



INAUGURAL COOPERATION CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

Palacio de las Convenciones,
Ambassadors' Hall, Habana
Libre Hotel,
March 8th, 2017

Table of Contents

04 INTRODUCTION	18 Directorate of Trade Programme
05 INAUGURAL COOPERATION CONFERENCE	19 FOCAHIMECA
	20 TIM
	21 ACS BUSINESS TRAVEL CARD
06 SECRETARY GENERAL'S WELCOME	22 Sustainable Tourism
	23 Education and capacity building in Tourism for the Greater Caribbean
08 ANNOTATED AGENDA	24 Handicrafts: Cultural element that links tourism and the communities
11 OUR PROJECTS	25 Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean (STZC) Sustainability Certification
12 CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME	
14 Transport Projects	26 Disaster Risk Reduction
15 Maps of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean	27 PITCA
16 Senior Port Management Course	28 Greening the Disaster Response
17 Greater Caribbean Port and Maritime Strategy	

Introduction

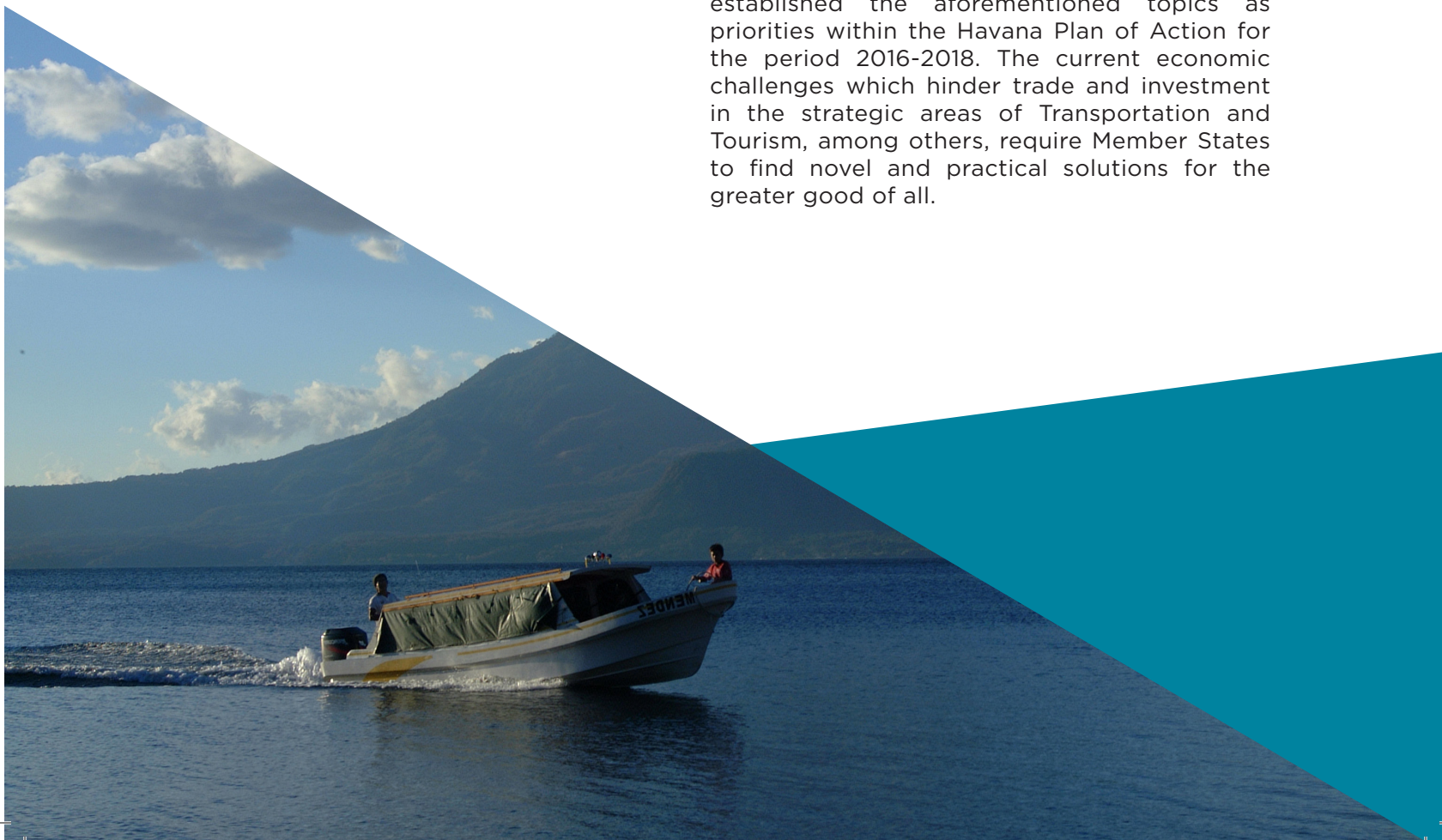
The Caribbean Basin offers a wide range of opportunities for cooperation and trade on a global scale, given its unique geographical position and natural features. The region has abundant marine, energy and natural resources, and is a global biodiversity hotspot. The region serves as a major link connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans by way of the Panama Canal, and links North and South America. In spite of its numerous advantages and endowments however, trade, investment and cooperation in this region are yet to be optimised.

In this regard however, the Association of Caribbean States is well aware of its role in its 23rd year of existence. It is undergoing a process of revitalisation, seeking new modalities of work that will strengthen and develop relations between its members and its partners.

Currently, the ACS has 24 observer countries from across the Americas, Europe and Asia. Furthermore, it maintains relations with four observer organisations, and six founding observers. Additionally, the ACS interacts with a number of agencies and social actors.

Over time, the ACS has developed and diversified the thematic axes around which cooperative relations among member states are focused. The original areas of Transportation, Sustainable Tourism, and Trade have been supplemented by Disaster Risk Reduction and the fight against Climate Change. This is an indication of the increased importance given to these issues by our governments, all of which have severe negative impacts on the Caribbean.

At the VII ACS summit held in Havana on June 4th 2016, Heads of State and Government established the aforementioned topics as priorities within the Havana Plan of Action for the period 2016-2018. The current economic challenges which hinder trade and investment in the strategic areas of Transportation and Tourism, among others, require Member States to find novel and practical solutions for the greater good of all.



Inaugural Cooperation Conference

In order to provide information on the state of cooperation programmes developed by the ACS, and in turn, to mobilise resources for current and proposed projects aligned with the above-outlined thematic axes, the Cuban Presidency of the ACS Ministerial Council, together with the ACS Secretariat, has decided to convene the First ACS Caribbean Cooperation Conference.

Originally, this conference was conceived to encourage more meaningful participation of observer countries and entities within the ACS. The meeting has now been opened to specially invited countries, international organizations, United Nations Funds, Programmes and Agencies, as these actors contribute significantly to work in the areas covered by this conference, and to good relations within the Caribbean.

The organizers of this Inaugural Cooperation Conference hope that this event will be added to the routine activities of the ACS, so that annual meetings are held to promote the necessary alliances amongst governments, scientists, financial institutions, for the improvement of the scientific, technical, cultural and economic capacities for regional sustainable development.





Secretary General's Welcome Dr. June Soomer

It is my pleasure to bid you all a warm welcome to this the Inaugural Cooperation Conference of the Association of Caribbean States.

In its 23 years of existence, the ACS has been fortunate to sit at the table at the bilateral and multilateral level with many of you to plan and make critical development projects a reality. Cooperation is one of the very *raison d'être* for the creation of the ACS.

The Inaugural Cooperation Conference of the ACS will become the space to strengthen old alliances and commence building new networks. At its inception the ACS is founded on the nucleus that is the Caribbean Sea. We have to put the Caribbean Sea back at the heart of the ACS. Our reliance on this resource is not only important to us collectively on a macro-regional level, but to each individual member state and the millions of coastal peoples who create livelihoods from this seascape.

The opportunities for regional cooperation centred on the Caribbean Sea are even more important when the impacts and risks of Climate Change are taken into account. Climate change directly impinges on tourism, the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, transport, and trade environments. We are convinced that results driven cooperation to protect it will not

only ensure the physical and cultural integrity of our Caribbean Sea but also our Caribbean Civilisation.

This beautiful dossier of projects gives insight into ACS projects in each of these areas, and it is our hope and expectation that, in the coming weeks, we will be able to meet again with you to discuss in greater detail how best to move these projects from the planning to the implementation phase, leaving of course space to improve and enhance project concepts in order to effectively attain the objectives identified in them.

There you will find details on Increasing the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations in the Greater Caribbean through the Implementation of Sustainable Tourism Certification; on Trade Capacity Building and Knowledge Enhancement for the ACS Member States and Associate Members, and a number of other exciting and pertinent projects.

Of interest is the fact that going forward we have insisted that all projects include a gender and youth mainstreaming component, a job creation component, a communication component and an institutional strengthening dimension so that we produce results that last, that are sustainable. We must have an impact on the least of our citizenry.

Our ACS - this coming together of disparate groups of nation-states and divergent power resources has survived 23 years because both the larger and smaller members of our family have played important roles in our Association. We have survived because our partners have listened carefully and responded to the internal dynamic of the ACS in kind- with both helping hands and principled support.

Creative financing, creative project design, creative partnerships for development are all part and parcel of the new age of cooperation in which all countries and regions find themselves at this time. This inaugural conference is the space for us to explore creative, collaborative options together.

Come let us reason together as has been our practice, and let us produce together as is our aspiration.



Annotated Agenda

9:00-9:30	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by Vice Minister of the Ministry of External Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba (MINCEX), Ms. Ileana Núñez Mordoche. Remarks by Secretary-General of the ACS, H.E. Dr. June Soomer.
9:30-9:40	Presentation of the ACS Programme for Combatting the Impacts of Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by Vice Minister of the Cuban Ministry for Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA), José Fidel Santana Núñez.
9:40-9:50	Presentation of the Project “Impact Assessment of Climate Change on the Sandy Shorelines of the Caribbean: Alternatives for its control”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenter: Dr. José Luis Juanes, Institute of Oceanography.
9:50-10:00	Presentation of the Project “Mitigation of the Effects of Climate change on Caribbean Coral Reefs - Cultivation and propagation of petrous coral and long-spine sea urchins for coral restoration”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenter: MsC. Hansel Caballero, National Aquarium
10:00-10:10	Presentation of the Project “Building Capacity to manage sargassum seaweed influx”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenter: Institute of Marine Science of the Environmental Agency
10:10-10:20	Presentation of the Project “Building Capacity to manage the influx of Invasive Exotic Species”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenter: National Centre for Protected Areas.
10:20-10:50	 Interactive Question and Answer Session on the Projects relating to the Programme: Addressing the Impact of Climate Change in the Caribbean.
10:50-11:10	 COFFEE BREAK
11:10-11:20	Presentation of the ACS Transport Programme: “Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Pedro Suárez (MITRANS) and Arturo López Portillo, Director for Transport , ACS Secretariat

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

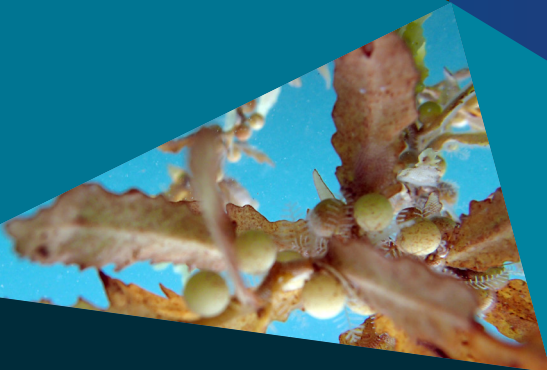
INAUGURAL COOPERATION CONFERENCE OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

Palacio de las Convenciones, Havana, Republic of Cuba: March 8th, 2017

11:20-11:30	Presentation of the Project “Maps of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenters: Pedro Suárez (MITRANS), Central American Commission for Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), and the Maritime Authority of Panama (AMP).
11:30-11:40	Presentation of the Project “Port and Maritime Strategy for the Greater Caribbean” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter: Pedro Suárez (MITRANS)
11:40-11:50	Presentation of the Project “Short Distance Maritime Transport”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter: Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).
11:50-12:20	 Interactive Question and Answer Session on the Projects relating to the Transport Programme.
12:20-12:30	Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Minister of the Ministry of External Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba (MINCEX), Ms. Ileana Núñez Mordoche. • Closing Remarks by Secretary-General of the ACS, Dr. June Soomer



Our Projects



Impact of climate change on the sandy coasts of the Caribbean: Alternatives for its control.

Project Overview

Beaches constitute the main natural resource for tourism development in Greater Caribbean countries. In the specific case of the small island states, tourism represents on average 25% of the GDP and its growth rate is the highest among all the branches of the economy. However, at the same time that there is accelerated tourism growth, there are erosion processes taking place with greater frequency on the coasts and beaches of the Caribbean, causing severe damage in coastal communities and hotel facilities, leading to the environmental deterioration of the coast and significant economic consequences.

The Report “Diagnosis of the Erosion Processes in the Caribbean Sandy Beaches” (UNEP-GPA, 2003) demonstrates the generalised nature of the phenomenon in the Greater Caribbean. It identifies the effects of climate change as one of its causes, although it recognises the need to design and establish a system for monitoring the erosion process in the region that would allow for a more precise measurement of the scope of the impact of climate change.

Taking into account the different factors that affect beach erosion, actions to control this situation require not only scientific research to adequately explain the phenomenon, but also the implementation of regulations and laws to ensure the proper management of the coastal zone and appropriate engineering techniques for its recovery and protection.

During the 1st Symposium of the Caribbean Sea Commission: “Challenges, Dialogue and Cooperation toward the Sustainability of the Caribbean Sea”, organised by the ACS and convened on November 23-24, 2015, in Port of Spain, the issue of coastal erosion was identified as a topic that requires priority attention in the regional effort to achieve the development of sustainable and competitive tourism, especially in island states.

This project seeks to contribute to the sustainable use of the beaches of the Caribbean, focussing on the deepening of knowledge on the causes of erosion, as well as the application of more suitable adaptation measures to avoid or minimise the negative impact of human actions and address the effects of climate change. The project also establishes the formulation of executive beach restoration projects in coastal sectors of greater economic and social interest in the island states most threatened by this phenomenon.

Mitigation of the effects of climate change on the coral reefs of the Caribbean: cultivation and propagation of stony corals and black urchins for reef restoration.

Project Overview

The continuous warming of the ocean is expected to lead to increased frequency of coral bleaching events, diseases, ocean acidification and more hurricanes and storms of greater intensity, resulting in mortality in coral reef ecosystems. The effects of climate change can be particularly negative for the corals of the Caribbean that are already subject to considerable stress due to manmade impacts such as overfishing, pollution and the runoff from coastal developments.

The scientific community's current alternatives to counteract this adverse situation include the initiative to restore reefs through fragments of coral colonies, multiplied in “farms” or “nurseries” and subsequently

“planted” at the degraded sites. The implementation of this activity at Caribbean sites is the primary objective of this project. Restoration is no more than a series of human actions to manipulate coral reef habitats, successfully taking advantage of the asexual reproduction capacity of corals. Corals produce a large number of eggs or larvae, most of which do not survive in nature, however, these can be collected and cultivated artificially, considerably reducing mortality percentages, and then subsequently planted at degraded sites.

To accomplish this it is necessary to equip laboratories and aquariums in Caribbean countries with the infrastructure required, which once installed, will be the platform for the process of growing coral colonies. The idea of this project is to achieve this process in a regional and integrated manner, supporting actions for climate change adaptation in the area and together restoring the coral reefs of the Caribbean, which present great interconnectivity among them. As a result, some coral sites will benefit from this, allowing for the overall enhancement of the health of marine ecosystems Caribbean area.



Contribution to controlling the *Sargassum* in Caribbean Sea coasts by studying its potential uses

Project Overview

In recent years, there has been an abundance of pelagic species of *Sargassum* arriving on the coasts of different Caribbean islands. This phenomenon has led to: the covering of beaches (with consequences for tourism development), the putrefaction of the *Sargassum* biomass (with the resulting production of hydrogen sulphide), a change in the colouration of coastal zones, a reduction in fishing activity, among other things. This has garnered the attention of professionals in the field of science and technology in the Caribbean Sea, with everyone asking the same questions: Is it possible to stop the negative impact made by the *Sargassum* on the islands of the Caribbean?

Moreover, considering that the biodiversity of seaweed species, coupled with their chemical diversity, constitutes a virtually unlimited resource that can be used for the benefit of man, the negative effects of the *Sargassum*, which is a problem to be resolved for the region, could prove beneficial following the search for solutions with a socioeconomic benefit based on the sustainable use and management of this natural resource.

Therefore, this project proposal consisting of four components to be developed within a three-year period, seeks to evaluate the bioactive potentialities of the *Sargassum* species arriving on the coasts of the Caribbean, with a view to improving the wellbeing of the region, as well as helping to extend the scope of the results of this case study to the remaining Caribbean islands affected by the seaweed and increasing the environmental education of the local communities of the zones affected, based on the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources.

Assessment of the effects of Climate Change on biological diversity, natural ecosystems and the dispersion of Invasive Exotic Species in selected areas.

Project Overview

It has been recognised internationally that climate change will produce irreversible consequences for biodiversity, which is already threatened on multiple fronts: habitat destruction, pollution, overexploitation of species, inadequate ecosystem management and with emphasis on the introduction of invasive exotic species. Today, climate change represents an additional threat for ecosystems, which could end up being as detrimental as all the others combined.

With the gathering of information according to the environmental, ecological and climate conditions of the sites selected, based on specific criteria, a general assessment could be formulated for each site. This information will serve as the baseline for establishing a monitoring network in Caribbean countries to evaluate the possible effects of Climate Change on the spread of invasive species, which will allow measures to be formulated to protect and restore ecosystems through the proper use of their natural resources toward their sustainable use.

In order to develop the project, it is imperative to develop the capabilities of the stakeholders to evaluate, monitor, mitigate and adapt to the effects of Climate Change, and be in a position to contribute to environmental training for communities, so as to raise the risk perception on these issues and their interaction with local biodiversity throughout the Caribbean region.

Transport Projects

About the Directorate



The Directorate for Transport of the Association of Caribbean States is charged with the facilitation of cooperation among members on the issues of transport and connectivity within the Greater Caribbean. The Directorate is guided by its Work Programme - emphasis is on “Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea”. These projects represent significant contributions to this work programme.

For more information on the work of the Directorate please contact the Director of Transport/Disaster Risk Reduction Arturo López-Portillo Contreras at alopez@acs-aec.org or tel.: 1-868-622-9575 ext. 243.

In an effort to increase efficiencies and competitiveness in port and maritime facilities, the Map of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean project, currently in its third phase, is addressing the need to display the maritime transport services which exist in the form of an interactive map. The web-based application, which is updated weekly, identifies shipping capacity in the region. These include ports of call, agents in each country, capacity of fleet, and availability of specialized services such as refrigerated containers. The tool is being administered by the Central American Commission for Transport (COCATRAM) and was developed at a total cost of approximately US \$200,000.00 (over 3 years) with financing from Turkey, South Korea and Mexico. The project database currently has information

for 42 countries and 100 ports. A new feature of the project tool allows the user to see the exchange of imports and exports between 25 countries of the Greater Caribbean Region (GCR). Furthermore, an additional interface will be available soon that will allow users to view the routes and schedule of ferries and cruise ships in the region. The project “Maps of Maritime Routes” is an on-going one and is in need of additional funding to the tune of USD \$100,000 in order to continue providing an up to date information database to the region’s maritime stakeholders. The finances for Phase 4 will cover the following:

- a) Buying of software that would allow for the timely updating of the map
- b) The retaining of a team of consultants to develop the project further, with responsibility for research, data collection and analysis of information on the various existing maritime transport services, itineraries, frequencies and agents representing the different companies in the major maritime markets as well as the presentation of the map and its timely updates.

The finances for Phase 5 (USD \$50,000) will fund a communications component which will publicize the tool in order to maximize its reach and usage.

Maps of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean

Start year

2011-Present

Duration

Ongoing

Overall Objective

Create an updated, clearly defined map of the primary maritime routes that exist in the Greater Caribbean, which will enable exporters, importers, buyers or sellers, to know when, how, with whom and under what conditions they can move their goods.

Specific Objectives

1. Increase intra-regional maritime trade and facilitate overseas linkages to the regional port systems.
2. Determine if regional maritime transport needs are being met by the transport conditions of the different companies that are in operation.

Justification

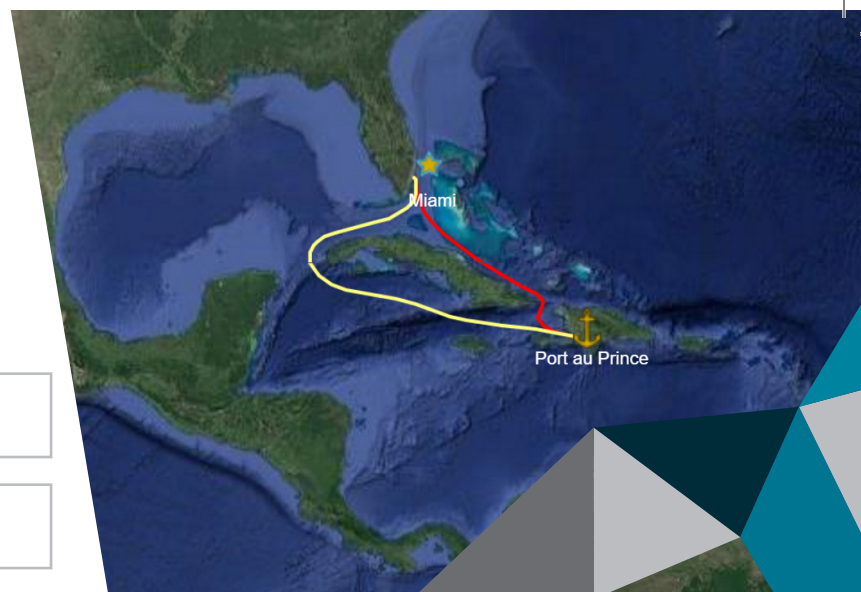
The project will assess the reality of maritime services in the Caribbean region and will create an opportunity to identify the need for any new routes to be created under transport conditions which truly meet the economic expectations and opportunities of ACS member states.

Connected SDGs

- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
 - 17. Partnership for the Goals
- Target 9.1
- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

Connected National/ regional Action plans

- CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019
- ECLAC (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) has a specific unit dedicated to the analysis of sustainable transport



ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/

Plan of Action of Havana:

3.1 Maps of Greater Maps of Greater Caribbean Maritime Routes. Implementing Phases IV and V of Maps of Greater Caribbean Maritime Routes to show the existing regular container line maritime transport services, their frequency and the locations of different shipping line agents by ports-of-call found on the interactive map posted on the ACS, COCATRAM and Maritime Authority of Panama (AMP) regularly updated webpages.

Components

Expected Results:

- The maintenance of a trustworthy database that depicts existing maritime services which exist, their frequency and where the different agents of the shipping lines can be found;
- Better access to information on shipping services in the region;
- Availability of better tools for shippers and port agencies

Phase 6

- **The project has now entered phase 6 which includes;**
- **Development of Software**
- **Development of Database**
- **Information gathering for liquid and grain (TRAMP) related transportation in the Caribbean**

Estimated cost: Phase 6- USD 150,000

Additional Communications Component

Communications component to publicize the tool in order to maximize its reach and usage.

Estimated cost: USD \$50,000



Senior Port Management Course

Start year

2017

Duration

24 months

Overall Objective

To build competency among senior port managers of small ports in key thematic areas relevant to the region related to Security, Maritime Law, Maritime Trends and Planning.

Specific Objectives

- Increased competencies in port operations managements; logistics efficiency and trade development
- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of best practices in the field of maritime transport.
- Facilitate enhanced compliance with global maritime safety and environmental standards.

Justification

Training in areas concerning maritime and port security and port management are considered to be critical for improving regional port development and maintaining competitiveness within the Greater Caribbean Region.

Connected SDGs

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
17. Partnership for the Goals

Connected National/ regional Action plans

- CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019
- ECLAC (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) has a specific unit dedicated to the analysis of sustainable transport.

Connected ACS action plan/declaration item

Plan of Action of Havana

3.2.1 The Senior Port Management Course

In keeping with the findings of the Port and Maritime Strategy Study which established capacity-building at the senior level especially in Tier III ports, the project will include running training activities in key identified areas following consultation with regional port authorities.

Components

To hold 4 modules in workshop format with over a two year period at the ACS Secretariat in Port of Spain

To award participants with a certificate upon successful completion of the training programme.

Estimated Cost: \$200,000 (over two year period)

Non-financial needs

Purchase of software, hiring of expertise

The Greater Caribbean Port and Maritime Strategy

Start year

2017

Duration

36 months

Overall Objective

To support the modernisation, standardisation and rationalisation of relevant maritime transport policies and infrastructure necessary to enhance trade by defining strategic actions that will guide maritime port development in the Greater Caribbean.

Specific Objectives

- Adjust the legal framework that regulates and organises maritime transport in beneficiary countries in line with international maritime law, and relevant IMO conventions;
- Propose measures aimed at eliminating obstacles and facilitating the development of logistics chains from the moment products leave factories until they arrive at consumption centres;
- Support the implementation and coordination of development plans and strategies in the maritime sector, by facilitating exchange amongst the competent regional institutions such as the ACS, CARICOM and COCATRAM

Justification

The maritime and port infrastructure challenges directly affecting international connectivity and trade in the region call for an adaptation of the policies and infrastructure that currently exist in this sector. The promotion of regional cooperation mechanisms in the area of transport will enhance maritime competitiveness and guarantee sustained maritime port development.

Connected SDGs

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
17. Partnership for the Goals

Target 9.1.

- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.



Connected National/ regional Action plans

- CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019
- ECLAC (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) has a specific unit dedicated to the analysis of sustainable transport

Connected ACS action plan/declaration item

Plan of Action of Petion Ville:

3.3 The Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean. To create a strategic plan for the maritime port development of the Greater Caribbean, this would allow the establishment of the order of priority of the actions to be developed, in order to have a competitive maritime sector and one that is capable of satisfying the foreign trade needs of the Greater Caribbean.

Plan of Action of Havana:

3.2 The Greater Caribbean Port and Maritime Strategy Putting - to have a competitive sector that is capable of meeting the region's foreign trade needs, which could efficiently sustain the increased traffic expected to result from, among other things, the expansion of the Panama Canal in 2016.

Components

- A) Formulation of the Regional Assessment**
Estimated Cost: \$170,000
- B) Validation of the Regional Assessment**
Estimated Cost: \$150,000
- C) Proposal on National and Regional Strategies**
Estimated Cost: \$150,000
- D) Validation of the Strategy**
Estimated Cost: \$42,000
- E) Final Presentation of the Strategy**
Estimated Cost: \$210,000

Total Cost: USD \$722,000

Directorate of Trade

About the Directorate



The Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations fosters cooperation and integration by uniting the efforts of ACS Member States and Associate Members to build and consolidate an enhanced economic space for trade and investment in the Greater Caribbean.

For more information on the work of the Directorate please contact the Director of Trade Development and External Economic Relations Alberto Duran Espaillat at adruan@acs-aec.org or tel.: 1-868-622-5731 ext. 225.



Strengthening of Hydrographic Capacities in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (FOCAHIMECA) - PHASE C

NOTE:

This is an ongoing project. It is the 2nd component of the Short Distance Maritime Transport Project (In Spanish: TMCD)

Two components: a trade database and Phases A & B of FOCAHIMECA have already been completed. Funding to the value of US\$2,000,000.00 is being sought to complete Phase C and close the project.

Start year

January 2016

Duration

24 months

Overall Objective

Improving hydrography (marine surveying and charting) capacities in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean through the standardization of the nautical cartography that will enhance the development of economic and maritime area and guarantee the safety of maritime navigation.

Specific Objectives

- To create and/or to boost hydrographic capacities in the countries and territories of Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.
- To ensure the safety of merchant and tourism ships between ports
- To create and/or increase the efficiency of the shipping lanes and port infrastructure

Justification

Hydrography gives sustenance to the “Blue Economy”, involving activities such as: energy, maritime transport, telecommunications, tourism, fishing, meteorology, amongst others. Benefits of improved hydrographic capabilities include shorter routes, lower costs, higher efficiency and a reduced vulnerability to natural disasters.

Connected SDGs


SDG#4 Quality Education, SDG#8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG#9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG#16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions,
SDG#17 Partnerships for Goals

ACS Plan of Action 2016- 2018/ Declarations

Declaration of Havana Paragraph 14, 31 & 34
Declaration of Pétion-Ville Paragraphs 32-3

Components

Phase C Obtaining hydrographic information USD \$2,000,000.00



International Transit of Goods in the Greater Caribbean (TIM)

NOTE:

This is an on-going project. Component 1 has been completed and Component 2 is currently under way. Future funding is being sought for Components 3-4.

Start year

2015

Duration

On-going

Partner Countries/Institutions

Government of Mexico through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).ACS, IDB, as well as other international and regional organisations, specialists in trade facilitation and in customs procedures and regulations of ACS Member States.

Overall Objective

Examine, identify and implement common mechanisms to simplify and standardise customs structures and procedures, for the purpose of eliminating or reducing obstacles and challenges, thereby generating the facilitation of trade within the Greater Caribbean Region.

Specific Objectives

- Commence the process for interconnection among the customs systems of ACS Member States, through the technical capabilities of the TIM
- Promote integration in the Greater Caribbean, increasing the standardisation and mutual recognition of customs systems among Member States.

Justification

In order to increase trade facilitation and overall trade, it is necessary to take steps toward integrating the information systems of their Member States, increase cooperation and information exchange, as well as strengthen the trade facilitation and control schemes in the region.

Connected SDGs

SDG#9 Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation
SDG#17 Partnerships for Goals

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

Declaration of Havana Paragraph 14, 31 & 34
Declaration of Mérida Paragraph 12 (f), 14(d)
Declaration of Pétiön-Ville Paragraphs 32-36

Components

Component 3

Development of an International Transit of Goods Agreement for Trade and Customs Facilitation in the Greater Caribbean between the Member States

Component 4

Implementation of the Single Transit Document through the TIM information platform.

Total Cost USD \$ 2,000,000.00



ACS Business Travel Card (Pilot Project)

NOTE:

This pilot project is underway with the 3 countries (Colombia, Dominican Republic and Haiti) which expressed written interest to participate. The project remains open to all ACS Member States.

Start year

On-going

Duration

12 months

Overall Objective

To develop an ACS Business Travel Card Scheme to improve migration management for trade enhancement.

Specific Objectives

- To enhance a business environment that is focused on opening and facilitating trade and which encourages and promotes greater employment creation by supporting the identification and development of new areas/sectors of interest.

Justification

The issue of trade facilitation is important for the Member and Associate Member States of the Greater Caribbean Region. It involves the entire trade chain process, including all activities involved at all stages. Addressing this issue proves necessary if the mandate of the consolidation of an enhanced economic space for trade and investment is to be realized.

Connected SDGs

SDG#5 Gender Equality
SDG#8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG#9 Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation
SDG#17 Partnerships for Goals

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

Declaration of Havana Paragraph 14, 31 & 34
Declaration of Pétion-Ville Paragraphs 32-36

Components

Step 1: Consultation Process

(Assessment of visa/admission policies and travel security infrastructure)

Step 2: Designing the Model

(Co-design of the business card model and its operating procedures and its validation with the pilot countries and the business community)

Step 3: Building Infrastructure

Developing a set of recommendations on infrastructure development and capacity building needs to enable implementation

Total Costs USD \$500,000.00

Sustainable Tourism

About the Directorate




The Directorate of Sustainable Tourism mobilises the collective capacity of the Greater Caribbean to develop tourism sustainably in order to enhance the quality of life of the present and future generations.

Tourism constitutes the main economic activity for most countries of the Greater Caribbean and represents a significant factor in foreign exchange earnings and social development. Hence, the importance of its sustainability as the basis for cultural and environmental protection, and the improvement of the distribution of benefits derived from its development are crucial.

To achieve the establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean (STZC) as a geographically determined cultural, socio-economic and biologically rich and diverse unit, in which tourism development is based on the principles of sustainability, integration, co-operation and consensus.

For more information on the work of the Directorate please contact the Director of Sustainable Tourism Julio Orozco at jorzco@acs-aec.org or tel.: 1-868-622-5731 ext. 240.



Development of the Management System for the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Tourism in the Greater Caribbean

Duration

2 years

Overall Objective

To define, develop and subsequently implement the TVET Management System (based on the TVET Regional Framework) for the Tourism Sector in the Greater Caribbean.

Specific Objectives

1. Support standardization in the Tourism Sector in compliance with the established TVET Regional Framework for the priority areas defined in the regional diagnostic: customer service, foreign languages, sustainability and technology applicable to Tourism.
2. Deliver capacity building initiatives to enhance the labour competencies and productivity of tourism stakeholders through training and certification.

Justification

The implementation of the TVET Regional Framework through the management system will provide ACS Member States and Associate Members with the opportunity to apply a tool that addresses the educational needs of the Tourism Sector in the Greater Caribbean, while enhancing and monitoring the effectiveness of TVET.

Connected SDGs

#4 Quality education, #8 Decent work and economic growth, #9 industry, innovation and infrastructure, #17 Partnerships for the goals.

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

Item 1.2 Education and Capacity building in the tourism sector/ Declarations - Havana (paragraphs 31, 33, 34), Mérida (4, 15, 16), Pétion-Ville (2, 31)

Components

Component 1. Development of the TVET Management System for tourism in the Greater Caribbean (Designing of standards, methodology and implementation tools). Cost: USD 418,000.00

Component 2. Implementation of the TVET Management System for tourism in the Greater Caribbean (Regional workshops and creation of a database of skilled tourism professionals in the region). Cost: USD 170,000.00.

Component 3. Pilot projects and evaluation of results (in-country implementation of the system). Cost: USD 280,000.00

Contingency cost and ACS management commission (15% of direct cost) USD 130,200.00

Total Cost: USD 998,200.00

Strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Artisans Enterprises (SMEs) In the Tourism Sector

Duration

2 years

Overall Objective

To create awareness of the potential of the artisanal product and provide information, tools and strategies to improve the competitiveness and maximise the entrepreneurship opportunities generated by tourism for the artisans in the Region.

Specific Objectives

1. Highlight the importance of tourism as an engine for increased trade and the socio-economic development of women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
2. Through workshops, knowledge transfer and resources to increase the competitiveness and contribute to the promotion, adoption and implementation of capacity-building and entrepreneurial strengthening strategies for the development of MSMEs and artisans serving in the tourism industry.

Justification

The project will increase the competitiveness of the artisan sector of the Greater Caribbean, promoting respect for cultural heritage in ACS Countries, innovation and the use of local raw materials and based on information on the consumption patterns of the tourist market. This should facilitate access to new markets and improve promotion and marketing practices.

Connected SDGs

#4 Quality education, #8 Decent work and economic growth, #17 Partnerships for the goals.

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declaration

Item 1.3 Community-Based Tourism/Declarations: Havana (paragraphs 31, 33, 34), Mérida (4, 15, 16), Pétion-Ville (2, 31)

Components

Component 1. Strengthening of the Regional Network of Artisans of the Greater Caribbean

(Creation of an institutional framework, official launch, seed funding to formulate and initiate a Plan of Action to support the functioning and strengthening of the Network). Cost: USD 500,000.00

Component 2. Program and Training Materials

(Development of a Training Programme on product innovation, trends, colours marketing and advertising). Cost: USD 95,000.00.

Component 3. Launch of Training of Trainers and Mentoring Programme

(Sub-Regional Workshops for Training Regional Trainers). Cost: USD 150,000.00

Component 4. Development of National Capacity Building Exercises (Regional Workshops with ACS countries carried out by Regional Trainers). Cost: USD 200,000.00

Contingency cost and ACS management commission (15% of direct cost) USD 141,750.00

Total Cost: USD 1,086,750.00



Increasing the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations in the Greater Caribbean through the Implementation of Sustainable Tourism Certification

Duration

3 years

Overall Objective

To improve the competitiveness of tourism destinations in the Greater Caribbean by issuing certification based on the STZC indicators and criteria.

Specific Objectives

1. Implement a Certification programme based on sustainability that is measurable across the following dimensions: natural, cultural, social, economic and ethical.
2. Improve competitiveness in tourism destinations in the countries of the Greater Caribbean which will lead to more income for receiving communities.

Justification

The project will allow the ACS Countries that have proposed destinations for the ZTSC and have received the certificate of sustainability, to increase their comparative advantages, have access to differentiated market niches and substantially improve the profitability generated by tourism; a sector that is increasingly sophisticated and aware of the need to preserve the natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Connected SDGs

#6 Clean water and sanitation, #8 Decent work and economic growth, #11 Sustainable cities and communities, #12 Responsible consumption and production, #13 Climate Action, #14 Life below water, #15 Life on land, #17 Partnerships for the goals.

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

Item 1.1 Establishment and Consolidation of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean/ Declarations: Havana (paragraphs 31, 33, 34), Mérida (4, 15, 16), Pétion-Ville (2, 31)

Components

Component 1. Initial Preparation Process (Regional Gap Analysis, design of the methodology for the Certification, creation of the tools/communication and training materials). Cost: USD 1,654,000.00

Component 2. Implementation of the Certification Process Phase I (Progress verification, certification of the pilot group of countries, creation of destination marketing tools). Cost: USD 700,000.00.

Component 3. Implementation of the Certification Process Phase II (Progress verification, certification of the second group of countries, audit and recertification of pilot group, creation of destination marketing tools). Cost: USD 800,000.00

Contingency cost and ACS management commission (15% of direct cost) USD 473,100.00

Total Cost: USD 3,627,100.00

Disaster Risk Reduction

About the Directorate



The Directorate for Disaster Risk Reduction serves to foster co-operation among the organizations responsible for disaster planning and relief in the region. This allows for the, the sharing of knowledge on prevention, education and planning with respect to the effects of disasters and ultimately the prevention and mitigation of risks.

For more information on the work of the Directorate please contact the Director of Disaster Risk Reduction Arturo López-Portillo Contreras at alopez@acs-aec.org or tel.: 1-868-622-5731 ext. 243.



Caribbean Territorial Information Platform for Disaster Prevention

Start year

2017

Duration

39 months

Overall Objective

To establish a data platform to provide territorial geospatial information, from national and regional sources, with the aim of reducing disaster vulnerability in the region.

Specific Objectives

1. To exchange experiences and better practices concerning the generation, integration, and publication of geospatial information.
2. To support States in the acquisition of basic technical infrastructure for the development and operation of the platform.
3. To consolidate national information on inherent threats, vulnerabilities into a regional platform to facilitate, inter alia, the analysis of risks.

Justification

The Greater Caribbean is one of the world's most exposed and vulnerable regions to natural disasters, due to its insular nature and the economic and social vulnerability of the majority of countries that comprise it. Consequently, it is important to generate platforms for dialogue and exchange of experiences in order to identify opportunities to reduce the impact of various phenomena, natural ones as well as anthropogenic ones.

Connected SDGs

1. No Poverty
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
13. Climate Action
17. Partnerships for the Goals

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

Declaration of Havana, Association of Caribbean States 7th Summit of Heads of State and/or Governments, Havana, Cuba June 4, 2016., 17, 18, 19, 34

Declaration of Mérida, Association of Caribbean States 6th Summit of Heads of State and/or Governments, Mérida, Mexico, April 30, 2014, Paragraph 9, 12(e), 13(c), 14(a), (b)

Declaration of Pétion-Ville, Association of Caribbean States 5th Summit of Heads of State and/or Governments, Pétion-Ville, Haiti, April 26, 2013, Paragraph 23 - 27

Components

Component 1: Conduct a diagnostic/gap analysis of the information management process **USD 185,000**

Component 2: Establish standards for common procedures and methods regarding the use of territorial information for the region **USD 225,600**

Component 3: Design a system to collect, process and exchange information between countries. **USD 838,500**

Component 4: Develop a platform based on Territorial Information Systems management **USD 375,900**

Project management and administration (15% of direct cost) USD 243, 750

Total: USD 1,868,750

Non-financial needs

- Procurement of information and equipment,
- Training users and technicians in each country
- Hosting of a regional dissemination workshop.



Green Response to Disasters

Start year

2012

Duration

Overall Objective

To reduce the carbon footprint of disaster response activities by developing 'green' standards, processes, products and technologies.

Specific Objectives

1. To determine the availability, effectiveness and efficiency of green products and processes to be utilized in the case of emergency disaster response in the Caribbean region.
2. To influence policy to facilitate the production of green products and technologies for disaster response.
3. To implement test and prove the model developed and share it with other regions of the world.

Justification

The mobilization effort, post disaster, often occurs very quickly and focuses on the immediate needs of the affected communities, without regard to environmental efficacy; this project seeks to reduce future vulnerabilities by greening the supply chain of disaster supplies from logistics to products.

Connected SDGs

- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 13. Climate Action
- 17. Partnerships for the Goals

ACS Plan of Action 2016-2018/ Declarations

St. Marc Plan of Action

Components

Phase 1: Feasibility study on how to reduce the environmental impact of the products and technologies used in response to and recovery from disasters. **USD 140,000**

Phase 2: Identify/develop/source green response prototypes from the Caribbean region. **USD**

Phase 3: Test pilot green response prototypes.

Phase 4: Regional up-scaling.

The figures for Phases 2, 3, and 4 will have to be determined based on the results of Phase 1.

Non-financial needs

- Purchase of biodegradable products and low carbon technologies to be used in the disaster response process.
- Training/Workshop for first responders on 'greening' the supply chain

Notes



A series of horizontal lines for writing notes, overlaid on a background of abstract geometric shapes (triangles and polygons) in light blue, light gray, and light beige.

Notes



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