

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION (CSC)

PROJECT: "Impact of Climate Change on the Sandy Shorelines of the Caribbean. Alternatives for its Control and Resilience"

7TH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE SANDY SHORELINES PROJECT (VIRTUAL MEETING)

ACS Secretariat, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 7th July 2022

SUMMARY REPORT

Virtual Meeting of the nine (9) Focal Points of the Sandy Shorelines Project and the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and Caribbean Sea (DECS) of the ACS.

Focal point participants:

- Antigua and Barbuda - Mark Archibald
- Costa Rica - Lilliana Piedra Castro
- Cuba - José Luis Juanes Martí and Dr. Roberto Rafael Núñez Moreira
- Dominican Republic - Welcome Santana
- Guatemala –Edwin Roberto García Alay
- Jamaica - Anthony McKenzie and Jodiel Ebanks
- Panama - Maribel Pinto and Ligia Castro
- Trinidad and Tobago - Dr Rahanna Juman and Christopher Alexis

Participants of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Ana Leticia Ramirez Cuevas. Director of the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and Caribbean Sea (DECS)
- Colin Jack. Sandy Shorelines Project Manager
- Cherisse Braithwaite-Joseph, DECS Advisor

- Luisa Capri Sanchez. Research Assistant, DECS
- Christal Benjamin. Research Assistant, DECS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING:

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Director Ana Ramírez began by welcoming the participants and gave some introductory words and provided a summary of the progress made by the Sandy Shorelines project so far. He informed that the executive projects in the three (3) selected countries have already been concluded: Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda, during which field work was carried out by the consulting firm GAMMA, as well as the postgraduate courses on sedimentology and coastal erosion.

He reported that the project has already carried out the guidelines for the homogenization of data between all the Focal Points and the monitoring network. The Secretary General (SG) continues to work on the equipment procurement process. He added that construction of the monitoring tower on Hillshire Beach, Jamaica was completed under the supervision of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

He also reported that the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) recently approved the extension of the project until June 2023 and stressed the importance of duly complying with the agreements and dates of the deliverables. In this sense, the update of the Focal Points (fp) on the status of the monitoring network in their countries is very important. Participants must work together to continue and complete the project successfully. Finally, he thanked the countries for their support for the executive projects and the presence of all the attendees.

The Project Manager (PM) of the Sandy Shorelines project, Mr. Colin Jack, gave a few words of welcome and thanks to those present. He informed that we are in a very

important moment of the project but it requires participation to have a successful conclusion.

II. WORK PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The PM gave a brief introduction to the Sandy Shorelines project, which is focused on resilience to climate change through the creation of the beach erosion monitoring network and the executive projects on beach rehabilitation. He provided a brief overview of each component of the project, as well as the current status of each. I emphasize that the next FP meetings in 2023 will be vital for the completion of the installation of the network.

He informed that the network team will reach the nine (9) countries by the end of October, so it is necessary for the ACS to receive the update of the status of the monitoring network in each of its countries. He also shared that the final reports of the executive projects will be presented by the end of July 2022. He also warned that the Korea Institute of Oceanographic Technology and Sciences (KIOST) will visit Jamaica during the first months of 2023 for the installation of monitoring equipment and a training exercise regarding the monitoring tower.

The ACS also continues to work on the progress of the beach rehabilitation manual, which will be presented in early 2023. For the drafting, it is planned that national experts and university students who are interested in working with the rehabilitation of beaches and erosion will participate. Finally, he added that the project will conclude with a conference.

III. COASTAL EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION STRATEGY

The PM presented the acquisition strategy proposed by the ACS. He reported on the changes that have taken place with the suppliers, explained that Cuba, Guatemala and Haiti are the countries that are missing to update the list of equipment and hope to conclude with the meetings next week. He explained that the ACS has sought to invite those present to make the purchases they can make in their corresponding countries. He shared on screen the custody transfer agreement of the equipment that will be between

the AEC and the institution that receives the equipment. He explained the details such as that the receiver will assume responsibility for the equipment received and that it cannot deny the accessibility to the data generated, among other points.

Director Ramírez explained that all the focal points received the agreement on June 27th 2022 along with the meeting call. The document was sent in PDF but you will receive it in Word format. In this sense, each FP must indicate on what date it will send back the duly signed document to proceed with the purchase of the equipment.

The Dominican Republic announced that they will send the signed agreement as soon as possible, as will **Antigua and Barbuda**.

Director Ramírez added that the agreements can be signed electronically and noted that countries have communicated mechanisms to reduce customs duties.

Costa Rica responded that the University of Costa Rica (UCR) is reviewing the document and will return it signed on August 20.

Panama replied that the document is being reviewed by legal advice, the minister does not have a digital signature, therefore he will sign the agreement and later return it in PDF. Subsequently, it asked whether the entry costs will be borne by the AEC or by the FP. **Director Ramírez** clarified that the expenses will be borne by the ACS.

Cuba indicated that the receiving agency is the Environment Agency, who will analyze the agreement and return it signed at the end of July.

Guatemala said that due to internal changes in personnel, it would be good to sign a new agreement with the minister and that they need more information. **Director Ramírez** requested a meeting with the focal point representative.

Jamaica shared that they have had a preliminary revision of the document. However, they are interested in submitting the document to our legal arm.

Trinidad and Tobago reported that they are working on the revision and signing of the document.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EROSION NETWORK

Each of the Focal Points gave a brief update on the status of the monitoring network.

- **Antigua and Barbuda –**
- **Costa Rica** – He gave a presentation of the monitoring network in his country, shared images of the evidence on sea level rise that has occurred on the Caribbean coast, where housing and government infrastructure have been impacted by this. Costa Rica has conducted monitoring for a period of 10 years between 2008 and 2018. He reported that they have been working on the process of territorial planning to face these erosive processes, they also have artificial sand feeding projects on beaches, including other initiatives related to reef conservation, among others. **Cuba** requested that written notification be given of what each FP is reporting at this meeting in order to work on the preparation of a comprehensive report on the sandy shorelines project. **Costa Rica** asked if there is any template or format of the report. **Cuba** replied that it does exist and suggested having meetings with each FP between now and December with a view to preparing the integrated project. **The PM** confirmed that if the meetings were held individually between the Technical Coordinator, the FPs and the ACS, it also asked if there is an update by Cuba.
- **Cuba** - presented the update of its network, indicating that they have a total of 49 monitoring stations on 35 beaches. He mentioned that they carry out the monitoring two (2) or four (4) times a year depending on the conditions. They have done the monitoring since 2016, in 2017 they made sand dumps on the beaches.
- **Dominican Republic** – He reported that they have selected 8 beaches around the Atlantic and Caribbean coast. They have a set of data matrices and have

maintained measurements over five (5) or six (6) years with a periodicity of two (2) months. During the monitoring they have witnessed accelerated erosion processes and have also been affected by the lack of resources to continue with the monitoring during the year 2020-2021.

- **Guatemala** –
- **Jamaica** – Gave an update on the state of its network, warned that in 2021 they examined 47 sites, have analyzed both short- and long-term trends of erosion, where they have found erosion rates of 1.8%, which indicates severe erosion processes in 28 of the 47 sites studied. The selection was made based on places that are at risk of damage to infrastructure, including recreational, sensitive or protected sites, now other sites are included. Also, I confirm the upcoming arrival of the KIOST team in the country.
- **Panama** – reported that in November 2021 the selection process of three (3) beaches began, which have technical assistance from the Institute of Hydraulics of Cantabria, on beaches on the Caribbean and Pacific coast, this will help to understand the levels of flooding, meteorological tide and waves. He added that they do not yet have a database on behavioral trends in coastal areas since they do not have scientific and/or technical personnel to analyze the issue.
- **Director Ramirez** said that the ACS will begin to work on the drafting of phase two (2) of the Sandy Shorelines project, therefore the active participation of the focal points is required.
- **Trinidad and Tobago** – presented the status of the monitoring network and the work done during the executive project with the consultancy GAMMA together with the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA). During the projects, erosion areas and sandbanks were identified for the rehabilitation of Cedros beach. The course on sedimentology and erosive processes in the Caribbean was also taught. He said that the FP has records of currents, barometry and diving work.
- **Director Ramirez** asked those present to move on to the agreements of the meeting. He pointed out the need to hold individual meetings between the ACS,

the technical coordinator and each FP in order to establish the baseline of the monitoring network.

The Meeting agreed as follows:

1. The FPs will send on July 14, 2022 the update report shared at this meeting and the update of the format of the National Plan of the project to the technical coordinator with a copy to the Secretariat. Data of the technical coordinator:

Dr. José Luis Juanes

Martí; juanesjoseluis4@gmail.com or juanes@ceniai.inf.cu; phone: +53 5993 8841

2. The Technical Coordinator shall review the documents of the FPs and give recommendations regarding the establishment of the monitoring network.
3. A calendar of technical meetings shall be held with each focal point.
4. Revised documents will be sent on 22 July 2022.
5. The PM and the Technical Coordinator will integrate the information and prepare the integrated report of the focal point monitoring network.
6. GAMMA will send the format of the National Plan carried out in 2018 to all FPs.

V. TRAININGS/CONFERENCES

The PM reported the following points:

- Virtual training exercise in October 2022
- Presentation of the Sandy Shorelines Project at the XXVII International Conference on Coastal Engineering in Australia
- Training exercises by KIOST in NEPA in early 2023

V.I OTHER MATTERS

The PM invited those present to participate for a scholarship to carry out master's studies with KIOST financed by the government of Korea. He shared and read the letter sent to the ACS. This card will be dealt with the FPs so that they can participate. The ACS will be in charge of the selection process of applicants taking into account the times of KIOST.

Director Ramírez asked the meeting to set the date of the next meeting and proposed between November 14th and 25th.

Costa Rica proposed November 17th at 11 AM and was agreed by those present.

VII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Director Ramírez presented the conclusions and decisions adopted by the meeting and thanked those present for their participation.