



Coastal Water Quality Improvement Project

A Bilateral Environmental Development Initiative of the Government of Jamaica's Natural Resources Conservation Authority and United States Agency for International Development

CR 3 Improve Environmental Practices

A. ABOUT CWIP

The Coastal Water Quality Improvement Project (CWIP) is a 6-year bilateral development initiative between the Government of Jamaica's Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project was implemented in January 1998, and comprises five main "contract result" program activities:

- *support community-based initiatives to address environmental concerns (CR 1);*
- *improve operations & maintenance of municipal wastewater systems (CR 2);*
- *improve environmental practices of industry and commercial establishments (CR 3);*
- *develop NGO partnerships to expand and standardise coastal water quality monitoring (CR 4);*
- *improve co-ordination of coastal zone management activities among GOJ agencies, international donors, and NGOs (CR 5).*

These five distinct, but interrelated activities, associated with coastal water quality improvement will be carried out to form a synergy of interventions impacting on coastal zone management, wastewater management, and solid waste disposal.

These will contribute to the achievement of the USAID/Jamaica Strategic Objective 2 – Improved quality of key natural resources in selected areas that are both environmentally and economically significant.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ), with the assistance of development partners, is taking proactive measures to address the problems confronting critical coastal zone ecosystems.

The GOJ, through the NRCA, and USAID have jointly developed CWIP to help address coastal zone management problems, especially coastal water quality, confronting targeted coastal zone communities.

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Coastal zone ecosystems in critical economic areas of Jamaica are experiencing serious environmental stress and degradation. The very environmental and natural resources base, which generated the tourism-related trade and economic growth, is now being threatened.

The proper management of the coastal zone ecosystem is intrinsically linked to the sustainability of the tourist sector. A serious commitment to reverse present trends in coastal zone environmental degradation, especially coastal water quality, is required to ensure economic vitality as well as a healthy environment for the local communities.

B. IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES (CR 3)

OVERVIEW

The reduction of the levels of waste generated (waste reduction/minimization), the development of systems to manage its collection, treatment and disposal and the involvement of communities/ stakeholders are all elements required to reduce and control the pollution entering the environment. Additionally, the efficient use of resources (water, energy etc;) are also important to achieving sound environmental management.

Improving and strengthening sound environmental practices is the objective of the CR 3 component of the CWIP project. This can be achieved in part by encouraging the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) as a tool to help in the implementation and continuous improvement of business's environmental performance, business operation while offering opportunities to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Promote national EMS policy, incentives and initiatives
- Support EMS site interventions for tourism-related enterprises
- Support EMS site interventions for industrial commercial enterprises
- Support recovery and recycling initiatives which met a market demand.