

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	
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DESCRIPTION

ENRTP Priority	Indicate relevant ENRTP SCAs Priority	EC Directorate General	DEVCO
Programme of Work	Resource Efficiency		
Project's Title	Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development through Green Economy (ACSSD-GE)		
Location	Caribbean region, with Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia as pilot countries		
Total duration	18 months		

Responsible Entity	UNEP/DTIE/ETB		
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Asad Naqvi		
EC Project Manager	Nadia Lamhandaz		

Date of EC Approval:	19 July 2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	1,000,000 EUR (additional co-funding: 200,000 EUR)		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	19 July 2012		
Amount (USD)	1,550,280	Exchange Rate:	1.2919
Total Expenditures (USD)	85,588	Total Expenditures (EUR)	64,191

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Summarize: i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives; iii) performance remarks and highlights.

The 37th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Environment and Development, which took place on 1-2 September 2011 in Georgetown, Guyana, endorsed the concept note titled "Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development Agenda through Green Economy Interventions", presented by UNEP/ROLAC, and agreed that "UNEP should take the lead in further developing the project concept in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and its Member States, with inputs from the relevant regional and international organizations, and present it to donors for funding." Also prior to this meeting, UNEP had worked closely together with regional partners to create a common platform for green economy in the Caribbean region.

In March 28-29, 2012 the Caribbean Green Economy Forum was held in Barbados, which provided a platform for the sharing of regional green economy experiences and identifying policy implementation support mechanisms for advancing the Caribbean sustainable development agenda. The overriding objectives of the forum were to share findings of the UNEP Green Economy report; share findings of the Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study; examine Caribbean experiences in pursuing green economy policies; identify policy implementation support mechanisms for effective GE Policies, and to provide a consultation forum for a Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) Green Economy Initiative.

During the meeting of the COTED that took place from 17 to 20 April 2012 in Georgetown, Guyana, and which focused on the Environment and Development of the CARICOM member states, it was agreed upon that an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) would be established to facilitate inputs and revise as appropriate the draft concept note, based on inputs from national governments, for the development of the full project proposal" and that "UNEP should take the lead in further developing the project proposal in close collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Open-Ended Working Group." The purpose of this OEWG was to "establish a consultative and participatory process to contribute to

the further review and refinement of the concept note" and to develop the latter "into a proposal for consultation within the region and further submission to the donor".

In May 2012, a Savingram was sent to Member States requesting them to nominate members for the OEWG. The Core Group that was formed consisted of government representatives from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, besides representatives from the Caribbean Policy Development Centre, the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, the University of the West Indies, the Secretariat of CARICOM, the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and UNEP. The creation of this multi-stakeholder body assured the critical involvement of governments, international organisations and other stakeholders for successfully implementing the project.

The OEWG held its first meeting on 6-7 June, 2012, hosted by the Government of Jamaica in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and UNEP, with support from the Institute for Sustainable Development and the University of the West Indies. The meeting was attended by representatives from Member States of the CARICOM who are members of the Core Group, civil society, academia, the CARICOM Secretariat and UNEP, while others connected to the meeting using telephone or Skype. The main purpose of this meeting was to produce the draft framework proposal for the Caribbean Green Economy Initiative, which was shared with UNEP, the CARICOM Secretariat and the Member States.

In July 2012, UNEP received the official approval from the EC to go ahead with implementation of activities. In late July 2012, the final project document was shared with CARICOM Member States through a Savingram requesting to provide any additional inputs and suggestions for the implementation plan of the project.

Having received the clearance from the European Commission, a formal call for expression of interest in the project was sent to CARICOM Members States through a Savingram in September 2012. In response to this call, three pilot countries were selected jointly by the CARICOM Secretariat and UNEP, against agreed criteria, in November 2012 (Annex 19). In December 2012, the COTED ratified the decision to start activities in Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

In the meantime, UNEP has been keeping stakeholders in the region and elsewhere informed and updated about this initiative. In addition to the Caribbean Green Economy Forum held in March in Barbados, UNEP has been invited to share the key features of the initiative at the Green Growth Meeting in St. Lucia, held in September 2012, and with the Secretariat of the OECS, the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in Brussels and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Summarize main implementing challenges, if any, and strategy/actions which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; please explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

Due to the political context and the intergovernmental nature of the institutional arrangement in which the project was conceptualized and in which the mandate for the project was granted to UNEP, it has taken more time than was initially anticipated to initiate activities on the ground. However, having now received the clearance and valuable input from all partner organizations, and with the three pilot countries identified, UNEP is now proceeding with the implementation of the project.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made/result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only).

Despite challenges and unforeseen circumstances, significant advances were made towards achieving the project outcome.

1. Launch of the project at the Caribbean Green Economy Forum held in Barbados and chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. Selection of the three pilot countries (Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) through a transparent process open to all CARICOM members.
3. Cooperation with lead government agencies have been initiated, meetings between high level country representatives and UNEP senior management have taken place.
4. Project focal points in national ministries and national Green Economy teams in the countries established.
5. Capacity-building material on GE has been developed that will be transformed into country and regional specific learning modules.
6. A formal request from University of West Indies - Cave Hill Campus has been received expressing its candidacy for Regional Centre of Excellence on Green Economy.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide brief information on main activities undertaken; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Kindly include as annexes, any supporting documents which can be provided to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved and other relevant activities' documentation (if files can be downloaded, please provide below the link).

- Output 1.1: establishment of three national multi-stakeholder green economy knowledge and networking platforms**
 A call for expression of interest among the members of the Caribbean Community has been launched, candidacies have been received, the three pilot countries (Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) have been selected where these platforms will be established, the selection has been approved and validated by the Bureau of COTED and initial contact with national counterparts have been established. The scoping missions during the first quarter of 2013 will provide the opportunity to identify the national institutions that will be establishing, hosting and supporting the three national multi-stakeholder green economy knowledge and networking platforms.
- Output 1.2: establishing a regional green economy network**
 Now having a clear mandate for the establishment of a green economy network in the region, the Terms of Reference for this network have been developed and a call for expression of interest is ready to be launched.
- Output 2: country-relevant menus of green economy investment options and supportive policies**
 Through an open call for proposals, three countries (Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) have been selected for this output. The scoping missions during the first quarter of 2013 will provide the opportunity to identify the national/regional institutions that will draft the country-relevant menus of green economy investment options and supportive policies, under the technical guidance of UNEP. Initial contact has been established with potential policy think tanks from the region.
- Establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence**
 Terms of Reference for the Regional Centre of Excellence have been developed and a number of potential candidates identified. A formal request has been received from the University of West Indies – Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.
- A capacity-building portfolio consisting of materials and training events for decision makers from public and private sources**
 Capacity building material on Green Economy has been developed. In consultation with three pilot countries and regional stakeholders the material will be transformed into country and region specific modules.

Event	Venue	Date
Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – in which the Open-Ended Working Group was created (OEWG)	Georgetown, Guyana.	17 to 20 April 2012
Meeting of the OEWG	Kingston, Jamaica.	6 to 7 June 2012
Validation of the project document and approval by all partner organizations	Electronic Means.	7 June to 7 July 2012
Launching call of expression of interest and selection of countries		10 August to 10 October 2012
Meeting of the COTED to ratify the selection of the pilot countries		December 2012
Developing Terms of Reference and establishing initial contacts with potential candidates for sub-contracted entities for Component 1.2, Component 2 (quantitative assessment), Component 3 and Component 4		August 2012 to present

A detailed list of supporting documentation for this report can be found in Appendix 1.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Provide: i) any remark on the overall budget based on the financial report for the current reporting period; ii) indicate if there is a delay in spending the funds, please clarify reasons; iii) mention resources to be mobilized yet, if any; ii) additional resources leveraged by UNEP and/or partners as a result of the project

The disbursement of funds was slowed down due to the reasons mentioned under Implementation Challenges. However, The EC Project Manager has been kept informed and updated on regular basis.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any key milestones^{*1} and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period and iii) forecast of expected expenditures.

Having now established contact with the three aforementioned pilot countries, a scoping mission will be held in March-April 2013. These scoping missions provide an opportunity for countries to express the main challenges they are facing in terms of green economy, and the support they would appreciate receiving from UNEP to address these challenges in the context of the existing policy framework. Furthermore, UNEP will be able to meet bilaterally with countries' Ministries of Environment, Planning and Finance, and with the relevant donor organisations and partner agencies.

In April-May 2013, a regional green economy conference will be held in Saint Lucia. This conference will provide an opportunity to build capacity and partnerships on green economy, informing national experts from the fifteen Caribbean nations and other relevant stakeholders on the basic principles and approaches of mainstreaming green economy in national and sectoral planning processes. The event aims to develop a common understanding and appreciation of the green economy concept and to create a critical mass of key stakeholders from public and private sector who can implement a green economy vision in their work. Furthermore, the workshop will provide an opportunity to identify key challenges and opportunities in the transition to a green economy in the Caribbean region.

By May 2013, we will have concluded the sub-contracts with the entity that will establish the regional green economy network as under Component 1.2 of the project document, with the Centre of Excellence, as under Component 3 of the project document, and with the entity that will develop the capacity building portfolio consisting of material and training events for decision makers from public and private sectors, and deliver the regional training workshops, as under Component 4 of the project document. Through these sub-contracts, the three abovementioned components of the projects will become operational in the course of the second half of 2013.

Building forth on the inception missions held in March-April 2013, we will identify the entities to develop the three country-relevant menus of green sector investment options and supportive policies and conclude sub-contracts with them in June 2013. Simultaneously, we will sub-contract the entity that will be responsible for developing scenarios to assess the costs, benefits and trade-offs of various green economy strategies and compare their impact on selected macroeconomic indicators with a Business As Usual scenario. With these country studies, the project aims to achieve an improved capacity of governments and public institutions to identify, regulate and manage key resource challenges, mainstream sustainable development planning and implementation, and adopt policies and tools for resource efficiency. We aim to deliver the three country studies by December 2013 to be sent to the country governments and to build further on with a view to their implementation.

Around October 2013 and April 2014, two additional regional conferences will be organized in the Caribbean region, which will bring together the strategic regional green economy network and serve as a platform to exchange experiences, identify opportunities for the harmonization of policies and to help mobilize resources for advancing the green economy transition in the Caribbean. At the conclusion of the third workshop, the aim is that the regional platform will be solidly founded and able to continue to exist after the end of the project, taking the lead in the subsequent effort to scale up the transition to a green economy to the whole Caribbean region.

VISIBILITY:

Describe communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level, if any.

The overall communications strategy developed specifically for this project will serve to maximize the visibility and impact of the project activities. Notably, the media activities work plan will raise the profile and public awareness of technical assistance and capacity building support by effectively drawing on media knowledge and management, public relations, communications and partnerships and social media marketing. See the outline below for a detailed description of the media activities work plan and timeline to be carried out over the duration of the project. The Green Economy communications team will undertake monitoring of its media strategy to assess impact among government officials and wider engagement with the public in pilot countries. This will be evaluated according to concrete targets set for each component of the media strategy (e.g. local press coverage, 'good news' stories developed, interviews conducted, submissions to photo contest, etc.)

Outline of the Communication Strategy for the Caribbean Green Economy Initiative

¹ A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.

1. Appoint a Green Economy spokesperson: The individual selected to speak for the Caribbean Green Economy Project should be a highly visible personality in the media, capable of galvanizing policy action, display model behaviour to inspire youth engagement, and have excellent public speaking skills.
2. Produce series of web episodes on Green Economy: The cost of this activity will yield high value, as we hope to effectively utilize social media (youtube channel, vimeo) to inform and entertain viewers. Websodes should be short in length (8-10 minutes) and each should focus on a different aspect of the green economy (tourism, sustainable design, fashion, energy efficiency, agriculture). This plank of the media strategy may be rolled out after the project is already underway, which affords the communications team time to select a charismatic host and identify success stories in the region.
3. Run *Green Lens* photography competition in the Caribbean region: In order to run a successful photography competition, the GE communications team will need to give careful consideration to several important aspects of the competition's design. We will engage a media consultant to help identify and select a judge for the competition, based on expertise and profile in the areas of photography, journalism and sustainable development. We will need to contact private partners (i.e. hotels, ecotourism companies) to solicit sponsorship for the competition. This would include providing prizes to the first, second and viewers choice winners. Finally we will need to create a promotional flyer and network with photography enthusiasts, (e.g. clubs on University of West Indies campuses, amateur and professional photographers, tourism firms, etc.)
4. Produce CGEI flyer: The green economy communications team has already made progress on this component of the media strategy. Having written the flyer and undergone a process of peer-editing we are now designing the lay-out before going to print. The flyer will serve as a useful promotional tool, primarily geared to reaching policy makers at regional events.
5. Publish Caribbean 'good news' stories on UNEP Green Economy website: News stories that draw attention to initiatives going on in the region are an important means of communicating the concept and practice of the green economy. For this activity the communications team will draw on local knowledge and networking to find out what's going on at the grassroots level. We will have a media consultant providing us with good news stories from the region, and helping us also to place our GE stories in various media outlets. The communications team will draft a media list that includes reporters from local newspapers (e.g. Jamaica Observer, The Bahamas Weekly, The Freeport News, Trinidad Guardian, and Jamaica Gleaner). This could lead to reciprocal relationships where newspapers publish the project's activities, while we are picking up on good news stories that reporters glean locally.
6. Capture/upload video interviews: The CGEI, through a media consultant will capture video interviews with stakeholders related to the project's activities and disseminate them via the GE website, as well as its YouTube channel and vimeo account. Examples of ideal content are discussions from regional events with policy makers, government representatives, entrepreneurs, academics and civil society actors. Video interviews will be captured by a production team contracted by the GE communications team.
7. Add Caribbean Green Economy project section to GE website: The green economy communications team is working towards having a page on its website dedicated to the Caribbean project's activities. This section will feature good news stories, event updates, contest details, video content, and editorial articles from project participants from the Caribbean region. The webpage can be viewed here: www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AdvisoryServices/CaribbeanGreenEconomy/tabid/105702/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx

FINAL REMARKS:

Describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; i) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; iv) overall observations on project performance and whether the projects has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

- Intergovernmental processes, in particular, when it requires policy guidance from the Organs of the Caribbean Community can slow the implementation process given the tight schedules of Ministers. This is a factor which needs to be taken into consideration in the implementation process.
- The project is a natural progression from the UNEP/Barbados Green Economy Project. It can draw on the approaches used in the Barbados project. In addition, a pool of expertise with the experience of undertaking a Green Economy Scoping Study now resides in the region and can be utilised by this project.
- One feedback from the stakeholders is that the level of resources allocated for this Action is below the level anticipated for such a project. This feedback received from the stakeholders is based on the Barbados experience.

ANNEXES:

Please list supporting documents included as annexes, if any.

UNEP/MEA Project Manager: Asad Naevi

Signature: 

Date of Submission: 15/3/13

Appendix 1: Detailed list of attached documentation

Annex 1.

PRESS RELEASE. 324/2011. Date 26/08/2011. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. Special COTED focuses on environment and sustainable development.

Annex 2.

CARIBBEAN GREEN ECONOMY FORUM - Almond Beach Resort, St. Peter, Barbados. Date. 28-29/03/2012. Sharing regional green economy experiences and identifying policy implementation support mechanisms for advancing the Caribbean sustainable development agenda.

Annex 3.

REPORT. Date 6-7/06/2012 Kingston, Jamaica. First meeting of the open-ending working group on green economy framework based on the concept note "Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development Agenda through Green Policy Interventions".

