

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)  
CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION (CSC)**

**3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS FOR THE PROJECT  
*Impact Assessment of Climate Change on the Sandy Shorelines of the Caribbean:  
Alternatives for its control and resilience*  
Hotel Wyndham Albrook Mall, Panama City, Panama: 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**WELCOME REMARKS AND PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Programme Coordinator of the Caribbean Sea Commission provided an overview of project progress and the training events thus far and introduced the agenda and objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Focal Point Meeting.

Following the approval of the agenda the following topics were discussed.

**DISCUSSION OF BEACH MANUAL**

The delegation from ***Trinidad and Tobago*** requested details on the beach manual and if it's currently being prepared.

The project explained that funding is to be used to contract eight (8) regional experts to compile case studies and scientific studies on coastal erosion and sea level rise in the region to develop a regionally relevant manual.

The delegation of ***Cuba*** clarified that this manual was also intended to act as a best practice guide based on these regional experiences and is intended to mirror the classic engineering manuals in this coastal speciality such as the shore protection manual, and the artificial beach restoration manual. Finally this manual will help to identify future research needs by identifying the knowledge gaps which exist.

The delegation from the ***Dominican Republic*** inquired if this manual will also include consideration of natural responses and natural defences against coastal erosion such as coral reefs.

The delegation from ***Jamaica*** indicated that this manual should also include how to respond to the effects of coastal erosion and consider ecosystem based solutions and work within an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach.

The delegation from ***Trinidad and Tobago*** supported the inclusion of ecosystem based management solutions in the manual such as preserving wetlands, replanting coral reefs and supporting sea grass beds.

The delegation from ***Costa Rica*** indicated that critical to this manual is including consideration of how these physical impacts are affecting communities and economies as the effects on livelihoods are quite significant.

The delegation from ***Trinidad and Tobago*** also requested that a vulnerability index be considered in the manual, and that focus be placed on socio-economic assessments.

The Secretariat agreed that based on this discussion numerous potential directions of this manual emerged and that its structure needs to be clarified. Thus it was proposed that the Secretariat develop a concept of the Beach rehabilitation manual based on 3 parts;

1. Diagnosis of coastal erosion causes
2. Potential responses to coastal erosion and sea level rise
  - a. Hard Engineering responses
  - b. Ecosystem based responses
3. How can policy, fundraising and legal best practice support responses to coastal erosion.

## **INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE PROJECT AND DISCUSSION OF SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Secretariat indicated that this discussion was to identify the key criteria to be used in the selection of these executive projects.

Dr Juanes the Technical Coordinator for the project explained that executive projects aim to evaluate the exact causes of erosion and propose responses for three (3) specific sites in the region. These three (3) beaches should have very different physical characteristics as they are intended to inform future research and rehabilitation thus variety in the sites was important. Additionally Dr Juanes explained that these projects should be located in areas which are socio-economically important but incapable of independently funding beach rehabilitation. Finally, Dr Juanes indicated that this site must also have strong government interest and support for rehabilitation, to ensure national buy in.

The delegation from **Panama** indicated that it's important that continental land masses be considered in these executive projects, as the continental Caribbean is experiencing significant effects of coastal erosion, and that Panama is interested in participating in this project component.

The delegation from **Antigua and Barbuda** expressed concern regarding excluding tourism zones for executive projects particularly in Small Island States where most sandy beaches are located in tourism zones.

The delegation from **Trinidad and Tobago** also inquired if the ecological importance could be considered in selection criteria, considering the importance of sandy beaches to turtle nesting.

The delegation from **Grenada** expressed concern about the financial viability of the executive projects. Grenada suggested that an evaluation process be established to identify the feasibility within the scope and scale of the overall Sandy Shorelines Project.

The Secretariat agreed and indicated that the three (3) executive projects should represent the geographic, language, and developmental diversity of ACS member states, and also indicated that it may be worthwhile to consider a post-hurricane affected beach as one of the sites. The Secretariat also clarified that the project is not excluding beaches where tourism is important, but recognises that beaches where very large tourism operators have sufficient resources to conduct private beach rehabilitation.

Dr. Juanes asserted that feasibility of execution and implementation of the project was more important than the selection of the three (3) sites. By ensuring feasibility, the project would therefore ensure continuity in the coming years.

## **DISCUSSION OF CONCLUSIONS OF NATIONAL EROSION MONITORING PLAN AND EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT PROCESS WORKSHOP**

The delegation from **Costa Rica** expressed their satisfaction with the workshop, since the exercise facilitated the creation a summary of the main indicators to be included in the National Monitoring Plan. While also expressing concern about the close deadline, the delegate added that the workshop did provide an opportunity to validate several topics, the The delegate also inquired about the possibility of the project supporting a workshop for validation of the national plan.

The delegation from **Grenada** outlined the challenges with producing a comprehensive list on equipment needs particularly as some methods and equipment used are very new to countries and requested lists of the equipment necessary for each type of monitoring. He express if the Project can provide a short list of the equipment for better guidelines, and in this matter included it in the National Plan.

In responding participants' concern the Secretariat indicated that deadline while firm was not fixed and there was some flexibility with regards to the receipt of plans, once indicated by member states early on. The Secretariat also, indicated that a 'menu' of the potential equipment would be very useful to the development of National Plans

The delegation from **Trinidad and Tobago** stated that by bringing together focal points and the specialists, the workshop provided a general perspective on the possible challenges in the execution of the National Monitoring Plan. They also articulated that each country has its own experience in erosion monitoring and that it is very willing to support nations which need support in developing the list.

Countries also requested that the information from the workshop be shared as it can support the development of the national plans.

## **DISCUSSION OF DATA SHARING SYSTEM**

The Programme Coordinator explained that the project was aiming to develop an online platform that would enable the sharing of coastal erosion data, beach case studies and other critical coastal data.

The delegation from **Grenada** indicated that national laws and legislation related to data sharing must be considered in discussions of data sharing.

The delegation from ***Trinidad and Tobago*** also articulated that data sharing presents a challenge in the region due to national laws and protocols on data sharing of sensitive information.

Following this discussion it was concluded that this component be reworked to address the issue of national data storage and that future discussions are necessary on the issue of data sharing across countries.