

## **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"**

#### **9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE SANDY SHORELINES PROJECT (IN-PERSON MEETING)**

Spanish Court Hotel, Valencia Room A – C, Kingston, Jamaica, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

#### **SUMMARY REPORT**

In-person 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 – Jerelle Aaron
- Costa Rica - Lilliana Piedra Castro
- Cuba - José Luis Juanes Martí (Technical Coordinator)
- Dominican Republic - Bienvenido Santana
- Guatemala – Carlos Alberto Granados Posadas
- Jamaica - Jodiel Ebanks
- Panama – Maribel del Carmen Pinto Castillo
- Trinidad and Tobago - Christopher Alexis

#### **Participants of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)**

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

- Luisa Capri Sanchez. Research Assistant, DECS
- Samantha Snaggs – Administrative Assistant DECS
- Alexia Sylvester- Intern, DECS

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING:**

### **I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

**Jinwook Kim, Chargee d’Affairs of the Embassy of Korea in Jamaica** was invited to deliver opening remarks on behalf of Korea. He spoke about the consequences of coastal erosion in developing countries and the challenges faced. He noted that the Korean government is spearheading an initiative to tackle coastal erosion as KOICA recognizes the importance of fighting disasters sustainability. He expressed that the capacity building exercise will play a big part in fulfilling this goal. He also noted that the Korean government will be expanding cooperation in the Caribbean region through KOICA projects. He expressed his hope that this 3-day event will promote further cooperation through the exchanging of ideas, addressing critical concerns and the strengthening of coastal resilience in participating regions.

**Ms. Delita McCallum, Assistant Director of the Caribbean and Americas Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica (MOFAFT)** followed with her remarks. She highlighted the fact that the Caribbean Sea brings tourists and draws business to the islands’ shores through the support of shipping, fisheries, agriculture, environment, and tourism. She also noted that the countries in the region rely heavily on coastlines that are now being negatively affected by climate change and its impacts. She expressed that Jamaica remains committed to the priorities established by the Association of Caribbean States including the conservation and protection of the Caribbean Sea.

She expressed gratitude to Korea on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica specifically for the technical and financial support provided through the Sandy Shorelines partnership.

**Anthony McKenzie, Director of Environment Planning at the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica** was invited to deliver remarks. He informed the meeting that NEPA is acutely aware of the challenges faced with their own sandy shorelines and noted the potential to influence these coasts through various processes, both natural and manmade. He noted that climate change is having a significant impact on beach morphology on beaches and their ecosystem with coastal studies showing that 56% of beaches in the Caribbean region will be affected by sea level rise of 1m.

He noted the importance of reducing vulnerability to coastal erosion and the need for adaptation through different mechanisms such as setting back buildings from shores. He noted that this project will address the impact of impact of climate change on environment and has set the stage for action, through the establishment of a template for which the Caribbean can build a resilient ecosystem.

**Director Ana Leticia Ramirez Cuevas** of the ACS expressed gratitude to KOICA and MOFAFT in Jamaica for their support and welcome remarks. She reminded the Focal Points that participation in the project, which is in its final stages, is critically important. She noted that the region is facing a crisis - related to climate change and the of shoreline areas and beaches, on which a great proportion of regional populations depend.

She reiterated thanks to Korea on behalf of the ACS, for the support received and noted that the impact of environmental changes needs to be widely discussed, not only with decision makers, but with the general population. As such, she noted that the ACS has decided to modify the project to increase the project's reach remarking that if information is limited/restricted, it cannot reach the population for them to make informed decisions.

armed with the knowledge that their everyday decisions can affect the impact on the coastlines.

She noted that there is a need for this information to be translated into public policy which would allow us to create a resilient region. The Focal Points were then invited to introduce themselves individually.

## **OFFICIAL PHOTO**

**Mr. Colin Jack** invited the Focal Points to gather for the official meeting photo to be taken.

## **II. WORK PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

**Mr. Colin Jack** began this agenda item by reviewing the work plan and provided status updates on the itemised project list. He noted that there have been eight (8) focal point meetings completed, with today's proceedings being the 9th that will mainly discuss receipt of equipment and give update on the upcoming beach conference in Panama.

He noted the importance of each member state sending a representative to see the work completed noting that there have been discussions to expand the installation of the towers to other countries therefore it is important for people to see it in person.

He further advised that the field work for the executive projects has been successfully completed and the dates were set for handover at the three sites. (He noted in 2021 there were handovers in Viento Frio in Panama; Runaway Bay in Antigua and Bonasse beach in Trinidad.

An update on each component of the was provided, and is as follows:

- **Component 1** - The goal of this component was surpassed and currently stands at 80% completion.
- **Component 2**; the capacity building exercises to be conducted under the project, Mr. Jack advised that the team would have attended ICCE conference in Australia

as well as facilitated post-graduate courses as part of the beach rehabilitation project.

- **Component 3;** Mr. Jack noted the challenges related to procurement, especially those presented due to COVID19. Some identified were the higher costs of items coming out of the pandemic and also travel restrictions which existed.
- **Component 4;** the Beach Rehabilitation projects have been completed and intended to hand over to member states soon.
- **Component 5;** The Beach Rehabilitation Guidebook is on course to be completed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and will be delivered in late May or early June.
- **Component 6;** regarding the hosting of the Beach Preservation Conference, the event, named the First Conference on Identification, Protection, Restoration and Management of the Greater Caribbean Beaches, 2023 (IPReM Greater Caribbean 2023) will be held June 28- 30, 2023 and more details will be provided later in the meeting.

### **III. COASTAL EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION STRATEGY**

**Mr. Jack** to mentioned that progress has been made in obtaining custody agreements for equipment to be sent to member states. Mr. Jack reported that custody agreements have been signed for seven out of nine countries, with Guatemala being the most recent addition to the list.

It was noted that the project team met recently with the project donor, KOICA, who were persistent that equipment be sent to each member state. Regarding the delivery of equipment, Mr. Jack mentioned that there were some complications with Costa Rica in terms of custody, but they have already arranged for a custodian to receive equipment on behalf of the ministry to avoid any repeat issues.

Mr. Jack also reported that handover has been completed for Trinidad and Tobago, and they are presently in Jamaica doing handover and training. The further noted that the

equipment suppliers will send online support material and best practices to use with the equipment.

**Antigua and Barbuda** inquired about regulations concerning the use of equipment and further stated that they were able to clear without any confusion.

**Guatemala** requested drone equipment and informed the meeting that an agreement will be received today.

**Costa Rica** inquired about the timeframe for expected receipt of equipment once the agreement is signed.

**Mr. Jack** further clarified that the agreements have already been signed by the Secretary General of the ACS and will be dispatched.

**Guatemala** expressed interest in the project and acknowledged that there were delays in their progress. Doesn't know what time request to fulfil equipment was signed. Guatemala emphasized the need to ensure that the installation of equipment fulfils its purpose by the agreed date.

Mr. Jack confirmed that all the equipment is expected to be delivered by the end of June. He also mentioned that the intent was that the equipment be used by the Ministry of Environment to complete work related to the Sandy Shorelines Project and any other related work done by the government.

**The Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade**

**Jamaica** inquired about the resilience of the equipment concerning ability to resist natural disasters and adverse weather conditions. Director Ana Ramirez clarified that the equipment for video monitoring towers was only installed in Jamaica which is why Jamaica is a key actor in all the activities. She further explained that Jamaica was given the opportunity to have lectures with KIOST and the resilience of the equipment can be discussed directly with them.

**Panama** inquired whether all the equipment would be purchased in Panama. She also requested clarification on whether Panama could move ahead with the development of an MOU and, if not, what required information they would need. She also wanted clarification on the ownership of the equipment and follow up in future.

Mr Jack noted Panama's intention to develop an MOU as the equipment will be transferred to an institution. He also confirmed that the providers were in Panama, and they tried to make the purchase, but not all agreements were received.

Director Ramirez confirmed that all agreements must be received before the equipment can be purchased and noted the importance of having all agreements. She noted it was agreed that two separate purchases would be made in the interest of time. She noted, in response to Dr. Juanes, that not every country is receiving the same equipment as each country reviewed the equipment listing and established their own priorities due to budget. She noted that the decision on required equipment was made by the focal points taking into consideration customs expenses etc.

Haiti intervened to note that it was not that the focal points chose the equipment but that was what was required in the country at the time. Mr. Jack agreed with this.

**Jodiel Ebanks** inquired if notification needs to be sent when each equipment is received or when all is received. Mr. Jack suggested sending an email for each equipment and an official letter when all is received.

Regarding the project reports and future plans, the Director confirmed that the executive project reports of the three countries (Antigua, Panama, and Trinidad) would be finalized, and the official results would be presented at the IPREM conference in June.

Dr. Juanes suggested that the guidebook should include the possibility of executing different projects in different countries with other beaches, including projects relating to fisheries. The Director agreed and stated that all decisions taken would consider helping all countries.

#### **IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EROSION NETWORK**

**Dr Jose Luis Juanes** began his presentation by thanking the members for attending and his grateful he is to be able to meet in person. He explained each slide briefly while providing explanations on each depiction presented.

He led a presentation of the Palisadoes peninsula in Jamaica, which has been significantly affected by coastal erosion. He noted that while it is not the objective of the Sandy Shorelines project to assess Palisadoes, it was presented to show the meeting participants an urgent, local example of the impact of rising sea level and erosion.

He continued his presentation, by highlighted the six (6) components of the project and providing a discussion of the progress on each. It was also mentioned that one point establishment of work methodology needed to start for creation of the network. This will be a guide for creation of a template for inventory of beaches.

**Dr. Juanes** then presented the procedure used for the selection of sites for the monitoring network noting the considerations taken and required beach characteristics. Dr. Juanes also discussed the role of the technical advisory group in the selection of the sites for the executive projects and the reports provided by each country and the challenges faced due to lack of sampling and historical shoreline monitoring.

#### **V. UPDATE ON THE BEACH REHABILITATION MANUAL & BEACH PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**

**Director Ana Ramirez** updated the meeting, noting that the technical advisory group recognised the need for a technical secretary to guide the group towards the completion of the guidebook. It was noted that this role was filled by Dr. Carlos Valdes and his positive impact on the progress of the guidebook was acknowledged. It was also noted that the final guidebook will be presented at the Conference to be held in June, 2023.



The registration and landing page for conference was shown to the meeting and they were assured that this information will be circulated via a note very soon.

Director Ana Ramirez proceeded to go through the concept note for the event with the meeting showing all details of the Conference. She reinforced the importance of having focal points present at conference and stated that she expects the participation of all focal points.

It was further explained that the main purpose of the conference is to discuss the results of the project. She also asked the focal points to advise on the topics of most interest that they will be willing to present.

Recommendations for country participation were as follows:

- Dominican Republic - Management (Topic 4)
- Costa Rica - Extreme Events (Topic 3)
- Cuba - Coastal Processes and Erosion ( Topic 1)
- Antigua and Barbuda - Coastal processes (Topic 2)
- Trinidad and Tobago – Coastal Processes and Erosion (Topic 1) TBC
- Jamaica – Committed to confirming area of interest.
- Haiti – Committed to confirming area of interest.
- Guatemala- Committed to confirming area of interest.

Director Ana Ramirez confirmed that correspondence will be sent officially through the main channels then shared on social media.

## **VI. REVIEW OF REPORTS**

Mr. Jack led a brief presentation on executive beach project reports in the three (3) countries. It was noted that consultations were held with GAMMA to provide countries with Terms of Reference which will be submitted to the Ministry's within the Member States to facilitate implementation of recommendations. All information collected on beach

profiles will be made available to the member states. It was also stated that all information collected on beach profiles will be made available to the member states.

It was also noted that at handover stage, the Member States will have a detailed study and a detailed action plan to implement changes suggested by consultants

**Dr Juanes** mentioned that there is the need to have training and vision and thinks that with a scientific mind, emphasis on the scientific research to determine causes of erosion.

## **VII. SANDY SHORELINES PHASE II**

**Director Ana Ramirez** informed the group of the meetings held with KOICA officials during the week of April 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 where the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Sandy Shorelines was mentioned and discussed. The options for moving toward the expansion of this project were discussed.

## **VIII. OTHER MATTERS**

Upon completion of discussions, it was agreed that there were no further issues to be discussed and therefore moved forward with adjourning the meeting.

## **IX. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was concluded with Director Ana Ramirez presenting a brief summary of the discussions and thanking the members for their contributions, looking forward to the successful completion of this project.