

United Nations Development Programme

The Bahamas

January to December 2008

<b>Project Title:</b>	Enabling Activities for the Preparation of The Bahamas' Second National Communication to the UNFCCC
<b>Project Number:</b>	PIMS 3212 CC EA SNC Bahamas
<b>Project Budget:</b>	USD 405,000
<b>Award No./Date of PO/ etc.:</b>	[Award no. in ATLAS, or date of PO].
<b>Partnership Strategy:</b>	BEST Commission, National Climate Change Committee
<b>Duration:</b>	36 months (October 2006 – October 2009)
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	01 January 2008 – 31 December 2008
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<b>Related Documents:</b>	First National Communication on Climate Change
<b>Record Ref.:</b>	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

<b>Award Total:</b>	USD 405,000
<b>Expenditure to Date:</b>	USD 89,039.36
<b>Delivery:</b>	21.99%
<b>Partnership Strategy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievements – Project initiation workshop, project inception report, impact assessment framework workshop, GHG inventory, National circumstances draft</li> <li>• Problems – Timely disbursement of funds by Implementing Agency, communication (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<b>Update on Outcome:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes related to implementation arrangements, project inception, and GHG Inventory have been completed. Outcomes related to national circumstances and V&amp;A assessment have been initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Update on Outputs:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1. National circumstances – NTC established to gather data, draft chapter developed, Impact Assessment Framework (IAF) workshop completed</li> <li>• 2. V&amp;A – positions advertised locally and internationally, candidates interviewed, V&amp;A Team Leader selected, equipment purchased to conduct climate modeling needed as a part of the assessment</li> <li>• 3. National GHG inventory – review of first inventory begun, training session completed on developing GHG inventory, review of methodologies completed, inventory circulated for peer review and data validated, GHG inventory completed and approved</li> <li>• 4. Mitigation – no activities to date</li> <li>• 5. Other relevant information – no activities to date</li> <li>• 6. Constraints and gaps – no activities to date</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7. Technical assistance – some guidance has been provided by NCSP on developing IAF and finding a V&amp;A expert; assistance in finding V&amp;A expert also provided by UNDP.</li> <li>• 8. SNC compilation – no activities to date</li> <li>• 9. Project management – Project Steering Committee established, project coordinator contracted, GHG Team leader selected, V&amp;A Team Leader selected, National Technical Team established for national circumstances</li> </ul>
<b>Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See listing above and section 4 below.</li> </ul>
<b>Lessons Learned:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive: Progress is being made though slow, reporting is more regular, structure of the project has improved to provide more guidance to those involved</li> <li>• Negative: Project affected by inefficiencies in administrative procedures at Implementing Agency mainly related to disbursement of funds, communication between project and UNDP is not what it should be and this has also affected efficiency. Actions that require approval by the Ministry of the Environment are often delayed due to inefficiencies in administrative procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with many Small Island Developing States, The Bahamas has issues related to capacity and resources, both of which are limited and have many priorities competing for their attention and commitment. Climate change will have to compete as well. SIDS are faced with the reality that they can do their best to adapt, but climate change as a threat cannot be addressed without commitment of countries with high GHG emissions.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A finance officer was assigned to BEST in early 2008 in an effort to expedite requests for disbursements for project activities. This has greatly improved processing of invoices.</li> <li>• Communication between UNDP and BEST needs to improve. Requests for information and reporting outside of quarterly reports are often rushed and cause unnecessary stress which could be avoided if requests were made in a timely fashion.</li> <li>• Disbursements of funds by UNDP has been extremely delayed in 2007 and 2008 and has severely impacted project implementation with months going by and activities not happening due to lack of funding. Disbursements need to be in a timely manner and responsive to cash advance requests as indicated in financial reports; reasons should be given for delays or any reduction in disbursement from what has been requested so project team can plan accordingly and make adjustments where necessary.</li> <li>• More subcontracts should be awarded to local experts to expedite project deliverables.</li> <li>• Higher profile needs to be given to climate change with decision makers through media and regular communication with them so they are aware of project activities throughout project implementation and this is not left until SNC is completed.</li> </ul>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Funding for The Bahamas project was awarded in October 2006. The project will enable The Bahamas to prepare its Second National Communication (SNC) for presentation to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Second National Communication project activities will build on and continue the work done under the First National Communication (FNC).

The main components of the SNC project are: (a) assessment of potential impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable sectors, (b) preparation of an inventory of GHG in accordance with the UNFCCC, (c) identification of mitigation measures being undertaken, (d) identification of other information relevant to implementation of the UNFCCC, and preparation of a National Strategy and Action Plan to address climate change and its adverse impacts.

Under the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission that serves as the national climate change office, the Project will strengthen the national capacities for addressing climate change and for fulfilling commitments and obligations to the UNFCCC. It is anticipated that the project will increase the public's knowledge and awareness of climate change. The development of a national policy will also contribute to putting climate change issues into the national planning and development mechanisms.

The Bahamas is highly vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change even though its contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is low by global standards. Nevertheless, recognizing the importance of climate change as an environmental issue and of the need to integrate climate change issues into its environmental and economic development objectives, The Bahamas ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 9 April, 1999. Having ratified the UNFCCC, The Bahamas is obliged to submit periodic national communications. To facilitate this, there is a pressing need for assistance in developing and sustaining a process by which The Bahamas can complete a greenhouse gas inventory, assess its vulnerability to climate change, and develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### **1.2 Current Situation**

Project activities began in earnest in July 2007 with the Project Initiation Workshop. Since awarding of project funding, activities have included:

- Drafting of National Circumstances component of SNC
- Engagement of Project Coordinator
- Engagement of GHG Team Leader
- Establishment of Project Steering Committee
- Establishment of National Technical Team
- Completion of Impact Assessment Framework workshop

- Completion of GHG Inventory
- Selection of V&A Team Leader
- Participation in regional V&A training activities

### **1.3 Update on expenditure and delivery (refer to financial report and progress reports for 2007)**

Expenditures to date are outlined in the quarterly financial reports for 2008. Deliverables in 2008 include:

- Revised draft national circumstances component of SNC
- TORs for V&A Team Leader and advertisement for position
- Participation in regional V&A training and learning exchange activities

Details on these can be found annexed to the quarterly 2008 progress reports.

### **1.4 Update on partnership strategy**

The coordination strategy amongst Executing Agency, Project Steering Committee, Project Coordinator, National Technical Team and GHG Team Leader has greatly improved with more regular meetings and communication.

Project stakeholders committed at the end of 2007 to take steps to address problems and ensure the project receives the priority it needs through:

- Dedicated financial officer for Executing Agency to expedite disbursements
  - Adherence to reporting deadlines through regular reminders and support to stakeholders as is necessary
  - Commitment to attend meetings regularly so that project stays on track
- Stakeholders have fulfilled these commitments and problems cited in 2007 no longer exist though there are still time delays whenever a response is needed from the Ministry of the Environment.

The GHG Team Leader has successfully completed the GHG Inventory through working in partnership with persons in forestry, energy and other relevant sectors.

## **2. OUTCOMES:**

Outcomes completed in 2008:

- 3. GHG Inventory

Outcomes initiated in 2008:

- 1. National Circumstances – completed activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2; started activities 1.1.3 through 1.1.5
- 2. Vulnerability and adaptation assessment – completed TORs and selected V&A Team Leader; purchased some of the computers required for climate modeling and initiated purchase of remaining equipment needed for modeling.

### **3. OUTPUTS:**

Outputs initiated or continued in 2008:

- Output 1: National circumstances
- Output 2.1A: Procedures for assessing vulnerability
- Output 2.1B: Procedures for identifying and evaluating adaptation options
- Output 3: A comprehensive national GHG inventory for The Bahamas.

### **4. ACTIVITIES:**

Activities initiated or completed in 2008:

1.1.1 Validate the gaps of information identified under stocktaking exercise in the light of recent /new developments, if any.

1.1.2 Identify the respective sources of information and establish links to get these data as necessary.

1.1.3 Collect data and information from different sources in the course of project implementation.

1.1.4 Fill the gaps, update and add the new information in accordance to the TORs for National Circumstances section of The Bahamas' SNC.

1.1.5 Draft national circumstances sections that would be relevant to each thematic area.

1.1.7 Circulate the National Circumstances section for comments and receive comments to incorporate them into the report.

3.1.1 Identify and mobilize those national experts who completed targeted sectors and areas of relevance in the FNC.

3.1.2 Review the existing information on the first GHG inventory already archived and documented.

3.1.3 Identify all new sources of information for filling data gaps

3.2.1 Identify any external expertise required to complete the identified inventory methodology.

3.2.2 Analyze the acceptability of the available methodologies of estimates for each category.

3.2.3 Training in understanding the methodologies.

3.2.4 Decide on the Tier level based on the IPCC Good Practice Guidance PG.

3.2.5 Decide and select the methodology for estimates of emissions from the new group of GHG gases such as HFCs, PFCs and SF6.

3.2.6 Estimate the GHG emission inventory for 2000 and develop a time series for 1994-2000.

3.2.7 Circulate the inventory for internal review.

3.2.8 Finalize the inventory to be submitted as a part of the SNC of The Bahamas.

5.1.3 Develop a climate baseline for the priority area by highly taking into consideration the baseline developed under stocktaking exercise.

9.1 Identify and appoint a Project Coordinator.

9.2 Establish technical teams.

9.3 Establish a multi-stakeholder PSC.

- 9.4 Identify areas in which international assistance may be required.  
9.5 Organize a project initiation workshop.

Completed Annual Performance Report (APR) and Project Implementation Review (PIR) for The Bahamas SNC project.

## **5. LESSONS LEARNED:**

### **a. Positive**

- Workplans have been developed.
- Reporting is more regular.
- The structure of the project has improved to provide more guidance to those involved.

### **b. Negative**

- The project has been affected by changes in organizational structure and administrative heads of BEST Commission as well with the move from Office of the Prime Minister to Ministry of the Environment; it has taken time for there to be a transfer of knowledge from one Ministry to the other.
- The project is affected by inefficiencies in administrative procedures mainly related to disbursement of funds by UNDP.
- Communication between UNDP and project is not what it should be and this has also affected efficiency.

## **6. RISK ASSESSMENT:**

### *Political and Economic*

As with many Small Island Developing States, The Bahamas has issues related to capacity and resources - both of which are limited and have many priorities competing for their attention and commitment. Climate change will have to compete as well. Economy is dependent on touristic development with large-scale projects existing or planned in coastal areas.

### *Socio-cultural*

Awareness and understanding of climate change is limited across all sectors of society.

### *Environmental*

As a low-lying SIDS, The Bahamas is faced with the reality that they can do their best to adapt, but climate change as a threat cannot be addressed without commitment of countries with high GHG emissions.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Communication between UNDP and project needs to improve with more regular updates and timely request for information; project should also be advised if there will be problems with disbursements so efforts can be made to plan accordingly. With very prolonged delays in disbursement, negative impacts to project implementation cannot be avoided, but every effort should be made to avoid this.
- Disbursements of funds by UNDP need to be made in a timely fashion to avoid negative impacts to project implementation.
- More subcontracts should be awarded to local experts to expedite project deliverables.
- Higher profile needs to be given to climate change with decision makers through media and regular communication with them so they are aware of project activities throughout project implementation and this is not left until SNC is completed.