

# **P r o p o s a l**

**For the establishment of an environmental rehabilitation program**

**With the participation of youth in the Caribbean Island States**

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## **Part 1: Context**

### **I. Background**

The island-states of the Caribbean, from the first day in which they participated in global economic relations to date have strongly depended for their own sustenance on agriculture and by inference, on land productivity. All these islands, in one way or the other, export some agricultural goods and these activities provide work for a significant part of the work force. The colonizers deforested in order to use the wood and for the development of the sugar, tobacco and cotton industries. With the decline of the relative economic importance of these products, there appeared others, including coconuts, spices, banana trees and rice; but any new product has always been based on the use of land. This therefore has forced the farmers to open new agricultural frontiers and to use more chemicals in a bid to maintain the quality and the amount of agricultural production.

This history of the agricultural production directly correlates with land degradation in these islands. The result of this process is that countries such as Barbados do not have forest cover whereas serious processes of land degradation in several areas have affected other islands, such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. With the advent of globalization and free trade, these economies have been put under great stress with the almost complete collapse of some of the agricultural activities. In some countries, young people have been themselves forced to produce illegal crops (marijuana) in hills and mountains, just to attain their sustenance, thereby causing additional damage to the forest. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that these illegal plants are destroyed before the rainy season, thereby exposing the soils to the risk of greater levels of degradation and at the same time putting in danger the watersheds in some areas.

In other cases the land that previously produced bananas and sugar has been abandoned. The needs for housing, urban goods and services and food have placed greater pressure on the land. And of course the phenomenon of natural disasters that periodically create havoc and destruction in these islands is yet another factor. The governments in the Caribbean have increased their concern for the social, economic and environmental consequences of land degradation and are looking for an integral solution to these problems. Nevertheless, the dimensions of this phenomenon are varied and the capacity and resources within the region are limited. This has encouraged the countries to solve these problems together. They must look for support through international cooperation and hence the importance of this project.

The initiative of the Project developed from the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The Convention allows for the development of different initiatives, including dissemination and awareness rising on environmental problems generated by the processes of land degradation and the necessity to create jobs for the youth in the countries of the Caribbean. This initiative is in accordance with the current efforts to develop the of National Action Programs to Combat Desertification and

Drought (NAP) in the countries of the Caribbean sub-region, in which they participate starting from the sub-regional coordination agencies, like CARICOM, through the national governments and their organizations related to the matters of land degradation, to numerous organizations of the civil society, all of which constitute the framework in which the interest of youth groups is forecast to participate actively.

## **II. National and Regional Context**

The entire Latin American region, including the Caribbean, has seen grow, in the last years, the indices of economic instability and of poverty.

The marked deterioration of land is due to intense agricultural use, overgrazing and clearing. In some areas the process of salinization by poorly handling of water is prevalent. In addition, the deficiency of suitable canalization to drain run-off water in frequently inundated zones makes the situation worse, particularly serious during the rainy season and presenting situations of emergency at times of recurrent droughts.

The advance of the agricultural frontier brings to the forefront, due to the lack of a land management system, a process of land degradation and loss of the native forests by uncontrolled clearings, without the proper use of the products thus obtained (wood, firewood and non-forest products), because of non-sustainable practices. When, by economic concerns the farming activity becomes non-profitable, the fields are sometime simply abandoned.

In the Caribbean countries demand for water is on the increase. Rainwater shortage, access to drinking water, and the geo-morphological conditions generate a relatively high water stress, in comparison with Latin America.

Another aspect that is worth indicating is the issue of native forest masses that are degraded by unsustainable management policies and the low valuation of the forests as a source of alternative activities.

The opportunities of this initiative are creating links with youth groups in the tasks of the environment and their implementation on one side, and on the other, greater visibility to the objectives of the Convention.

At the national level the environmental authorities, expressed generally through the ministries of the environment, have been created, among other activities, to follow-up the implementation of the National Strategy of Sustainable Development according to the guidelines of Agenda 21 and, from now on, to the Plan of Implementation adopted in the World Summit of Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg. This strategy is coordinated and generally jointly implemented activities, in order to achieve economies of scale.

At the level of the Caribbean sub-region, there exist created capacities that could be harnessed to document and to disseminate the practical applications already proven in some parts of this sub-region.<sup>1</sup>

The participating countries have very important environmental comparative advantages. The particularity and high vulnerability of their ecosystems could represent the essential nucleus to combat desertification. Numerous areas exist that could be destined to develop sustainable productive activities, reverting the present state of deterioration and associated poverty. It becomes necessary to harness the creation of work groups in areas with processes of desertification including different types of organizations, from public and/or private, as well as research institutions and of local development.

The problem of unemployment constitutes a serious concern for the future. The national governments, agencies, NGOs and the private sector, are working jointly to respond to the exigencies of job creation, encouraging income-generating activities for young people.

The framework of the economic crisis implies greater pressure of the population on the forest resources, which is a highly clear factor that aggravates the vulnerability and fragility of the resources, as well as of the resident populations, this being done either by ignorance or indifference before the consequences of the poverty cycle.

### **III. Synergies**

It is important to cast the project within the context of institutional and project level synergies. At the institutional level, the project enhances institutional initiatives such as the ACP-EU cooperation that is aimed at addressing critical sustainable management issues and also relating to current and future regional and international commitments concerning desertification, drought and deforestation. The project complements the following two on-going project-initiatives: Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management for Enhancing South-South Cooperation Between Latin American and Caribbean Countries and Caribbean Small Island Developing States (PISLM); and the UNDP LDC/SIDS Targeted Portfolio Approach For Capacity Development And Mainstreaming Of Sustainable Land Management.

The former projects highlights the following aspects:

1. Building of complementarities with other MEAs<sup>2</sup>; Elaboration of integrated sub-regional Action Plans (SRAP); Development of methods

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<sup>1</sup> A concrete example is the Center of Las Tunas, located in the province of Las Tunas in Cuba, which has specialized in the exchange of experiences and training in the matters of land degradation and drought management. This Center could be called "Batalla de Santa Ines", like an expression of the willingness to firmly address the environmental concerns that affect the countries of the sub-region. In addition we must take in consideration that the Cuban government has assigned the human resources and infrastructure to take care of the demands in the national level what could be their specific contribution for the realization of this project.

<sup>2</sup> Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)

- and tools for monitoring and measuring land degradation; Training, research, capacity development and policy analysis;
2. South-South Cooperation Programme between LAC and Caribbean SIDS to facilitate the transfer of technology to assist Caribbean SIDS in the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA); and
  3. Coordinated sustainable land management.

The latter project highlights the following:

1. Capacity development (individual, institutional, systemic at both national and local levels);
2. NAP preparation and completion through co-financing;
3. Mainstreaming of NAP/SLM principles; and
4. Investment planning in the medium term for NAP/SLM initiatives.

## **Part 2: The Project**

### **I. Project Objectives**

To establish a network of Youth Environmental Groups (YEG) in the participating countries, thereby contributing to the solution of existing socioeconomic and environmental problems.<sup>3</sup>

To strengthen the management of communal forests in order to prevent greater further land degradation.

This effort could lead to the creation of jobs for young people and at the same time promote environmental awareness and education, facilitating effective mobilization and support of the NGOs, the local communities and the private sector.

#### **Specific objectives**

Objective 1: To rehabilitate degraded land through activities and appropriate practices of afforestation/reforestation, agriculture and land management.

Objective 2: To generate employment for the youth sector and reduce poverty, through new opportunities that promote sustainable development, as well as instill environmental awareness and management capacities among the youth.

Objective 3: To contribute to the alleviation of the problem of water shortage through the management and improvement or protection of watersheds and efficient use of water.

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<sup>3</sup> This network could also constitute an essential component of a strategy to mobilize national and international support (horizontal cooperation among others) that would allow for the sustainable development and rational management of the natural resources of the sub-region.

Objective 4: To provided direct support to the established youth groups through improvement of access to credit and markets.

Objective 5: Capacity building at the national, provincial and district levels, as well as of communal authorities in the coordination and achievement of the goals of this project.

Objective 6: To promote South-South Cooperation.

## **II. Justification**

### **Problem to be addressed**

Issues relating to control of land degradation, and bringing the already degraded land back into productive use for creating sustainable livelihoods. The problem of soil salinity is of particular concern and therefore deserves particular attention.<sup>4</sup>

Most successful technologies however require community participation and a 'bottom-up approach' for their sustainability. It has been realized that a technology, irrespective of its merits cannot be successful without active participation of the community. Community mobilization is thus the central issue.

Furthermore, the existence of large proportions of the population with very low skills and without the possibility of acquiring new one plunges able bodied youths into a vicious circle of exclusion, both in the urban and rural areas. Women especially require more attention, including extra training to improve their productivity, as well as instituting measures that facilitate their specific insertion in gainful employment. The project will seek to redress these anomalies.

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<sup>4</sup> *Soil Salinity-Alkalinity*: Salt affected land is generally characterized as land that has adverse effects on the growth of most plants due to the action or presence of excess soluble salts (saline) or high exchangeable sodium. Coastal saline soils may be with or without ingress or inundation by seawater. The process of salinity-alkalinity sets in due to (i) a rise in the groundwater table as a consequence of mismanagement of irrigation and poor drainage; (ii) irrigation with groundwater containing excess of carbonate and bicarbonate ions; and (iii) runoff from adjoining un-drained basins. In addition, there is natural salinity in depressions of relatively lower elevations in the dry lands and irrigated lands with impeded drainage. The salt affected soils are characterized by excess soluble salts and sodicity, which results in poor soil physical properties and low infiltration rates thereby affecting seed germination, plant growth and nutrient availability. Vast stretches in arid and semi-arid zones are underlain by a dense layer of calcium carbonate concretion, at varying depths, acting as a barrier to water and root penetration into the soil.

### **Target Beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries of the Project are young people who can be characterized as follows:

- Between 15 and 25 years of age,
- Balanced gender distribution,
- Variable schooling level (between primary incomplete and superior),
- Living in the communities where the activities are to be implemented,
- Interested in the community life and in environmental issues.

The total number of direct beneficiaries will be around 1,200 youths, who are members of the Youth Groups.

### **III. Outputs**

**Specific Objective 1:** To rehabilitate degraded land through activities and appropriate practices of afforestation/reforestation, agriculture and land management.

Output 1.1. A plant nursery established in each of the participating countries

Output 1.2. Currently degraded land restored through appropriate plantations of between 100 and 300 hectares on degraded land in a period of 3 years in each participant country.

Output 1.3. A plantation of at least 5,000 trees in each country established.

Output 1.4. Forest and land management techniques introduced in each participating country.

**Specific Objective 2:** To generate employment for the youth sector and reduce poverty, through new opportunities that promote sustainable development, as well as instill environmental awareness and management capacities among the youth.

Output 2.1. Income generating activities introduced.

Output 2.2. Environmental management capacities of 1,200 participant young people improved.

Output 2.3. A greater level of awareness of the need to protect the environment in general, and the land in particular, achieved.

Output 2.4. Catalytic financial support for activities developed by the communities in combating land degradation and the eradication of poverty provided.

**Specific Objective 3:** To contribute to the alleviation of the problem of water shortage through the management and improvement or protection of watersheds and efficient use of water.

Output 3.1. Effective water management techniques introduced.

**Specific Objective 4:** To provided direct support to the established youth groups through the improvement of access to credit and markets.

Output 4.1. More viable youth groups with better financial support

**Specific Objective 5:** Capacity building at the national, provincial and district levels, as well as at the level of the local community, in the coordination and achievement of the goals of this project.

Output 5.1 Viable and strong environmental and youth coordination units at the national, provincial and district levels as well as at the communal level established.

**Specific Objective 6:** To promote South-South Cooperation.

Output 6.1 South-South technical assistance rendered among Venezuela and China, and the participating Caribbean countries.

#### **IV. Activities**

In striving to achieve the objectives of the project, the activities will be oriented towards the protection of the environment and simultaneously towards employment generation for the youth in the participating countries.

Output 1.1: A plant nursery established in each of the participating countries

Activity 1.1.1: Introduction of techniques for plan propagation, sowing and transplanting.

Activity 1.1.2: Watering, pruning, weeding and seed collecting.

Activity 1.1.3: Construction works, irrigation installations.

Activity 1.1.4: Establishing Learning “centre”/care of nursery and use of native plans and knowledge.

Activity 1.1.5: Information dissemination.

Output 1.2: Currently degraded land restored through appropriate plantations of between 100 and 300 hectares on degraded land in a period of 3 years in each participant country.

Activity 1.2.1: Building and maintenance of rural roads in the areas of the project.

Activity 1.2.2: Characterization of plots: soil type, erosion type, existing trees, waste management practices and effluents.

Activity 1.2.3: Transfer of sustainable technological and traditional knowledge and heritage

Activity 1.2.4: Calendar of work preparation for soil improvement and other land management aspects

Output.1.3: A plantation of at least 5,000 trees in each country, at the end of the project.

Activity 1.3.1: Introduction of sustainable techniques on watershed planning and management

Activity 1.3.2: Introduction of practices and information on natural hazard prevention

Activity 1.3.3: Development of institutional services and capacity building

Activity 1.3.4: Introduction of sustainable uses of border/marginal lands

Activity 1.3.5: Mechanisms to approach the community

Output1.4: Forest and land management techniques introduced in each participating country.

Activity 1.4.1: Identification and use of sustainable inter-cropping activities

Activity 1.4.2: Establishment of a social forest system

Activity 1.4.3: Undertaking concrete action in marginal lands

Activity 1.4.4: Training and capacity building aspects using the “learning by doing” approach and publication of material

Output 2.1: Income generating activities introduced.

Activity 2.1.1: Selection of possible initiatives of environmental action, which include environmental improvements and/or the development of economic-based environmental activities:

- Programs for sorted collection of urban residues

- Installation of recycling plants and compost production
- Installation of nurseries for the production of tree plants
- Installation of communal orchards for organic production
- Development of capacities and infrastructure for eco-tourism.

Activity 2.1.2: Definition of priorities and the location of the initiatives of environmental action. These will be defined according to the progress of the implementation of the project. Tentatively the following is proposed:

- To start up programs of separated harvesting of urban residues with its corresponding recycling plants and production of compost in 18 selected places.
- To start up nurseries for the production of tree plants on 23 sites.
- To start up 12 community-based orchards based on organic production.
- To start up 4 activities of support to ecotourism.

Output 2.2: Environmental management capacities of 1,200 participating young people improved

Activity 2.2.1: Training of the participating young people in environmental management of natural resources.

Activity 2.2.2: Implementation of forums in schools, community centers, popular libraries, youth centers, universities and other centers, for the diffusion of the Project, and to summon participation in the same. These activities will be coordinated by the different local promoters, with the support of the Coordination Team of the project.

Activity 2.2.3: Design of a training program that includes, among others, the following modules:

- Organization of groups
- Management of conflicts
- Introduction to environmental problems
- Problems of urban environment
- Problems of the rural environment

The specific modalities (contents and methodologies) of the training activities will be decided by the Coordination Team of the project in consultation with each local Promoter and each YEG. The five modules will be offered in each one of the 23 locations. Indicatively each module will have duration of 16 hours of teaching.

Output 2.3: A greater level of awareness of the need to protect the environment in general, and of land in particular, achieved.

Activity 2.3.1: Discussion and approval of each independent plan of work in each YEG that includes activities of strengthening capacities and awareness creation. Attention will be given to ensuring that the decisions are taken based on the YEGs own needs.

Activity 2.3.2: Definition of thematic priorities for the development of diffusion and awareness campaigns. The issues will, among others be:

- Urban hygiene
- Rainwater catchments
- Ecotourism
- Irrigation
- Small hydro plants

The Coordination Team of the Project will be in charge of this activity

Activity 2.3.3: Drafting, design and editing of support material for the campaigns (posters, magazines, news clips). The Coordination Team of the Project will be in charge of this activity, and will be supported by specialized personnel.

Activity 2.3.4: Coordinated implementation of the campaigns in the different locations of the Project. This activity will be undertaken at all levels: at the Project Coordination level, the local Promoters level, the YEG and the YEG Network level.

Output 2.4: Catalytic financial support, for activities developed by the communities in combating land degradation and the eradication of poverty, provided.

Activity 2.4.1: Development and implementation of a micro-credit mechanism

Activity 2.4.2: Adoption of an eligibility framework, enabling activities and training in accounting negotiations issues, market issues, etc.

Activity 2.4.3: Identification and establishment of activities to enhance social organization at the local level.

Activity 2.4.4: Support to local governments

Activity 2.4.5: Publication and dissemination of success stories, lessons learned and interesting cases.

Output 3.1 Effective water management techniques introduced.

Activity 3.1.1: Introduction of best practices for surface/underground water

Activity 3.1.2: Identification and use of soil cover practices

Activity 3.1.3: Implementation of drainage and rainwater catchments, among others.

Activity 3.1.4: Identification of emergency measures and design of a plan for extreme events: drought/floods

#### Output 4.1 More viable youth groups with better financial support

Activity 4.1.1: Development and implementation of periodic fairs and festivals that enhance own cultural identity.

Activity 4.1.2: Undertaking activities on capacity building and implementation of eco tourism activities

Activity 4.1.3: Ensuring the autonomy of the various YEGs. In this sense, the role of the Coordination Team of the Project (supported by the local Promoters) will be limited to proposing a set of activities to be developed in all the regions and to facilitating coordination between the different YEGs to harness their results and capture the lessons learned.

Activity 4.1.4: Establishment of partnerships with leading local industries

Activity 4.1.5: Publication and dissemination of successful stories.

#### Output 5.1: Viable and strong environmental and youth coordination units at the national, provincial and district levels as well as at the communal level, established.

Activity 5.1.1: Establishment of the initial promotional team in the different locations of the project. In each location, a Promoter will be designated, whom the Coordination Team of the project will support. Training and diffusion will be coordinated through the Project Coordinator. The latter will be in charge of the general execution of the project and would be accountable to the partners for the advancement of the same

Activity 5.1.2: Establishment of Youth Environment Groups (YEG) in the different locations of the Project. Each YEG will handle their own schedule in terms of defining the appropriate moment for launching their activities. In larger places, more than one YEG could be constituted, in accordance with local legal and institutional requirements.

Activity 5.1.3: Establishment of a network of the YEGs of the different locations within the Project, that facilitates articulation among them at the provincial level, and sharing of experiences with YEGs in other regions.

#### Output 6.1: South-South technical assistance rendered among Venezuela, China, and the participating Caribbean countries.

Activity 6.1.1: Attainment of agreements with the local political authorities, other stakeholders as well as other interested parties, for launching the various campaigns of diffusion and awareness creation. The Coordination Team of the Project will be in charge of this activity.

Activity 6.1.2: Undertaking concrete activities regarding food security matters, such as market (wholesale and retail), post-harvest activities and food packaging.

Activity 6.1.3: Adoption of micro-credit mechanisms for food production and distribution

Activity 6.1.4: Adoption of management plans on solid waste in markets and slaughterhouses.

Activity 6.1.5: Identification of main issues regarding rural-urban linkages

Activity 6.1.6: Obligation and dissemination of successful stories and lessons learned

## **V. Project inputs and budget estimation**

A detailed consolidated budget is provided at the end of this document; however, the following specific inputs should be highlighted:

### **Proposed input from Venezuela**

The particular case of Venezuela's contribution aims at supporting processes of transference of technologies, knowledge, and capacity building, as well as exchange of experience. Financial resources from Venezuela will facilitate the acquisition of some required materials and equipment. These resources will also facilitate training, as well as financing of pre-investment and feasibility studies of some project activities.

The details of the budget of the activities that would be carried out with the contribution of the government of Venezuela, in the five countries and during the three-year duration of the project, are as follows:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT USD
<b>Human Resources</b>		
General Coordinator	36 months x USD 1,200	43,200
Training Manager	24 months x USD 1000 + 12 months x USD 700	32,400
Diffusions Manager	24 months x USD 1000 + 12 months x USD 700	32,400
Local Promoters	15 persons x 36 months x USD 200	108,000
Las Tunas Center: Batalla de Santa Inés (Training and supervision)	600 hours	50,000
Las Tunas Center: Batalla de Santa Inés (materials and other expenses)		30,000
<i>Subtotal Human Resources</i>		<b>296,000</b>
<b>Physical Resources</b>		
Coordination Offices (4)	36 months x USD 830	29,880
YEG Locales	15 locales x 24 months x USD 400	144,000
Training Activities		112,000
Operational expenses of YEGs		71,000
DSA (travel costs)		40,000
Activity treat. Residues	6 sites x USD 9.500	57,000
Activity orchards	4 sites x USD 12.400	49,600
Activity nurseries	5 sites x USD 15.200	76,000
Activity ecotourism		6,520
<i>Sub-total Physical resources</i>		<b>586,000</b>
UNCCD Program support cost		130,000
<b>Total Contribution from Venezuela</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>

### Other donors

Other countries from which a favorable response is expected are Spain, Germany and other European countries as well as non governmental agencies from Italy among others.

### **VI.. Project Strategy**

The Project will be executed over a period of three (3) years in twenty-three localities of the 5 participant countries, selected on the basis of their potential and their capacity to reflect the prevailing socio-economic realities and assimilate new ideas.

The total of population involved in these twenty-three sites is around 50,000 inhabitants.

The institutional structure of the Project will be based on different youth groups conformed voluntarily in each locality, to the support of promoting NGOs and of the national and/or provincial authorities. The national governments and the Center of Las Tunas (Batalla de Santa Ines) will offer technical support in specific matters.

The project will be coordinated by a Steering Committee composed of one representative of the participant countries as well as by representatives of the government of Venezuela, the Secretariat of the Convention, UNDP and other partners as appropriate.

### **Part 3: Operational Arrangements**

The institutional structure will be reflected in the conformation of an Advisory Committee of the Project (conformed by representatives of all the participants) to support the Coordination Team of the Project.

National and international experiences of youth participation in environmental programs at the local base, like for example the Eco-clubs and others, will be particularly considered.

#### **Budget Summary**

The estimated total amount for the project, with duration of three years and in five countries is the following<sup>5</sup>:

#### **ESTIMATED CONSOLIDATED TOTAL ON YEARLY PROJECT BUDGET**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT USD</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>		
General Coordinator	36 months x USD 1200	43,200
Training Manager	24 months x USD 1000 + 12 months x USD 700	32,400
Diffusions Manager	24 months x USD 1000 + 12 months x USD 700	32,400
Local Promoters	15 persons x 36 months x USD 200	108,000
Las Tunas Center: Batalla de Santa Inés (Training and supervision)	1,800 hours	150,000
Las Tunas Center: Batalla de Santa Inés (materials and other		80,000

<sup>5</sup> The budget may have to change in view of more specific elaboration of activities.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT USD
expenses)		
Labor costs in 23 sites (estimated)		165,320
<i>Sub-total Human Resources</i>		<b>611,320</b>
Physical Recourses		
Coordination Offices (4)	36 months x USD 830	29,880
YEG Locales	23 locales x 36 months x USD 400	331,200
Training Activities		360,000
Operational expenses of YEGs		213,000
DSA (travel costs)		120,000
Activity treat. Residues	18 sites x 9.500	171,000
Activity orchards	12 sites x USD 12.400	148,800
Activity nurseries	23 sites x USD 15.200	349,600
Activity ecotourism	4 sites x USD 23,800	95,200
Building access roads		50,000
Characterization of plots (e.g. soil type etc.)		20,000
Cost of plantations for combating soil salinity		300,000
Cost of watershed planning		50,000
Rainwater catchment's materials, installation and maintenance	200 households/dwellings	240,000
Land cost / related land costs		180,000
EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION		<b>3,658,680</b>
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTION (IN-KIND)		<b>1,000,000</b>
UNCCD Program support cost		<b>216,628</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4,875,308</b>

## Summary Proposal

### For the establishment of an environmental rehabilitation program With the participation of youth in the Caribbean Island States

1. Participating Countries: 16 countries as follows: Eastern Caribbean states: Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and St Vincent & the Grenadines) plus Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago
2. Sector: Environment, education, agriculture and forestry
3. Total estimated Cost: USD 4,875,308
4. Expected sources of Funding:
  - Venezuela
  - Participating countries
  - Other expected supporters include: Spain, UNDP / UNV, WFP, FAO
5. Duration: 3 years
6. Coordinating Agency: The Ministries in charge of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) and other sustainable development international treaties, as detailed in annex I. Coordination TBA, in synergies with ongoing projects on land degradation in the Caribbean.
7. Collaborating Agencies: Participating Governments agencies, environment and training related non-governmental organizations.

ANNEX Y<sup>1</sup>

1. Los países participantes en el proyecto superan la denominación geográfica de Caribe Oriental.
2. Adolece de la especificidad que se requiere ante la diversidad de condiciones de los países del Caribe. Por ejemplo, resulta inadecuado proponer cantidades de áreas a reforestar comunes para todos los países del Caribe, sin tener en cuenta el patrimonio del cual disponen.
3. Incongruencia entre los objetivos y los objetivos específicos. Se debe identificar claramente el problema a resolver en cada país, el resultado que se espera del proyecto en cada caso y hacerlo coincidir con los objetivos.
4. Insuficiente argumentación del papel de los jóvenes en la rehabilitación del ambiente. Se mencionan jóvenes de entre 15 y 25 años sin especificar de qué cantidad aproximada de personas estamos hablando en cada condición de los países y ecosistemas propuestos, lo que impide precisar el alcance de la acción.
5. La rehabilitación del ambiente, vista en su naturaleza más abarcadora, no está representada en las acciones del Programa. Sólo una parte del mismo tendrá cabida en dichas acciones, dado también por el carácter de mediano-largo plazos que implica la rehabilitación. Un proyecto como el que se presenta, con duración de tres años, no podrá alcanzar metas de rehabilitación.
6. No podemos apoyar la aseveración que se hace en el pie de nota 4 (página 7), acerca de la atención particular a la salinidad de los suelos. Habría que tener en cuenta este factor en las islas llanas, no así en las islas con determinada pendiente en las cuales la erosión señorea. Algunas de ellas, tienen ambos factores degradativos y por tanto, ambos procesos.
7. Es necesario ajustar los antecedentes y lo tratado en el contexto nacional y regional con los elementos que resultan preponderantes en las islas. Un ejemplo de ello son las prioridades de los Gobiernos - en su mayoría dirigidas a los temas de turismo e infraestructura y en muy pocos casos al tema ambiental y en particular la lucha contra la Desertificación y la Sequía. Traer a colación el tema de la marihuana, cuya siembra es limitada y es un tema vinculado a la religión, es desviar la atención del verdadero flagelo.
8. El tema financiamiento requiere de análisis detallado. Es imprescindible sopesar y lograr un balance entre las acciones concretas en campo y el financiamiento destinado a gastos administrativos. Los acápites previstos para pago de personal deben constituir contribuciones de los países receptores y sus correspondientes montos deben ser asignados a acciones en el campo. En el caso de Cuba no existirá sueldo alguno por

concepto de salario a través del proyecto - todo el personal involucrado será contribución de país. Debe quedar claramente establecida la distribución por países del equipamiento previsto en la tabla de la página 16, haciéndolo coincidir con los objetivos específicos. Asimismo deberá quedar claro el objetivo de la capacitación en los diferentes países. Se deberá precisar la naturaleza de la contribución de la UNCCD.

9. No se define la estructura institucional del programa, su composición, las modalidades de trabajo y coordinación. No se identifica vínculo ni sinergia con el trabajo de la “Task Force del Caribe” y el Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional para el Desarrollo Sostenible en el Caribe. Se deberá evitar la creación de estructuras que dupliquen los mecanismos de coordinación existentes en la subregión.

### **Sobre el papel de Cuba:**

- a) Es prematuro reflejar al futuro “Centro de Las Tunas” como un ejemplo concreto (pie de nota 1, página 5), pues aún no existe. Resulta prematuro, además, proponer un nombre como “Batalla de Santa Inés” sin consulta previa con el país sede.
- b) En el caso de Cuba, no se aceptarán fondos provenientes de fuentes gubernamentales de países miembros de la Unión Europea, sólo de ONGs de estos países previo acuerdo de nuestro gobierno. En el caso de España, no tenemos problemas para la recepción de recursos provenientes del País Vasco específicamente, para lo cual designamos el correspondiente punto focal el 15/9/2005.
- c) No queda claro el papel de Cuba en los demás aspectos fuera del contexto del Centro de capacitación en Las Tunas. Nos encontramos elaborando en detalle las contribuciones de nuestro país y las necesidades dentro del proyecto para la función prevista, con la revisión de los montos propuestos en el desglose del Presupuesto. El Centro de Las Tunas deberá contar con un área demostrativa para la capacitación. Estas consideraciones le serán enviadas próximamente.

Sobre la base de estas consideraciones preliminares estamos en presencia de un documento que, aunque conocido, está insuficientemente trabajado y consensuado por los países participantes. La propuesta no ha sido aún negociada ni acordada, fase previa que resulta imprescindible para su lanzamiento.

Adicionalmente, desde el punto de vista técnico es de gran interés propiciar un intercambio que permita modificar el documento sobre la base de informaciones más amplias y objetivas.

A tales efectos consideramos necesario, y así lo hemos propuesto, sostener una reunión con representantes de los países involucrados para el análisis y aprobación de esta propuesta.

**II. Propuesta de la Secretaría de lanzamiento de dicho Programa en Las Tunas, junto a la celebración y promoción del “Año internacional de los Desiertos y de la Desertificación (IYDD)” en la subregión los días 8 y 9 de mayo de 2006.**

- i. Coincidimos con la sugerencia de realizar la celebración en la subregión del **“Año internacional de los Desiertos y de la Desertificación (IYDD)”** en Las Tunas los días 8 ó 9 de mayo de 2006. Para este fin nos encontramos completando el documento de presupuesto remitido por la Secretaría.
- ii. Proponemos que, sobre la base de las observaciones a la propuesta de Programa expuestas anteriormente, en lugar del lanzamiento del Programa se aproveche el encuentro en las Tunas para realizar la reunión de los representantes de los países participantes para la negociación de la propuesta de Programa.
- iii. Ambas actividades deberán contar con interpretación al español.

<sup>1</sup>This annex is an official submission from Cuba as regards its proposals for changes to draft 8 of the project. The LAC Unit having studied the same realised that because of the nature these proposal it would be best for countries to determine the ways of concretising the same. These proposals have not be changed or modified in anyway whatsoever but have been attached in their original form and content (we apologise to the English speaking countries in that we only received a Spanish version).

## ANNEX Y

This is summary of comments on the project proposal, made during an informal meeting on the sides of the COP on October 20, 2005. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD reported on the status of development of the proposal to Caribbean NFPs attending the COP.

Participating National Focal Points and country representatives including NGOs:

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Alan Joseph            | Grenada,                         |
| 2. Andrew Bishop          | Guyana,                          |
| 3. Congit Gabriel         | Dominica,                        |
| 4. Edmund Jackson         | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 5. Ernesto Reyna          | Dominican Republic,              |
| 6. Gisela Alonso          | Cuba,                            |
| 7. Kenneth Roach          | Trinidad and Tobago,             |
| 8. Lorraine Cox           | The Bahamas,                     |
| 9. Michael Andrew         | Saint Lucia,                     |
| 10. Ms. Jia               | China                            |
| 11. Philbert Brown        | Jamaica,                         |
| 12. Saint Kitts and Nevis | Patrick Williams,                |
| 13. Zakiya Uzoma          | NGO (Riod)                       |

UNCCD Secretariat:

14. Hama Arba Diallo
15. Sergio A. Zelaya
16. Richard Cox
17. Heitor Matallo

The participants unanimously agreed that the proposal was necessary for the implementation of the UNCCD in the sub-region, and that it was a good idea to include all Caribbean countries as well as the issues put forward in their respective National Action Programs. The level of development of the proposal was deemed as a pleasant surprise (Dominican Republic) and that it would address similar problems in countries of the sub-region (Cuba).

Other comments were made regarding:

1. Concrete support to youth groups and clubs (Guyana, T&T, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia),
2. Technology transfer, adaptation and training (T&T, China, Guyana, Saint Vincent, Cuba),
3. South-south cooperation and integration (Dominican Republic, Cuba, Dominica),
4. Agriculture, forestry, agro-forestry and land use planning (Guyana, RIOD, Saint Kitts, Jamaica, Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Cuba),
5. Reconstruction / rehabilitation (Grenada, Dominican Republic),

6. Role of government and institutions (Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent, Dominican Republic),
7. Trade and commerce (Bahamas, Dominican Republic),
8. Funding issues Small Grants Program among others (Saint Vincent, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Dominican Republic).