

## **Trinidad and Tobago**

### **Date and Venue:**

Wednesday, 27th September 2000 - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Ministry of Environment, Government Buildings, Port of Spain.

### **Participants:**

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Andrew Coleman      | - | Interim National Physical Planning Commission (INPPC)                        |
| David Gajadhar      | - | Ministry of Public Utilities   |
| Gail George         | - | Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries                                     |
| Lisa James          | - | Ministry of Environment  |
| Gillian John        | - | Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Tobago<br>House of Assembly |
| Kishan Kumarsingh   | - | Environmental Management Agency (EMA)  |
| Sharon Laurent      | - | Environmental Management Agency (EMA)  |
| Ranjit Maysingh     | - | Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT)                                       |
| Deenesh Pirsad      | - | Point Lisas Industrial Park Development Corporation<br>(PLIPDECO)            |
| Andrew Plunkett     | - | Interim National Physical Planning Commission (INPPC)                        |
| Arthur Potts        | - | Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries, Tobago<br>House of Assembly    |
| Denise Prescott     | - | Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT)                                       |
| Kesraj Seegobin     | - | Auditor General's Department   |
| Wayne Quintal-      | - | Environmental Unit, Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT)                   |
| Col. David Williams | - | National Emergency Management Agency   |
| Hugh Wilson         | - | Ministry of Agriculture  |
| Dr. U O'D Trotz     | - | CPACC RPIU   |
| Judi Clarke         | - | CPACC RPIU   |
| Derrick Oderson     | - | CPACC RPIU   |
| G. de Berdt Romilly | - | CPACC RPIU   |

**Agenda:** See Annex A

### **Commentary:**

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

- The launching of Component 4 under the CPACC project presents an ideal opportunity to launch an extensive public awareness campaign on climate change.
- Currently, there are no tools in existence to assist decision-makers with beach front

development applications, and it was considered that a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* would provide direction and guiding principles.

- Existing legislation (e.g. the *Three Chains Act*) had been invaluable in establishing a 180 feet buffer zone along the shoreline to control development in this area. Such legislation could be useful in establishing controls on shore front development which may be necessary to respond to anticipated impacts from climate change.
- Economic instruments, financial considerations and public education are essential mechanisms to effect change so as to address the impacts of climate change.
- It was considered that the environmental impact assessment process should be more closely tied to the engineering design stage of development planning so that improved design/engineering standards that address concerns about climate change can be fully integrated into project design.
- It was considered that further work needed to be done on the Issues Paper, and attention needed to be placed on identifying current and proposed policies, initiatives and legislation which are relevant to climate change adaptation planning and management.
- 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 implementation. It was considered that a formal part of the policy should be an evaluation of socio/economic effects and impacts of the policy.
- 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*.

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

- (a) It was agreed that the Climate Change Committee / EMA 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. 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. This process would be completed in three weeks.
- (c) The Climate Change Committee would review comments submitted by government departments and agencies, and make any necessary changes to the Issues Paper. This task would take two weeks.
- (d) The Climate Change Committee would initiate work on the launch of the public consultation

process. A period of two weeks will be required to plan for the launch of the consultation process.

- (e) A public consultation process would be undertaken by the Climate change committee to obtain input and comments on the Issues Paper. This initial public consultation process would require four weeks.
- (f) The Climate Change Committee would review comments arising from the public consultation, and make any necessary changes to the Issues Paper. This task would take two weeks.
- (g) 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 November or December 2000 - 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, over a period of 8 weeks the Climate Change Committee would undertake an extensive public consultation process leading up to the development of a draft Policy Paper.
- (h) Once the draft Policy Paper had been formulated, the Climate Change Committee would undertake the development of an Implementation Plan. This process would require two weeks for consultations.
- (i) The draft policy paper and implementation Plan would be submitted to CPACC RPIU for review by a panel of technical experts. This process would require two weeks. Comments arising from this technical review will be submitted to the Climate Change Committee for consideration.
- (j) Once agreement has been reached, the Climate Change committee shall submit the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan to the Ministry of Environment for onward transmission to Cabinet for review and eventual approval.
- (k) The sub-committee which developed the *Climate Change Public Awareness Campaign 2000-2002* would review the document and the proposed work plan outlined to develop the *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* to determine whether any amendments may be required to the public awareness campaign to support activities under Component 4 of the CPACC project.
- (l) The Climate Change Committee will initiate work on the development of a public education program on climate change.

### **Public Awareness and Education**

A brief outline was given concerning the areas are to be covered by the public awareness programme for Component 4. The programme was conceptualized in two phases: the first would address the general public on general climate change issues, and the second would target specific aspects of

society (socioeconomic sectors), and in doing so, highlight the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Action Plan*. The floor was then opened for discussion.

Kishan Kumarsingh (CPACC Focal Point from the EMA), indicated that Trinidad & Tobago had already developed a public awareness programme for issues concerning global warming, climate change and sea level rise. This programme is outlined in a document (*Climate Change Public Awareness Programme – 2000-2002*) developed by the Sub-committee to the Working Group to determine the Implications of Global Warming, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

The programme, executed by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) utilizes the mass media and is directed mainly at school children. It was concluded that, given the existing and successful programme, the only amendment would be the inclusion of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Action Plan* under Component 4 of CPACC project.

It was indicated that one should be mindful of ‘public fatigue’ as it is likely to overwhelm the public with information, and likely to result in apathy. A concern was also expressed about communication techniques for various groups. It was agreed that tailoring the programme is imperative to ensure public participation and hence a successful campaign.

#### **Proposed Public Awareness and Education Activities**

- In light of the fact the General Elections will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in the 6 –7 months, it was suggested that this time be spent in “selling” the policy to candidates as they are currently in the process of preparing their manifestos.
- The EMA is currently liaising with the Ministry of Education on the matter of formal education addressing climate change issues.
- Training of teachers – needs to be addressed with a formal program.

#### **Public Awareness Committee**

- A committee, comprising some of the members of the National Climate Change Committee had already been setup. A list of the members is currently not available.

#### **Public Awareness and Education - Next Steps**

- The Public Awareness Committee will review the proposed work plan to see where and how public awareness and education can be included (in terms of outputs at particular times for particular audiences). The committee will also review the current public awareness strategy and incorporate the development and implementation of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Action Plan* into the work program.