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Report on
JOINT UNEP/ECLA PROJECT
FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AREA
April 1979 - April 1980

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

JOINT UNEP/ECLA PROJECT
FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AREA

INTRODUCTION

This paper has been prepared in order to provide information for CDCC member states, on the progress made by the Caribbean Environment Project (CEP) since the Fourth CDCC Session held in April, 1979.

The Joint UNEP/ECLA Project for Environmental Management in the Wider Caribbean, which commenced in 1977, was commissioned to evaluate the existing state of the environment, to assess the future trends, and to develop a Plan of Action for sound environmental management in the Wider Caribbean Region. ^{1/} All member states and Territories of the CDCC are covered by the Plan.

At the request of Caribbean Governments attending the Eighth Governing Council Session of UNEP in Nairobi, April 1980, the Project is to be extended from the end of June 1980 to April 1981. The Action Plan, which was endorsed by government-nominated experts from the Region together with a comprehensive work programme for implementation, will be submitted to a Ministerial level Inter-Governmental Meeting, for formal adoption, in March, 1981.

Once the Plan has been adopted, implementation is expected to follow virtually immediately.

^{1/} The "Wider Caribbean Region" includes all States and Territories which have borders on the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico, and other neighbouring States and Territories which have strong cultural and/or political links with the Region: i.e. El Salvador, Guyana, Suriname, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and the French Department of Guyane.

CEP ACTIVITIES, APRIL 1979 TO APRIL 1980

Advisory Panel Meetings

Two meetings of members of the High-Level Advisory Panel were held during the year to review the documentation prepared by various U.N. Agencies, consultants and the CEP Project team.

The first meeting was held in Mexico City from 10 to 12 September 1979. The second meeting, held in Port-of-Spain between 14 and 17 November 1979, concerned itself exclusively with the Draft Action Plan, a paper entitled "Options for Institutional and Financial Arrangements" (UNEP/CEPAL 1979, E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.4), a paper entitled "Principles and Guidelines which may be used for a Regional Legal Agreement" (UNEP/CEPAL 1979, E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.5 and the Draft Provisional and Draft Annotated Provisional Agenda prepared for the Meeting of Government Nominated Experts (GNEM).

On the basis of the discussions on the documentation, the working papers for the GNEM, including the Draft Action Plan, were revised, incorporating recommendations of the Advisory Panel.

Meeting of Government Nominated Experts to Review the Draft Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region

The Meeting of Government Nominated Experts was held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 28 January to 1 February 1980 under the joint auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). Representatives from 23 States and Territories attended the meeting. Six bodies of the U.N. Secretariat, five organizations of the U.N. system, six intergovernmental organizations and two non-governmental organizations sent observers.

During the meeting the Draft Action Plan was revised by the delegates and a revised Plan was adopted by consensus during the final plenary.

The list of documents distributed at the meeting is attached as Annex I.

The Report of the meeting has been distributed to all governments of the Region under the number E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.6.

Conference on Economic Growth and Environmental Management in the Smaller Caribbean Islands

The CEP co-sponsored the above-named Conference, jointly with US-MAB, the CDB, UNDIESA (OETB) and UNESCO, in Barbados from 17 to 21 September. For the purposes of the meeting "Smaller Islands" were defined as those Island States having an area not exceeding 10,000 km² nor a population exceeding 500,000.

The meeting was organized to focus on the special development problems of the smaller islands in the Region so that their needs could be satisfactorily incorporated into the Action Plan.

The Proceedings of the Conference were published in December 1979 and the document was distributed at the GNEM in Caracas as an information document.

Other Activities

Other activities undertaken during the period under consideration include:

- i) attendance at relevant meetings and conferences in the Region;
- ii) ongoing liaison with U.N. Agencies, Intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. This activity has been intensified since February 1980 in connection with project preparation for implementation of the Action Plan;

- iii) co-operation with other relevant regional projects;
- iv) consultations with the Governments of the Region. This activity was intensified in 1979.

Projections to April 1981

The present project time-table anticipates that the Action Plan will be adopted by April 1981.

As requested at the Government Nominated Experts Meeting, a detailed Work Programme for implementation of the Action Plan is currently being prepared by the CEP team in conjunction with UNEP-RS/PAC and the specialized Agencies of the U.N. System. Also in preparation, is a document analysing the financial implications of the Action Plan, including options for funding mechanisms and management.

A second Government Nominated Experts Meeting has been scheduled for January 1981. At that meeting it is hoped that the work programme for implementation of the Action Plan will be finalized and recommendations regarding financial arrangements will be made to the Governments.

The Ministerial-level Intergovernmental Meeting has now been re-scheduled for March 1981.

Another important activity scheduled for 1980 is a high-level UNEP/CEP mission to potential funding organizations (multilateral and bi-lateral) to seek funding for the projects being developed for the implementation of the Plan.

ANNEX I

DRAFT

E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.1

Meeting of Government Nominated Experts
to Review the Draft Action Plan for the
Wider Caribbean Region

Caracas, Venezuela, 28 January-1 February, 1980

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(provisional)

WORKING DOCUMENTS

E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.1	Provisional Agenda
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.3	Draft Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.4	Options for Financial and Institutional Arrangements
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.5	Principles and Guidelines which may be Used for a Regional Legal Agreement

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.1	List Of Documents
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E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.2	List of Participants
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.3	Development and Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region : A synthesis (UNEP/ECLA, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.4	The State of Marine Pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP/ECLA, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.5	The Status of Oil Pollution and Oil Pollution Control in the Wider Caribbean Region (IMCO, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.6	Report of the IOC/FAO/UNEP Workshop on Marine Pollution in the Caribbean and Adjacent Waters, Port Of Spain, Trinidad, December, 1976 (UNESCO, 1977)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.7	Collected Contributions of the IOC/FAO/UNEP Workshop on Marine Pollution in the Caribbean and Adjacent Waters, Port Of Spain, Trinidad, December, 1976 (UNESCO, 1977)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.8	Directory of the Caribbean Marine Research Centres (IOC/UNEP, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.9	Overview on Energy and Environment in the Caribbean Area (UNIDO, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.10	Overview on Natural Resources for Food and Agriculture in the Wider Caribbean Region (FAO, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.11	Overview on Environmental Health in the Wider Caribbean Region (PAHO/WHO, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.12	Natural Disasters in the Wider Caribbean Area : An overview (UNEP/ECLA, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.13	Marine and Coastal Area Development in the Wider Caribbean Area : Overview Study (UNDIESA, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.14	Human Settlements in the Wider Caribbean Area : An Overview (UNEP/ECLA, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.15	Review of International Conventions relevant to the Environmental Protection of the Wider Caribbean Area (UNEP, 1979)
E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.16	A Strategy for the Conservation of Living Marine Resources and Processes in the Caribbean Region (IUCN, 1979)

- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.17 Transactions of the USMAB/CDB/UN/UNEP/ECLA/ UNESCO Conference on Economic Growth on Environmental Management in the Smaller Caribbean Islands, Barbados, September, 1979 (USMAB, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.18 Tourism and Environment in the Wider Caribbean Area : An overview (OAC/CICATOUR, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.19 A Perspective on Environmental Education in the Wider Caribbean (UNEP/ECLA, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.20 A Preliminary Data Atlas for the Wider Caribbean (IUCN/UNEP, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.21 Proceedings, Issues and Recommendations Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar, St. Lucia, West Indies, June, 1979 (USOFDA/AID, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.22 Executive Summary Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar, St. Lucia, West Indies, June, 1979 (USOFDA/AID, 1979)
- E/CEPAL/PROY.3/L.INF.23 Activities of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) (FAO, 1979)

