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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL
PLANNING

First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group for
Physical and Regional Planning

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
ON PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

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FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
ON PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

The Background and Mandate of the Working Group are outlined in Document CDCC/PWG/P/81/2.

The first task of the Working Group is to define its future Work Programme and the modalities of its operations.

Work Programme

In accordance with the mandate, two projects have been selected from the Action Plan formulated by the Caribbean Environment Project. They are deemed to be of particular relevance to CDCC planners in view of the mandates for the group and the subject matters with which they deal.

The Working Group is being asked to:

- (i) evaluate the projects in the light of their needs;
- (ii) suggest any modifications to the Regional Co-ordinating Unit which may be needed to increase their relevance or their capacity to be implemented;
- (iii) suggest ways in which the Working Group will be able to facilitate the implementation of the projects;
- (iv) select one of the projects which would be considered a priority for implementation by the Working Group.

Project APCEP 2 is entitled "Development and Strengthening of the Capability of the nations of the region to prepare environmental impact analyses of major development projects and plans in order to incorporate the dimension of the environment and natural resources in the Planning and Implementation of socio-economic development programmes". It is contained in Document CDCC/PWG/P/81/3/A. The project has as its main task the upgrading of skills of planners to better evaluate the impact of major development projects on the environment. As currently formulated this project is expected to have a duration of two years.

The second project which is submitted for the evaluation of planning experts is entitled "Formulation of advisory coastal zone management schemes with particular reference to the preparation of guidelines for land use, resource management and environmental protection and support for national endeavours in this area". It is contained in Document CDCC/PWG/P/81/3/B. The project is geared mainly to the needs of Caribbean island states, although coastal zone management is of interest to all CDCC states and has been designated a priority area for action by the ad hoc group.

The project takes the form of a workshop for technical personnel in the Caribbean to deal with five subject areas, as follows:

- (i) The general issue of the interrelationship between population, resources and the environment and its importance in the Caribbean context;
- (ii) specific coastal and marine sectors in which these interrelationships are manifest;
- (iii) techniques of environmental assessment which incorporate economic analysis of environmental questions;
- (iv) case studies of these issues and their resolution in the Caribbean context;
- (v) the implications of alternative development strategies for the future of the environment in the Caribbean.

From the workshop, it is expected that guidelines and recommendations will emanate regarding land use, resources management, and environmental protection. The project as presently formulated, is expected to have a duration of eighteen months.

Modalities

The Working Group will need also to agree upon the modalities of its operations. The following issues will need to be resolved:

- (i) the frequency of future meetings;
- (ii) the mechanisms for liaison and co-ordination within each country;

The latter aspect will be of particular importance where representation on the Working Group differs from that of the national focal point in each member state. It is expected that proposals agreed upon will be submitted to the meeting of planners at the CDCC ministerial meeting for approval. It is also expected that the Working Group will be in continuous contact with the Regional Co-ordinating Unit which will act as a technical liaison with the Group.

(iii) financial arrangements for implementing the Work Programme.

Financing of the projects might be provided from a variety of sources as follows:

- (a) Voluntary contributions from CDCC states, either in the form of cash or the use of experts, facilities, etc.;
- (b) voluntary contributions from states outside the region, but supporting the objectives of the project;
- (c) support from the United Nations on a project-funding basis;
- (d) support from regional and international organizations, not part of the United Nations system, perhaps on a project-funding basis;
- (e) combinations of two or more of the sources outlined above.

The Working Group may wish to examine the project with a view to deciding what aspects may be implemented by the use of national expertise or in conjunction with assistance from another CDCC member state, i.e. a TCDC approach, and which aspects will need outside assistance.

In this regard, it will be recalled that the Caribbean Trust Fund has been approved for the purpose of assisting in the implementation of the action plan. Funding will be available for some projects which can provide inputs into APCEP 2 and APCEP 15, and details should be sought from the UNEP representative.

