdt Romilly	-	CPACC RPIU

Agenda: See Annex A

Commentary:

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

- The Country Focal Point has prepared a Cabinet submission seeking the establishment of a Climate Change Secretariat. It is anticipated that the Secretariat and a National Climate Change Committee will be established in the near future. Letters seeking membership on the Committee have already been dispatched.
- It was agreed that there was a need to develop a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* that would outline intervention options and an action plan for its implementation. The challenge would be to create ownership for the final product so as to ensure that it will be implemented by successive administrations. It is considered that the Government should follow the “Green Paper/White Paper” process in view of the importance of climate change adaptation. The Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) has considerable experience in the formulation of a variety of Green/White Papers (e.g. *Towards a Watershed Policy for Jamaica*. (Green Paper No. 2/99), and *Policy for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas*), and would take the lead in the development of the Green/White Paper process.

- 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*. There is an urgent need to inform the public about climate change impacts. It is considered that public education and awareness on the impacts of climate change requires the greatest concentrated effort. The launching of Component 4 under the CPACC project presents an ideal opportunity to launch an extensive public awareness campaign on climate change.
- There is a need to review all national laws with a focus on climate change, in order to identify gaps, deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- There is an urgent need to articulate and communicate a clear message to parliamentarians on the importance of initiating urgent action on climate change, and the need to develop and implement a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*. In this regard, assistance from CPACC would be appreciated in order to develop materials for such a presentation.
- It is considered that there is a need to look at obtaining the input from the insurance and finance sectors since the matter of re-insurance for severe storm damage needs to be urgently addressed. An effective re-insurance regime to address increased damage resulting from climate change should be addressed in the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*.
- The impacts of climate change need to be understood by all members of society, and the sectoral approach to resource management and national/physical planning needs to be replaced by a more holistic and integrated approach if climate change adaptation is to become a reality.

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

- (a) It was agreed that the National Climate Change Committee and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) would co-ordinate the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.
- (b) The Climate Change Committee would undertake further work on the Issues Paper, with particular attention on identifying current and proposed policies, initiatives and legislation which are relevant to climate change adaptation planning and management. Short-term local consultancies may be required to undertake the review of laws, policies and institutional structures from a climate change perspective, and to complete work on the Issues Paper. The evaluation of legal, policy and institutional frameworks may need to be reviewed externally, with support provided by CPACC. Thereafter, the Committee would circulate the draft Issues Paper to various government agencies and departments to obtain their input and comments on any outstanding issues that should be included. It is anticipated that work on finalizing the “Issues Paper” will be completed by January 2001.
- (c) The Climate Change Committee would initiate work on the launch of the public consultation process. CPACC RPIU will assist in the development of presentation materials that will

support the articulate and communicate a clear message to parliamentarians on the importance of initiating urgent action on climate change, and the need to develop and implement a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*. Materials for these presentations to parliamentarians will be developed by the end of November 2000, and it is anticipated that the CPACC RPIU may be called upon to assist with presentation to parliamentarians.

- (d) A public consultation process would be undertaken by the Climate Change Committee/NRCA to obtain input and comments on the Issues Paper.
- (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 should be held in April 2001- comprising 2 half-day sessions. These sessions would result in the formulation of a “Green Paper” that would be submitted for broad-based consultation. The draft Green Paper would be prepared and ready for public consultation in May-June 2001. Thereafter, the Climate Change Committee/NRCA would undertake an extensive public consultation process leading up to the development of a draft “White Paper”.
- (f) Once the draft Policy Paper had been formulated, the Climate Change Committee/NRCA would undertake the development of an Implementation Plan.
- (g) It may be necessary to have the draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan submitted for Peer Review with input provided by technical experts convened by the CPACC RPIU. Once agreement on the document has been reached, it is foreseen that the NRCA/Climate Change Committee shall submit the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan to the Ministry of Land and Environment for onward transmission to Cabinet for review and eventual approval.
- (h) The Climate Change Unit/NRCA are short of personnel, and may require resources (technical, financial and human) to facilitate the development of the *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan, and the public education and awareness program. The Climate Change Unit/NRCA will consult with other stakeholders concerning the implementation of Component 4, and will within 30 days, submit to the CPACC RPIU a detailed work-plan outlining specific resources (technical, financial and human) that will be required to facilitate the development of the *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan, and the public education and awareness program.
- (i) Given that the Environmental Management Authority (EMA)/Climate Change Committee in Trinidad and Tobago has developed a public education and awareness program on climate change, it was considered that this program could serve as a model for the region and that Trinidad and Tobago could be utilized as a resource center for similar programs.