

**E. REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN COASTAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

THE ROLE OF THE OECS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT UNIT IN COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides an insight into the work of the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit in the area of marine and coastal resources management. It illustrates the fact that regional institutions have to be flexible enough to adjust their modus operandi, if necessary, to assist countries in addressing their increasingly complex environmental problems. The NRMU's Coastal Resources Management Initiative (CRMI) is also discussed as well as how this has been translated into a framework for the adoption of an Island System Management approach to resource use in the OECS sub-region.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is not merely to provide an insight into the work of the OECS Natural Resources Management Unit (OECS-NRMU) with respect to coastal resource management but more importantly, to illustrate the fact that regional institutions have to be flexible enough to adjust their *modus operandi*, if necessary, to assist countries in addressing their increasingly complex environmental problems.

BACKGROUND

Over the past ten years, the NRMU has become increasingly active in promoting coastal resources management in the sub-region. This is in recognition of the importance of the coastal zones of Member States to their development. It is fairly well accepted that the coastal zone and its resources are the quintessence of the islands' identities. The mix of activities which occur within this geographic area has given rise to conflicting land use and degradation of resources. It is not surprising therefore, that many of the OECS Member States are now having to deal with problems related to coastal erosion, pollution of reefs and coastal waters and high levels of coastal damage from natural disasters. These problems have been further compounded by inadequate and weak management systems and strategies.

The first contributions of the OECS-NRMU to coastal zone management in the sub-region were with respect to the preparation of tools aimed at increasing national capacities to better manage their coastal resources. Specifically, these tools relate to beach monitoring,

mangrove management and legislation. Two beach monitoring manuals were developed, the first of which, entitled "Beach Monitoring", sets out step-by-step procedures on how to establish a monitoring system and is essentially designed as a working document for use both in the field and office. The second manual "Lecture Notes on Beach Changes and their Measurement" outlines in a simple format the physical and oceanographic background to beach changes. The manual on "Administrative Procedure for Mangrove Management" sets out procedures to be followed in developing a mangrove area management programme in the Caribbean. It is user friendly and is specially designed for use by non-specialists. A Harmonized Draft Frame Coast Management Act and Regulations was also developed by the NRMU in collaboration with Member States. It contains regulations pertinent to a wide range of ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and beaches.

Over time, it became clear to the NRMU that these tools were not being effectively utilized within the Member States and that coastal resource degradation was worsening. This spurred the NRMU to undertake an assessment of problem issues in Member States particularly with respect to the processes and interactions which occur in the coastal zones. The aim of this assessment was to provide the Unit with current information to develop a framework for integrated coastal zone management in the OECS sub-region.

The major issues identified in the assessment were as follows:

1. Increased pollution resulting from accelerated urbanization, tourism and agricultural activities*.
2. Accelerated unplanned development impacting on critical habitats*.
3. Indiscriminate use of resources resulting in the loss of productivity.
4. Unregulated removal of sand and vegetation from shores resulting in increased rates of erosion of shorelines.
5. Inadequate and improper shoreline engineering works resulting in accelerated erosion.
6. Absence of standardized requirements for environmental impact assessments.
7. Lack of comprehensive development control guidelines and policies: weak planning mechanisms.
8. Lack of inter-sectoral coordination resulting in inadequate management of island resources.
9. Lack of awareness with respect to the interaction between resources e.g. relationships between shore-based activities and coastal resources.

* These were identified by all respondents as being the main problems facing coastal zone management in the OECS sub-region.

This list of issues demonstrates two major facets of CZM issues in the OECS, these are:

1. The adverse effects of a wide array of different forms of poorly planned and managed development in upland and marine areas on the sustainable use of coastal ecosystems;

2. The intersectoral nature of development issues where different interest groups may be suffering common problems as a result of poorly planned and managed activities of other interest groups.

This suggests that the resolution of individual coastal issues will require the adoption of management boundaries which encompass the major development activities and their environmental linkages with coastal areas and activities. This prompted the NRMU to adopt an Island Systems Management (ISM) approach to resource management since it recognizes the inter-relationships between ecosystems. The ISM approach is defined by Chase and Nichols (OECS-NRMU, 1994) as "a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, multi-faceted mechanism aimed at rationalizing the use of island resources and the achievement of the goals of sustainable development". ISM is described as an adaptive management strategy which addresses the issue of resource use conflicts and which provides the necessary policy orientation to control the impacts of human intervention on physical environments.

THE BIRTH OF THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

In December, 1994, the NRMU in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) convened a regional workshop on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). The aim of this workshop was to provide an opportunity for Member States to discuss strategies for strengthening ICZM within the context of the assessment. There was broad sector representation at the workshop which is critical to any discussion on coastal zone management. The NRMU was requested by participants to further develop the concept of ICZM and translate it into an action plan leading to the development of a regional project.

In accordance with the recommendations of the meeting, the NRMU staff with technical support from selected Member States, UNDP, UNCHS, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) met in early 1995 to begin to conceptualize the Coastal Zone Management Initiative. After much debate, it was agreed that the term "coastal resources" would be utilized as opposed to the term "coastal zone". The principal justification for the use of this term stems from the ISM philosophy in which the entire island system is viewed as a coastal zone. In this case, therefore, it was necessary to differentiate between the coastal zone and coastal resources. Implicit in the CRMI is the fact that the management of coastal resources should be seen as an integral part of a broader framework of integrated development planning and management at the local, national and regional levels.

The central problem which the CRMI attempts to address is "Ineffective Policy Mechanisms for Inter-Agency Collaboration." This arose primarily as a result of:

- Limited public awareness and therefore advocacy on coastal resource management issues;

- Lack of inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration;
- Lack of donor coordination;
- Structural weaknesses in the OECS-NRMU.

These factors have led to the concept that the CRMI should focus on:

1. Developing a mechanism for inter-agency collaboration at national and regional levels;
2. Ensuring that donor funding, technical assistance and regional expertise are used to create maximum benefit;
3. Strengthening the OECS-NRMU to become the lead facilitating agency for CRM in the OECS sub-region.

The overall goal of the CRMI is "to achieve sustainable economic development for natural resources through integrated coastal resources management." The following are the targets of the CRMI:

1. Management, administrative, legislative and technical capacities for ICRM at the national level improved;
2. Coordination of ICRM activities among agencies/organizations at the national and sub-regional levels improved;
3. Knowledge and understanding of the integrated nature of CRM issues and problems increased at all levels;
4. Selected CRM issues/problems addressed or alleviated;
5. Member States assisted in the development/implementation of policies which facilitate sustainable use of coastal resources.

THE CRMI: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ISLAND SYSTEM MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The CRMI and its implications for the NRMU hastened the holding of a strategic review of the NRMU in April 1995, the culmination of which was the development of a Strategic Plan for the Unit to the year 2000. Six broad programme areas were identified including ICRM. In January 1996, the Fisheries Unit of the OECS was merged with the NRMU thus expanding the mandate of the Unit to include the planning and implementation of fisheries programmes. It was evident that the fisheries programme lent itself to inclusion within the CRMI. With assistance from the British Development Division in the Caribbean (BDDC), the NRMU in March 1996, embarked on the development of an implementation plan for promoting the CRMI. A consultant from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) was also providing assistance to the Unit at that time in reviewing its Strategic Plan and advising on the institutional requirements for shifting the Unit's focus from environmental management to sustainable development. This shift was deemed necessary to accommodate the new fisheries portfolio of the Unit.

Throughout this process, it was evident that all the programme areas which had been identified in the Strategic Plan were in fact intrinsically linked to the CRMI. The relationship between the CRMI and fisheries, parks and protected areas, watershed development and environmental planning for instance could not be denied. This resulted in the NRMU adopting CRM as the central programme framework which encapsulated the other thematic areas. The CRMI has therefore now been translated into a regional framework for the adoption of the ISM philosophy. The activities identified within the CRMI Plan of Action are now incorporated into all the elements of the NRMU's Five Year Operational Plan.

SELECTED OECS-NRMU CRM ACTIVITIES

Progress with the implementation of the CRMI Plan of Action has taken place fairly rapidly since the adoption of the Initiative by the NRMU's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the OECS Authority in mid 1995. The following are some of the activities which have been undertaken within the context of the CRMI:

- National Focal Points (NFPs) have been established in each Member State. Their roles are principally to (1) disseminate information on CRM issues from the regional to the national level; (2) facilitate the establishment of an inter-sectoral coordinating mechanism for CRM at the national level; (3) provide in-country logistical support to NRMU's CRM consultants.

- An inter-sectoral coordinating committee has been launched in four Member States. It is intended that these committees will function as a coordinating body for all environmental matters at the national level. The NFP will, however, remain as the link between the regional and national CRM activities.

- A regional assessment of the status of planned and on-going CRM activities in Member States was undertaken by a two person team in March and April, 1996. The aim of the assessment was to achieve more systematic and coordinated planning and implementation of CRM in Member States. Field trips were conducted to stressed sites, interviews and questionnaire surveys administered and consultations held with concerned parties in private, public and NGO sectors. Preliminary findings indicate that:

1. Coastal resources are considered very important to national development;
2. There are many uncoordinated activities, such as uncontrolled and untreated liquid waste discharges, impacting on the environment and leading to environmental stress;
3. The response to these stresses is for the most part uncoordinated and disjointed;
4. The NGO sector in almost all the Member States is strong but they are constrained by a lack of technical expertise and financial resources;
5. There is no strong partnership arrangement between government and the private/NGO sectors;

6. There is no overall authority or frame legislation for environmental management except in St. Kitts Nevis;
7. There is, however, sectoral legislation, although most of this legislation tends to be dated;
8. There are generally inadequate manpower resources to allow government agencies to fulfill their responsibilities under their legal mandate;
9. Environmental impact assessment is still not yet a legal requirement in most of the Member States.

- The NRMU is now in the process of assisting selected Member States with the preparation of National Action Plans for the management of beaches and mangroves. The aim of these plans is to establish a management mechanism aimed at ensuring the sustainable use of these ecosystems. It is intended that these plans will be effected through a system which will ensure the utilization of the CRM tools which have been alluded to earlier in this paper, and the development of an efficient system of management which will be characterized by greater collaboration between stakeholders. Components of the plans are, however, articulated by Member States through national consultations. National sub-committees for the management of beaches and mangals have been established in those participating countries.

- The Unit is also currently engaged in developing an awareness campaign on the management and use of coastal resources. A poster has been developed and distributed through the sub-region. This will be accompanied by a multi-media campaign, elements of which will include:

1. sub-regional interactive call-in programmes;
2. public service announcements;
3. community based consultations and animation programmes.

- The Unit continues to function as a facilitator, together with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) for the Caribbean Marine Parks and Protected Areas Managers Network. The Organization of American States (OAS) has agreed in principle to fund a project on parks and protected areas, an important component of which will be developed as tools for coastal and marine resource management.

- The NRMU responds to individual requests from Member States. Assistance is presently being provided to the Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines with respect to the development of a coastal conservation programme for selected islands of the Grenadines and southern St. Vincent. A study has been completed of the sites with technical assistance from the Coastal Zone Management Unit of Barbados. On acceptance of the recommendations of the report by the Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, the NRMU will seek funding from the InterAmerican Development Bank for mitigative action in the sites.

- The Unit will soon be embarking on the preparation of coastal atlases for Member States. With funding provided from the BDDC, the NRMU will be starting a two phased regional programme

on coastal inventories for the Eastern Caribbean. Phase 1 will involve carrying out a survey of the Grenadines using a team of consultants. Phase 2 will be dependent on the success of the Grenadines work and will involve funding the extension of the techniques to other Member States, under NRMU supervision and using primarily regional expertise.

- Apart from these activities, the Unit will be assisting Member States in developing and implementing catalytic national level projects. Funds provided by the BDDC will permit NRMU to develop a suite of small scale projects to be implemented by national and other sub-regional agencies.

- As a teaching tool for ISM, the NRMU is currently developing a video to show the multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-faceted nature of the management of natural resources.

CONCLUSION

CRM is therefore synonymous with the work of the NRMU. The NRMU operates within an ISM framework and consequently all the activities being implemented by the Unit impact in some way on coastal and marine resources. The achievement of the sustainable use of coastal resources is therefore not a simple task. It is, however, not impossible. We all need to work together as partners in the process recognizing that our activities, in one way or another, impact on our coastal and marine resources.

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CARIBBEAN: PLANNING FOR ADAPTATION TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT (CPACC)

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ABSTRACT

The project entitled Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) was initiated at the request of the small island developing states of the Caribbean at the SIDS conference in May, 1994. The overall objective is to assist the countries to prepare to cope with the adverse effects of global climate change. The project has two main components: adaptation planning and capacity building. The project is scheduled to start early in 1997.

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean countries, like other small island and coastal areas, face difficult decisions in confronting the adverse effects of global climate change and associated sea level rise. The costs of adapting to a rise in sea level could be very large compared to the size of the economies of these small developing countries island.

The preliminary Coastal Zone Management Studies of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) indicated that the need to implement strategies to cope with sea level rise is more urgent than previously thought. Natural systems which help protect marine and coastal resources are already being degraded by anthropogenic activities. Mangroves, which buffer the land from storm surges and the sea from land-based sources of pollution, are being depleted. Uncontrolled or ill-conceived development schemes, over-exploitation of living marine resources, and impacts related to urbanization, tourism, and agriculture all contribute to decreased resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems. As a consequence, the future vulnerability of coastal resources and infrastructure to sea level rise increases constantly, underscoring the urgent need for an integrated framework for addressing these issues. The difficulties are compounded by the insufficient data and lack of either suitable information systems or a coordinated institutional structure to managing coastal and marine resources.

Present stress on coastal resources could be further impacted by projected increases of sea level as a direct consequence of global warming. The Caribbean islands are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, which is likely to affect freshwater supply and increase beach and coastal erosion and the impact of tropical storms. Since population and economic activities are concentrated in the coastal zone, sea level rise threatens a disproportionate share of industrial, tourism, energy, transport and communications infrastructure. Thus, there is a need for measures to reduce vulnerability.

The IPCC has calculated first order costs for protection of Caribbean shorelines from future sea level rise, including low coasts, cities, harbors, island elevation, and beach nourishment. Estimates exclude costs for unprotected dry lands, ecosystems that may not be lost, and the impact of saline intrusion and increased storm frequency. With respect to Caribbean island territories, the projected cost of new construction alone is US\$11 billion, which is well beyond the combined investment capacity of their economies. Other more cost-effective adaptation measures are therefore needed.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Global concerns about climate change and its repercussions prompted the international community to begin negotiating a Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in 1991. The Convention establishes a legal framework for responding to global climate change through the promotion of measures aimed at mitigating emissions of GHG and preparing for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. The FCCC agreed that adaptation to these adverse effects will require short, medium, and long-term strategies which should be cost effective, should take into account important socio-economic implications, and should be implemented on a stage-by-stage basis in developing countries that are Parties to the Convention. The sequence of activities are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Sequence of Activities

Stage I	Planning, including studies of possible impacts of climate change to identify particularly vulnerable countries or regions and policy options for adaptation and appropriate capacity building
Stage II	Measures, including further capacity building, which may be taken to prepare for adaptation
Stage III	Measures to facilitate adaptation

Furthermore, the FCCC agreed that for the Stage I the Conference of the Parties would entrust the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to meet the agreed costs of the required activities. The FCCC has been ratified by most Caribbean countries. More significantly, the Caribbean region, along with other small island and low-lying states, has been effective in drawing the attention of the international community to the potential adverse impacts of climate change on their economies. The region has also been active in the work of the IPCC, including the Coastal Zone Management Subgroup of the Response Strategies Working group.

PROJECT ORIGIN

The Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project has its origin in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of small Island Developing States which took place in Barbados in April/May 1994. During this conference the small island developing states of the Caribbean requested OAS assistance in developing a project on adaptation to climate change for submission to the GEF. The project was submitted for consideration of the GEF endorsed by CARICOM's Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Participating countries are listed below:

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Commonwealth of Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
Trinidad and Tobago.

The GEF Council approved the project as part of its Work Program in May, 1995, with the World Bank as its implementing agency. The countries and CARICOM have maintained an active level of participation throughout the project preparation phase. A Project National Focal Point (NFP) has been designated for each country.

THE PROJECT

Objectives

The project's overall objective is to support Caribbean countries in preparing to cope with the adverse effects of global climate change (GCC), particularly sea-level rise, in coastal and marine areas through vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, and capacity building linked to adaptation planning. More specific objectives are listed below.

- (I) strengthen the regional capability for monitoring and analyzing climate and sea level dynamics and trends, seeking to determine the immediate and potential impacts of GCC;
- (ii) identify areas particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise;
- (iii) develop an integrated management and planning framework for cost-effective response

and adaptation to the impacts of GCC on coastal and marine areas;

- (iv) enhance regional and national capabilities for preparing for the advent of GCC through institutional strengthening and human resource development; and
- (v) identify and assess policy options and instruments that may help initiate the implementation of a long-term program of adaptation to GCC in vulnerable coastal areas.

DESCRIPTION

The project would follow a regional approach; it would be executed through the cooperative effort of all eleven participating countries and through a combination of national pilot/demonstration actions and regional training and technology transfer linked to adaptation planning. This approach seeks to strengthen regional cooperation and institutions, and to provide cost-effective means for adaptation planning, data collection, and sharing of information, skills and project benefits. The project would seek to build on existing institutions and experiences, and to liaise with other important regional initiatives and programs underway in the Caribbean. It would consist essentially of enabling activities, complemented by selective capacity-building activities, aimed at creating or strengthening endogenous conditions and capabilities necessary to prepare a long-term program for adaptation to GCC. Project execution would take four years involving two components: adaptation planning and capacity building.

COMPONENTS

(I) Adaptation Planning: short-term planning for adaptation to GCC in vulnerable areas. It focuses on regional sea/climate data collection and management, impact and vulnerability studies, and assessment of policy options. Throughout this component, the project would execute a comprehensive program of human resource development for upgrading skills of technicians and officials from participating countries in areas relevant to GCC and adaptation planning. Sub-components are described in Table 2.

(II) Capacity Building: would focus on strengthening the capacity of the participating countries to carry out GCC adaptation planning. All participating countries would be assessed to better build their national capacity to implement project activities and to ensure their continuation after completion. Activities under this sub-component include:

- (i) establishment of a Regional Project Implementation Unit (RPIU) responsible for project coordination at the regional level and for providing basic technical support and supervision in the key technical areas of the project;

Table 2 Sub-components of Component 1: Adaptation Planning

Sub-Component	Objectives	Participating Countries	Responsible Institutions
(i) Design and Establishment of Sea Level/Climate Monitoring Network (Regional)	The sea level/climate observation network (18 gauges) proposed for installation in each of the eleven participating countries would include a standardized set of instruments to measure water level, vertical land motion, air and sea temperature, wind velocity, precipitation, and other site-specific ancillary variables. The Caribbean Meteorological Institute would be the lead regional agency.	Regional	Regional and national meteorological agencies
(ii) Establishment of Databases and Information Systems (Regional)	These data bases and information systems would allow key regional and national institutions to acquire, analyze, store, and disseminate data on climate change and its impact on natural and manmade systems.	Regional	Environment and Planning Ministries
(iii) Inventory of Coastal Resources and Use (Regional)	To further develop each participating country's inventory of coastal resources so as to provide the necessary baseline data for the execution of other project activities.	Regional	Environment and Planning Ministries
(iv) Design and Establishment of Coral Reef Monitoring Network (Pilot)	To increase existing knowledge about the extent and sources of coral reef degradation through the establishment of long-term coral reef monitoring programs which over time would show the effects of global warming factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahamas • Belize • Jamaica 	Coastal Zone Management and Environment agencies
(v) Coastal vulnerability and risk assessment (Pilot)	The IPCC coastal vulnerability assessment "common methodology" model will be reviewed and modified for the application to the Caribbean region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados • Grenada • Guyana 	Ministries of Planning, Environment and Agriculture
(vi) Formulation of a Policy Framework for Integrated Coastal and Marine Management (Regional)	To support the development of a generic policy framework for the preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) legislation throughout the region.	Regional	Ministries of Planning and Environment
(vii) Economic Valuation of Coastal and Marine Resources (Pilot)	Includes the design and implementation of pilot studies on the economic valuation of resources in selected coastal ecosystems at risk from sea level rise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominica • St. Lucia • Trinidad & Tobago 	Ministries of Finance and Planning
(viii) Formulation of Economic/Regulatory Proposals (Pilot)	Two pilot studies would be implemented to demonstrate the design and use of economic and regulatory approaches to environmental protection in response to threats from sea level rise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua & Barbuda • St. Kitts & Nevis 	Ministries of Finance and Environment

- (ii) establishment of National Implementation Units (NIUs) within an existing institution in each participating country to coordinate project activities at the country level;
- (iii) strengthening of national and regional institutions directly involved in implementing various components of the project;
- (iv) upgrading the skills of professionals and technicians from participating countries through short courses, workshops, and hands-on training; and
- (v) technology transfer among the participating countries for adaptation planning.

PROJECT ORGANIZATION (see chart 1)

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) would be the Grant Recipient/Executing Agency for the project. The GS/OAS would execute the project under the supervision of The World Bank as GEF Implementing Agency, and under the guidance of a Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The GS/OAS would be responsible for overall project management and technical supervision. A Regional Project Implementation Unit (RPIU) would be established in the Centre for Environment and Development of the University of the West Indies (UWICED) in Barbados to ensure effective coordination and management of project activities at the regional level.

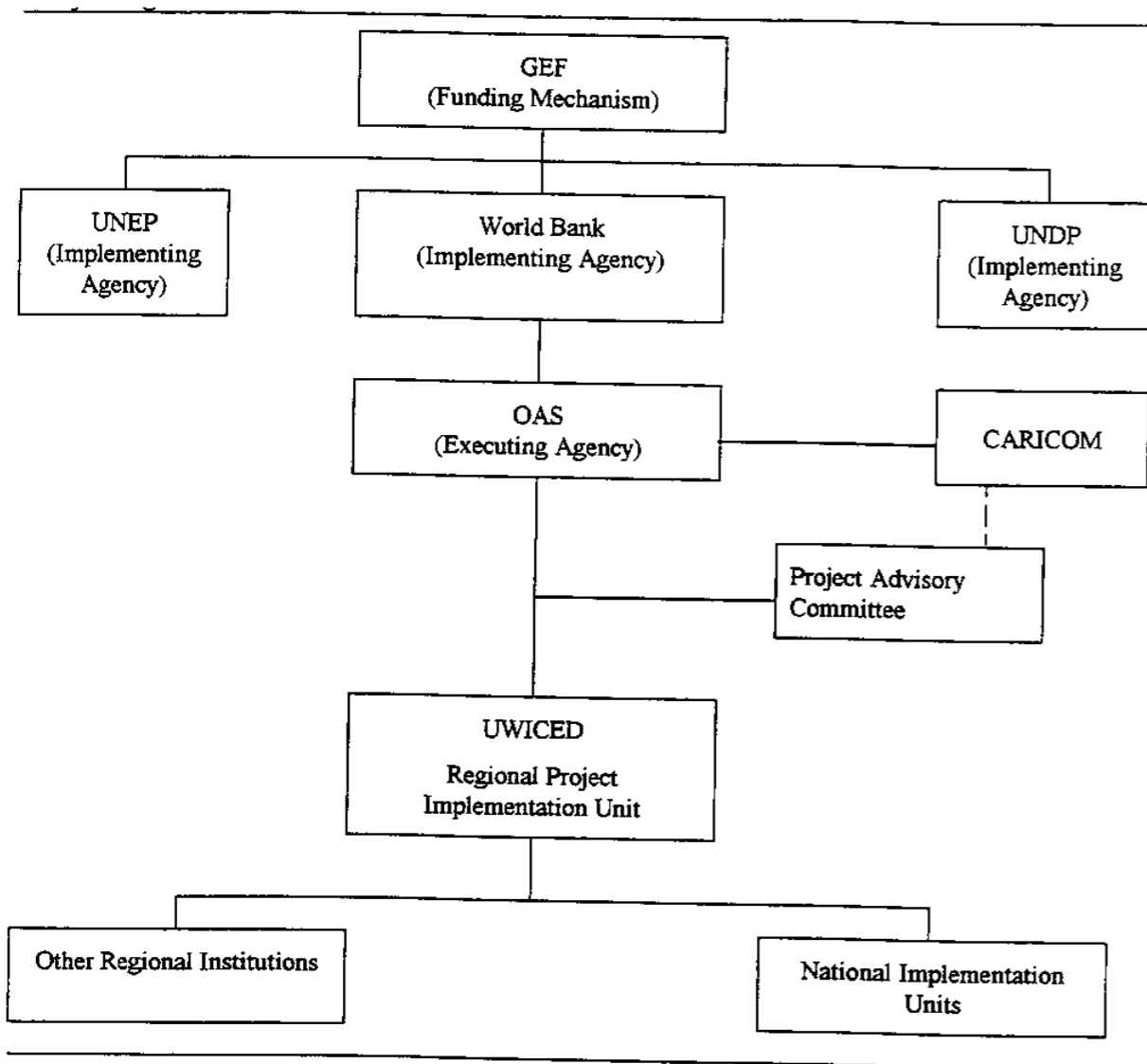
As a prerequisite for participation in the project, each country would be required to establish a National Implementation Unit (NIU) within an institution designated by the government in accordance with selection criteria to be developed by the PAC. The NIUs, working in close collaboration with the RPIU, would facilitate and coordinate project implementation at the national level.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The CPACC Project was appraised by the World Bank in a meeting which took place in Barbados, May 29-31, 1996. Representatives of CARICOM and the UWICED participated in the meeting. The appraisal was positive, and the OAS was asked to collaborate with the World Bank on the preparation of the final project documentation. OAS also started the process of negotiations with the UWICED regarding establishment of the RPIU.

The Second Session of the Conference of Parties (COP2) to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), which took place in Geneva from July 8 to 19, 1996, introduced new

Chart 1 Project Organization



guidelines for the National Communications obligations under the FCCC. The national communications component of the CPACC, having been formulated prior to COP2 guidelines, Ambassador Ashe therefore invited the GEF Focal Points of the participating countries to consider revising the CPACC to accommodate the new guidelines, or to treat the national communications as a stand-alone project for which additional funding would be sought. By mid September, most countries had indicated that they were pursuing the last option.

The CARICOM Secretariat in the mean time has suggested that the countries request further clarification on the COP2 guidelines from the FCCC Secretariat, and has suggested that this might best be done in the form of a regional workshop.

After consultations with Ambassador Ashe, the CARICOM Secretariat and the World Bank, the OAS informed the CPACC participating countries on October 1, 1996 that the national communications component would be removed from the project, so as not to delay the implementation of the CPACC. The CPACC still contains the same eight components as were in the original proposal. The total amount of funding is now approximately US\$6.3 million, to reflect the removal of national communications.

The positions for the RPIU (project coordinator, human resources specialist, coastal zone manager, information systems specialist, and regional tidal gauge network coordinator) were advertised in regional and extra regional media. A selection committee with representatives of CARICOM, UWICED and the OAS completed the pre-selection by October 15. The project coordinator will be selected by November 15, and will be involved in the selection of the remaining staff.

Project start-up is expected during the first 2 months of 1997.

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ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN

COASTAL REGIONS AND IN SMALL ISLANDS (S)