

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

5TH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE SANDY SHORELINES PROJECT

ACS Secretariat, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
18th September, 2020

MEETING REPORT

I. WELCOME REMARKS

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Cherise Trotman, Adviser in the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and the Caribbean Sea, who delivered the welcome remarks. She expressed happiness that the Focal Points had a chance to meet once again after almost a year, and apologised for the project not having met officially sooner, even though the Secretariat has been in constant contact. Ms. Trotman also informed of three new focal points for Member States Panama (*Ms. Maribel Pinto*), Trinidad and Tobago (*Dr. Cassandra Nanlal*) and Guatemala (*Ms. Maria Fernandez*) respectively.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The agenda was approved by all parties.

III. DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID

Ms. Trotman invited each focal point to speak on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their country and their work. Overall, all Focal Points expressed going through similar struggles, such as;

- The inability to monitor beach sites and collect samples;
- Being understaffed at their various departments, resulting in delays in work output; and
- Having to work in shifts/rotations.

The **representative for Jamaica**, Ms. Chalene Roye-Marie, updated the meeting on the Tower installation. She informed that while there had been delays, all physical parts of the tower have arrived in Jamaica. Ms. Roye-Marie further explained that while her agency NEPA (National Environmental and Protection Agency) has overall responsibility for this component, they still have to work with the municipal corporation as it relates to the installation process and location. Jamaica hopes to begin installation within the next two (2) months.

The **representative for Haiti**, Ms. Ninon Angrand, indicated that Haiti has been having multiple challenges for various COVID related reasons. She reassured the meeting however, that Haiti remains committed to the Sandy Shorelines Project; she also informed that there was a new Minister of the Environment appointed who would assist in overseeing the project implementation, as the former Minister responsible, Mr. Joseph Jouthe, is now Haiti's Prime Minister.

The Adviser of DECS then gave a power point presentation to update Focal Points on the newly adjusted work programme, particularly as it related to Component 3.1 (Procurement of Monitoring Equipment), Component 4 (Executive Beach Rehabilitation) and Component 5 (Writing of Beach Manual in collaboration with CARIB-COAST). She further informed that Component 2.1- Capacity Building, has been put on hold as due to travel restrictions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Also as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Adviser explained that the ACS submitted a request to KOICA for a possible extension into 2022.

IV. DISCUSSION ON THE LIST OF BEACH MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Ms. Trotman informed that the tendering process for the procurement of the monitoring equipment has currently recently concluded, but with unsuccessful results. This was as a result of the actual equipment cost being higher than the estimated cost given by the procurement expert. As such, Ms. Trotman requested that countries whose equipment lists exceeded the **US\$ 50,000.00** limit to kindly adjust their lists, keeping in mind previous suggestions from their assigned Technical Advisory Group (TAG) member.

Ms. Trotman stressed that it was important to make cuts to equipment deemed extra and not essential. It was agreed that the Secretariat would receive this information from Members by **October 2nd, 2020**. Ms. Trotman also asked that details regarding reception of the equipment and customs exemptions also be included.

The **Representative for Antigua and Barbuda**, Ms. Tricia Lovell requested the full list of equipment and all costs so as to be better placed to determine what equipment should be removed and replaced with something else, if necessary.

V. MONITORING GUIDELINES

The **Representative from Cuba and Inversiones GAMMA**, Dr. Juanes, asked to hear more about the national projects from the other countries. He also suggested that each state should produce a report on their monitoring activities, equipment use, etc. monitoring status.

VI. EXECUTIVE PROJECTS– BEACH REHABILITATION (COMPONENT 4.1)

Ms. Trotman explained that as a result of the pandemic, it has been necessary to rethink how the execution of the initial stages of the Beach Rehabilitation Executive Projects would be undertaken. She invited Dr. Juanes of Cuba to explain to the others the work that CITMA and Inversiones GAMMA would be doing in the three selected countries, i.e. Antigua and Barbuda, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Juanes introduced his other colleagues who would be involved in this project component. He explained that it was initially planned for two (2) specialists from GAMMA Inversiones to travel the selected sites to work with the focal points to create specific work plans for each country. However, because of COVID-19, it was decided that GAMMA would now work remotely using a form, which has already been sent to the selected countries. The purpose of this form is to enable focal point countries to provide specific technical information to address the logistical aspects so that work can continue.

With this information, GAMMA would be able to prepare, in a short time frame, the technical tasks as well as the logistics for the works to be carried out, so that a full work proposal can be drafted. Dr. Juanes concluded that it is expected that this proposal will be complete by the end of September.

VII. BEACH REHABILITATION MANUAL

Ms. Trotman explained that this project component will be done in collaboration with the CARIB – COAST project.. She further explained that this publication of a Coastal Erosion Rehabilitation Manual will be used by the countries under the KOICA project. She went on to inform that initial talks have been had with Mr. Ywenn De La Torre of CARIB – COAST, to determine the scope and responsibilities of each party in this partnership.

Mr. De La Torre is a former member of the Technical Advisory Group for the Sandy Shorelines Project, and Drs. Juanes and Yeon Chang who are the technical experts from CITMA and KIOST respectively, will provide guidance on the ACS/KOICA end, to ensure that manual fulfils the requirements for the Sandy Shorelines Project. It was also explained that the results of the Beach Rehabilitation in the three selected sites will also be included/captured in the Beach Manual which will be available to all Focal Point countries.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters discussed.

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

In closing, the deadlines for submissions for the Focal Points were once again reiterated:

- Country reports outlining status of national monitoring activities should be submitted by 25th September
- Revised equipment lists should be submitted by 2nd October, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

