

National Climate Change Committee Meeting  
Second National Communication  
Thursday, May 13, 2010  
10 am at the BEST Commission

**MINUTES**

Present – Mrs. Loraine Cox, Mr. Jerome Elliot, Ms. Tamica Rahming, Mrs. Lisa Benjamin, Dr. Richard Cant, Mrs. Stacey Moultrie, Dr. Graham Sem

*Start: 10:15 am*

**1. Welcome – Mrs. Loraine Cox**

Cox welcomed everyone and gave apologies for Arthur Rolle and Jeffrey Simmons who are both ill. In light of Rolle's absence, the agenda will need to be changed slightly. Agenda item 3 will be postponed until our next meeting. We have a target of December 2010 to complete the SNC. Our focus this morning will be on that document. Dr. Sem is leaving on Saturday so she wanted him to give everyone an update on his work, what challenges he has faced and how we can assist with information. Following Dr. Sem's presentation, we will talk about the other agenda items, what issues need to be put off to the Third National Communication and any other business. Jerome Elliot will also give an update on the GHG Inventory.

Benjamin noted that COB had been asked to work on a template for public education and she would like to give an update on their work based on the WMO document that was provided to them. Rahming also wished to comment on this.

**2. Briefing on the status of the SNC**

- a. *Vulnerability and Adaptation* – Sem gave a presentation on the V&A process and an update on where we are (see presentation for more details). Six sector synthesis reports have been produced – energy, water, forests, tourism, agriculture and human settlements. Cant asked whether anyone from Department of Agriculture has been assigned to the NCCC, but Cox confirmed that no one has yet been assigned though Stan Smith did help us with the synthesis report for agriculture. Only 30x30 DEM could be found for The Bahamas so the assessment could only be done for seven islands (New Providence, Andros, Abaco, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, Exuma and Inagua) instead of the 14 originally proposed. Because the DEM was so coarse, it would not work for the smaller islands. Data collection for the BahamasSimCLIM model has been very challenging, particularly related to sea level and impacts information. Sea level data from Nassau harbour is not for a long enough period. He spoke about the BahamasSimCLIM training that was held last week. The impacts and adaptation matrices produced in the workshop will be used in developing the V&A report. There are 15 licenses for BahamasSimCLIM that have been granted through the workshop and BEST needs to keep track of these. He will also be using information from the SLOSH modeling. He may not use the PRECIS modeling as it only uses one level and the model is not finished yet whereas BahamasSimCLIM is. Options are that this document can be a standalone V&A assessment or portions of it incorporated as a chapter in the SNC. With respect to data

challenges, he has not been able to find reports of impacts after storm events. Normally this would be included in post disaster assessment reports. He also mentioned the DEM is too coarse and The Bahamas needs to get finer resolutions. Issue of not being able to get data from BNGIS was raised again. Committee agreed to send a letter to the Minister of the Environment outlining the issues of obtaining data from BNGIS and difficulties in doing this and how important it is for the V&A and Mitigation processes.

We have not been able to look at the impacts of climate change on biophysical data, like groundwater. This would be the next stage of the process and we would need hydrogeological data as well as bathymetry to do this. Moultrie mentioned that Sharrah Moss had gotten a costing to map groundwater resources and flows; perhaps we could use this in developing the Third National Communication proposal and perhaps get mapping done for some of the islands.

Rahming asked whether a template of minimum data that needs to be collected for the model could be developed, so that agencies could begin to collect it as they work in the field. Sem responded that this can be done, but that would be the next step and we can investigate ways this can be done as a long-term thing. In this SNC exercise, we will be able to identify in what areas more data is needed and how this could be useful. Moultrie also mentioned that a similar exercise is being done for protected areas (i.e. database and data standard development) and perhaps the same can happen for climate change and some type of merging with the two.

Rahming asked whether some demonstrations of the model could be given for people to have a visual representation of the impacts of climate change. It was discussed that because the SLOSH model, which could provide really good visuals, was based on limited data, there was a reluctance to share the model with the public. Suzanne Russell of the Meteorology Department has also been trying to get data from BNGIS to feed into the SLOSH model without success. Moultrie will follow up to see if there are any models for the Florida Keys that could be used to demonstrate the impacts of climate change for Bahamians.

Sem agreed to compile a list of data gaps and needs for the model. There would also be some guidance provided on interpreting the BahamasSimCLIM model.

- b. *Mitigation* – Sem also gave a presentation on the mitigation assessment. LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning) Tool training was conducted March 11 – 14 in New Providence with about 12 participants including a person from Grand Bahama Power Company. At the moment, we are working to get a local consultant to help develop datasets and a baseline projection using LEAP. The local consultant will work with the trainer, Charlie Heaps to do this. Sem mentioned that Fichtner, a German consultant with the Bahamas Government, will be producing an energy report; Cox noted that their draft report on the energy sector is supposed to be ready for June. Fichtner has worked with LEAP and knows the data that is necessary and has agreed to provide BEST will all the datasets they develop for use in the LEAP model for the mitigation component of SNC. Elliot noted that Fichtner's scope was limited to BEC so it will only be relevant to power

generation by BEC and not the entire energy sector which would include all other power producers as well as transport and other areas of energy use and production.

There was discussion about the need for training and a commitment to train locals in using models like LEAP. It was noted that there needs to be a commitment to this by Government agencies and corporations as projects can only pay for so much.

There was also discussion about the need for education of various levels of society including politicians so they can understand what is needed to address climate change. It was agreed that we need to push from both sides – educating decision makers and the public so the latter can push the decision makers.

Rahming talked about looking at using administrative staff to help with data input and not narrowing our focus to technical officers. There was also a brief discussion about need for freedom of information so agencies and the private sector would be mandated to share the type of information and data we need to plan for climate change.

Elliot noted that BEC is currently using EDSA but if LEAP could be adopted by BEC perhaps that would be helpful. He noted that LEAP is normally used by a Ministry of Energy for energy planning and not by a utility like BEC, but The Bahamas does not have such a Ministry at present.

Sem gave an overview of the presentation of the status of chapters:

- NC and V&A – draft
  - GHG inventory – being drafted
  - Mitigation, other information, and gap, constraints and capacity gaps – to be completed
- c. *Other chapters* – Cox noted that Rolle has started to work on research and systematic observations section. In other chapters, information is needed on items like technology needs, education, and capacity needs. The hope is to get all the chapters done by October to be sent to Cabinet for approval in time for its release in December.

The SNC manual will be sent out to NCCC so they have an idea of what content of various sections should be. Moultrie will send PEO strategy from FNC to Rahming, Stevenson and Benjamin as well to be sure they have it. On the UNFCCC website were examples of other SNCs already completed so persons could have an idea what content was like. Kazakhstan's was shown as one of the few in English. Dominican Republic was the only island nation that has completed an SNC.

- d. *GHG inventory* – Elliot has developed draft inventory and mentioned the agencies he has gotten information from including BEC and BNT. He has been working along with Cox and Sem to conclude the draft. The verification exercise has been carried out following completion of the draft and nothing new came out of this exercise other than confirmation that very little data is available. No agency is tasked with collecting and keeping data

relevant to this though Customs appears to have the most relevant data to the exercise. He will be submitting the final draft of the chapter to Cox and Moultrie next week.

- e. *Photos* – Cox informed the Committee that photos are also needed for the report and asked NCCC members to provide whatever they have that depicts natural resources, weather events and landscapes. They would receive credit for the photos they provide.

### 3. **Third national communication**

Sem noted that \$500,000 is available to do this and we can apply once the SNC has been submitted to the Minister for review. So by September or October, we can apply. Once you have expended 60% of the SNC budget, we can also apply for the Third National Communication.

### 4. **Any other matters**

- a. *Public education* – Benjamin has been working with her class on the comic, but she and Rahming need to know if there is a budget to develop the comic as they would need to pay an artist. They would also need a budget for holding public meetings. Cox asked whether they felt something could be produced for this communication. Benjamin responded that if it was a smaller scale, not a 35-page booklet, but perhaps 5 or 6 pages, then it could happen with this communication. They also talked about how to reach the public through community forums at the mall and Arawak Cay as well as doing talks at groups like Rotary and Bahamas Society of Engineers.

Moultrie suggested doing an art competition with high schools to develop comics as well as a means of initiating public education activities. Information could be sent out about the competition in September with a 30-day turnaround. We could ask for prize donations and the comics produced by the high schools could be displayed at the Mall at Marathon as a public education tool. It could also be a gauge of whether our message is being properly interpreted. If the comics produced are off base because students are not able to interpret or understand the background information provided to them by the NCCC, then we know we need to tweak our public education message so it is more easily interpreted by students and the general public. The competition could be an inexpensive and easily executed public education activity that could occur under the SNC.

- b. *Lightbulb project* – Cox gave an update of the GEF project to phase out incandescent light bulbs; monies for this project came from The Bahamas' climate change RAF. Moultrie suggested for GEF-5, we should apply for climate change projects other than just the national communication. One suggestion for a project was developing a data system for climate change as this seems to be a significant gap in trying to plan for adaptation and mitigation. Sem noted that there has been a shift from RAF to STAR where countries will get specific allocations rather than as a part of a group. \$500,000 for Third National Communication would be a part of GEF-4 so this would not count towards GEF-5 allocations.

- c. *Next meeting* – Next meeting date will be determined by email.

*End: 12:38 pm*