

Name of the Partnership/Initiative: White Water to Blue Water: A Crosscutting Approach to Regional Oceans and Coastal Ecosystem Management.

Expected date of initiation: October, 2002

Expected date of completion: October, 2006

Partners Involved:

Governments: **USA, U.K., France, Spain, and governments of the wider Caribbean.**
Intergovernmental organizations: **UNEP Regional Seas (Caribbean Environment Programme and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme,) UNEP/GPA, UNESCO/IOC.**

Major groups: **IUCN, U. of Delaware (Center for the Study of Marine Policy), U. of Miami, U. of Rhode Island, Consortium for Ocean Research and Education (CORE)**

Other: **Cruise Lines, Hotel, Tourism Associations**

Leading Partner: **U.S. Department of State**

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

- 1. To increase coastal state and regional capacity for cross-sectoral approaches to management of watersheds and marine ecosystems.**
- 2. To develop a framework for regional management programs that will promote a common vision, the efficient use of program resources, and address the entire scope of watershed and marine ecosystem management from forests to the sea.**
- 3. To reverse the downward trend in fisheries.**

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The White Water to Blue Water Partnership Initiative is intended to help implement the following outcomes of Agenda 21: The Barbados Programme of Action, the Montreal Declaration of the Global Plan of Action; the Jakarta Mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCLOS, The Cartagena Convention and protocols, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the 2000 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

The initiative also serves as a step forward in meeting the Millennium Declaration goals regarding development and poverty eradication, protecting our common environment, human rights, democracy and good governance, and strengthening the role of the United Nations.

Expected results:

Increased national and regional capacity to carry out cross-sectoral management of watersheds and marine ecosystems to promote sustainable development in the wider Caribbean region, including poverty reduction and enhanced food security.

Data from remote sensing platforms will be more widely available and used by technical experts, policymakers and the public in their decision-making regarding the development of watershed and marine ecosystems.

New partnerships will be forged between private, public and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the region's natural resources are used in a sustainable manner.

Stakeholders will identify new research and training priorities that will support cross-sectoral watershed and marine ecosystem management.

Regional institutions will be stronger and working across sectors to promote sustainable development.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Establish and implement programs in integrated coastal and ocean management in the countries of the wider Caribbean region by 2012.

Reverse the downward trend in Caribbean fisheries on an urgent basis.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

The Caribbean region has a number of cooperative programs underway through CARICOM and the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme. We anticipate that a kick-off stakeholders conference for the Caribbean in 2003 will serve to identify ways to strengthen efforts underway and promote new coordination/implementation mechanisms to reach the goals of the Partnership Initiative listed above.

The initiative would develop a regional website database listing national, bilateral and multilateral cross-sectoral projects. The proceedings of the conference would form the initial basis for the website. Over the longer term, the website would provide a matching service between stakeholders and potential funders willing to expand capacity-building in

ecosystem management, monitoring and policy development.

We will involve representatives of SIDS and SADC in the kick-off conference with the goal of facilitating the exchange of expertise and experience as well as demonstrating our interest in participating in similar initiatives in the South Pacific and Africa.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Preliminary discussions indicate that partnering governments, foundations and major non-governmental groups are committed to increasing funding and/or funding new elements of the proposed cross-sectoral approach to watershed and marine ecosystem management in the Caribbean and contributing to other partnerships in Africa and the Pacific.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures. The Partnership will:

- 1. Strengthen national and regional institutional capacity to use advanced science and technology and other tools in support of cross-sectoral approaches to watershed and marine ecosystem management.**
- 2. Strengthen regional governance capacity by increasing collaboration between regional oceans and fisheries organizations by means of joint meetings and programs and offering observer status.**
- 3. Facilitate the transparent availability of watershed, coastal and marine data within and between countries.**
- 4. Promote the harmonization of scientific data to improve the exchange and use of data between governments and scientific bodies.**

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

We anticipate offering several types of training opportunities in connection with or following the kick-off conference to identify interest in additional training where nations deem such training useful.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

The “White Water to Blue Water” initiative complements UNEP’s Caribbean Environment

Programme, including its proposed GEF project in the Eastern Caribbean; the UNEP Global Plan of Action's "Hilltops to Oceans" program on sewage treatment and irrigation practices in the Eastern Caribbean and Central America; ICRI's Mezo-American reef project; and the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) program in the wider Caribbean.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:
(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Monitoring arrangements are to be determined in cooperation with interested partners, especially in the Caribbean. An informal Oceans and Coasts steering group is being formed that includes representatives of many of the White Water to Blue Water Partners and may help serve a monitoring function if others agree.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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