

Consultation Background

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) has been pursuing the Caribbean Sea Initiative since 1998 through the promotion of the UN Resolution 'Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations' at the UN General Assembly. An outcome of this process was the establishment of the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) in 2008 as a body to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. Since its establishment the ACS and CSC have been working towards developing appropriate structures and arrangements for the work of the CSC.

The CSC comprises a number of national representatives and expert members. It reports directly to the ACS Council of Ministers. Barbados is the current Chair of the CSC and Guatemala is Vice Chair. The operation of the CSC is supported by three Sub-commissions:

- Scientific and Technical Subcommission;
- Governance, Outreach and Public Information Subcommission;
- Legal Subcommission.

The key function of the Subcommissions is to acquire and synthesize of information relevant to ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean Region (ACS region) and based on this to provide policy advice to the CSC for review and onward communication to the Council of Ministers.

The current challenge is to develop and operationalise the mechanism by which (1) the Sub-commissions will be able to fulfill their function, and (2) the CSC proper will review the information provided, transform it into advice for the ACS Council and facilitate feedback from the council through the Sub-commissions to stakeholders in the region.

The next steps are to operationalise these arrangements. This is envisaged as being initiated through a first phase of four years duration with a focus on living marine resources of the Wider Caribbean Region, including their linkages with productive sectors such as fisheries and tourism, and with reference to the threats posed by climate change.

The Expert Consultation on 'Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission - Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean,' is being held to carry forward the process of establishing the CSC and its functions.



The Association of Caribbean States and the Caribbean Sea Commission

present the

Opening Ceremony

for the

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON OPERATIONALISATION OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION

'Building a science-policy interface for ocean
governance in the Wider Caribbean'

The University of the West Indies

Cave Hill Campus

July 7, 2010

9:00 –10:00 am





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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

PROGRAMME

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Eudine Barribeau

Professor of Gender and Public Policy
and Deputy Principal, University of the West Indies, Cave
Hill Campus

OPENING REMARKS

Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Falla

Secretary General of the Association of
Caribbean States (ACS)

MESSAGE

Dr. Angela Cropper

Deputy Executive Director, United Nation Environment Pro-
gram (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya

REMARKS

Ambassador Mikko Pyhälä

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland and Representative for
Finland to CARICOM and the OECS

REMARKS

Hon. Christopher Sinckler

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

CLOSING

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Robin Mahon

Professor of Marine Affairs and Director of CERMES,
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus