



CARICOM Headquarters, Georgetown, Guyana. Photo courtesy CARICOM.

## Implementation of policy response packages to promote Sustainable Development in Small Vulnerable Economies - Experiences of the Caribbean

Over the past two decades small vulnerable developing countries made significant efforts to establish benchmarks to facilitate their sustainable development. The evolving partnership between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Union (EU) have led to the implementation of innovative initiatives that contributed to the streamlining of the ACP approaches in the management of these countries' natural resources. The on-going EU Capacity Building project related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in ACP countries offers unique opportunities for the three developing regions to reposition themselves to enhance management of their environmental resources.

The interlocking feature of the economy and the ecology is particularly evident in the Caribbean countries and where the marine, coastal and terrestrial ecological systems are tightly intertwined. At the same time, the agriculture, mineral-extraction and hydrocarbon exploration and tourism sectors, have all evolved from the direct exploitation of the region's natural resource base. As such degradation of the natural resources often greatly reduces these countries' prospects for growth and development.

On the other hand, Caribbean countries are parties to and strong supporters of numerous MEAs but they often lack the capacity – technical and financial resources – to effectively address MEAs obligations. For the Caribbean, a strategic approach, involving linked projects, and policy coherence of the interventions are of utmost importance both at the national and the regional levels, if participation in MEAs is to be maximized. This is particularly true for the sustainable management of the region's natural resource base where the diversity of issues and the numerous international agreements/commitments ratified by the countries represent a real challenge to tackle such complex and diverse themes, especially in view of the scarcity of available human, financial and institutional resources.

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) are not generally designed with the objectives of trade liberalization including GATT/WTO or regional economic integration obligations in mind. Most of the international laws and agreements addressing the environment evolved from a separate path and often do not explicitly indicate how they relate to each other. As a result, many Caribbean countries with limited capacity often require through necessity, clarification on the relationship between these vital international legal spheres in order to the promote synergies for sustainable development.

Caribbean countries have been addressing these matters through the development of regional cooperation and integration identified as the Caribbean Community, the principal instrument to enhance resilience for the challenges of sustainable development and poverty reduction. Going for a regional integrated development approach, Caribbean countries established CARICOM, the Caribbean Community and Common Market on 4 July 1973 through the Treaty of Chaguaramas. By Treaty revision, effective February 2002, the successor entity is now the Caribbean Community, including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) where issues of sustainability are enshrined in a number of policies.

Environmental Action Programmes are instrumental to promote sustainable development through capacity-building in the private and public sectors. Local and community education programmes are also used to facilitate sustainable management. Partnerships were established between lead agencies in environment and sustainable development and line ministries responsible for distinct environmental functions across the Caribbean. In addition several training programmes for targeted groups - local government bodies, NGOs, communities – added value to the process through enhancing institutional capacity to perform environmental functions such as monitoring and enforcement. Other national level achievements in capacity building include the

recognition of the environment as an explicit ministerial portfolio responsibility (e.g. Barbados, Belize, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago); the designation of distinctive agencies responsible for environmental planning and management; and the extension of programmes and curricula of education and training institutions to include courses in environment and sustainable development continue to make an impact across the Caribbean.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the critical need for trained human resources as continuously highlighted as a major constraints to development planning in the Caribbean. To address this challenge the following actions can be adopted:

- Design and implement an integrated, coordinated plan/strategy/approach for capacity-building and human resource development;
- Strengthen capacity within line agencies and departments of Government in the areas of strategic planning, and resource mobilization around strategic environmental and natural resource priorities;
- Capacity-building through institutional strengthening to increase resilience to internal and external shocks and to facilitate regional and international negotiations;
- Attention to the capacity needs of the civil society sector is vital, due to the critical role they play at the national and community level in the Caribbean;
- There is also the need to provide innovative financial schemes for capacity-building in particular to promote greater involvement of the private sector in the sustainable use of natural resources.

There is a need to further:

- Develop and use mechanisms to improve the monitoring and evaluation of projects, programmes and processes;
- Integrate the lessons learned from monitoring and evaluation into project/programme planning and management;
- Conduct interdisciplinary research and development of comprehensive data bases on the region's natural resources to inform national policies and to facilitate legislative reviews;
- Increase public awareness to remove public indifference to public policies on the environment and to strengthen the role that individuals may play in improving the national environment situation needs that should be addressed;
- Improve technology by constantly changing technology to meet the needs of the society. Training of an adequate cadre of personnel is critical to sound decision-making and effective use of scarce resources.

The challenge that the ACP MEAs project poses to the Caribbean and other ACP regions is how to promote and implement sound environmental and other international agreements in a mutually reinforcing manner within the

context of their development aspirations. Caribbean and other ACP countries will face heavy demands on their environmental resource base in the near future if they are to be stable and competitive economies. To address these challenges it is necessary at this stage in these countries development to strengthen their negotiating and implementation capacity to effectively address the sustainability of their environmental resource base.

*Mr. Garfield Barnwell, Director, Sustainable Development CARICOM Secretariat.*

## African Hub (AUC)

The report of a study to review the needs of contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention (Comoros, France-Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Seychelles, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania) with regard to the ratification of the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities (LBSA) was submitted to the Hub in July 2011. It includes a regional synthesis paper on implementation of the LBSA Protocol in contracting parties and a regional policy paper providing strategic direction for the contracting parties. The results of the study will enable the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to devise mechanisms leading to increased number of ratifications of the LBSA Protocol. Starting in August the Hub supports eight member states (Congo Brazzaville, Comoros, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali and Swaziland) to develop multi-stakeholder coordination strategies on MEAs. These strategies will be in place by the end of the year with the aim of bringing together all stakeholders involved in MEA implementation at national level. This will lead to collective decision-making on environmental issues leading to sustainable environmental management. The Africa Hub facilitated a validation workshop of the first draft of an updated Mauritanian biosafety bill in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 15-17 August 2011. The workshop raised awareness of stakeholders on MEAs and biosafety issues. As a follow up to the workshop, meetings will be organized to sensitize further stakeholders on the bill prior to its enactment. The Africa Hub in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat and UNEP facilitated a training of African negotiators on the UNCCD in Algiers on 10-11 September 2011. This workshop strengthened the negotiation capacities of African negotiators. Similarly, the Hub organized an African negotiators training on mercury in Burkina Faso on 12-16 September 2011. For further information, please contact Coordinators Ms. Fatoumata Ndoye ([fnjallow@yahoo.com](mailto:fnjallow@yahoo.com)) and Mr. Livingstone Sindayigaya ([sindayigaya@yahoo.com](mailto:sindayigaya@yahoo.com)).

## Caribbean Hub (CARICOM)

The Hub plans to deliver a judicial awareness training workshop in Trinidad and Tobago in November with the aim of building the capacity of the regions' judges to better handle MEA-related issues and foster a comprehensive understanding of environmental concepts and principles. The Hub also aims to advance planning for the implementation of a customs training related to MEAs. During the coming months the Caribbean

Hub expects to fully explore all avenues for effective South-South Cooperation with the other Hubs. The Hub is also keen on identifying opportunities to facilitate training attachments for ten young professionals in Regional Organizations such as Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), civil society organisations and governmental institutions. The Caribbean Hub also intends to support the participation of Caribbean experts in African and Pacific Hub activities as part of the South-South Cooperation activities. For additional information please contact the interim Caribbean Hub Coordinator, Ms. Anya Thomas ([anya@caricom.org](mailto:anya@caricom.org)).

### Pacific Hub (SPREP)

The main event of this quarter was the completion of the mid-term review of the Pacific hub. Overall, the project was found to be fulfilling its goal, with strongly positive feedback from countries. Particularly noted was the preparation and follow-up to the CBD COP10 meeting, awareness materials and negotiation skills training and tools. Knowledge management remains an issue of regional concern. Capacity building on



National negotiation skills training in Timor Leste, 9-13 May 2011.  
Photo courtesy Clark Peteru.

mainstreaming MEAs continued with a first national workshop in Tuvalu 11-19 May to introduce the IEA process. A follow-up workshop to continue the process was held in Niue 4-7 July. A national workshop on negotiation skills was held in Timor Leste, 9-13 May, with input UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Implementation of the Aichi targets in the region was mapped out in a regional workshop in Fiji 16-20 May, with input from UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Training on hazardous waste data collection was given together with the Basel and Stockholm Secretariats from 25-29 July. Other activities carried out include the signing of an MOU between SPREP and the Caribbean Community Centre for Climate Change which forms the basis for South-South cooperation. Next quarters activities include a national workshop to assist Kiribati develop an integrated policy

framework as part of mainstreaming MEA obligations 15-17 August, and the UNCCD COP10 preparatory meeting 29 August-1 September, Fiji. For further information please contact the Pacific Hub coordinator Dr Jill Key ([Jillk@sprep.org](mailto:Jillk@sprep.org)).

### UNEP Risoe Centre

While improving the national Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) regulatory systems, the 12 ACP participating countries continue working on developing their local CDM portfolios for prioritized sectors. Energy efficiency; biomass, landfill gas generation and recovery; solar systems; mini-hydro and biogas are some of the sectors where countries are working on developing PINs and PDDs. As part of developing portfolios, the UNEP Risoe Centre in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and SPREP organized the second regional CDM workshop in Suva, Fiji, during 27-30 June 2011. The 4½ days workshop combined presentations and group exercises, while addressing methodology and technologies for CDM implementation in the energy and waste sectors, as well as the opportunities and barriers. Around 35 representatives from the government, consultants, regional organizations, as well as private sector experts from six countries (Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) participated in this workshop. For further information please contact Project Coordinator at the UNEP Risoe Centre, Ms. Miriam Hinojosa ([mirh@risoe.dtu.dk](mailto:mirh@risoe.dtu.dk)).

### SAICM Secretariat

Five out of ten SAICM QSP projects funded under the ACP MEAs project are already demonstrating progress. A regional workshop on toxicology/ecotoxicology for CILSS member states was held in Praia (Cape Verde) on 25-29 July 2011 for the stakeholders of Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Mauritania and Niger to strengthen national pesticide management. This workshop will be followed up by a second workshop on physico-chemistry in December 2011. An Inspection and Control Manual on Pesticides has also been developed in English and French. The another project Burundi has developed an awareness raising strategy and three groups of stakeholders, namely women, journalists from public and private sectors, and decision makers from relevant Ministries were targeted for awareness raising on POPs. The awareness raising campaign will continue with other groups of relevant stakeholders. The same project in Rwanda carried out an identification of POPs Cycle comprising of importation, storage, use and disposal of pesticides in the agriculture, energy and health sector. In addition relevant laws and regulations were reviewed and gaps were identified. For the other five projects, implementation of activities will start soon in Ethiopia, Mozambique and

Saint Lucia. For further information please contact Project Coordinator at SAICM Secretariat, Ms. Nora Silva (*nora.silva@unep.org*).

## FAO

An independent mid-term evaluation of the ACP MEAs FAO sub-component “The clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management” took place in July and August. International experts visited representative samples of countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions to review progress made and achievement related to the project outputs. The mission made proposals for any necessary further action to ensure that the project’s outcomes and benefits were sustainable in the longer term and drew attention to any lessons of general interest for future projects of this type. In the Caribbean Region, the FAO Workshop on Pesticide Risk Reduction and Obsolete Pesticide Elimination held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on 6-7 June 2011 gathered representatives of all 16 Caribbean ACP countries. Participants reviewed the progress made in the key areas of obsolete pesticides inventory, safeguarding, export and destruction, and issues related to legislation, registration and post-registration of pesticides, pesticide labeling and communications and awareness rising. A Year 3 Work Plan for the FAO sub-component in the ACP MEAs project was endorsed by the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC). For further information, please contact Coordinator Mr. Mark Davis (*Mark.davis@fao.org*).

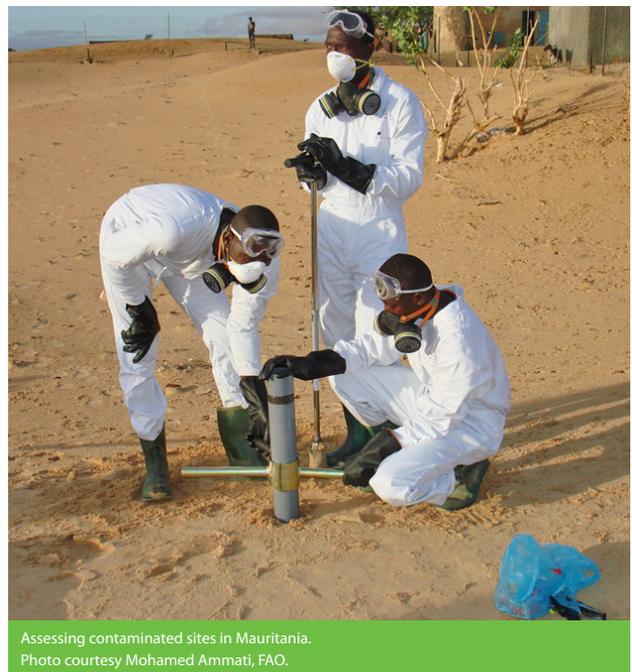
## UNCCD GM

The GM and FAO jointly organized the International Day on Desertification in Dakar (10-17 June 2011) with a special focus on the launch of the EU funded project “Support to the implementation of Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel Initiative”, a programme supported by the African Union and all the Sahara-Sahel countries. This event gave the opportunity for presenting the scope-acp South-South cooperation approach and forge partnerships with local actors as well as technical institutions in support of the implementation of scope-acp in Africa. All the presentations made during the workshop are available on *www.scopeacp.net*. In the Caribbean the GM concluded a contract with the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) in order to support Integrated Financial Strategies / National Action Programs

(IFS/NAP) Alignment workshops in Dominican Republic and in Grenada respectively in Sep. 21-22 and in Sep. 28-30, 2011 as well as establishing the Regional scope-acp web Platform. For further information, please contact Coordinator Mr. Youssef Brahimi (*y.brahimi@global-mechanism.org*).

## UN-EU Partnership Report for 2010

This report reflects the strategic partnership of the United Nations and the European Union and its impact in humanitarian and development cooperation. This year, focus is on the variety and depth of activities on the ground through programme implementation, which has led to improvement of millions of lives through emergency assistance, access to health and education, improvement of infrastructure, improved food security and agricultural productivity, safer living conditions and a protected environment. These reports are widely distributed and reach European Commissioners and Members of European Parliament. The ACP MEAs project was selected for the section ‘Making Development Sustainable’ due to its contribution to achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 – Promote environmental sustainability. For further information, please contact Ms. Sandrine Marquès, UNEP Brussels Office (*sandrine.marques@unep.org*).



Assessing contaminated sites in Mauritania.  
Photo courtesy Mohamed Ammati, FAO.

This newsletter is published quarterly and includes opinion pieces by the programme partners as well as an update of latest developments. For more information on ACP MEAs please contact:

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ENERGY, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT