



Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 15-16 October 2009



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Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Watershed
and Coastal Areas Management (GEF-IWCAM) Project
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List of Acronyms

Term / Phrase	Acronym
Andros Conservation and Trust	ANCAT
Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation	BREEF
Caribbean Community	CARICOM
Caribbean Environmental Health Institute	CEHI
Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management	CRew
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).	Cartagena Convention
Executing Agency	EA
Global Environment Facility	GEF
Implementing Agency	IA
Integrated Water Resources Management	IWRM
Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management	IWCAM
Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution	LBS
National Intersectoral Committee	NIC
Non-Governmental Organisation	NGO
Project Coordination Unit	PCU
Project Information Management System	PIMS
Project Steering Committee	PSC
Regional Project Coordinator	RPC
Regional Technical Advisory Group	RTAG
Small Island Developing State(s)	SIDS
Tobago House of Assembly	THA
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Environment Program Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment	UCC-Water
United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit	UNEP CAR-RCU
United Nations Office for Project Services	UNOPS
Water and Sewerage Corporation (Bahamas)	WSC
Watershed Management Model	WAMM

Background

The fourth official meeting of the GEF-IWCAM Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on October 15-16, 2009. The agenda for this meeting is attached as Annex 1 and for the Terms of Reference of the PSC, refer to Annex 2.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Opening Remarks / Lead Agency Statements

The meeting was opened by Vincent Sweeney, GEF-IWCAM Regional Project Coordinator (RPC).

The Sub-Secretary of State for Environmental Management of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Ernesto Reyna Alcantara, spoke of his government's strong support for the GEF-IWCAM Project, highlighting the work of the demonstration project in the Lower Haina Watershed. The important progress being made in regional cooperation and coordination in integrating watersheds and coastal areas amongst the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean was also brought up by Mr. Reyna as an important accomplishment of the GEF-IWCAM Project.

Isabelle Vanderbeck of the Division of Global Environment Facility of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP DGEF), noting that the project was in its mid-point of execution, reminded all that the project's objective is to secure the commitment of countries to an IWCAM approach at the national level. The wider objective of the project is to secure the ratification and implementation of the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). Ms. Vanderbeck also noted that the focus of the project, in its second half, was transitioning from implementation activities to documenting and codifying the experiences of the project. She stressed that the full GEF-IWCAM Project serves as a demonstration project at the global level. The approach being taken is pioneering, and as such, capturing these experiences and ensuring the sustainability of the partnerships forged takes on a higher level of significance. Ms. Vanderbeck also noted that the sustainability of the approach depends heavily on the two executing agencies (EA), the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the United Nations Environment Programme, Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP/CAR-RCU)¹. As such, the project is also dedicating time and resources to strengthen these agencies. Ms. Vanderbeck recommended the establishment of a sustainability plan to integrate the IWCAM approach into national and regional planning efforts and to coordinate with other projects in the region, such as the GEF-funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) projects.

¹ UNEP/CAR-RCU serves as the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention.

Paula Caballero, of the Regional Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Panama, which serves as co-implementing agency (IA) of the GEF-IWCAM Project, was unable to attend at the last minute due to logistical matters. She asked others to express regrets on her behalf.

Patricia Aquing, Executive Director of CEHI reaffirmed many of the comments made by Ms. Vanderbeck. She also stressed the regional and global significance of the project and its potential for replicability. Ms. Aquing asserted that given this importance, and its position as a flagship project of the GEF, the project cannot afford to be unsuccessful. Such failure would compromise the ability of countries and agencies to obtain resources from others in the future. She spoke about the importance of making IWCAM a way of doing business in the region, which relies on the uptake in terms of setting frameworks and policies. Ms. Aquing took the opportunity to highlight the National Intersectoral Committees (NIC), which should serve as an entry point of IWCAM work within participating countries. She noted that CEHI is both focused on day to day operations (e.g. lab testing, watershed planning) as well as high-level political interventions within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) system, thus providing the opportunity to enlighten the political directorate on issues related to water and climate change.

Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of UNEP/CAR-RCU spoke to the group about the genesis of the Cartagena Convention, which serves as a coordinated mechanism to address IWCAM-related issues. The work related to the Cartagena Convention began with a protocol on oil spills and then moved on to biodiversity. More recently, the LBS Protocol was introduced for ratification to address marine pollution and the comprehensive aspects of the contamination (industrial, urban, chemical, etc.). Mr. Andrade Colmenares also highlighted the issue of regional cooperation, noting that sometimes there is a big gap between words and action. He challenged participating countries to determine how to replicate the work taking place under the GEF-IWCAM project at both the regional and global levels, understanding that what affects one affects all. Given the move from the agricultural and industrial sector to tourism over the last two decades, the Cartagena Convention becomes even more relevant. Economies are based on the sale of sand, sea, and culture, and the LBS Protocol is a vital tool to maintain them. Mr. Andrade Colmenares also underscored the important link between climate change and the IWCAM Approach. He concluded his remarks by talking about one shared vision throughout the region of a successful project and sustainable countries.

Following the welcoming remarks, participants introduced themselves. The participant list for the meeting is attached as Annex 3. All countries were represented, with the exception of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Also present at the meeting, in an observer status, was Mr. Peter Whalley, the GEF-IWCAM Mid-Term Evaluator.

Explanation of Work Schedule and Objectives of Meeting and Adoption of Agenda

The delegate from the Dominican Republic, Victor Viñas, was selected as the Chair of the meeting, following a nomination from the Trinidad and Tobago delegate, seconded by the delegate from Dominica, and unanimously approved by the PSC representatives. Sasha Beth Gottlieb, GEF-IWCAM Technical Coordinator, was nominated to serve as rapporteur and approved unanimously. The agenda was adopted unanimously and without modification.

Mr. Sweeney then presented the objectives of the Project Steering Committee meeting, which is included in a presentation as Annex 4.

Regional Project Overview and Status Report

During this session, Mr. Sweeney presented an overview of regional activities and a status report of the achievements during the previous year (see Annex 5). Highlights of the status report presented to the PSC included:

- Uptake of lessons learned for all project activities, not just the demonstration projects
- Highlights from major impacts of the demonstration project such as rainwater harvesting, soil conservation activities, public participation and education
- Activities in non-demonstration project countries (Haiti, Dominica, Grenada, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) that are underway or being planned
- Recent establishment of the CARICOM Consortium for Water Institutions, based on the informal IWRM Group established by the project in 2006
- Ongoing development of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Roadmaps and plans
- Status report of laboratory strengthening activities
- Technical Cooperation among Countries and Secondments

The overview and status report presentation was followed by a discussion period. Clarification was requested regarding the structure and organization of the project, and specifically the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It was explained that UNOPS is responsible for disbursement of funds to demonstration project countries.

Findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation

Peter Whalley, mid-term evaluator for the GEF-IWCAM Project, presented on his findings, which are attached as Annex 6. Midpoint evaluations serve to assess project management, implementation success, and progress. Based on this information, it identifies corrective actions, lessons learned, and recommendations. He noted that the mid-term evaluation of the GEF-IWCAM Project is very important to the GEF, as it is one of the first projects funded that deals with the integration of watersheds and coastal areas.

Mr. Whalley indicated that he is very impressed with the work undertaken through the project, specifically highlighting the communications strategy and the indicators template initiatives. From a development perspective, the project has been very important for the participating countries. Overall, in terms of the project progress to date, and more specifically attainment of objectives and planned results, the project is satisfactory. Mr. Whalley noted that GEF evaluation terminology dictates that satisfactory is considered the equivalent of "doing a good job, progressing well." Mr. Whalley gave the project a rating of highly satisfactory for relevance and implementation, especially given how complicated it is. He noted that the overall rating is not an average but instead can be no higher than any one individual rating. He stated that it is an exceptional project that is well designed and works well together, calling it a model of which GEF and others have to take note.

He underscored the importance of the project as it both supports and is supported by the LBS Protocol. In general terms, the project can be seen as very effective, especially given that it is

working with 13 countries. Mr. Whalley credited this to the concept, approach, Project Coordinating Unit and participating countries.

Mr. Whalley then reviewed the project component by component, the highlights of which are listed below, but also included in the Annex.

Project Components

- Component 1: Eight of the nine demonstration projects are progressing well. The demonstration project in Exuma (Bahamas) is significantly delayed and this should be addressed by the Project Steering Committee. It was also underscored that all demonstration projects must deliver stress reduction indicators in order to be considered satisfactory.
- Component 2: IWCAM Indicators were developed and are being applied. The project will be able to deliver on stress reduction indicators. Environmental status indicators will prove more of a challenge and may not yield results until after the project life.
- Components 3 and 4: IWRM and Training / Awareness Raising activities strongly support the IWCAM approach and LBS Protocol.

LBS Protocol

In relation to the LBS Protocol, Mr. Whalley noted that ratification is a longer term vehicle for IWCAM implementation in the region, underscoring the importance of ratification of the LBS Protocol to the sustainability of the IWCAM approach, as it provides countries with needed tools and political support. That being said, he was concerned that the ratification of the LBS Protocol was included in the Project Assessment Rubric. The Project Document indicated that 9 countries were expected to ratify by the end of the project, but thus far only one has. Mr. Whalley suggested the consideration of other proxy indicators in the Project Assessment Rubric to help reflect the progress made through the project on LBS Protocol-related matters.

Sustainability

On the whole, Mr. Whalley felt that the project was well designed to address sustainability and that the two executing agencies, CEHI and UNEP/CAR-RCU are well positioned to support ongoing implementation of IWCAM. Stakeholder engagement in the project has been wide, well-received, and successful and the efforts at strengthening non-governmental organizations are a positive sign for capacity within the region. Mr. Whalley emphasized the import of the clearinghouse mechanism to capturing the results of the project. He encouraged that sufficient time and resources be devoted to ensure its success.

Indicators

Environmental status indicators were discussed, as Mr. Whalley stated that it was unlikely that they would improve in the life of the project and that stress reduction indicators would be more valuable in the short term to measure the impact of the project. Nonetheless, Mr. Whalley and the Implementing and Executing Agencies encouraged participating countries to continue reporting the environmental status data in order to be able to track the long-term impact of the project. He did also note that more baseline information would have been useful for the monitoring and evaluation of the project, especially at the demonstration project level.

Finances

Mr. Whalley noted that sufficient financial resources for counterpart funding are a challenge, due, in part, to the current economic crisis. He suggested that alternative sources be explored for future IWCAM activities. The project document indicates substantial amounts of co-financing which support specific activities and it is imperative that those funds are actually used. In the area of project finances, Mr. Whalley urged the PCU to collect co-financing information for the remainder of the project. He noted that the changes to the financial reporting for demonstration projects required mid-course proved both difficult and confusing for those concerned. He also expressed his concern of the "simplistic" view that expenditure levels of projects reflects project performance, using Cuba as a case in point.

Lessons Learned

Mr. Whalley highlighted some of the lessons learned from the project already. These included:

- Sustainability of demonstration project efforts. The specific example mentioned was the creation of an NGO from the Watershed Management Committee in St. Lucia.
- Links to regional conventions. He considered this the top lesson learned.
- Good and close relationship between EAs and PCU.
- Development of the demonstration project manual, which has already been replicated by other projects.
- Caribbean Waterways Newsletter. He recommended that a means for sustaining this publication be sought.

Main recommendations

Implementation

- Action needs to be taken to accelerate the demonstration project on Exuma, as it is significantly delayed and there has been relatively little activity to date.
- Execution of stress reduction activities in Tobago needed. He noted that the wastewater activity being considered by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), which would insert wastewater into the substrata, could lead to a diffuse pollution source and should be considered very closely as to the negative environmental impact.
- All demonstration projects must show stress reduction activities, as this is what leads to environmental improvements. These activities must be well demonstrated, documented, and quantified
- Co-financing quantification is needed. In the cases where co-financing was planned for, but not received, it should be documented and explained

Replication and Sustainability

- Focus should shift from implementation to replication / sustainability and uptake. Key activities for this include training workshops and the clearinghouse mechanism.
- Increase in private sector awareness and support is needed. The project should demonstrate the benefit of the IWCAM approach to the private sector.

Promoting IWCAM

- Links to climate change should be strengthened. This is especially important for SIDS.
- Develop and share indicators that show *progress* towards the goals of the LBS Protocol.
- Promote the achievements of inter-sectoral committees and address their sustainability.
- Ensure long-term monitoring of Environmental Status indicators, not just during the project life.

- Empower of civil society by improving access to information.

Evaluator's Conclusions

The GEF-IWCAM Project is well designed and executed and it is being successfully delivered. This is resulting in regional benefits and lessons to SIDS in the integration of watersheds and coastal area management. Mr. Whalley challenged the PSC to now make GEF-IWCAM a **highly** successful project.

Mr. Whalley's presentation was followed by discussion, which is summarized below.

Project Assessment Rubric

The following questions were asked in relation to the Project Assessment Rubric. How should the project evaluation rubric be set up to make sure that the final evaluation is a fair evaluation of what we have done? Can it be broken into stages? Can the logical framework be modified at this time? In response, Mr. Whalley asserted the best approach would be to identify proxy indicators for the LBS Protocol within the Project Assessment Rubric. He also urged consideration of complementary indicators in countries without demonstration projects and indicators related to IWRM Plan adoption. Beyond that, he did not recommend any changes to the logical framework.

The PSC decided that by 01 December 2009 countries would need to submit observations related to the rubric. It would be finalized and submitted to the EA / IAs by 15 December 2009.

National Intersectoral Committee

The PSC discussed the issue of NICs. Saint Lucia noted that it took a while to establish their NIC. Previously, there were a number of initiatives that impacted on the environment and for each one there was a project steering committee, with the same individuals on it. The thought was that there should be an environmental body that looks at a lot of projects together. This approach addresses the challenge of available professional capacity. A significant issue for Saint Lucia's NIC has been ensuring that the correct people are serving on the committee.

Review of Minutes and Matters Arising

PSC meeting participants went on to review the report of the previous Steering Committee meeting from October 2008. No amendments were suggested and Linford Beckles, the delegate from Trinidad and Tobago, motioned for the Minutes to be confirmed. It was seconded by Winsome Townsend, the delegate from Jamaica, and attached as Annex 7.

2010 Work Plan and Budget

Mr. Sweeney presented the 2010 Draft Workplan and Budget via a Powerpoint presentation (see Annex 8), which reviewed all components, upcoming activities, and the project budget. The Work Plan proposed for 2010 followed on from work in 2009. All demonstration projects will be completed in 2010.

The discussion regarding the work plan and budget is summarized below:

Budget

The major shift in the budget was in order to purchase hardware and software for the Project Information System (PIMS).

Workplan

There was enthusiasm for the support being programmed for non-demonstration countries. In the case of Dominica, this will build on other complementary activities such as IWRM work and laboratory assessment.

There was some discussion on the re-routing or diversion of funds from countries that are slow in implementation to others.

The representative from the Dominican Republic proposed the adoption of the budget and workplan, which was seconded by the representative from Barbados and adopted by the PSC.

Country Presentations

Day Two of the PSC Meeting started with country presentations.

Antigua and Barbuda

Delamine Andrew made the presentation on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, which is attached as Annex 9. She highlighted the need for good coordination with other partners in government, related projects, etc. for the successful execution of the demonstration project. The baseline has been determined for the demonstration project and data collection activities remain underway. Currently a central database is being created in Access and will be stored at the Environment Division. The primary challenge identified that the project faces is its relatively late start for on-the-ground activities. In order to address this, an extension will be requested until June 2010. Recently, the project has increased in momentum and has garnered the interest of the private sector. Government is now working to establish northwest coast beaches as Blue Flag certified, which is excellent in terms of both sustainability and replicability. It was noted that the Antigua demonstration project will be able to feed into the development of the CREW project.

A technical visit had been made to Antigua and Barbuda as part of the lessons learned / good practices consultancy. One of the concerns identified at that time was an apparent lack of stakeholder identification and analysis. The Environment Division is trying to rectify this through the use of surveys.

Bahamas

Lorraine Cox made presentations on the two demonstration projects in the Bahamas, which are included as Annex 10 (Andros) and Annex 11 (Exuma).

Andros

About two-thirds of the freshwater supplies for New Providence come from Andros. It is critically important to protect this resource for the people of Andros and New Providence. The project is focusing on involvement of the local community in doing this. Lessons learned thus far include ensuring the involvement of and taking cues from local authorities. Currently there are some non-related, yet project-benefiting stress reduction activities taking place. Once the project is further along, specific stress-reduction activities will be identified. BEST is looking at options to return the natural flow and function of the wetlands.

Ms. Cox noted that the Permanent Secretary is very involved with both GEF-IWCAM Demo Projects and expects the Andros work to serve as a model for developing land use plans and zoning of other islands.

Andros has benefited from dynamic local stakeholder participation since the beginning of the project. A member of a local non-governmental organization (NGO), Andros Conservation and Trust (ANCAT), is involved in the project and is very well-informed on activities in all parts of Andros. He is very vocal on the steering committee in ensuring that concrete beneficial actions are realized on Andros. Ms. Cox was asked to explain the focus of the communications strategy, specifically if it was oriented towards providing information or encouraging feedback. She explained that the project still finds itself in its data collection stage. Through the steering committee they are working on posters and other materials to get the message out. Once the draft of the plan is completed, town meetings will be held to let the wider community know what is happening. Ms. Cox thought that the work on Andros could feed into the draft Town and County Planning Act, where there is a subgroup of that committee looking at GIS and zoning.

Exuma

Currently a communications strategy for Exuma is being developed by the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF). The sewage treatment facility and deep well injection may take a while, so the government is looking into making temporary use of the wastewater facility of Emerald Bay Resort. The potential for replication of this project is considered very high with other yachting hubs in the country (and region).

There was substantial discussion on the Exuma project following the presentation. A concern was expressed that the demonstration project would not be able to achieve stress reduction indicators before its official completion. Specifically, if the wastewater management programme is not ready in time for the yachting season, how can Exuma demonstrate that the system can work? Ms. Cox explained that the plan to address this is a two staged approach:

- 1) A marine vessel would be put in place to collect the waste temporarily. The Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) maintains data in terms of identifying areas appropriate for use and is using that data, in the meantime, to identify a permanent site. This is a temporary approach to give the lead time needed to get the plant in place. Once the hotel is re-opened, they can use the Emerald Bay wastewater facility.
- 2) In stage 2 (after June), all waste would go to the treatment plant and then the deep well injection.

Ms. Cox was asked what has been achieved to date regarding a sewage discharge strategy in the harbour and what are the plans to get this accomplished. Her response was that, at present, nothing has been done. Currently, the demonstration project has been compiling environmental data and conducting monitoring of its own. This will provide a baseline characterization of the harbour. It has also re-established the steering committee and is retrofitting a vessel for collection of waste from yachts. The WSC is closely involved as they need to supervise and approve many of the actions.

Some concern was expressed over the ability to complete such ambitious objectives by June 2010. BEST was encouraged to develop alternative plans in case of challenges and delays. It was noted that one of the key objectives of the demonstration projects is to be able to share lessons learned and uptake to the national level. The PSC expressed a concern that given the timeline, there will be limited opportunity for uptake and replication. BEST expressed its confidence in replication, noting that there are many other sites in the Bahamas and throughout the Caribbean with similar conditions that could benefit from this approach.

The PSC asked about the use of hard technologies rather than eco-sanitation solutions. There was some concern that it might be just postponing the problem and there may be ways and means to do the same in a more environmentally friendly manner. Ms. Cox explained that given the particular geology in the Bahamas, options are limited. Nonetheless, this is being considered by WSC, together with other alternative technologies. WSC, as the lead advisor, recommended that tried and true technologies must be used when dealing with waste. Additionally, the preference is that they be off-the-shelf and easy to maintain.

A broader issue regarding the seriously delayed project was presented for the consideration of the PSC: when demonstration projects are behind, it affects the overall rating of the larger project. In terms of Exuma, it is essential that BEST accept the 2-staged approach and move forward immediately with both waste collection and plant construction.

Mr. Sweeney spoke on behalf of Paula Caballero of UNDP, who was unable to attend. He noted that there has been a long history of concern re: the timeliness of execution of the project, which has been raised at the last 3 Regional Technical Advisory Groups (RTAG) and at the last PSC. UNDP has indicated and communicated to the BEST commission that at this stage with so little time left, some assurances need to be provided in writing in terms of steps to be taken. That will allow for very close monitoring on a week-by-week basis. More recently, a request for what milestones will be met by what date has been presented to the BEST. It is critical that the PCU receive these milestones immediately, as they are needed to monitor very key targets.

Christopher Corbin of UNEP/CAR-RCU stated that in GEF terminology, this demo is at risk. As such, monitoring and documentation is imperative. More specifically, he stated that micro-monitoring is needed, in terms of what is to be achieved when, and evaluation of implementation.

It was stressed to BEST that they should continue to move forward following (and accelerating) the execution schedule. Mr. Sweeney reiterated the full support of the PCU to the project and asked Ms. Cox to clearly communicate to BEST that the project must be accelerated. In a similar vein, the PSC Meeting chair, Victor Viñas of the Dominican Republic offered the full support of the committee, eloquently stating, "You are one of us... you fail it is a failure for all."

Barbados

Alex Ifill presented on behalf of Barbados. Barbados, with support from GEF-IWCAM, is supporting development of a GIS-based water information system. This is being led by the Barbados Water Authority, the Coastal Zone Management Unit, and the Ministry of Agriculture. The database will store data related to pollution in inland and coastal waters. Thus far Barbados has compiled an extensive list of databases and GIS in use, and that information will be merged

into the GIS database. This is a pilot that Barbados hopes to expand on at a later date, to include broader sustainable development data.

Cuba

The presentation, made by Alain Muñoz Caravaca, the Demonstration Project Manager, is attached as Annex 12. The demonstration project is on schedule for completion by June 2010. Mr. Caravaca listed some of the stress reduction activities underway, such as soil conservation, use of biogas and bio-fertilizer, and agro-forestry activities. He noted that through the project more than 200,000 trees are producing this year in over 60 hectares. , In terms of monitoring, a programme was established for the Cienfuegos Bay with over 300 samples tested each time and certified by a national body. The project has also been active in terms of public awareness at all levels. Some examples include: presenting papers at conferences and publishing results in journals; working with children to change their mindset about the environment, promoting exchange of experience and trainings for farmers; implementation of a Diploma /Masters / Doctoral programme. Nonetheless, the project recognizes the need for increasing its public awareness activities.

The challenge faced by the demonstration project is the need for an intermediate organization, below the government authority, to help cover gaps that exist between the technical groups and the government. It also foresees project closure being a challenge.

Mr. Caravaca also addressed the issue of sustainability, noting that in Cuba the Transport Ministry approved an Environment Tax, some of which will be used to support project activities. The activities from the demonstration project are already in the replication phase in Guanahacabibes, Habana, Varadero, Villa Clara, Yaguajay, and Nuevitas. There are thirteen additional areas for replication identified for 2009-2010.

Finally, Mr. Caravaca noted a challenge faced by Cuba regarding the transfer and use of funds. These processes affect the project negatively, and to remedy it, he suggested that the purchases of lab equipment be made by UNOPS when possible. He also asked if the project could provide funds in advance for costs related to visas and domestic transportation for travellers under the project. He urged for a quick solution to this problem and suggested that the experience of the International Atomic Energy Agency might be useful. They send their funds to UNDP in Havana in advance of travel.

It was noted clearly by the PSC that disbursement rates for Cuba do not accurately reflect the progress made by the project and that the co-financing levels are very high. Mr. Caravaca pointed out that in Cuba, all international projects are matched with national projects. Mr. Whalley suggested that the GEF should be flexible enough to find ways other than delivery rate to recognize the significant progress made by Cuba.

Dominica

Ronald Charles of Dominica listed the various ways in which his country has benefited from the GEF-IWCAM Programme. These included: legal / institutional review activity; laboratory assessments; GIS training activities; IWRM Inception Workshop; community resource monitoring training of trainers programme; and LBS Awareness workshop and master plan for Roseau River workshop. He expressed his hope that in the near future work would begin under

a consultancy to develop and realize a masterplan for the Roseau Watershed. Dominica also would like to be considered for a water resource assessment.

Dominican Republic

Dr. Viñas made a presentation, which is attached as Annex 13, on IWCAM-related activities in the Dominican Republic. In addition to the information contained in the presentation, Dr. Viñas stressed that the Basin Management Committee will be an end-result of the project. He spoke about the importance of stakeholder engagement and involvement, especially since the success of the intervention, to a large extent, will depend on self-imposed environmental management on the part of industrial partners. Dr. Viñas noted that the implementation plan for the project is in order and progressing on schedule, and that the industry partners seem poised to adopt it. It will be linked to the SEMARENA regulatory management plan. The Dominican Republic will most likely be requesting an extension to the project end date.

Grenada

Trevor Thompson explained that Grenada is currently in the process of developing a St. John's Watershed Management Plan for pilot activities, with GEF-IWCAM Project support, as a direct result of the LBS workshop that took place earlier in 2009. This is basically a holistic masterplan for the watershed. The consultant to conduct this work is already shortlisted and the terms of reference have been developed. There is a hope that this approach can be replicated in other watersheds around Grenada. The government of Grenada is supporting these activities, both with financial resources and in-kind support.

Haiti

Lucienna Exil made the presentation on behalf of Haiti. While previously Haiti did not participate in many of the activities of the project, he noted that is now changing with upcoming activities in the Arcadin watershed. Haiti is finalizing the recruitment of a consultant to design the master plan. Mr. Exil stated that in approximately three months, the project should be solidly underway. He acknowledged that the important support of the UNEP country office in Haiti has helped to accelerate the process.

Jamaica

The presentation is attached as Annex 14. Winsome Townsend, Jamaica Delegate, briefed the group on the progress being made by the demonstration project. In her presentation, she stressed the need for short-term milestones. Some of the stress reduction indicators undertaken by the demonstration project in Jamaica include solid waste management and erosion control. To promote sustainability, Mrs. Townsend stressed the value of working with existing organizations rather than creating new ones. She informed the group that Jamaica is planning on officially adopting a watershed management model (WAMM), which will also promote sustainability. The WAMM applies best practices and an integrated approach for watershed management. It was developed in a generic nature, so it can be adapted for use elsewhere.

The PSC commended Jamaica on the efforts, work, and impact at the local level. UNEP and UNDP both offered to help profile the project at the national level. It was recommended that the GEF-IWCAM Project consider allocating additional support for further replication of the approach.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

The presentation is attached as Annex 15. Mr. Cromwell Williams, the Saint Kitts and Nevis delegate, spoke of a three pronged approach in the demonstration project, consisting of: 1) mitigation of threats; 2) protection of aquifer and well field; 3) improved user-resource management. There is hope that this process could be replicated in other watersheds nationwide and on islands with similar issues. Some of the stress reduction activities being executed include livestock management and sustainable agricultural activities. He noted that buy-in from politicians is needed in order to finish the project successfully and within the time frame.

Saint Lucia

The presentation is attached as Annex 16. Dunley Auguste, the delegate from Saint Lucia, informed participants about the uses of the watershed and provided a general profile of the area. Some of the key challenges include management of sewage and livestock (especially swine) and grazing on the river bank. The demonstration project is currently focussing on the transformation of the watershed management committee into an NGO. The hope is that this will provide sustainability to the efforts of the project and be replicable in other watersheds. The project is also developing a pilot activity for compensation for environmental services with a local agricultural organisation and a pig farmer, where they will be working together to lower the amount of pig waste directly deposited in the river. The demonstration project team recently embarked on an integrated watershed management strategy and spatial development plan that is scheduled to be completed in December 2009.

Trinidad and Tobago

The presentation is attached as Annex 17. Linford Beckles, Trinidad and Tobago Delegate, listed some of the lessons learned by the demonstration project, which included: working with associated groups to achieve objectives; application of science through community groups (e.g. monitoring programmes); and setting realistic targets that are not dependent on external agencies. He noted that in their case, the demonstration of stress reduction is proving to be a challenge. Currently they are considering the installation of silt traps to deal with erosion, which would address that. There are also reforestation activities underway and 310 trees have been planted. The THA has committed to providing the planting materials, which is excellent co-financing. Unfortunately, a quarry in the watershed has recently expanded its operation, causing problems related to dust, siltation, and erosion. The tree planters are unable to work due to the dust, so alternative sites are being considered. Mr. Beckles said that the project will be focusing on realistic and manageable activities to demonstrate stress reduction, such as working with a fish processing plant to improve processes and establishment of land use planning.

Any Other Business

It was suggested that the creation of a sub-committee be considered to assist in the review of the various demonstration projects needing extensions.

The formal portion of the meeting ended at approximately 2:15pm on October 16, 2009. Most participants then took part in a field trip to the Haina Watershed, the site of the demonstration project in the Dominican Republic. Photos are included as Annex 18.

Annexes

Annexes are available at <http://www.iwcam.org/documents/meeting-reports/gef-iwcam-project-steering-committee-meetings/gef-iwcam-fourth-project-steering-committee-meeting/?searchterm=Fourth%20Project%20Steering%20Committee> or <http://tiny.cc/ZnqDe>.

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: PSC Terms of Reference

Annex 3: Participants List

Annex 4: PSC Objectives Presentation

Annex 5: Overview of Regional Activities and Status Report Presentation

Annex 6: Mid-Term Evaluation Presentation

Annex 7: 2008 PSC Report

Annex 8: 2010 Work Plan and Budget Presentation

Annex 9: Antigua and Barbuda Presentation

Annex 10: Bahamas Presentation (Andros)

Annex 11: Bahamas Presentation (Exuma)

Annex 12: Cuba Presentation

Annex 13: Dominican Republic Presentation

Annex 14: Jamaica Presentation

Annex 15: Saint Kitts and Nevis Presentation

Annex 16: Saint Lucia Presentation

Annex 17: Trinidad and Tobago Presentation

Annex 18: Field Trip Photos