



**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**  
**PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE**

**1. Project Title: THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (CEN) PROJECT**

**2. Project Duration: December 1995 to December 1998**

**3. Project Aims:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme, was charged with the responsibility for the implementation of the Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) Project. This project was a new but integral component of the subprogramme of CEP on Specially Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora (SPA/W) and carried out as a joint venture with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jamaica, as main donor agency. *The project aimed at:*

***Improving environmental quality and coastal and marine natural resource protection by:***

- *Reducing environmental impacts caused by tourism on coastal and marine resources*
- *Promoting the use of environmentally sound practices by the tourism industry*
- *Providing a venue for technical support to the tourism industry on marine and coastal environmental issues and trends*

**4. Recipient countries:** While the results and products from the CEN project benefit the Wider Caribbean as region, the following countries and regional organizations were mainly involved in the project:

Anguilla	The Caribbean Health Institute
Barbados	The Natural Resource Management Unit (OECS/NRMU)
Dominica	The Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism (CHA/CAST)
Dominican Republic	The Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural
Jamaica	Resource Management (CCUNRM/UNICA)
Mexico	
Puerto Rico	
St. Lucia	
Trinidad and Tobago	

Note that participants from all OECS countries were represented in the Training Programme.

**5. Value of the Project:** The project was designed to focus on tourism, given the importance and scope of the industry in the Wider Caribbean Region and the close linkages with various marine and coastal habitats in the Caribbean. It was the goal of the USAID/UNEP project to contribute to the rational use and conservation of coastal zones and resources in the Wider Caribbean region.

**6. Project description and expected Results:**

**Baseline Information:**

As part of the baseline information needed to guide the implementation of the project's activities, UNEP commissioned and published "Coastal Tourism in the Wider Caribbean Region: Impacts and Best Management Practices", CEP technical report no. 38 (1998).

The project consisted of the following main components:

- **Training programme related to environmental aspects of tourism in the marine environment,;**
- **Demonstration pilot projects minimizing the impacts of tourism in coastal areas; and**
- **Public awareness and information networking**

### **Training Courses:**

#### **● Water and Solid Waste Management for the Tourism Industry**

*Aims: to provide hands-on training in water and solid waste management as it relates to tourism*

TOPICS such as:

- Technologies for wastewater management
- Reduction, recycling and reuse of solid wastes
- Development of management programmes
- presented twice in St. Lucia (English, February 1998) and Cancun, (Spanish, June 1998)
- implemented by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), St. Lucia

#### **● Design and Siting of Tourism Facilities**

*Aims: to build awareness on environmental impacts of design and siting of tourist facilities and tools for reduction of impacts on resources*

TOPICS such as:

- Architectural designs and materials
- Environmental impacts
- presented twice in Tobago (English, May 1998) and Spanish (Dominican Republic, June 1998)
- implemented by the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA/CAST), Puerto Rico

#### **● Integrated Coastal Area Management for the Tourism Industry**

*Aims: to build awareness on how tourism activities relate to the ICAM process*

TOPICS such as:

- economic valuation of resources
- assessment of degradation
- risk/benefit analysis of tourism
- best practices in the industry
- presented three times, one in English (Barbados, April 1998), one in Spanish (Puerto Rico July 1998) and one bilingual (English/Spanish, Jamaica, February 1998)
- implemented by the Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management (CCUNRM), Puerto Rico

## **Pilot Demonstration Projects:**

### **●Integrated Coastal Resources Management in the Dominican Republic with Special Emphasis on Target Tourist Areas**

#### *–Main Outputs:*

- three diagnostic studies for Puerto Plata , Juan Diolio-Guayacanes and South Coast Santo Domingo as key tourist target areas;
  - three seminars/workshops for key stakeholders in the above selected target areas held in 1998; and
  - National strategy for sustainable tourism
- implemented by the Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura (SEA/SURENA)

### **●Rehabilitation of Sand Dunes in Anguilla**

#### *-Main Outputs:*

- Manual for sand dune management in the Wider Caribbean based on the experiences from the rehabilitation sites in Anguilla
  - Report on the Assessment for Restoration of Windward Point in Anguilla
  - Awareness programme and materials for coastal resources conservation delivered in Anguilla.
- implemented by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, St. Lucia (OECS/NRMU)

### **●Improvement of Quality of Near-Shore Waters on the West Coast of St. Lucia: sewage treatment plant operations in tourism facilities**

#### *-Main Outputs:*

- Manual for efficient sewage treatment plant operations within the tourism industry
  - Improved sewage treatment operations in three hotels (Sandals Halcyon; Windham and Club St. Lucia) St. Lucia
  - National Training workshop for STP operators held in St. Lucia with awareness materials produced.
- implemented by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), St. Lucia

## **Public Awareness/Information Exchange and Networking:**

### **●Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism: information network**

#### *–Main outputs:*

- Environmental Management Toolkit; a volume with guidance on environment enhancement for hotels; published in English and Spanish; and being produced in French
- Regional Overview of Best Practices Case Studies in the tourism industry (hotels

and marine protected areas);

- Caribbean Code of Conduct for Tourism as a set of consolidated practices for environmental management systems
- Preparation of internet site on CAST activities and environmental information for the tourism industry (available at <http://www.cha-cast.com>)
- Regional Environmental Action Plan for the tourism industry addressing steps to implement priorities of Agenda 21 within the Caribbean region
- Production and distribution of monthly environmental newsletter of CAST; on-going
- Green Resources Directory identifying a variety of environmental techniques, related products and services for improved management by tourism facilities

- Implemented by the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA)

### **Other activities:**

Other activities were introduced in the project with UNEP/CAR-RCU being directly responsible for executing the following:

**1. Publication of three training manuals** (i.e. Integrated Coastal Management, Tourist design facilities and Waste Management) emanating from the training courses in three languages (English, French and Spanish). These manuals will serve as valuable reference materials for wide dissemination and will complement and promote replicability of the training experience.

**2. Regional Consultation Meeting on the Development of Curricula for Sustainable Tourism** – held to facilitate the coordination and exchange of information among various institutions in the region involved with environmental training for tourism (at University, Community College and practitioners levels) - *organized by UNEP, September 1998, Kingston, Jamaica*

**3. Regional Sand Dune Management workshop** with the objectives of reviewing and guiding the finalization process of the manual on dune management – *organized by UNEP, OECS and Anguillan Departments of Fisheries and Planning- November 1998, Anguilla*

**4. Regional Symposium on the CEN Project** of general participation from throughout the region and the tourism industry, which was held at the end of the project back-to-back with the Agenda 21 Seminar on Travel and Tourism by WTTC/WTO/ Earth Council. It served as an official conclusion session of the project, with review of results achieved and will include presentations from all contractors involved in the pilot demonstration projects, training courses and networking. It will also count with representation of TCC members and other major partners in the tourism industry – *organized by UNEP-CAR/RCU, Dominica, December 1998*