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JOINT UNEP/ECLA PROJECT

FOR

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AREA



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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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 Third CDCC Session held in April, 1978.

It may be recalled that 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 development trends for the future, and to draw up a Plan of Action for the Management of the total environment in the Wider Caribbean Area^{1/}.

The Project is scheduled for completion by Mid-1980, and the Action Plan will be submitted to an Inter-Governmental Meeting for adoption and implementation. The plan is expected to provide a framework for integrating environmental parameters into the process of planning and development by Caribbean Governments, at the National, Sub-regional and regional levels.

The Wider Caribbean Area covered by the Project, includes all the countries which are members of CDCC.

^{1/} The "Wider Caribbean Area" includes all territories which have sea borders with the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, and other neighbouring territories which are linked culturally and/or politically. i.e. Guyana, El Salvador, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

CEP ACTIVITIES, APRIL, 1978 - MARCH, 1979

Advisory Panel Meeting

The Project's Work Programme, approved jointly by UNEP and ECLA in January, 1978, has been methodically implemented, despite some unforeseen delays.

Basic documentation concerning the substantive orientation of CEP, as well as its timetable, and certain select studies prepared by consultants and a Draft Action Plan, were reviewed by a High Level Advisory Panel at Port Of Spain between 5 and 7 April, 1978.

On the basis of the discussions on that documentation, and presentations made to the Advisory Panel, the Draft Action Plan was revised, incorporating recommendations of the Panel and the basic elements which it was felt should form the basis of the sectoral overviews which were to be prepared by specialized UN Agencies.

Additionally, the Panel recommended that CEP host a small working group of regional experts in environmental education and the mass media with the view to identifying needs and opportunities for creating environmental awareness through educational systems and the mass media.

It was also recommended that a Workshop on the use of Remote Sensing as a tool for environmental monitoring in the Caribbean Area, should be held.

Interagency Meeting

An Interagency Meeting was held at Mexico City from 23-25 August, 1978 which was attended by specialized UN Agencies and select non-Governmental organizations. The main purpose of this meeting was to determine the areas in which the specialized agencies could contribute to the development of the Action Plan, and to draw up the detailed terms of reference of the overview studies to be prepared by the specialized agencies. Seven sectorial terms of reference were prepared.

In addition to those seven overviews, five other subject areas were identified, which should be covered by the Project. The overviews in these areas are being coordinated directly by CEP.

Preparation of Overviews

Following the Interagency meeting, preparation of the overviews was commenced by the agencies responsible, after a formal exchange of letters of commitment and transfer of funds. Simultaneously, the CEP staff have been engaged in the preparation of those overviews for which they have assumed overall responsibility. Appendix I lists all the overview studies being prepared for the Project.

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 UN Agencies, Intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations,
- iii) cooperation with other regional projects, particularly the Joint UNEP/ECLA Alternative Patterns of Development Project for Latin America and the Caribbean,
- iv) Liaison with the Governments of the Region. This activity has been intensified since the beginning of January, 1979,
- v) Planning and organising the technical level Government-nominated experts meeting to be held later this year.

PROJECTIONS TO JUNE, 1980

The present Project time-table estimates that the current preparatory phase will be completed by June, 1980.

The substantive overview studies presently being prepared are scheduled for completion by June, 1979, when a working group will be

convened at the CEP offices to assist with the preparation of a document synthesising the contents of the overview studies.

A revised version of the Draft Action Plan will then be submitted to a second session of the Advisory Panel preliminary to the convening of a technical level meeting of Government-nominated experts scheduled for late October, 1979.

The technical level meeting of Government-nominated experts is seen as one of the most critical elements in the development of the Action Plan, it is designed to provide Governments an opportunity to have their technical experts jointly analyse the substantive overview studies and provide orientation concerning both priorities and financing for the implementation phase.

In the light of the outcome of the technical level Government-nominated experts meeting, there will be such revision of the action plan as may be necessary. Preparation of Pilot projects corresponding to the priorities identified will be undertaken. Alternative proposals for both the financing and the administration of the Action Plan, will be prepared for the Ministers' consideration at the Intergovernmental Meeting in 1980.

These documents will be considered by the third Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for early February, 1980.

Finally, between February, and June, 1980 the last Draft of the Action Plan will be prepared and submitted to UNEP and ECLA for clearance, this to be followed by the convening of the Ministerial level Intergovernmental meeting to which the action plan will be presented for consideration and adoption.

APPENDIX I

OVERVIEW STUDIES BEING PREPARED FOR CEP

OVERVIEW

COORDINATING AGENCY

AGRICULTURE	FAO
FISHERIES	FAO
COASTAL AREAS	UNDIESA
ENERGY	UNIDO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	PAHO/WHO
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	UNEP/TAS
MARINE POLLUTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS	UNEP

OVERVIEW STUDIES BEING COORDINATED DIRECTLY BY CEP

TOURISM
CRITICAL NATURAL AREAS
NATURAL DISASTERS
SMALL ISLAND SYSTEMS
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

