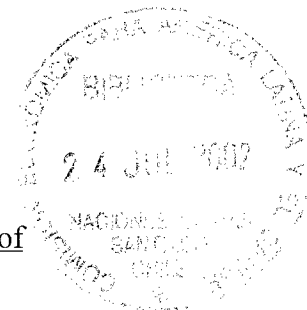




GENERAL  
LC/CAR/G.528  
15 December 1997  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



**DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE  
CARIBBEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**



## CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

Global, hemispheric and regional initiatives: Implementation and Negotiation of International Conventions and Non-binding Agreements  
Regional preparations for the 1999 United Nations Special Session to Review the Implementation of the SIDS POA  
Capacity building and technical assistance  
Sustainable development indicators  
Science and technology  
Resource mobilization: economic and financial instruments  
Information for sustainable development: SIDSNET  
Information for sustainable development: environmental information management  
Legislation, rationalization and institutional reform  
Communications for sustainable living  
Regional implementation mechanism proposal regional consultation and coordination mechanism

## SECTORAL ISSUES

Coastal and marine resources: Caribbean Sea as a "Special Area"  
Climate change and sea level rise  
Biodiversity  
Tourism  
Caribbean programme for code of conduct for responsible fisheries  
Management of wastes  
Energy  
Land resources  
Freshwater management  
Disaster management

## **CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES**

**GLOBAL, HEMISPHERIC AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES:  
Implementation and Negotiation of International Conventions  
and Non-binding Agreements**

### **Decision**

The meeting requested CARICOM, OECS and ACS with CARICAD, the Caribbean Law Institute and

interested governments and relevant regional and international organizations, in particular, in collaboration with the secretariats of the relevant international and regional conventions, to initiate a programme to improve the implementation and negotiation of international conventions and non-binding agreements in the region.

Specifically, Ministers:

(a) Requested CARICAD and the Caribbean Law Institute to:

- i. Produce in layman's language, and drawing on existing examples, versions of designated international conventions and relate them to national and regional sustainable development objectives. These documents should then be widely distributed to decision-makers and other stakeholders;
- ii. Develop public awareness programmes in collaboration with OECS, CARICOM and ACS, to ensure that the regional implications of the global conventions, treaties and agreements are understood by all stakeholders;
- iii. Undertake activities to rationalize similar international agreements, and to facilitate the adoption of harmonized mechanisms and legislation for their effective implementation and enforcement;
- iv. Review the status of enabling legislation and programmes for the implementation of international conventions to which Caribbean governments are signatories, in particular those conventions referred to in the SIDS POA;
- v. Focus on one appropriate convention with a view to preparing model enabling legislation and programmes of enabling activities, submitting this to the Bureau at its intersessional meeting in 1998. The agencies may consider focusing on the Cartagena Convention, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCLOS, or using the list of priority conventions as identified by CCA;
- vi. Prepare and present proposals to develop model enabling legislation and programmes of enabling activities for other relevant conventions to the appropriate ministerial bodies prior to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly to Review the Implementation of the SIDS POA, drawing on the experience gained at iv). These enabling activities should include but not be limited to assisting in developing national legislation .

(b) Requested CARICOM, OECS and ACS to:

- i. To take a lead role in strengthening regional and national capacity to participate in the negotiations of new or revised agreements by, where appropriate, providing briefs, or facilitating consultations prior to key meetings;
- ii. Carry out an assessment of the capacity of national institutions to participate in and follow up on international convention processes including non-binding agreements;
- iii. Establish a data bank of persons with particular skills, e.g. international environmental law, upon which the region can draw;

- iv. Establish links and exchange information with relevant organizations and groups in other regions, such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and the Forum Secretariat in the Pacific Region;

(c) Requested CARICOM and OECS in collaboration with the Regional Negotiating Mechanism, national standards organizations and other relevant organizations, to:

- i. Assess the trade implications of international environmental conventions and non-binding agreements, and the environmental implications of international trade agreements;
- ii. Develop guidelines on the environmental requirements necessary to prevent non-tariff barriers and/or trade sanctions;
- iii. Assess and report on the extent to which process and production methods and product characteristics of the region's exports diverge from international standards.
- iv. Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **REGIONAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1999 UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS POA**

### **Decision**

The meeting identified modalities, mechanisms and issues critical to an effective preparatory process and successful Special Session;

Specifically, the meeting:

- (a) Recommended that Caribbean countries be represented at the highest possible level at the 1999 Special Session, in order to send a strong signal to the international community of the commitment of Caribbean SIDS to the SIDS process;
- (b) Urged Caribbean countries to complete the country reports requested by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on a timely basis, with a view to enabling CSD at its sixth session to formulate recommendations based on adequate information on national experiences;
- (c) Recommended that prior to the 1998 and 1999 sessions of the CSD, Caribbean countries, both CSD members and non-members, develop, to the extent possible, concerted positions on the key negotiating points of the CSD's work;
- (d) Requested that CARICOM, ECLAC/CDCC, CARICAD and other interested regional and international organizations and NGOs and civil society collaborate with regional governments in the development of negotiating briefs for the SIDS-related issues of the CSD's work in 1998 and 1999, that will form the basis for interregional exchanges with entities such as SPREP, and the identification of common positions within the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS);

- (e) Recognized the importance of AOSIS as a negotiating mechanism for SIDS, and undertake to increase their tangible support to make AOSIS more effective;
- (f) Requested that the organizations listed in (d) put in place arrangements to maximize opportunities between now and the Special Session to raise awareness of SIDS priorities and to further develop agreements related to the implementation of the SIDS POA;
- (g) Requested that the Bureau of this meeting oversee the preparations outlined above, and report to member countries before each CSD session between now and 1999, or for as long as the present Bureau exists;
- (h) Accepted the offer of Belize to act as a bridge between the Central American Commission for Environment and Development and Caribbean SIDS with a view to enhancing their respective positions during the CSD process, and acknowledge Cuba's request to play an integral part in the Caribbean preparatory process;
- (i) Recommended that Caribbean SIDS actively participate in the Summit of the Americas process and the follow-up to the Bolivia Summit and use their participation to further the implementation of the SIDS POA.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Decision**

The meeting requested CARICAD with support from interested governments and relevant regional and international agencies to strengthen national capacity to implement Agenda 21 and the SIDS POA.

Specifically, the meeting:

- (a) Endorsed Sustainable Development Councils as national mechanisms for facilitating development policy and planning in collaboration with civil society;
- (b) Recommended that Sustainable Development Councils (or similar national mechanisms) be established in those Caribbean countries where they presently do not exist;
- (c) Requested CARICAD, with support from interested governments and relevant regional and international agencies, to extend the network of the Sustainable Development Councils to the whole region;
- (d) Requested that UNDP in collaboration with CARICAD, facilitate exchanges among and coordination of National Sustainable Development Councils or similar mechanisms;
- (e) Requested that CARICAD document experiences and lessons learnt from initiatives in the area of capacity building in the Caribbean, including the UNDP/CDB pilot project on "Strengthening Capacity

for Sustainable Development in the English-speaking Caribbean", and make these available to all sectors of society;

(f) Requested CARICAD to facilitate the establishment of a regional sustainable development network for documenting and sharing Caribbean-specific and other relevant information through modalities such as SIDSNET;

(g) Requested CARICAD to report on the progress made at the next meeting of the Bureau.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

### **Decision**

The meeting recommended that governments, in collaboration with international and regional organizations, NGOs and civil society initiate or consolidate national sustainable development indicators initiatives. This would be within the realm of a regional indicators programme supported by a number of regional and international agencies including CDB, ECLAC/CDCC, OECS-NRMU, CARICAD, ECCB, CARICOM and UWI.

Specifically, the meeting requested these institutions to:

(a) Call a meeting of experts from both within and beyond the region to discuss with government representatives an outline framework for a regional indicators programme. This would involve determining an overarching consensus set of potential indicators appropriate to the region, considering suitable targets, where applicable, assessing national mechanisms and capacity for implementing such an initiative and identifying sources of funding;

(b) Conduct during 1998, in collaboration with interested governments, in particular National Sustainable Development Councils, national workshops to introduce the concept of indicators, their purpose, their practical implementation and their use in guiding the sustainability of current development patterns. Such workshops should be aimed at senior staff of a wide range of government departments, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant agencies. The main objective would be to embark upon a national programme to collate, disseminate and use national sustainable development indicators;

(c) Follow up on the national workshops and establish a programme which would strengthen the capacity of the countries to apply methodologies and to collate, disseminate, analyze and use indicators within the context of guiding the sustainability of current development;

(d) Collaborate with international and regional agencies involved in this field to introduce advances in techniques to the region, tailor these techniques to regional circumstances and channel potential external funds to such exercises;

(e) Prepare before the 1999 review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of

Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA), a regional overview of Sustainable Development Indicators for the Caribbean;

(f) Report to the Bureau at its next meeting on progress made.

*Back to Table of Contents*

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Decision**

The meeting considered the following proposals aimed at improving the implementation of the science and technology aspects of the SIDS POA, in areas identified to be of greatest potential in the Caribbean.

Specifically, the meeting:

(a) Requested the World Intellectual Property Organization to give support to strengthening of national intellectual property systems, including patent information use, and inventors' associations;

(b) Recognized the importance of making patent information available at all levels of society since there is much informal research and development activity;

(c) Requested ECLAC/CCST and CARICOM to:

- i. Strengthen current efforts to revise the regional policy for science and technology recognizing the need to identify regional strengths and commonalities;
- ii. View as priority efforts to enhance the teaching of science and mathematics in the Caribbean, teacher training in the use of computers, and access to computer by schools;
- iii. Recognize the role of the Caribbean Examinations Council in tailoring syllabi to the needs of the region;
- iv. Seek assistance for programmes for the popularization of science and technology with a view to developing a culture of science in the entire population so as to ensure that science is not perceived as an elitist activity;

(d) Requested ECLAC/CCST to undertake further institutional analyses, as appropriate, and to seek regional and international support for ECLAC/CCST and for programmes to address the needs of research and development organizations, in the areas of greatest potential identified above and for institutional strengthening;

(e) Requested the University of the West Indies and other appropriate regional institutions to:

- i. Assist governments in the articulation of specific policies and fiscal incentives which

promote the use of environmentally friendly technologies, in particular, renewable energy technologies, biological pest control and the reduction of wastes;

- ii. Identify appropriate mechanisms to increase the availability of information on environmentally friendly technologies to the private sector, to go hand-in-hand with fiscal incentives and regulations at the national level;
- iii. Collaborate with UNDP in the identification and documentation of best practices in science and technology in the region as tools for exchanging experiences and learning opportunities;

(f) Requested the Institute of Marine Affairs to seek international and regional support for the articulation and implementation of a comprehensive regional research programme in marine resources;

(g) Requested the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme to take a lead role in sharing experiences in biodiversity research on sustainable use of tropical forest ecosystems in collaboration with relevant NGOs and academic institutions;

(h) Requested to be updated on progress in implementation of the specific recommendations for international action regarding: recognition of the needs of SIDS in ICZM training activity being developed by the United Nations System, and acceleration of the development of the coastal module of the Global Ocean Observing System, due to its relevance to SIDS;

(i) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

### **Decision**

The meeting requested relevant departments of the University of the West Indies (UWI) such as the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED) and the University of the West Indies Sustainable Economic Development Unit (UWISEDU), and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) with support from interested governments, NGOs, civil society and relevant regional and international organizations, to initiate a programme geared towards increased application of economic instruments in the Caribbean.

Specifically, the meeting requested these organizations to:

- (a) Establish a regional focal point in consultation with institutions designated at this meeting, which will coordinate activities b) through f);
- (b) Carry out national and regional training exercises aimed at enhancing the understanding and appreciation of the use of economic instruments;



(c) Assist interested countries in identifying key issues and options confronting Caribbean governments considering the use of economic instruments with an aim to:

- i. Establishing clarity in policy objectives and identifying areas with the most promising possibilities for incorporating economic instruments;
- ii. Identifying positive and negative incentives in support of environmental conservation;
- iii. Conducting national and regional consultations with all stakeholders with the aim of achieving national implementation strategies;

(d) Collaborate with CARICAD and national sustainable development councils, where appropriate, to compile and disseminate relevant experiences and other information to all interested stakeholders;

(e) Prepare a project proposal on a medium-term strategy for using economic instruments in the Caribbean that is regional in scope but is to be implemented at the national level;

(f) Report on the progress made at the next meeting of the Bureau.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SIDSNET**

### **Decision**

The meeting requested UNDP:

(a) To take the lead role in identifying existing initiatives for electronic networking in the Caribbean.;

(b) To include biodiversity among the thematic areas of the SIDSNET Pilot Project;

(c) To facilitate the coordination and integration of networks identified at (a) through SIDSNET;

(d) To establish a committee comprising representatives of relevant national, regional and international organizations, including CCA, CARICOM, CARICAD and SDNP to convene a meeting as soon as possible with a view to developing a working arrangement with the Latin American Group, with respect to the SDNP network;

(e) In collaboration with relevant national, regional and international organizations, including CCA, CARICAD, UWI, IABIN, IRF, OECS, CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC to assess continuously SIDSNET and update them on progress at the next meeting of the Bureau.

## **INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

### **Decision**

The meeting recommended that governments in collaboration with NGOs and civil society, and supported by relevant regional and international agencies undertake to strengthen national capacities to plan, collect, disseminate and use multisectoral data and information in decision-making processes for sustainable development.

Specifically, the meeting:

- (a) Endorsed the goal of the proposed Caribbean Strategy for Environmental Information Management to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean governments and non-State actors to satisfy their information needs for the achievement of sustainable development;
- (b) Requested the preparation of a project proposal for national implementation of the aforementioned strategy;
- (c) Requested institutions that carry out regional information initiatives to establish an inter-agency task force for sustainable development information management. One of the major objectives of this task force will be to ensure that the many national regional and international information initiatives are consistent, linked and mutually reinforcing, for example the Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN), the CCA, SIDSNET, NRCA, IRF;
- (d) Requested UNDP through SIDSNET to host/mirror the Caribbean Sustainable Development Website developed by ECLAC/CDCC, and other Caribbean Websites on Sustainable Development in particular the UWICED gateway;
- (e) Requested ECLAC/CDCC and other Caribbean sites to continue updating information on these sites and to link environmental data and information with socio-economic data and information;
- (f) Requested governments to develop strategies to improve accessibility of data and information to all sectors of society, including the use of existing channels and mechanisms but not exclusively through the Internet and to enable human and institutional components to achieve this;
- (g) Requested governments to enact national information policies and provide support to relevant agencies for the management and dissemination of sustainable development information;
- (h) Considered the possibility that governments seek ways to provide, through universities or other means, cheaper access to the Internet for non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;
- (i) Requested that CARICOM coordinate a regional approach to telecommunications providers so as to increase accessibility to information services at affordable rates;
- (j) Stressed the need for a greater re-packaging of information and use of other information vehicles, since most persons do not have access to computers and the Internet;
- (k) Recommended that training programmes be developed for media and communications professionals

in the design of messages on sustainable development for target groups at the grass roots level in Caribbean SIDS;

(l) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## LEGISLATION, RATIONALIZATION AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

### Decision

The meeting:

(a) Requested CARICAD, CARICOM, OECS, ACS, CLI and UNEP to prepare an inventory of case law reporting in the field of environmental law. The South Pacific has benefited from such reporting through support from UNEP;

(b) Recommended that countries incorporate the principle of sustainable development into their legal statutes and enhance the awareness and technical skills of judicial and legal personnel with regard to sustainable development issues;

(c) Requested that the CARICOM Secretariat/ACS/OECS Secretariat take the lead in promoting **Harmonization of Standards** since they have to deal with the requirements under NAFTA, WTO etc.; furthermore these agencies should undertake an examination of existing legislation on standards so as to ensure consistency;

(d) Recommended that the Island Systems Management Approach being promoted by OECS-NRMU be given further study as a primary vehicle to integrate the legislative framework for the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS.

(e) Requested that OECS-NRMU prepare comparative analyses of legislative models such as the NRCA Act of Jamaica, the EMA Act of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Sustainable Development Bill of Fiji as a resource document for discussion and distribution within the region;

(f) Requested that technical expertise and training be provided in the area of legislative drafting;

(g) Agreed to rationalize the roles and responsibilities of existing institutions involved in sustainable development;

(h) Accepted as critical the need for the State to build a more sensitive partnership with civil society at the levels of communities and regions in order to nurture a process of sustainable development - physical, economic and cultural - on the basis of genuine participation and a sharing of responsibilities, costs and benefits;

(i) Recommended the strengthening of local governments in the context of protecting and managing the environment - physical, economic and cultural - and in collaborating with local communities and civil

society in building sustainable living.

[\*Back to Table of Contents\*](#)

## **COMMUNICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

### **Decision**

A multi-faceted communications strategy needs to be developed as an integral part of the SIDS POA utilizing whatever means of communication is most effective in responding to the needs of specific audiences and pulling together the various existing communication strategies and efforts, including SIDSNET.

Specifically, the meeting approved:

(a) The development of a communication strategy for sustainable living. That strategy will:

- i. Develop feedback mechanisms which will open channels of communication and facilitate monitoring of the implementation of the SIDS POA;
- ii. Publicize the activities of the SIDS POA including the contributions of civil society;
- iii. Facilitate an exchange of Best Practices between communities;
- iv. Create a culture within the media of supporting the SIDS POA and the concept of sustainable living;
- v. Strengthen regional media associations and networks;

(b) A Task Force comprising OECS/NRMU, CERN, CEHI, CCA, CAMWORK, CARIMAC, CANA, CBU and UNIC, including NGOs and civil society, as representative of all the related United Nations Agencies and Programmes:

- i. The Task Force will be co-coordinated by UNIC and ACS;
- ii. The Task Force will be convened for a 12-month period in order to develop the strategy.

[\*Back to Table of Contents\*](#)

## **Decision**

The meeting:

- (a) Reiterated that the major responsibility for the implementation of the priority areas of action lies with member States but that relevant existing subregional, regional and international institutions will, in collaboration with member States, be responsible for implementing or facilitating the implementation of agreed elements of the joint Work Programme;
- (b) Agreed that there will be need over the next 18 months to intensively consult and coordinate efforts to encourage implementation of the joint Work Programme and to develop the Caribbean's position for the 1999 Review of the SIDS POA, including a longer-term programme of action;
- (c) Agreed that one of the issues to be addressed in the longer-term programme of action would be a permanent mechanism for consultation and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- (d) Requested the Bureau of this Meeting to maintain oversight of the implementation of the joint Work Programme and the preparation for the 1999 Review of the SIDS POA;
- (e) Agreed that the meetings of the Bureau would be open-ended;
- (f) Requested the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats to act as Interim Secretariat to the Bureau and the preparatory process until such time as a permanent arrangement is agreed upon;
- (g) Established an inter-agency collaborative group, comprising, but not limited to, the CDB, CPDC, CTO, UNDP, the OECS Secretariat, UWI, CCA, ACS, CARICAD, UNEP/RCU and CEHI to support the Interim Secretariat;
- (h) Requested each member State and participating agency and organization to appoint, within three months, an appropriately located focal point for the SIDS POA to facilitate the two-way flow of information;
- (i) Requested the Interim Secretariat to prepare a budget within three months for the preparatory activities for the SIDS POA review and any additional cost of coordination for the next 18 months for the consideration of the Bureau and member States;
- (j) Agreed that member States and regional and international organizations, where feasible, would make available technical personnel and resources to assist the Interim Secretariat.

*Back to Table of Contents*

## **SECTORAL ISSUES**

### **COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES Caribbean Sea as a "Special Area"**

### **Decision**

The Meeting requested the CARICOM and ACS secretariats, with support from interested governments, other relevant regional and international agencies and NGOs to initiate activities that will allow Caribbean States to present a formal proposal to the 1999 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on having the Caribbean Sea recognized as a "Special Area".

Specifically, the meeting requested these institutions to prepare a paper that incorporates the views of all stakeholders, on the basis of which Caribbean Ministers may present a proposal to the appropriate forums in 1998, which has been designated "The Year of the Oceans". This paper should, among other things:

- (a) Define the concept of a 'special area' in the context of sustainable development and explain/outline the rationale for having the Caribbean Sea declared a 'special area', taking into account regional and international conventions, for example, the Cartagena Convention, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and its Protocol 73/78;
- (b) List all enabling activities and measures to be undertaken in order that the Caribbean Sea can be declared a 'special area', including projects, programmes, legislation and ratification and implementation of any relevant international Conventions;
- (c) Provide an estimated cost of the activities to be undertaken;
- (d) Prepare an Implementation Plan and Budget.

In promoting the initiative to have the Caribbean Sea internationally recognized as a 'special area' in the context of sustainable development, initial political support for the concept must be sought in collaboration with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), non-AOSIS, ACS States and other stakeholders.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE**

### **Decision**

The Meeting recommended that the Caribbean States:

- (a) Support the continuing work of the UN-IPCC in studying the science and especially the impact of global climate change, and efforts to ensure that the needs and concerns of SIDS are included in the Third Assessment Reports;
- (b) Fully incorporate climate change considerations in their national long-term development planning process;

(c) Participate in the ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC, in particular the upcoming Third Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Kyoto, Japan, 30 November-10 December 1997 and present a unified position on all important issues including the setting and enforcing of targets for greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, Caribbean countries should coordinate this position with other AOSIS countries and the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Climate Change;

(d) Coordinate the execution of national communications required by the UNFCCC among Caribbean SIDS by exchanging experiences and lessons;

(e) Request CARICOM and OAS to support Caribbean States in developing their scientific and capacity and the use of scientific information being generated by CPACC for development policy formulation, in determining the impact of climate change on tourism and agriculture, and in strategic forward planning to mitigate the impact of climate change;

(f) Support the development of the necessary institutional mechanism to ensure that critical programmes initiated under CPACC are sustained beyond the lifetime of the project.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **BIODIVERSITY**

### **Decision**

The meeting considered seeking the input of one of the key regional institutions in biodiversity conservation issues in the region to coordinate efforts towards identifying those strategic elements of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which most readily lend themselves to coordination at the regional level. Such institutions may be intergovernmental, such as the Secretariat of the CEP at the UNEP/ RCU in Kingston, Jamaica, or from the NGO community such as CANARI. Priorities may include biodiversity information networking, sharing of expertise and lessons learnt.

Specifically, the meeting:

(a) Requested those institutions, together with interested governments and relevant regional and international organizations to undertake the identification process. The identification process should be conducted over a period of six months in a wide consultative process and should undertake to:

- i. Determine what priorities under the provisions of the CBD need to be addressed over the next year, in collaboration with governments, the CBD Secretariat and relevant institutions;
- ii. Determine which national, regional or global institutions have sufficient competence and experience to address each priority and are sufficiently willing to provide support to governments and suitable NGOs in implementing these priorities;
- iii. Make recommendations for actions under each priority with respect to obtaining maximum outputs with minimum inputs;





- iv. Provide costings for each recommendation identifying additionalities to existing costs of operation for providing support under this proposal;
- v. Prepare a proposal for funding (possibly as a GEF medium-sized project or Enabling Activity) to meet these additional costs over the next two years;

(b) Considered the establishment of a Regional Biodiversity Steering Committee composed of suitable governmental, academic and non-governmental organizations. Only a single inception meeting of the Committee is expected with all subsequent meetings/communications conducted electronically. Consideration might be given to expanding the membership of the Scientific and Technical Committee established under the SPAW Protocol rather than establishing a new mechanism;

(c) Considered asking the UNEP RCU in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, such as CCA and CANARI, to develop a programme element in its work programme specifically devoted to assisting Caribbean countries in streamlining efforts with respect to biodiversity conservation under the various regional and international agreements relevant to the region and under the CBD;

(d) Agreed to take advantage of the current focus by most Caribbean SIDS in preparing their national biodiversity strategies in fulfilment of obligations under the CBD, to collaborate and coordinate implementation efforts on the next steps;

(e) Agreed to develop and use creative forms of land stewardship arrangements that can persuade land owners to become active participants in land management and natural and cultural heritage conservation (e.g. management agreements, leases, fiscal incentives, conservation easements etc.);

(f) Recommended the ratification of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention as a means for implementing relevant aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) Acknowledged the need to develop management plans for existing protected areas as a means of ensuring biodiversity conservation;

(h) Noted the need to develop mechanisms and resources for the collection, characterization, and evaluation of the region's food crop and animal resources with a view to maximizing benefits to be derived from indigenous material;

(i) Supported regional training programmes for managers of protected areas;

(j) Noted the active participation in information gathering and dissemination of national, regional and international organizations, including CCA, IRF, IABIN and CANARI;

(k) Requested UNESCO to study the possibilities for the establishment of a regional natural history museum;

(l) Included NGOs and other private institutions in the compilation process for biodiversity inventories;

(m) Noted the progress made towards the implementation of the Iwokrama Programme in Guyana and the establishment of the International Research Centre for Tropical Rain Forest Conservation and Utilization;

(n) Agreed to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Iwokrama Programme, especially in

training, policy development and biodiversity research;

(o) Recommended that all efforts be made to ensure that relevant regional institutions (e.g. UWI, CARDI, CCA) and non-governmental organizations and civil society, participate fully in the implementation of the Iwokrama Programme;

(p) Urged regional cooperation during the fourth Conference of the Parties in supporting the activities in marine biodiversity being undertaken in the CBD process;

(q) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **TOURISM**

### **Decision**

The meeting recommended that Caribbean States:

(a) Use all available opportunities to obtain resources from global funds such as GEF to support sustainable tourism initiatives in the Caribbean;

(b) Put in place or strengthen mechanisms to ensure the functional articulation of physical planning, environmental principles and objectives in planning for the tourism sector;

(c) Ensure continuity of local access to coastal resources through the use of creative zoning and other mechanisms;

(d) Allocate the resources required to manage natural resources that form the basis of the tourism sector in the region to ensure long-term sustainability and viability;

(e) Establish or strengthen mechanisms that will increase the degree of local participation in the industry.

Further, Ministers:

(f) Welcomed the establishment at the Caribbean Tourism Organization of a Sustainable Tourism Unit.

The meeting requested the Association of Caribbean States, the OECS, ECLAC/CDCC, the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP/RCU, UWI, CTO, CEHI and the OAS, with support from interested governments, relevant regional and international agencies, NGOs and civil society to strengthen activities which will allow Caribbean States to undertake activities geared towards the development of sustainable tourism in the region.

Specifically, the meeting requested these organizations to:

- (g) Prepare a proposal on means to mitigate land use conflicts in order to ensure, *inter alia*, continued access to land by local citizens;
- (h) Carry out an evaluation of the social and economic impacts of migration in response to the labour demands of the tourism sector;
- (i) Prepare a draft regional strategy for sustainable marine-based tourism in the Caribbean including, but not limited to, the implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Pollution from Small Ships in Marinas and Anchorages in the Caribbean;
- (j) Prepare a strategy with proposals to increase the participation by citizens in the tourism industry;
- (k) Develop an integrated approach to tourism to encompass sustainability with particular reference to the linkages between tourism and other sectors, such as agriculture and culture, and ensuring stakeholder participation;
- (l) Revive and update the Sustainable Tourism and Environmental Health Initiative with a view to strengthening the linkages between health and tourism;

Further, the meeting:

- (m) Requested that the project Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change carry out a study on the impact of climate change on the tourism industry;
- (n) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## **CARIBBEAN PROGRAMME FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES**

### **Decision**

The meeting reviewed efforts for fostering rational and sustainable use of fisheries in the Caribbean, including the FAO Programme of Fisheries Assistance for Small Island Developing States. The meeting also considered the role that regional programmes will play in helping achieve the broader fisheries conservation and management goals of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Specifically, the meeting:

- (a) Encouraged Caribbean States to be guided by, and take cognizance of the precautionary principle; the principle of inter-generational equity; exploitation of fisheries resources to achieve economic growth in addition to human development; the preservation of marine biodiversity; the minimization of pollution, by catch etc.; and, the need for the collection and sharing of information;
- (b) Endorsed the implementation of the FAO Programme of Fisheries Assistance for Small Island

Developing States, the development of a common approach to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the Caribbean, the activities of the CARICOM Fisheries Resources Assessment and Management Program (CFRAMP), and the EU Fisheries Research Initiative for ACP Countries;

- (c) Encouraged the international donor community, both through bilateral and multilateral agreements, to support the implementation of these programmes;
- (d) Endorsed the need for the adaptation of the Code for the Caribbean region;
- (e) Encouraged Caribbean States to implement fully the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- (f) Encouraged Caribbean States to accept the Compliance Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement so that both might enter into force in a timely manner;
- (g) Requested FAO and CFRAMP with the support of stakeholders and civil society, and of the institutions designated in the decision on Implementation and Negotiation of International Conventions and Non-binding Agreements, to assist Caribbean States with the adaptation of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries to the Caribbean region and with the ratification of the Fish Stocks Agreement and their implementation, taking into account the costs and benefits of implementation and the linkages with other international processes;
- (h) Encouraged stakeholder participation in the implementation and enforcement of the Code;
- (i) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **MANAGEMENT OF WASTES**

### **Decision**

The meeting recommended that Caribbean States:

- (a) Encourage the design and implementation of public awareness and education programmes, including collaboration with NGOs and community-based organizations, the OECS Waste Management Project Unit, and the integration of pilot and demonstration projects which can facilitate behavioural changes;
- (b) Mandate that Environmental Impact Assessments which consider the management of wastes be conducted for all major developments;
- (c) Establish and/or tangibly support dedicated institutions to manage the solid and liquid waste sectors. These institutions should be responsible for strategic planning and policy formulation, raising and managing revenue, managing the collection, disposal and treatment of wastes, maintenance of plant and equipment, and participation in regional waste management initiatives;
- (d) Make provision for the management of hazardous wastes;

- (e) Implement adequate mechanisms for the management of hazardous wastes from all communities, with an appropriate mix of public and private sector participation;
- (f) Identify and institute realistic and appropriate cost recovery mechanisms in order to sustain the waste sectors;
- (g) Develop and enact appropriate legislation for the safe and efficient management of wastes. This must be supported by adequate institutional and regulatory frameworks for environmental monitoring and enforcement;
- (h) Use the outputs of the World Bank/IMO/GEF Wider Caribbean Initiative on Ship Generated Wastes (WCISW) in particular, with respect to the legal and technical strategies for the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and the establishment of waste reception facilities and waste management infrastructure in the Caribbean;
- (i) Note that the WCISW Project is due to terminate in January 1998 and that the country focal points of the Project have requested that it be extended for another year to complete important training aspects of the Projects;
- (j) Cooperate with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the establishment of the subregional centre for training and technology transfer for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at CARIRI;
- (k) Ratify and implement relevant conventions such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention 72), the Cartagena Convention as well as other relevant conventions;
- (l) Collaborate with CARICAD in the implementation of the above-referred to international conventions;
- (m) Develop information systems and baseline data for waste management and pollution control, and monitoring types of waste;

Specifically, the meeting:

- (n) Requested the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and other institutions to be designated at this meeting, with support from interested governments and relevant regional and international institutions to assist governments with the above;
- (o) Requested CEHI, with support from relevant regional and international agencies and interested governments, to pursue further activities which will allow Caribbean States to develop environmental monitoring capabilities, strengthen institutional capabilities in waste management, and implement pollution prevention programmes. The Ministers may also wish to request CEHI to strengthen its own capabilities to provide training, "backstopping", and/or reference laboratory facilities;
- (p) Requested CEHI to support a multi-step process for setting regional and national standards consisting of: recommending Guidelines, adopting Regional Guidelines, and enacting National Standards. Guideline values prepared by CEHI should be accepted as the basis for the development of national standards for sewage and industrial effluents, as agreed by over 100 technical representatives of

regional governments at Workshops on the "Establishment of Effluent Guidelines & Standards in CARICOM States", held in December 1992, in Jamaica and Trinidad;

(q) Requested CEHI to develop training programmes for environmental and public health inspectors to approve applications and licenses, inspect and monitor waste facilities, including control sampling, and enforce acts and regulations;

(r) Encouraged the adoption of policies which support a comprehensive approach to integrated waste management, including aspects such as waste reduction, avoidance, recycling, reuse and minimization. In this regard, they may specifically request UWICED and CDB to develop fiscal and other policy initiatives to encourage environmentally sustainable imports. Countries may also wish to collaborate with CDB, the OECS Waste Management Project Unit, and the private sector to identify and promote strategies and participate in regional initiatives for waste minimization and recycling;

(s) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*Back to Table of Contents*

## **ENERGY**

### **Decision**

The meeting considered the following proposals aimed at improving the implementation of energy-related aspects of the SIDS POA, in areas identified to be of greatest potential in the Caribbean.

Specifically, the meeting:

(a) Requested ECLAC/CCST, UWI, regional institutions and/or other relevant regional or international organizations to undertake project activity to assist governments in formulating appropriate policies, legislation and economic incentives to:

- i. increase the use of renewable energy, in particular solar energy, at the national level;
- ii. increase the economic feasibility of sale of energy produced from renewable sources by utilities, in particular, wind energy;
- iii. increase cogeneration activity;
- iv. require utilities to demonstrate that renewable energy and energy efficiency (through demand-side management) have both been seriously examined, and integrated where possible, as approaches to minimizing expenditure on capacity expansion;
- v. encourage energy efficiency via demand side management;

noting that such policies, legislation and incentives need to be thoroughly supported by programmes of public education, and recognizing the potential role of the Caribbean Chapter of the Association of

Energy Engineers in this activity.

(b) Requested ECLAC/CCST, UWICED and CARICOM to:

- i. Actively pursue project opportunities which exist at the international level, in particular in the World Solar Summit and the Summit of the Americas processes.
- ii. Seek international support for the strengthening of the Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) network, in particular as regards computer-based communication between focal points and the secretariat and public awareness of its services.

(c) Requested CARICOM and the University of the West Indies (UWI) in conjunction with regional Standards Bureaus to:

- i. Examine existing mechanisms for technology certification, focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and identify possible mechanisms for ensuring that such technologies can be certified for use in the Caribbean, where necessary;

(d) Requested UWI to actively seek increased support for efforts to establish a graduate programme in energy;

(e) Encouraged the use of cleaner vehicular fuels, such as CNG and unleaded gasoline, through financial and other incentives as well as education;

(f) Urged GEF to fast-track the recently submitted regional Energy Project Proposal arising out of UWI;

(g) Requested that the Bureau be updated on progress made at its next meeting.

*Back to Table of Contents*

## **LAND RESOURCES**

### **Decisions**

The meeting:

(a) Encouraged UNCHS to continue and expand assistance to the Caribbean Human Settlements Programme Office, in collaboration with other partners. This office will support elements of the SIDS POA and establish cooperative linkages with the implementation of the Caribbean Human Settlements Plan of Action. The Plan of Action has already been considered by the Ministers responsible for housing and human settlements. Within this framework UNCHS is to provide additional support for the improved availability, affordability and environmental quality of shelter in human settlements, in accordance with Chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

(b) Supported efforts by Caribbean SIDS to further develop human settlements and environmental

information/databases which may also enhance the introduction or expansion of computer-based geographical information systems to inform policy decisions for sustainable development;

(c) Considered the need for comprehensive land use plans recognizing the philosophy of Island Systems Management (ISM) paying special attention to anthropogenic activities, particularly farming, settlements and industry and the impacts of these on coastal and marine resources and biodiversity conservation needs;

(d) Supported the systematic assessment and mapping of hazardous areas and the incorporation of this information in the formulation of land use regulations and building standards for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the population, reliability of infrastructure and sustainability of land use;

(e) Considered the need:

- i. To examine the integration of National Forestry Policies into the larger frameworks for natural resources management at the national level;
- ii. To explore the promotion of the Iwokrama Rainforest programme as a model for appropriate land use and natural resource management policies, at the national, regional and international levels;
- iii. To pursue at the national and regional levels, an approach for integrating human settlements, land use, disaster mitigation and other related programmes, projects and policies as appropriate;

(f) Supported the development of a land registration and titling system throughout the region, and consider the use of land dispute resolution systems in addition to the courts, improve training for lawyers, especially legal draughtsmen, on land titling and related issues, establish electronic registers for legal documents (as opposed to paper registers) and develop Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks for (i) Information Technology Policy, Administrative Dispute Resolution, and Land Tenure & Distribution at the National levels;.

(g) Invited support for related Integrated Information initiatives by the UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID) and the UN Centre for Regional Development at the international level; UWI, the Trinidad and Tobago GIS Association, and the OECS-NRMU at the regional level.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT**

### **Decision**

The meeting agreed that Caribbean States would:

(a) Seek assistance through regional agencies and institutions such as OECS/NRMU, CEHI, UWI, UNEP/RCU in the development of a regional mechanism for freshwater management. With this,



complementary national freshwater management plans should be developed. Inclusion of the activities of NGOs will be a necessary component of the mechanism;

(b) Support ongoing initiatives and develop new initiatives for integrated watershed management to ensure sustainable production of freshwater resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial use, including tourism.;

(c) In collaboration with FAO and UNDP, seek to promote the integration of freshwater management plans into forestry and other biodiversity policy and planning frameworks and strategies;

(d) Adopt programmes that promote the safe and controlled use of agro-chemicals, specifically pesticides, to minimize their impacts on fresh and coastal water resources;

(e) Through the agencies in (i) and others, develop modes of information exchange on best practice methods and appropriate technologies for sustainable freshwater management and resource augmentation;

(f) Have as a priority, the development of a national cadre of professionals trained in water management. Training should also focus on the development and delivery of water conservation programmes;

(g) Seek assistance from agencies such as UNEP/CAR/RCU, CEHI to develop regional water quality standards and guidelines. National Standards Institutions, where they exist, should be involved in these efforts.

(h) With the assistance of appropriate agencies, review legislation pertaining to water management and amend as necessary, to complement new water management programmes;

(i) Fully support the 1996 CARICOM Conference of Health Ministers endorsement of CEHI recommendations for improvement of water quality in the region in order to support implementation of the recommendations in the non-health sectors also;

(j) Support the recommendations of the 1993 Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and Environmental Health, to increase the efficiency in the use of water and the reduction of its wastage in the tourism sector;

(k) Encourage countries which have made significant progress in any aspect of freshwater management, to provide guidance and support to other SIDS in the implementation of similar programmes. This should not be limited to only Caribbean SIDS;

(l) Become involved and actively participate in regional or global water resource initiatives such as the Inter-American Water Resources Network and Small Island Water Information Network, as a means to assist in carrying out above;

(m) Remove barriers restricting access to water quality information being generated in the region;

(n) Promote the reuse of reclaimed waste water (e.g. for irrigation in agriculture) in order to protect freshwater resources and to prevent these freshwater resources from excessive exploitation.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

### **Decision**

The meeting considered the following activities in its efforts to enhance the implementation of the POA for the 1994 SIDS Conference as it relates to National and Environmental Disaster Preparedness.

Specifically, the meeting recommended that Caribbean States:

(a) Undertake Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis to ensure that there is a clear delineation of the hazards and their spatial distribution, the risk to our populations, infrastructure and economic activities and to provide information for development control, guiding investments away from high risk areas.

(b) Provide incentives for incorporating mitigation practices in all major sectors of the economy. It is proposed that the following incentives be considered in this regard:

- i. Implement differential tax rates as they relate to the observation of mitigation practices. Individual home owners and businesses utilizing recommended building codes in the construction of their properties should be allowed property tax discounts.

Where development is taking place in a designated high risk area the principle outlined at (a) i. above should also apply if mitigative strategies consistent with the level of risk have been engaged.

- ii. Request the insurance industry in the Caribbean to provide incentives for good mitigation practices and support the use of agreed codes and standards.

(c) Establish and enforce building codes and standards for critical facilities and structures and, establish a building maintenance policy and programme.

Implement national programmes for strengthening the Building Inspectorate. These programmes should reflect a partnership among the government, the insurance industry and housing financing institutions.

(d) i. Request all major public and private sector entities to have written disaster recovery plans for their operations by the year 2000 as part of the Agenda 21, and within the framework of the IDNDR.

- ii. Develop a resettlement policy following major hazard impacts bearing in mind that the lessons learnt in the Montserrat experience have brought to the fore the need for a policy on resettlement in the region.

(e) Provide adequate resources to National Disaster Organizations to equip them to satisfy the requirements outlined in Article 14 of the CDERA Inter-governmental Agreement, thus in effect strengthening the national and regional disaster preparedness mechanism.

Include National Disaster Organizations in the review and comment process of proposals for major developments.

(f) Request educational and training institutions in the region to incorporate appropriate elements of the disaster management agenda in the curricula of administrators, doctors, lawyers, police personnel, firemen, teachers, insurance salesmen and in schools;

(g) Request the University of the West Indies to establish a policy on disaster management, training and research;

(h) Develop comprehensive integrated disaster plans. At present, the capabilities of National Disaster Organizations are limited almost exclusively to dealing with Hurricane Hazard. Greater attention needs to be turned to the volcanic, earthquake and technological hazards;

(i) Support the SRU in its efforts to upgrade and to incorporate new communications technology in the monitoring and reporting on seismic events;

Support the CMO in its efforts to upgrade its data access and transmission capabilities which will contribute towards an improved early warning system for the meteorological hazards in the region;

(j) Review the model disaster legislation developed by CDERA in collaboration with the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) and the Caribbean Law Institute (CLI) to provide the legal framework for disaster management in the region, and adopt and adapt where necessary;

(k) Undertake consultation among NGOs, Telecommunications, Regulatory Authorities, Customs and other interested parties in their respective countries to closely examine the draft Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. This consultation should take place prior to the intergovernmental meeting to be held in 1998 to ensure that the region's interest are adequately represented;

(l) Request the Ministers of Information through the Government Information Services and private media in public education and information to promote a culture of mitigation, preparedness, public safety and security;

(m) Support Comprehensive Disaster Management in the region through the designation of CDERA as the regional focal point for such, therefore establishing the legal basis and the provision of resources necessary to coordinate the various elements of its agenda.

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*