

Report of the Third Meeting of the Project Advisory Committee Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC)

*The Pom Marine Hotel
Barbados
8 – 9 July 1999*

1.0 Welcome

The Chairman of the opening session Mr Jan Vermeiren of the OAS welcomed all members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Third Meeting of the body. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Environment, Barbados, Ms Atheline Haynes welcomed all participants on behalf of the Government of Barbados. In her welcome remarks she assured the meeting of her Government's continued support for the project and alluded to the proposal for the establishment of the regional climate change centre which was to be discussed at this meeting.

1.1 The business session of the meeting was chaired by Mr Mustafa Toure of the CARICOM Secretariat. The first order of business was to approve the agenda. This was approved as presented (Annex 1).

2.0 Minutes of the Second Meeting

The report of the second meeting of the PAC was presented and discussed. The minutes of the second meeting of the PAC were accepted.

3.0 Matters Arising

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines were now full members of CPACC and there are officially 12 countries participating in CPACC.
- The Deputy Project Manager's contract ended at the end of June and the post has not been filled.
- Invitations were extended to all of the organisations suggested at the first PAC meeting.
- Suriname had decided to implement their First National Communications under the UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities.
- Progress has been made with the relocation of the RPIU and arrangements are advanced for the occupation of the building previously used by the West Indian Commission. This building has been provided by the Government of Barbados. Though off campus, arrangements are being made to remain on the University's communications network.
- An invitation was issued to the CCA to attend. However the Chief Executive of the organisation has just relinquished the post and the organisation is in a state of flux at the moment.
- The working groups have not been established.

4.0 Institutional Arrangements

4.1 RPIU Staffing

The position of Deputy Project Manager was still vacant. The meeting suggested that maybe the Deputy project Manager's position should be filled by someone already on the RPIU team, and another professional hired to ensure that the RPIU had its full complement of staff. Ms Marquita Griffith was appointed to the post of Executive Secretary in the RPIU, replacing Ms Bernice Walcott who was with the Project from its inception.

4.2 RPIU Facilities

The RPIU has been allocated new premises at the Lazaretto Complex in the building previously occupied by the West Indian Commission. This is a significant improvement on the present accommodation in the CERMES building at UWI. The costs involved in furnishing and preparations for occupancy were being met from the contingency fund. The RPIU despite its new location would remain on the University's communications network.

5.0 Progress Reports and Presentation of the Work Programme

5.1 The Progress Report for the period covering June 1998 – June 1999 was presented. This was followed by a presentation of the proposed Work Programme for July to December 1999. Both the progress report and the proposed Work Programme were discussed. Key issues which emerged were:

5.2 Component 1

- All monitoring stations were functional with the exception of that in St. Kitts and Nevis which was damaged by Hurricane Georges.
- Monitors on systems have a lifespan of approximately five years.
- Geocentric fixing of benchmarks – calibration equipment installed and calibration will commence shortly.
- Data acquisition, archiving and dissemination - CIMH will not be able to provide facilities for domiciling the receiving dish. CPACC will provide training to an officer from the IMA, Trinidad and Tobago. The IMA may be considered as an alternative site for the receiving dish.

5.3 Component 2

- CPACC has been asked by UNDP to coordinate regional training workshops under the SIDSNET programme. Will ensure that CPACC

NFP's benefit from training programme so as to further enhance their capability in e-mail and internet use.

- Web-page management now reverts to the RPIU. Suggested that CPACC develop a web-page aimed at schools. In this regard linkages may be sought with the UNESCO regional Caribbean Seas programme.
- FAO was considering a programme for the update of GIS facilities in Dominica. CPACC should liaise with FAO to ensure there was no duplication of effort in this area.
- Through the web page linkages may be sought with CDERA's Caribbean Disaster Information Network (CARDIN).
- Calendar of CPACC activities should be developed and posted on the web page.
- A short-term consultant was hired to assist the RPIU to catalogue and organise its print documents and to provide RPIU staff with training on principles of documentation and registration.

5.4 Component 3

- A detailed presentation was made on the modalities to be employed in the compilation of the CRIS.
- In the metadata training similar procedures to those utilised in the CEPNET programme were to be pursued.
- Some flexibility with the timeframe for this project will be needed. Should be adjusted in time for consideration at the mid-term review.
- Necessary to work closely with pilot projects in order to determine data needs of these. Gaps that are to be addressed refer to needs of the pilot projects.
- Major capacity building outputs expected:
 - Ability to use CRIS for decision making
 - Ability to administer and maintain CRIS
 - Ability to train others in use of system
- Use can be made of graduate students from UWI to help with the digitisation of country data.

5.5 Component 4

- An attempt should be made to develop a holistic approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management and focus should not be confined to the Legal and Regulatory dimensions. Linkages with ongoing development activities probably involving Sustainable Development Councils (where these exist), Government agencies and coastal resource users will be essential. Part of the output should be a process for addressing ICZM issues in a holistic manner.

5.6 Component 5

- Protocols for site selection were developed and a workshop on this methodology held.
- Site selections were concluded in the three pilot countries (Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica)
- Ensure linkages with CARICOM and CANARI.

5.7 Component 6

- The sub-regional workshop was held in Grenada March 29 – 31, 1999.
- CPACC should provide assistance in supporting local institutions as the coordinating/implementing agency in each country.
- CDERA interested in the methodology for this component. See it as an opportunity for future collaboration. CDERA seeking funding to support and develop hazard-mapping capability in the region.
- CPACC will keep CDERA informed on activities undertaken under this Component

5.8 Component 7 and 8

- These two components were to be operationalised during the forthcoming period. TORs for the consultants for Component 7 were developed. There was a strong suggestion that there was room for synergy in the implementation of Components 4, 7 and 8, and this should be explored.

5.9 Component 9

- Problems experienced utilising the IPCC guidelines for GHG inventory as emission factors not compatible with situations in SIDS.
- Need to liaise with UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities Project.
- Only superficial vulnerability assessment studies on water and agriculture. Hopefully deficiency may be addressed by a regional project on vulnerability assessment expanding on CPACC's Component 6.
- This issue re lack of regional capacity in vulnerability assessment was discussed at a regional meeting held under the aegis of the UNDP/GEF project. As a result UNDP/GEF will sponsor a two-week workshop on the topic so as to facilitate an input into the First National Communications document.
- Meeting discussed the feasibility of another Component (C10) for CPACC to address the need for capacity building in the area of vulnerability assessment (now confined to C6 pilot countries).

6.0 National Implementation

The representatives of the NICU's at this years meeting were Belize and Dominica and they made the following submissions.

- Training in GIS was critical and CPACC should find a way to expand the opportunity for training to all CPACC countries.
- Need to improve communications between RPIU and NICUs.
- CPACC should examine synergies between CPACC and the National Biodiversity Action Plan in Belize.
- Format for quarterly reports should be posted on the web-page.
- Bahamas was concerned about their eligibility to receive any funds channelled to CPACC from CANADA – Bahamas does not qualify for Canadian aid.
- Tidal gauge and the CPACC computer were damaged by Hurricane Georges in St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Focal point for Antigua and Barbuda (Department of Fisheries) will be utilising CPACC funds to purchase a GIS desktop digitiser.
- The Bahamas would require some extra equipment for C5 implementation.
- Need to clarify questions of ownership and of insurance coverage for CPACC equipment.
- Need to develop emission factors compatible with the situation in SIDS.
- The physical planning department in Dominica responsible for C3 implementation.
- All NICUs faced severe human resources constraints. CPACC to examine the possibility of providing resources to “pay” to get job done. This may act as an incentive. It is necessary to have visible benefits in NFPs organisation to encourage the level of commitment required.

7.0 Evaluation/Audit Report

6.1 Mr Carlos Fuller was contracted to carryout an evaluation of Component 1. The idea behind the evaluations was to provide management with information so that prudent decisions re adjustments in implementation can be made for the second half of the project. Other evaluations were carried out by Professor George Maul (Regional Archiving Centre); Dr Malcolm Hendry (Component 5); and Mr. Rashleigh Jackson and Cletus Springer (efficacy of NICUs).

Several suggestions were made re adjustments that CPACC may need to make in implementing the project. The RPIU gave an undertaking to seriously consider these and to report on progress in adopting some of the recommendations when the final consultant's reports were discussed at the mid-term review.

- Audit reports were to be fully considered at the World Bank Mid-Term review meeting. As part of that discussion attention should be paid to the question of disbursement of funds so as to ensure that this does not act as a bottleneck to project implementation.
- In reference to the Value Added Tax issue the RPIU pays the VAT and UWI will arrange for reimbursement subsequently.
- To date the RPIU does not have online connectivity to the UWI finance system but some progress has been made in this regard.

8.0 CPACC Institutionalisation

A small committee comprising members from UWI, CIMH and PETROTRIN had recommended that the RPIU should evolve into a Regional Climate Change Centre. Such a Centre will fulfil the role of coordinating climate change activities in the region. This proposal to establish a Climate Change Centre was endorsed by COTED and further endorsement was expected at the CARICOM Heads meeting later in July.

There was a need to articulate the configuration, functions and operation of the proposed centre in a more concrete manner. This may be effected through the Proposed Technical Committee.

There was also need to address the question of the long term sustainability of CPACC and for this purpose the proposed Finance and Sustainability Committee should be operationalised.

9.0 CPACC Linkages

9.1 Membership of IAI

The issue of membership was discussed. Only Jamaica is presently a member of IAI. Entry requirements have been lowered and though the organisation's focus is geared more to Latin America we should explore the possibility of group membership.

9.2 Role in other Climate Change Activities in the Region

CPACC had initiated a project with the Clean Air Policy Institute (Washington) and the Canadian Global Systems International (Canada) on a regional approach to identifying regional projects for implementation under the CDM. This would involve the development of regional baselines. A project proposal has been developed and funding is being sought for its implementation.

There is also an initiative with Environment Canada to initiate a project on Greening Governments through a workshop in November.

CPACC had helped with the establishment of the CGIS course and GIS laboratory at CERMES. CPACC has also initiated discussions with UWI on:

- Development of a MSc programme in Climate Change at Cave Hill
- Development of regional capacity in Climate Modelling.

9.3 *Role of CPACC – National Communications*

Earlier in the meeting this was discussed and there was a suggestion that this may be pursued through the development of another Component C10 for CPACC.

10.0 **Coordination among Regional Institutions and Programme Discussions**

10.1 *UNDP*

- Dr James indicated that under the UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities Project a workshop on Vulnerability Assessment was scheduled to be held in Trinidad and Tobago later in July. It is hoped that at the workshop the C10 proposal will be discussed and that some consensus will be arrived at as to how this issue will be addressed regionally. There were problems with the present arrangement for regional coordination of the project and these will be re-examined.
- CPACC should explore possibilities for synergies with other on-going activities particularly in the implementation of Components 4, 7 and 8. CPACC should work closely with Sustainable Development Councils where these are functional.
- Under public awareness CPACC should investigate pooling of country resources to support this activity. Several agencies and countries are producing web-sites dealing with environmental issues and the feasibility of linkages between these activities may lead to a more effective use of resources.
- Need to have a holistic approach to implementing environmental programmes in the region.

10.2 *Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)*

There was a proposal to convene a Regional meeting at the Technical and Ministerial levels in Trinidad and Tobago in preparation for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to review the Implementation of the SIDS POA. One of the major topics to be considered at this meeting is a resolution to consider the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development.

10.3 Regional Preparation for COP5

Plans are being made to have a meeting of Caribbean participants to the COP5 before the G77 meeting to define regional positions on some of the issues. It would be more appropriate to have a regional caucus before each COP. CPACC will attend COP5.

11.0 **Reports of Committees**

The committees which were proposed at the last meeting of the PAC were never convened.

12.0 **Contributions by other Agencies**

12.1 Opportunity for closer collaboration with CFRAMP. Data sets gathered on fish catch could feed into coastal resources inventory. CFRAMP will be invited to participate in the NICU meetings in Belize.

12.2 FAO stated that the Land and Water development Commission does deal with Climate Change issues and CPACC should investigate possibility of working with this unit.

FAO is specifically interested in Latin America and the Caribbean and are interested in selecting certain countries where problems might be severe and provide support for activities in those countries. CPACC and FAO should exchange information.

Special interest in FAO in Carbon sequestration issues – methodology.

12.3 CDERA was very interested in vulnerability assessment activities of CPACC and would like to be kept informed about these. Other issues of interest were economic valuation and hazard mapping capacity building.

13.0 **Any Other Business**

- Chair will communicate with the Grenadian representative to stress the importance of attending NICU meetings.
- Professor Binger proposed that Mustafa Toure should be retained as Chair of the PAC.
- UNESCO will be invited to the next meeting of the PAC.

14.0 **Closure**

The Project Manager expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the RPIU for the level and quality of participation in the PAC. He also thanked the new invitees,

FAO and CDERA for participating and providing some useful suggestions for closer collaboration with their agencies on Climate Change and related issues.