

ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES OECS AID COORDINATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (OECS ACE)

The OECS has concluded that greater sub-regional collaboration supported by improved aid coordination is essential to combat their economic and social vulnerability. This conclusion is further reinforced by the Member States who, in April 2001, signed the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS. Through this Declaration and the OECS Environmental Management Strategy, the Member States have agreed to a set of priorities necessary for ensuring sustainable development and sound environmental management in the sub-region. The Declaration also provides a framework for channelling development assistance in a rational and consolidated manner and within a sector wide approach.

Terms of Reference

Objectives of ACE

1. To coordinate aid for environmental management and sustainable development in the OECS sub-region,
2. To ensure that development assistance for environment and sustainable development initiatives is rationalised and reflects the principles enshrined in the "St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability of the OECS"; and
3. To promote selectivity or targeting of assistance so that environmental and sustainable development initiatives are mainstreamed into the sub-region's development agenda.

Composition of ACE

The membership of ACE includes staff of the OECS Secretariat, particularly staff of NMRU, and all development agencies involved in environmental management and sustainable development. Without being prejudiced by the possible inclusion of additional members, the present development agencies who are members of ACE include CIDA, DFID, EU, USAID, UNDP, CDB, AFD, WB, OAS, IDB, GTZ, JICA AND UNEP.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the OECS Secretariat is to take the lead role in coordinating meetings of OECS ACE and in preparing documentation summarising decisions and proceeding at OECS ACE meetings

In coordinating meetings of OECS ACE and distributing documentation arising from such meetings, the OECS Secretariat will liaise with the Chair of the Eastern Caribbean Environmental Donors Group

Scope of Services

The services to be undertaken by ACE include the following:

1. Meet regularly with the OECS Secretariat, represented by the NRMU, to review the status of implementation of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS through the OECS Environmental Management Strategy, which provides the framework for a sector wide approach to programming assistance;
2. Meet regularly in St. Lucia or Barbados on an as needed basis to review progress on the portfolio of donor-assisted projects on environmental management and sustainable development, being implemented in the OECS region;
3. Establish a forum for dialogue between the donor community and the OECS Secretariat on environmental management issues to ensure that there is greater synergy with the OECS regional developmental goals; and
4. Establish and monitor a database of all multilateral and bilateral assistance for environmental management and sustainable development in the context of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS.