

Session Report Cover Sheet

SESSION CODE: OTHE - 39	
Name of Convener(s): Jeffry Stubbs/Clive Carpenter	
DATE: - 19 March, 2003	Session Title: Water in Small Island Countries: Wrap Up Meeting
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Session Report

SESSION CODE: OTHE-39
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Introduction

Delegates were welcomed to the session noting that this was structured to build on the previous sessions CLIM-OP and CLIM-03. Its purpose was to review the session statement, the portfolio of water actions and the implementation actions necessary to implement the Caribbean-Pacific Joint Program for Action on Water and Climate, the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Water and the Kyoto Portfolio of Water Actions. The session partners comprising the Asian Development Bank (ADB), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), Organization of American States (OAS), and International Secretariat of the Dialogue on Water and Climate were acknowledged as were the contributions of the various delegates and participants.

The session statement, the reports of sessions CLIM-OP and CLIM-03 and the proposed Portfolio of Water Actions were introduced by Mr Alf Simpson, Director of SOPAC. After discussion, and minor modifications, the delegates approved the session statement and session reports. The Portfolio of Water Actions was accepted without further amendment.

1. Portfolio of Water Actions

The session agreed to submit the following actions to the Portfolio of Water Actions:

- Strengthening national capacity using the model outlined in the Pacific and Caribbean Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS) proposals ;
- Strengthen inter- and intra-regional partnerships through the South-South collaboration demonstrated under the Joint Program for Action on Water and Climate and the proposed Type II partnership initiatives for capacity-building, information dissemination and collaboration on education, awareness and advocacy ;
- Develop water quality monitoring and capacity building programs, including through community-based organizations and NGOs, and incorporating principles of good governance ;
- Establish water demand management programs including water loss reduction

programs, water and sewage treatment operations strengthening and utility benchmarking ;; and

- Implement programs for supporting improved governance, legislation and institutions.

2. Commitments

Country representatives agreed to continue to develop the water network of small island countries, with the goal of having a stronger and more unified voice on water management as well as helping each other in improving their water management.

Country representatives agreed to actively promote the principles and priorities outlined in this session in developing their own national water policies and strategies, and with their country delegations attending the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, and the UN Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States in 2004 (Barbados +10), to be held in Mauritius in 2004.

3. Recommendations

Some key areas of water management need be more effectively addressed in the small island countries. These include adaptation of modern hydrological information and systems to the needs and capacities of the small island countries, development of integrated water management, development of appropriate sanitation, strengthening of demand management and water loss reduction, strengthening of the institutional arrangements for both integrated water management and water utilities and strengthening of awareness and governance.

The session recommended that the international community shift their priorities to help address the needs described above and provide the funding necessary to begin implementation of the Portfolio of Water Actions by end of 2004.

4. Innovations Proposed

Innovations proposed during the session include the broadening of the water network amongst small island countries, development of new methods of hydrological monitoring and prediction, greater involvement of communities and traditional groups in sector management, development of low cost methods of sanitation suitable for the small island countries including their poor, and development of effective approaches to water loss reduction in small island countries through the stronger utilities helping the weaker utilities.