

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

PD-ABC-624  
70964

Project Title: Eastern Caribbean Environmental Profiles Project  
Project Number: 538-0169  
Funding Period: 8/29/86 -12/31/89 (PD&S & LAC regional funding)  
8/29/89 - 12/31/90 (ARDN funding)  
LOP Funding: \$286,199.55 (PD&S & LAC regional funding)  
\$399,964 (ARDN funding)  
\$686,163.55 Total  
PACD: 12/31/90

**I. PURPOSE**

The purposes of the Eastern Caribbean Environmental Profiles Project were to research, analyze and document major issues in natural resource management and environmental planning in selected Eastern Caribbean countries. This was to be accomplished while strengthening the capacity of local institutions and governments to identify and respond to environmental problems and incorporate environmental considerations into development planning and policies.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On August 29, 1986 RDO/C executed a Cooperative Agreement (No. 538-0000-A-00-6062) with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) obligating \$136,199.55 (with a planned LOP budget of \$376,000). The Agreement was funded initially with LAC regional funds (\$86,000) and PD and S funds (\$50,199.55) and was to have a 2 1/4 year life (8/29/86 to 12/01/88) to develop a scope of work and prepare environmental profiles for eight countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines). The Agreement was amended on April 15, 1987 to add the approved scope of work which reduced the number of profiles to four (St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Christopher and Nevis and Dominica) and to add \$150,000 of PD and S funds, bringing the obligated total to \$286,199.55.

With the policy change requiring that work be accomplished within a 12 month period when using PD&S, RDO/C prepared a PID-equivalent (approved 7/14/89) and a PP (approved 8/29/89) to fund the remaining profiles using ARDN funds. The PP authorized \$399,964 of additional funds to complete three of the four environmental profiles agreed to previously, and to complete profiles for Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Because of the need to use the profile documents in the design of RDO/C's new environmental project, RDO/C determined that a shift in strategy was required. This strategy involved focusing less on the institutional strengthening objective and having the remaining profiles completed in draft by 2/90 and in final before the 9/90 PACD, so that the profiles could be used to design the new environmental project. The PACD was later extended from 9/30/90 to 12/31/90 to allow for completion of the profiles given unanticipated delays, including the disruption caused by Hurricane Hugo when sub-grantee office facilities were destroyed.

CCA was established in 1966 as a non-profit environmental organization serving the wider Caribbean. The environmental profile activities were accomplished under the auspice of the CCA, with Island Resources Foundation (IRF) serving as the technical implementation sub-grantee. National committees were established in each country through MOU's to establish the relationships and responsibilities of the various parties.

### III. SUMMARY OF INPUTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Inputs

For the St. Lucia profile, which was the pilot used to test the original strategy, CCA and IRF fielded one full-time person to coordinate the activities. In addition, short-term consultants and in-house staff members were used to accomplish the activities. This strategy involved a large group of in-country writers from both public and private sectors and participation at every level to maximize the awareness enhancement aspect of the exercise.

Later, short-term consultants were fielded simultaneously to concentrate on specific countries in order to complete all of the remaining profiles in a timely manner. For these remaining profiles, the strategy was revised to involve only the national committee and other pertinent parties reviewing the draft profiles, which were written and assembled by small groups of full-time, short-term consultants.

#### Accomplishments

Environmental profiles were completed for St. Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Christopher and Nevis. Several local institutions have been brought back into active status because of the process of preparing the profiles. Among these are the Dominica Conservation Association, which had been inactive for several years, and was reactivated through its involvement on the national committee and in the profile review process.

In St. Vincent, the National Trust was used as the focal point for the profile exercise. At the onset the Trust did not even have office space and was totally disfunctional. The involvement with the profile activity revitalized the Trust significantly. This is evidenced by the International Conference on Environmental Institutions that the Trust recently hosted to mark the 200th anniversary of Vincentian legislation to protect a natural area and the 226th anniversary of the establishment of the botanical gardens, the oldest in the world. In addition, the GOSVG has named the nineties as the environmental decade and has created a ministry of the environment and a National Environmental Protection Task Force.

Other key institutions that provided support for the profile exercises were the YES (Years of the Environment and Shelter) Committee in Dominica, the Grenada National Trust and the Antigua Environmental Awareness Group. In St. Lucia, closer linkages have been woven between the already strong National Trust and the Central Planning Unit.

The profiles, while not yet published and widely disseminated, are serving the governments already, as they prepare their national environmental reports for the upcoming 1992 World Conference on Environment. Although difficult to quantify, evidence exists that environmental awareness has been enhanced as well in the general population through increased use of mass media to transmit environmental conservation messages.

#### **IV. DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**

The environmental profiles have already been hailed as landmark documents for the Eastern Caribbean countries. They serve as unique documentation in that they compile, for the first time ever, a vast array of natural resource information on a country by country basis along with prioritized recommendations for short, medium and long-term proactive and remedial solutions to the degradation of the natural resource base. Noted experts have signaled the significance of the profiles also in documenting the state of the Eastern Caribbean environment at this point in time. They will continue to serve as important tools for government and non-governmental organizations alike to plan their strategies and programs to enhance the chances of a more harmonious balance between humans and the rest of nature.

In addition to the national environmental institutions mentioned above that were strengthened by the project, it is significant to note that the Caribbean Conservation Association has grown because of the experience gained by the profile activities. The organization has become stronger in proposal preparation, financial management and implementation. CCA has become more vocal as a mouthpiece for the region on important natural resource issues and has several major activities underway that will have an important impact in expanding human awareness regarding the need for greater balance with nature.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUING MONITORING**

Monitoring the use of the profile documents by government and non-government organizations to plan their strategies, programs and specific projects may be worthwhile. In addition, periodic updates of the profiles may be useful to consider at fifteen or twenty year intervals.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED

The lessons to be gained by this experience echo some common recurrent themes. From the onset, the effort was designed with too little time and funding to accomplish a herculean task. The original plan was to do 8 profiles in 27 months with \$386,000. In the final analysis, 6 profiles were done in 52 months at a total cost of \$686,000. This is two years longer and \$300,000 more than originally anticipated. In addition, the human resources required to accomplish the task were simply underestimated.

drafted:3/18/91:ANR:RJM ec:Doc.1652b p15-18  
edit:4/18/91:4/24/91

Clearances:

C/ANR:RStyker (draft 4/24/91)  
C/PDO:JWooten (draft 4/23/91)  
A/C/PRM:NMariani (draft 4/4/91)  
CONT:TFFallon (draft 4/22/91)  
D/DIR:TFallon RFM

Cleared Original to PDO:LFrost