"Capacity-Building in Creating Information Management Systems to Improve Decision-making for Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Project"
Training Workshop
on

"Methodologies, Tools and Best Practices for Managing Information for Decision-making on Sustainable Development in Caribbean SIDS"

October 27-31st, Trinidad and Tobago

Hosted by the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment, Organization of American States and the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Workshop Outline

The utility and effectiveness of a decision is in direct proportion to the quality and availability of relevant information. Efficient information management greatly increases the probability of making timely, effective decisions. Furthermore, easy access to information on institutional procedures and frameworks increases the probability of being able to implement a decision once it has been taken.

One of the main objectives of the IDSD project is to train a cadre of resource persons in methodologies, techniques and tools related to general information management and as it relates to four thematic areas of the project – Land use planning, Coastal Zone Management, Sustainable Tourism and DisasterManagement/ Climate change.

This capacity-building effort is based on a number of inputs including the identification of appropriate methodologies and tools and the design of a training course to be implemented during the project.

Scope
The training course will address the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environment as well as the specific issues of development in the context of Small Island Developing States. Secondly, the training materials will cover the thematic areas of the project and provide specific training in these areas as it relates to tools, techniques, methodologies and approaches.
Participants will be introduced to basic concepts in information for economic, social, environment/natural resources and development as well as to the basics in statistics and indicators for sustainable development.

Participants
The training course will be open to a maximum of **thirty (30) persons** including representatives of the four pilot participating countries – Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. The Governments of St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago will also be invited to nominate participants. Participants will be nominated from a number of sectors - government, the NGO community and regional specialized agencies.

Desired Basic Skills of Trainees
Proposed candidates should:

- have some basic knowledge of information management and information management systems;
- be aware of the basic concepts and methodologies relating to sustainable development indicators and statistics; and
- be responsible for analyzing information and or preparing reports assessing progress with sustainable development in his/her country and for preparing position papers on issues relating to sustainable development.

Preliminary Outline for Training Course

♦ *General Issues in Information for Decision-making:*
- Information for Decision-making – issues relating to Economic, Social, Environment and Development Data for SIDS.
- Module on Sustainable Development Statistics, Indicators & Decision-Making

♦ *Specific Approaches to Key Sustainable Development Challenges*:*
- *Coastal Zone Management:*
  - Managing Information for Decision-making in Coastal Zone Management
  - Briefing on the Coastal Resources Inventory System (CRIS) developed under the Caribbean Planning Adaptation for Climate Change (CPACC) Project

- *Land-use planning:*
  - Managing Information for Decision-making in Land use planning
  - Briefing on the Automated Land Evaluation System (ALES) developed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/Cornell University

- *Sustainable Tourism*
  - Managing Information for Decision-making in Sustainable Tourism
  - Briefing on the Management Information System for Tourism (MIST) developed by the Caribbean Organization (CTO)

- *Disaster Management and Climate Change*
  - Social Factors and Information for Decision-making on Disaster Management and Adaptation to Climate Change
  - Briefing on the Integrated Decision Support System (IDSS) developed by Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

* Reference will be made to the linkages between thematic areas as well as Geographical Information System for environmental decision-making amongst other approaches.

♦ *Summary Issues/Conclusions*
- Conclusions and Review of Methodological Approaches

Training to be provided by:

♦ *The Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine)*
♦ *The University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development*
♦ *The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Economic and Social Studies*
♦ *The Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica*
♦ *The Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*