ENVIRO\NMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Location:</th>
<th>Barbados and Eastern Caribbean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity Title:</td>
<td>Economic Growth/Investing in People/Governing Justly and Democratically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Number:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Life-of-Activity Funding:</td>
<td>$102 million</td>
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<td>IEE prepared by:</td>
<td>Michael Taylor, MEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference ETDs:</td>
<td>LAC-IEE-09-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Threshold Decision:</td>
<td>Categorical Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Determination with Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau Threshold Decision:</td>
<td>Categorical Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Determination with Conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

This Environmental Threshold Decision is for a new activity referred to as “Economic Growth/Investing in People/Governing Justly and Democratically” to be implemented in the six independent states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) plus Barbados. The program will support the Assistance Objective “Youth Workforce Environment Improved” (previously covered under LAC-IEE-09-77) for the years 2011-2015 which will continue the fight against HIV/AIDS as well as contain new initiatives to create employment opportunities for youth and to assist the island nations adapt to the effects of climate change. The IEE describes four components:

- Youth Workforce Mechanisms Strengthened (IR1)
- Youth Entrepreneurship Supporting Enterprise Growth Increased (IR2)
Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)

Climate Change
- Enabling Environment
- Address Climate Information Gaps
- Interventions in Freshwater Sector
- Interventions in Coastal Sector

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued to the following components of “Economic Growth/Investing in People/Governing Justly and Democratically” including those activities involving education, training and family planning that will not have a negative impact on the environment. Specific components that qualify for the Categorical Exclusion include:

- Youth Workforce Mechanisms Strengthened (IR1)
- Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)
- Climate Change
  - Enabling Environment
  - Address Climate Information Gaps

pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such training programs includes activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

(iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

(viii) Programs involving nutrition, health care or population and family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, water supply systems, waste water treatment, etc.).

A **Negative Determination with Conditions** is issued to “Economic Growth/Investing in People/Governing Justly and Democratically” activities involving any “on-the-ground interventions” that may have an impact on the physical environment, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(3)(iii). Specific components that with a Negative Determination with Conditions include:

- Youth Entrepreneurship Supporting Enterprise Growth Increased (IR2)
- Climate Change - coastal zone management and resilience and freshwater resources management
  - Interventions in Freshwater Sector
  - Interventions in Coastal Sector

Illustrative examples of activities that would require conditions include:

- Subgrants to develop small business, wherein the environment impact of the proposed business must be evaluated
- Interventions to freshwater sector, such as rainwater harvesting (to the extent that this may require small-scale construction) and clearing of debris/sediment from waterways (as may require debris disposition, use of herbicides, etc)

- Interventions to coastal sector, such as restoration plans for degraded coastal habitats, rehabilitation of corals, or development of best practices to be broadly disseminated.

Conditions for these activities include:

- Use of the "Guidelines for Implementing Partners: USAID Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR)" (See Annex 1) to conduct a preliminary environmental impact assessment of all activities that have received a Negative Determination with Conditions determination.
  
  o The EMPR will identify necessary mitigation measures to minimize potential negative environmental impacts.
  
  o The EMPR will be used for documenting the monitoring of the mitigation measure implementation and effectiveness.
  
  o Implementing partners will submit an initial Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR) to the Mission Environmental Officer with a copy to the Regional Environmental Advisor for any activities listed as having a potential adverse impact on the environment before commencing the activities. A format for this initial EMPR is attached and includes an initial screening process (Table 1) to assure the program is at the Medium Risk Level (Negative Determination with Conditions). Potential impacts and related mitigation measures (Table 2) are also identified per element. At the end of each implementation year, the EMPR is resubmitted with the same information as provided initially plus a component reflecting implementation and effectiveness monitoring of the identified mitigation measures.
  
  o Any sub-grants, particularly as anticipated under Youth Entrepreneurship Supporting Enterprise Growth Increased (IR2) such as microenterprise development and business start-ups, must include an EMPR for each subgrant.

- The Agreement/Contracting Officer’s Technical Representatives (AOTRs/COTRs) for these activities will actively monitor, evaluate, and ensure that the conditions specified herein are met.

- If additional activities are added, that are not described in this document (other than activities that would be covered by an EMPR), an amended Initial Environmental Examination will be prepared.
• Compliance with and application of USAID Environmental Guidelines for Development Activities in Latin America and Caribbean (http://inside.usaid.gov/LAC/RSD/E/epiq.html); focus on these chapters of the Guidelines:
  o Chapter 2: Small Scale Infrastructure
  o Chapter 4: Microfinance Institutions and Micro and Small Enterprises
  o Chapter 5: Ecotourism
  o Chapter 8: Agriculture and Watershed Management

• Compliance with any site-specific architectural plans for small-scale construction activities.

• Compliance with all pertinent national laws.

• Language from “Environmental Compliance: Language for Use in Solicitations and Awards – An Additional Help for ADS Chapter 204” must be included, as appropriate, in award documents (http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/204sac.pdf). It is the responsibility of the Assistance Objective (AO) Team and/or Contracts/Agreements Officer to ensure that environmental compliance language from the ETD is added to procurement and obligating documents. The language in contracts and agreements will be included to ensure that the contractor/implementing partner is aware of and implements required mitigations or other prescribed environmental management measures pertinent to Regulation 216. The specific language to be included in all contracts and agreements is outlined below:

• In accordance with USAID’s recognition that gender, anti-corruption, and environmental issues are important considerations in development, the Contractor shall include in their project proposal explanations on measures they intend to take to deal with these issues. During project implementation, the Contractor/Recipient shall take these issues into account and find ways to enhance gender balance, reduce corrupt practices, and protect the environment in areas related to their project. To ensure compliance with USAID environmental regulation 22 CFR 216, the Implementing Partner (IP) is responsible for providing USAID/Barbados and Eastern Caribbean with an Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report, as outlined in the attached document: “Guidelines for Implementing Partners on the USAID Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR)”, if any actions are proposed that may have a negative impact to the environment. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed, and that mitigation measures described in the pertinent Threshold Decision for each of these activities are funded and implemented, including any necessary training or capacity building, and adequate monitoring. The procurement and/or use of pesticides would required an amended IEE, pursuant to USAID’s Pesticide Procedures 22 CFR 216.3(b)(l)(i)(a-l). The Contractor/Recipient may be required to report results
disaggregated by gender and measures taken to enhance the environment and reduce corrupt practices.

- In addition to the conditions outlined above, the following applies to “Climate Change - coastal zone management and resilience and freshwater resources management” (including “Interventions in Freshwater Sector,” and “Interventions in Coastal Sector”)

  - Develop, submit for approval by the MEO and REA, and apply to project design and management the any good practice guidance or guidelines for activities that impact coastal or freshwater resources.

  - Submit for approval prior to project implementation any restoration plans for degraded coastal habitats, including rehabilitation of corals.

Responsibilities

- Each activity manager or Contracting/Agreement Officer Technical Representative (COTR/AOTR) is responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met (ADS 204.3.4). In addition, COTRs/AOTRs are responsible for ensuring that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed, mitigation measures in the IEE are funded and implemented, and that adequate monitoring and evaluation protocols are in place to ensure implementation of mitigation measures.

- It is the responsibility of the Contracting/Agreement Officer Technical Representative (COTR/AOTR) to ensure that environmental compliance language from the ETD is added to procurement and obligating documents, such as activity-related Strategic Objective Grant Agreements (SOAGs) and Modified Acquisition and Assistance Request Documents (MAARDs).

- The Mission Environmental Officer will conduct spot checks to ensure that conditions in the IEE and this ETD are met. These evaluations will review whether guidelines are properly used to implement activities under this ETD in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner according to USAID and applicable U.S. Government policies and regulations.

- The implementing contractor or partner will ensure that all activities conducted under this instrument comply with this ETD. Also, through its regular reporting requirements, a section on environmental compliance (e.g. mitigation monitoring results) will be included.

Amendments

- Amendments to Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) shall be submitted for LAC Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approval for any activities not specifically covered in the IEE, which include:
- Funding level increase beyond ETD amount,
- Time period extension beyond ETD dates (even for no cost extension), or
- A change in the scope of work, such as the use of pesticides or activities subject to Foreign Assistance Act sections 118 and 119 (e.g. procurement of logging equipment), among others.

- Amendments to IEEs include Environmental Assessments (EA or PEA) and approval of these documents by the LAC BEO could require an annual evaluation for environmental compliance.

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Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

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Kermit Moh, Robert Boney, LAC/CAR

IEE File

Attachments:
- Initial Environmental Examination
- Annex 1: Guidelines for Implementing Partners on the USAID LAC Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR)
  - I. Coversheet for Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR)
  - II. Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report Narrative
  - III-A. Environmental Screening Form (Table 1)
  - III-B. Identification of Mitigation Plan (Table 2)
  - III-C. Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Tracking Table (Table 3).

File: P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDDقاعدة\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE10\LAC-IEE-10-113 ETD (CAR – Economic Growth, Investing in People, Governing Justly & Democratically).doc
1. Background and activity/program description

1.1 Background
The Eastern Caribbean program of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supports development assistance activities in the six independent states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) plus Barbados. Over the last two development strategies the program focused on promoting economic growth through an improved business and investment climate, helping governments and the private sector to compete in the global marketplace, combating HIV / AIDS, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. In FY2010 the Economic Growth Strategic Objective was amended for one year to include a new Assistance (strategic) Objective, AO1 – Youth Workforce Environment Improved – which focused on engaging and preparing Eastern Caribbean youth, in particular those who were disadvantaged, to successfully enter the job market or to create their own businesses in order to contribute to the economic growth of the region. Initiatives carried out under this AO served to jumpstart USAID's longer term goal of promoting peace and prosperity.
2. **Purpose and Scope of IIE**

The new development assistance strategy for the years 2011-2015 will continue the fight against HIV/AIDS, but will contain new initiatives to create employment opportunities for youth and to assist the island nations adapt to the effects of climate change.

USAID will continue to support the growth of the economies of the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, but the goal will be to increase the ability of youth to participate in emerging market employment opportunities, obtain quality education and training, enhance their healthy lifestyles, thereby contributing to the growth of their countries while at the same time reducing the allure of involvement in drug trafficking and crime. The shift in program focus has already begun on a pilot project basis in several OECS countries through workforce development and microenterprise initiatives with a particular emphasis on youth who are at risk of dropping out from being productive assets to society. This approach will be expanded under the 2011-2015 strategy wherein USAID will continue to focus on youth at-risk but will also expand its support across the youth development continuum. The longer term program will include: (a) in-school business training targeting 16-18 yrs old; (b) youth workforce development and livelihoods support targeting youth who have dropped out of school or left school and are currently unattached; (c) literacy and numeracy training for at-risk youth in the 16-24 yrs category; and (d) assist the transformation of the University of West Indies Cave Hill School of Business into a Entrepreneurial Centre of Excellence serving Barbados and the eastern Caribbean. USAID will also work with the private sector to ensure that it is engaged in curriculum-building which meets the demands of the labor market for relevant programs. This approach improves the opportunities for trained youth to successfully enter the job market or create their own sustainable businesses, and ultimately contribute to economic growth and security of the region.

2.1. **IR1 - Youth Workforce Mechanisms Strengthened**

Activities to be supported will focus on strengthening mechanisms to develop and deliver appropriate training opportunities to benefit the region’s youth; strengthening the region’s standards and certification processes. In addition, training opportunities will be offered in technical, vocational, and life skills and will be backed by the appropriate market research and linkages with the private sector. This will assist in closing the gap between skills base and market demand, thereby supporting the sustainability of interventions.

2.1.1 **Youth Workforce development institutions strengthened**

Activities under this sub-IR will seek to strengthen and streamline the linkages between these entities ensuring collaborative dialogue between them to support the closing of the skills gap between what the market demands versus the skills being produced. Organizations include the public sector, non-government organizations, the private sector, labor associations, youth groups and other relevant entities. Technical assistance will also be provided to support relevant organizations to be able to plan, design and implement workforce development programs.
Support will be provided to include the development of labor market studies to identify market demand with the information being used to support curriculum planning and development in training institutions.

2.1.2 Training opportunities for at-risk youth increased

Activities supported will include foundational skills such as life skills as well as basic technical skills that are adaptable and necessary for entrance into the labor force, vocational training programs, and career-oriented programs and which provide a second chance to the target youth population. The program will be implemented to complement existing related USAID pilot workforce development programs in the OECS as well as the World Bank’s OECS Skills for Inclusive Growth program which is being implemented in St. Lucia and Grenada with plans for possible support in other countries.

2.1.3 Institutional capacity for technical and vocational training strengthened

Activities will focus on strengthening the abilities of OECS countries to take steps to increase the pace of the introduction of the appropriate standards for its Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programs and to ensure that it keeps abreast of regional and ultimately international challenges and demands. Activities will complement on-going work in this area by regional entities as well as those funded by external partners for example work planned by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through their upcoming program Education for Employment (EFE), and the World Bank’s OECS Skills for Inclusive Growth program.

2.2 IR2 - Youth Entrepreneurship Supporting Enterprise Growth Increased

Increased micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises must be created if the region is to be globally competitive. Efforts to increase the entrepreneurial attitudes among youth are needed, and must be supported by policies and programs that encourage risk taking and business start-ups among youth. The focus in this area is to develop the creativity of the region’s youth especially those at-risk to seek or develop business opportunities while being provided with an improved environment for the growth of the sector. Activities will build on the successes of USAID’s Eastern Caribbean Youth Microenterprise Program, a pilot initiative which is currently underway in the region.

2.2.1 Financial markets supporting youth entrepreneurship strengthened

Activities under this sub-IR will focus on reviewing and supporting where necessary changes in policy and regulations related to microfinance which will lead to the growth of youth microenterprise sector.
2.2.2. Policy environment supporting youth micro-enterprise improved

Efforts under this sub-IR will focus on improving the abilities and time it takes for persons, in particular youth to establish a business through the removal of barriers to registration of businesses.

2.2.3. Youth entrepreneurship supporting micro-enterprise development increased

Activities under this sub-IR will focus on developing the skills of young people in the Eastern Caribbean to start to develop their own businesses while being provided with the necessary support. Emphasis will be placed on supporting those unemployed youth who possess the capability and self-interest to be trained and become successful in the new business paradigm. Activities to be supported will include business start-ups and expansion of self-employment and micro and small enterprises owned and operated primarily by youth. Initiatives will also seek to create partnerships between the public and private sector thereby stimulating throughput of youth into existing business to complement those who may establish their own businesses.

By focusing on youth development, the AO will work to strengthen the competitiveness of the workforce, a necessary complement to the mission’s long-standing emphasis on business investment climate and free-trade for economic growth. This effort is supported by the widespread agreement that the availability of a skilled, qualified workforce is a necessary prerequisite to attracting foreign direct investment and supports the region’s countries to participate successfully in global markets.

By meeting the challenge of youth unemployment, USAID/Barbados will be well positioned to invest in programs that address underlying factors of security issues including illegal drug use, narco-trafficking, violence, and other crimes. It is envisaged that this AO will also become a major component of USAID’s Strategic Plan for the Caribbean region, which is expected to include an expanded focus covering juvenile justice initiatives, thereby allowing an integrated yet dedicated investment in carefully targeted youth crime and violence prevention and mitigation activities.

3. Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)

USAID expects to use funding from the new Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) to augment its youth-related activities, especially in the areas of remedial education program and juvenile justice. The CBSI will advance and reinforce the efforts already underway to further secure the Caribbean region through improved cooperative relationships by substantially reducing illicit trafficking, advance public safety and security and promote social justice. USAID will use such resources to implement a comprehensive program that has a cross-sectoral approach focusing on education, entrepreneurship and civic participation for at-risk youth. The broader program will build social skills, promote problem solving skills and communication
skills that are critical to dispute resolution; increase access to financial resources through micro-credit; and, satisfy youth needs for group membership in constructive ways.

CBSI funds will permit USAID to address many related deficiencies in handling young offenders throughout the Caribbean region, including early intervention with at-risk youth, juvenile assessment centers, other forms of alternative sentencing and youth rehabilitative academies.

3.1 USAID: Regional Youth Development/Education
In the area of education, the program will promote basic literacy and numeracy, with a focus on increasing primary to secondary continuation rates, especially among youth from disadvantaged areas. Additionally, it will provide remedial education for young adults who have been unable to benefit from the education system. It will also teach life skills and basic skills necessary for school-to-work transition.

3.2 USAID: Regional Youth Development/Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship
In the area of workforce development and entrepreneurship USAID will focus on School-to-work transition and career development programs, as well as youth entrepreneurship training, increased youth access to microfinance, and engagement in agriculture and agribusiness. The program will offer youth a “second chance” to lead productive lives, boosting economies throughout the Caribbean and creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

3.3 USAID: Regional Juvenile Justice Sector Reform
This program addresses the Action Plan’s call for recognizing “the particular importance of juvenile justice reforms, including conduct of a needs-assessments, deployment of multidisciplinary approaches, and institutional strengthening to reduce pre-detention and increase alternatives to imprisonment.” The program will target first-time juvenile offenders and create specialized policies and practices to channel them into and through programs and facilities that afford the opportunity for their early rehabilitation and return to productive society.

4. Climate Change

4.1 Background
USAID climate change support for the region will complement overlapping initiatives it previously supported under its biodiversity support to the region. Based on a recent analysis of regional needs supported by two broad stakeholder workshops held in St. Lucia and Barbados, two critical areas have been identified as requiring special attention. These are coastal zone management and resilience and freshwater resources management. These issues have been identified as priorities by national governments in the Eastern Caribbean, by regional organizations, and by other donors. Assistance will therefore be provided to address the capacity needs of the region including working to strengthen technical organizations in areas such as meteorology, hydrology, coastal and marine science. This will be complemented with the strengthening of training institutions serving the region to support increasing the cadre of persons both at the technical level as well as decision making level to address issues related to climate
change. The program will also provide direct support at the country level for initiatives focusing on adaptation measures in the areas of coastal zone management and freshwater resource management. The program will be supported by appropriate public awareness and education programs to raise the level of awareness on climate change and steps being taken to address it across the region. Raising awareness of climate change and building local capacity to respond to its effects is vital to the long-term viability of small island communities.

4.2 Purpose and Scope

The program of work identified is intended to enhance the overall, long-term capacity of Barbados and the OECS region to respond to climate change, while strengthening their near-term resilience to the impacts of climate variability and change through concrete, on-the-ground actions. This will be achieved by: (1) reinforcing the policy, legislative and institutional framework that the region needs as a foundation for effective adaptation, especially in coastal zone and freshwater management; (2) supporting the development of critical climate change information needs; (3) implementing concrete activities that improve the near-term resilience of participating countries’ coastal zones to climate change impacts; and (4) implementing direct, targeted actions that improve freshwater management in participating countries.

The components of a broad-based climate change adaptation program are essential to address specific vulnerabilities related to water and coastal resources:

- Fostering and improving the enabling environment to build understanding and support for policies and laws that reduce vulnerability to climate stresses.
- Addressing information gaps that constrain capable practitioners in regional universities, government departments and civil society from addressing vulnerabilities.
- Launching interventions in freshwater and coastal management to build resilience and demonstrate results.
- Promoting program management to ensure that monitoring and evaluation of activities takes place, results are assessed, and the program is adjusted as needed.

4.3 Description of Activities

A. Enabling Environment

The necessary first step in a successful Eastern Caribbean climate change adaptation program related to water and coastal resources will involve strengthening the enabling environment at both the regional and national levels.

Certain longer term climate trends in the Eastern Caribbean region seem clear — rising temperatures, more extreme weather events — however, these changes will manifest themselves in an unpredictable, non-linear fashion in the near and middle terms. Given this reality, strengthening climate change response capacity or managing risk in one particular sector that seems most vulnerable in the near term may turn out to not be the right place to focus in the medium or long term. Therefore, the overall systemic capacity to respond to changes in the region needs to be fortified to enable governments in the region to rise adequately to the climate change challenge.
Any attempt to build the broader systemic response capacity must rest on strong policy, effective legislation and sound institutions, which collectively provide a capacity for responding to climate change impacts in a proactive manner, minimizing risks ever before they occur. A key part of the program, therefore, will focus on strengthening the base for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change in the Eastern Caribbean at the policy, legislative and institutional levels. Public support for action will also be important. Developing and improving policies, laws, regulations and institutions that address fresh water and coastal zone resource management—the focal areas of the overall project—will be the priority.

Key activities may include:

- Develop and adopt a concise region-wide adaptation policy statement that provides a degree of harmonization across national policies, yet is sufficiently customized to reflect unique national circumstances.
- Organize consultations with national-level decision makers that spur the completion of national adaptation strategies currently under development in some states.
- Facilitate practitioner meetings with third-party legal advisers as needed, with the purpose of mainstreaming climate considerations into sectoral legislation.
- Adjust key aspects of existing legislation on coastal zone management and fresh water resource management to better allow adaptive response with an eye towards climate change.
- Collaboratively assess which agency is most suitable to house or coordinate the climate change agenda in each OECS member country.
- Provide training, workshops, short-term scholarships and other forms of capacity building to bolster the technical capacity of government officials within national and local level government agencies working on climate change adaptation. The greatest emphasis would be given to lead agencies identified through the collaborative assessment noted above.
- Conduct a public education and outreach program to build public support for the actions that decision makers will need to take.

These activities can build upon USAID’s previous experience with biodiversity legislation in the Eastern Caribbean region.

B. **Addressing Climate Information Gaps**

Adequately increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts requires a targeted system of climate data collection, storage, and dissemination. Complete and timely information helps decision makers and communities adjust to impacts as they occur and prepare for disasters before they hit. An ideal data system would be thorough enough to inform decisions about a full range of climate change impacts, yet not so cumbersome as to make managing or reporting unwieldy. It also would have a very active and lively interface with decision makers at the regional, national and local levels, and not remain the exclusive domain of scientists and risk management specialists. Last but certainly not least, the system should include information from and for use by local actors, such as community leaders, local planners
and civil society organizations – information should be tailored to the decision needs of the audience.

Building climate information systems is an enabling condition that can underpin long term successful adaptation response and risk management. It is distinct from strengthening policy and legal work; however, at some points – as when institutions central to adaptation response in the region are being built up with resources that include better information collection and management systems – the two categories will overlap.

Key activities may include:

- Develop a regional marine monitoring and forecasting system
  - Incorporate additional, more reliable and up-to-date monitoring stations
  - Integrate the surveillance system for lost vessels.
  - Improved forecasting for extreme weather events - drought and floods.
  - Establish a framework to determine the impact of climate change on physical oceanographic parameters.
  - Build capacity: recruit U.S. tropical monitoring and forecast experts to train practitioners (e.g. MET service staff), especially on technical instrumentation

- Jump-start the development of regional climate centers to provide climate data services, such as drought forecasting. Centers would be operated by Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and would support the work of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

- Establish additional monitoring stations for dust and aerosol atmospheric monitoring, and recruit a U.S. expert to build monitoring capacity of practitioners

- Convene workshops to ensure that strong communication links are established between decision makers and information providers.

- Develop modules on tropical meteorology for the COMET on-line training facility.

C. Interventions in the Freshwater Sector

Freshwater is a critical resource in the Eastern Caribbean region. It is a key input in all the major economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing. Most climate change models for the eastern Caribbean predict increasing shortages of rainfall in the coming decades. The region’s situation of overall water abundance will thus shift toward one of relative scarcity. Management of this shift will be central to sustaining the region’s economies and helping them continue to thrive.

The freshwater sector provides key opportunities for near-term demonstrative activities with on-the-ground impacts that can serve as models and springboards for longer term efforts. Activities should be designed through an overall integrated water resource management (IWRM) approach.

Key activities may include:

- Promote rainwater harvesting: either retrofitting commercial or government buildings, such as hotels or schools, or requiring that harvesting equipment be
installed with all new construction. These projects should include capacity building workshops on scale, cost, use, and maintenance. The projects could promote public awareness and provide a hands-on learning opportunity for school children. Construction standards should be put in place and compliance and enforcement addressed.

- Develop water resource data systems, such as:
  - National water information system that provides real-time data on stream flow, etc. and provides flood monitoring;
  - Caribbean drought monitoring network with national level systems that have early warning capabilities;
  - Aquifer-level monitoring, beginning with sustainable yield testing and including water chemistry monitoring, especially to test for saltwater intrusion.
- Improve drainage through waterway maintenance and clearing of debris and sediment – could promote youth empowerment if implemented through a Youth Corps model
- Support small business development related to water auditing and water services, for example rainwater harvesting
- Build capacity through:
  - Training programs in water resources management (in partnership with Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and Centre For Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES);
  - University scholarships for IWRM-related degree programs;
  - On-line university training programs.
- Conduct economic analysis of the water sector, including related energy use, rate assessment, and user profile to determine, for example, who is paying and how much;
- Develop water budgets and analyze current water systems, incorporating a forward-looking management strategy;
- Initiate economic incentives program accompanied by awareness campaign to encourage home use efficiency and technology interventions (for example, “water use tips,” public announcements through the media, and messaging through the entertainment sector). Critical to use effective media, such as messages sent to cell phones. Initial target groups whose behavior the program should try to affect include hotels, bottling companies, and governments.

D. Interventions in the Coastal Sector

Coasts and marine resources in the region provide the main draw for tourism, the region’s leading economic sector. Beautiful beaches, clean water, and unique and diverse marine life attract visitors from all over the world. Maintaining the health and integrity of these valuable resources in the face of climate change impacts is essential to the economic stability of the region. Barbados has already made significant advancements in the area of coastal management and can provide many “lessons learned” to the rest of the countries in the region.

Key activities may include:

*Eastern Caribbean*
- Conduct assessments of coastal resources and coastal water quality (for example to identify levels and sources of marine pollution)
- Enact regional water quality standards along the guidelines of CARICOM regional protocols
- Review existing planning laws on coastal construction, in an effort to improve setback policies and assess footprints
- Update/Develop regional protocol to govern development in coastal areas
- Update/Conduct vulnerability assessments and hazard mapping, especially related to storm surges
- Develop restoration plans for degraded coastal habitats
- Reduce anthropogenic stressors on marine ecosystems
- Promote ecosystem management
  - Rehabilitating corals, in response to damage from accidents or disasters
  - Instituting a monitoring program to sustain long-term coral health. Such a program would include disaster planning, post-disaster damage assessments, and a trained response team.
  - Share best practices with water-based tourism operators and fisherfolk to reduce stressors on the reef ecosystems
- Conduct marine research through actions such as:
  - Collecting coral ecosystem data, for example recruitment data, current patterns, and others.
  - Providing new instrumentation for real-time nutrient monitoring and CO2 concentration levels
  - Conducting ecosystem / habitat mapping

5. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is the office within USAID responsible for facilitating and coordinating U.S. Government emergency assistance overseas.

*Key Activities - Barbados and Eastern Caribbean :*
The provision of emergency supplies and materials including the purchase of non-food items to National Emergency Management Offices in the Caribbean.

6 **Environmental Impact**

The components of the current strategic objective and the new assistance objective involve the provision of technical assistance in training, policy and legislative development and institutional capacity building and will have no negative impact on the physical or natural environment.

However, during the course of implementation, it may reasonably be expected that some new activities undertaken especially those consistent with IR2 could have an effect on the environment. Should any activity be found to have a potential negative impact on the environment at any point during the life of this strategy, a IEE amendment will be submitted for the activity. In addition, the Mission will monitor activities on an ongoing basis to ensure that there are no potential negative environmental impacts of these activities.
If a IEE amendment is completed for activities that are added to the project that may involve a negative impact to the environment, all grantees and or implementing partners (IP) will be required to fill out an Environmental Mitigation Plan (EMP) for each grant and/or credit assistance activity. The EMP would need to be completed before any actions that would have a negative impact, be implemented. The attached EMP includes:

- Coversheet;
- Narrative with project specific information;
- Annexes:
  - Environmental Screening Form (Table 1);
  - Identification of Mitigation Plan (Table 2);
  - Environmental Monitoring and Tracking Table (Table 3);
- Photos, Maps and Level of Effort.

The EMP will capture potential environmental impacts and also dictate whether any additional environmental compliance is required.

7. **Recommended Threshold Decisions and Mitigation Actions**

7.1 **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended,

Pursuant to 22 CPR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii), (v) and xiv), a Categorical Exclusion is recommended for activities involving the provision of technical assistance, education, training, information gathering, workshops and others as identified in the IEE as activities that do "not have an effect on the natural or physical environment".

7.2 **Negative Determination with Conditions**

A Negative Determination, with conditions is recommended for activities which may have a negative impact on the environment. Such activities may be associated with the Youth Workforce actions of IR2.

Micro enterprise and credit sub grant actions that are funded through the project would be identified during the course of implementation. As the activities of the sub-grants program are not yet detailed, a Negative Determination with Conditions is recommended for the sub-grants component as they will be required to complete the EMP Checklist and form to identify and list any environmental mitigation measures as needed.

All grantees/contractors, including sub-grants recipients, will be required to fill out an Environmental Mitigation Plan/Report (EMPR attached) per project type that includes the Environmental Screening Form, the Identification of Mitigation Plan, and the Environmental Monitoring and Tracking Table. The EMP will be reviewed and approved by the COTR, MEO, and REA. The Environmental Monitoring and Tracking Table (Table 3) will be used for Project environmental monitoring and will be submitted to the USAID COTR on an annual basis.

All best practices, mitigation measures and guidelines recommended by the 2003 LAC Environmental Guidelines which are deemed appropriate in the circumstances for the particular
type of activity will be implemented. The LAC Environmental Guidelines can be found at the following website:


Priority will be given to instituting actions and procedures that will be most effective at reducing risk at the lowest cost.

8. **Mitigation, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Applicable mitigation measures will be identified using the LAC Guidelines and EMP/EMR for activities before commencing activities and will be monitored for compliance during and after project implementation. The EMP/EMR with associated identified mitigations and monitoring plan will be reviewed and approved by the Mission Environmental Officer and Regional Environmental Advisor before initiating activities.

The COTR is responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met. The SO Team will ensure that activity-related contracts and agreements contain specific instructions and requirements reflecting the pending Threshold Decision.

For monitoring and reporting purposes, implementing partners are required to submit Semi-annual Reports to the Operating Unit which must include mitigation measures established in EMP/EMR compliance and all Reg. 216 environmental recommendations, where applicable. The COTR will be responsible for the overseeing and monitoring of such mitigation measures throughout the life of the activity and USAID/Barbados will ensure that all environmental compliance activities are elaborated upon in the relevant section of the Annual Reports.

- Each activity manager or **Contracting (or Agreement) Officer Technical Representative (COTR or AOTR)** is responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met (ADS 204.3.4). In addition, COTRs/AOTRs are responsible for ensuring that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed, mitigation measures in the IEE are funded and implemented, and that adequate monitoring and evaluation protocols are in place to ensure implementation of mitigation measures. The COTR/AOTR and Chief of Party will require the use of the Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR) (attached) for the following activities: small grants; agricultural activities that may involve small scale infrastructure, the use of irrigation, and the use of pesticides; tourism small scale construction and/or development including excavation of historic artifacts and placement of mooring buoys; and fisheries production and management. The EMPR will be used for all of the projects listed within this amended IEE that receive a Negative Determination with conditions threshold decision.

- To ensure compliance with the USAID environmental regulation 22 CFR 216, the Implementing Partner (IP) is responsible for providing USAID Barbados and Eastern Caribbean with an Environmental EMPR for activities falling under the Negative Determination with Conditions threshold decision. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed and that mitigation measures described in the pertinent Threshold Decision for each of these activities are funded and implemented, including any necessary training or capacity building, and adequate monitoring.
Applicable best management practices to use within the EMPR process can be found in the Environmental Guidelines for Development Activities in Latin America and Caribbean available at the following web site:


An amendment of this IEE is required for any activity resulting in policy changes that have the potential to affect negatively the environment, large scale irrigation and other activities not yet designed and therefore not described in this document. As well, if additional crops and/or pesticides are added to the USAID/RED Project, an amendment to the exiting PERSUAP would be required. Any use, or training for the use, of pesticides in other projects listed in this IEE would require a PERSUAP and IEE amendment.

The COTR/AOTR and MEO will be required to conduct spot monitoring checks for all of the activities listed in this IEE to ensure that the conditions listed in the IEE, ETD, and EMPR are being followed. The MEO should use the EMPR monitoring form (Table 3) to conduct monitoring of activity mitigation measures.

The implementing contractor or partner will ensure that all activities conducted under this instrument comply with this ETD. Also, through its regular reporting requirements, a section on environmental compliance (e.g. mitigation monitoring results) will be included.

Recommended USAID 22 CFR 216 Compliance Contracting Language

Recommended Language to insert into contracts and agreements to tell partners HOW we expect them to comply with Reg 216 and gives them a specified process.

In accordance with USAID’s recognition that gender, anti-corruption, and environmental issues are important considerations in development, the Contractor shall include in their project proposal explanations on measures they intend to take to deal with these issues. During project implementation, the Contractor/Recipient shall take these issues into account and find ways to enhance gender balance, reduce corrupt practices, and protect the environment in areas related to their project. To ensure compliance with the USAID environmental regulation 22 CFR 216, the Implementing Partner (IP) is responsible for providing USAID Dominican Republic with an Environmental Mitigation Plan, as outlined in the applicable document (attached): “Guidelines for Implementing Partners on the USAID Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR).” The Implementing Partner shall ensure that appropriate environmental guidelines are followed, that mitigation measures described in the pertinent Threshold Decision for each of these activities are funded and implemented, including any necessary training or capacity building, and adequate monitoring. The procurement and/or use of pesticides would require an amended IEE, pursuant to USAID’s Pesticide Procedures 22 CFR 216.3(b)(i)(ii)(a-l). The Contractor/Recipient may be required to report results disaggregated by gender and measures taken to enhance the environment and reduce corrupt practices.
For activities/Projects that have been identified as Negative Determination with Conditions, once the Implementing Partner is chosen, an initial EMPR is submitted by the Implementing Partner for approval by the Mission Environmental Officer before commencing activities. The attached EMPR format includes an initial screening process (Table 1) to assure the project is at the Medium Risk Level (Negative Determination with Conditions). Potential Impacts and related mitigation measures (Table 2) are also identified per sub-activity. Each mitigation measure will be monitored for implementation and effectiveness (Table 3). For small projects sub-grants, the Chief of Party will ensure that an EMPR is completed and approved by the Chief or Party and MEO for each sub-grant. The Chief of Party will ensure that project staff monitor and document the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Applicable mitigation measures will be identified using the LAC Guidelines and EMP/EMR for activities before commencing activities and will be monitored for compliance during and after project implementation.

At the end of each year of implementation, the EMPR is resubmitted with the same information as provided initially plus a monitoring report that reflects implementation and effectiveness monitoring of the identified mitigation measures. Table 3 of the EMPR serves as a monitoring report tool. A narrative explanation of the monitoring findings and recommendations listed in Table 3 must also accompany the EMPR as part of the annual reporting process.

The COTR/AOTRs are crucial in ensuring the Implementing Partners take this process seriously and comply. The importance must be emphasized with them by the MEO and Regional Environmental Advisor. Support of the process from Mission Management and Team Leaders is crucial to success.

All projects will submit an annual report that includes a section on environmental compliance.
Approval: ___________________________ Date: __________
James Goggin
Mission Director
USAID/Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

Clearances:

STS: MBlackwood________ Date: _____

PO: JGittens __________ Date: _____

REA: PSchmidtke_________ Date: _____

MEO: MTaylor__________ Date: _____

Drafted:
MTaylor: MEO

Approval: [Signature]
James Goggin
Mission Director
USAID/Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

Clearances:

STS: MBlackwood [initial] Date: 9/6/2010

PO: JGittens [initial] Date: 9/6/2010

REA: PSchmidtke [Clear] Date: 9/24/10 (e-mail attached)
MEO: MTaylor [initial] Date: 9/24/10

Drafted:
MTaylor: MEO
GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS ON THE
USAID LAC ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PLAN & REPORT (EMPR)

August 18th, 2009

A. Background

All projects funded by USAID must conform to US environmental regulations (22 CFR 216) requiring evaluation to ensure that no adverse environmental impacts result from the projects, that cannot be mitigated. All USAID programs funded through USAID LAC Missions fall under an Environmental Threshold Decision (ETD) designated at the Strategic Objective level. The Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (EMPR), so described by these guidelines, ensures programmatic compliance with 22 CFR 216 by meeting the conditions specified in the applicable ETDS authorized by the USAID Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).

Programs implemented by USAID LAC Mission implementing partners (IPs) include a range of discrete-activities under various awards that will likely have a risk for adverse environmental impact. Illustrative discrete activities include building refurbishment and medical waste management. This EMPR procedure will provide for both the screening for environmental risk, preparation of a mitigation plan and reporting on monitoring of these mitigation measures, which require that appropriate consideration is given to gender as a social impact factor in the development of a mitigation plan and subsequent measures.

The EMPR initially categorizes projects into three types: No Risk, Medium Risk and High Risk. Those with No Risk can continue without further review. Those with High Risk must be reconsidered for the need of an Environmental Assessment. The EMPR deals with those projects at Medium Risk (see Figure 2).

All grantees/contractors will be required to fill out an Environmental Mitigation Plan & Report (as attached) per project type that includes:
1. The Environmental Screening Form,
2. The Identification of Mitigation Plan, and
3. The Environmental Monitoring and Tracking Table.

Program managers/COTRs and Chiefs of Parties can work with the USAID Mission Environment Officer (MEO) to ensure impacts are sufficiently identified and mitigation actions are agreed upon, including clear guidance on the procedures for gender integration where fitting.

Figure 1: Timeline of Reporting Requirements for Environmental Mitigation