



UNEP

CARIBBEAN CURRENTS

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Welcome..

...to **CARIBBEAN CURRENTS**, Volume Seven, Number One. This newsletter is edited by INFOTERRA/USA in its capacity as the Regional Service Centre (RSC) for INFOTERRA National Focal Points (NFPs) in the English and French-speaking Caribbean. Although the *CURRENTS* is assembled at INFOTERRA/USA, the content belongs to you, the readers. You are encouraged to send in any questions, comments, problems, or interesting issues relevant to the Region for inclusion in the *CURRENTS*. Please see the Guidelines for Contributions on page 7 for more information.

Each issue will feature a Directory of NFPs in the Region so that anyone with international environmental questions can contact their nearest resource. Please feel free to contact one another as well as your RSC for assistance or materials.

Please don't hesitate to share *CARIBBEAN CURRENTS* with your friends and colleagues, and to make copies as needed. The Currents should serve as an informational forum for anyone who lives, works, or is involved in environmental issues in the English and French-speaking Caribbean Region.

Coastal Zone Management

This issue's topic is coastal zone management. The need to protect environmental resources and promote economic development in coastal regions has prompted the implementation of several coastal management programs. In the United States, three such programs work with local industries, communities, and government agencies to achieve a balance between development and environmental conservation.

If you have any comments on any topic, or would like to contribute a short article or have a resources guide to share, please submit your contribution following the guidelines on page 7, as we would like to include it in the next or a future issue of *CURRENTS*. Please feel free to fax, write to, or call the RSC with any questions or comments you have. Thank you for your assistance.

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT IN THE COASTAL ZONE: A FEW PROGRAM PROFILES

By

April Wright, INFOTERRA/USA

Jessica Cogan, US EPA, Office of Water, Oceans & Coastal Protection Division

The surge of development and urbanization taking place in worldwide coastal regions is contributing to the degradation of natural systems, even affecting such distant areas as Antarctica. It is important, then, for resource planners and managers, to strengthen the inextricable link between growth and development and environmental protection.

Economic development and environmental protection are important for the survival and success of a community but achieving a workable balance between the two is challenging. "Smart growth" may make finding the balance easier, as the design of communities and the built environment allow natural systems to function similarly to pre-development conditions.

In her article in the October 1998 issue of Caribbean Currents, Caril Sebastian, Environment Officer in the Antigua Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment, asserts, "Truly sustainable use of coastal resources must involve consultation with all stakeholders..." The Smart Growth Network, an initiative coordinated by the US Environmental Protection Agency, pulls together stakeholders in the development process. By building coalitions and partnerships, developing information and analytical tools and programs, and establishing dialogues among development stakeholders, the Smart Growth Network hopes to encourage more environmentally and fiscally responsible land use, growth and development in communities across the United States. The Network is a growing coalition of developers, planners, government officials, lending institutions, community development organizations, architects, environmentalists and community activists.

The Smart Growth Network helps create national, regional, and local coalitions to encourage urban development that is:

- Environmentally smart: Protecting air and water quality, enhancing access to nature and encouraging brownfields redevelopment.
- Fiscally smart: Paying for itself and providing high quality municipal services without constantly rising property taxes.
- Economically and socially smart: Promoting community economic vitality, livability, resource efficiency, equity and sense of place (SmartGrowth Web Site, 1998).

Another program concerned with integrating environmental protection and economic development is the US EPA's National Estuary Program (NEP). The NEP was established in 1987 by amendments to the Clean Water Act to identify, restore and protect estuaries in the United States. The program focuses on improving water quality and maintaining the chemical,

physical, and biological properties, and retaining its economic, recreational, and aesthetic value for both the estuary and its upland watershed. Each NEP is comprised of representatives from federal, state and local government agencies responsible for managing the estuaries resources and stakeholders: citizens, business leaders, educators, and researchers. These community members work together to identify problems in the estuary, develop specific actions to address those problems and create and implement a management plan to restore and protect the estuary (NEP Web Site, 1998).

Finally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is a voluntary partnership between the Federal government and U.S. coastal states and territories authorized by Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to:

- Preserve, protect develop, and, where possible restore and enhance the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations;
- Encourage and assist the states to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone to achieve wise use of land and water resources of the coastal zone, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic, and aesthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development;
- Encourage the preparation of special area management plans to provide increased specificity in protecting significant natural resources, reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, improved protection of life and property in hazardous areas and improved predictability in governmental decision making;
- Encourage the participation, cooperation and coordination of the public, Federal, state, local interstate and regional agencies, and governments affecting the coastal zone (CZM Program Web Site, 1998).

While the choice to continue to develop has been made, the type and quality of development is open for debate. Coastal planners and natural resource managers should encourage smart growth and work through programs such as the NEP and CZM programs. By promoting environmentally sensitive development we can save our critical habitats and landscapes and encourage economic development.

References

National Estuary Program Home Page. Washington, DC: US Environmental Protection Agency, 1998. Available from <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/about2.htm>. Accessed 29 December 1998.

NOAA Coastal Zone Management Program Home Page. Available from <http://wave.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/czm/welcome.html>. Accessed 29 December 1998.

“Smart Development: Developers Are Seeing Green!” *Coastlines* 7 Number 2 (Spring 1997).

Smart Growth Network Home Page. Available from <http://www.smartgrowth.org/>. Accessed 30 December 1998.



INTERNET SITES ON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

A few of many sources of electronic information on coastal zone management

SMART GROWTH NETWORK

<http://www.smartgrowth.org/>

This site provides information on the Smart Growth Network and links to bibliographies and Network news.

US EPA NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/about2.htm>

This site provides information detailed information on the National Estuary Program.

NOAA OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (OCRM)

<http://wave.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/>

This site provides information on programs OCRM administers. The Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996 is available via this page.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT WEB

<http://users.wantree.com.au/~kays/index.html>

This site provides links to organizations, information and conferences on coastal zone management.

HAWAII COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

<http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/index.html>

This site provides information on Hawaii's state coastal zone management program, links to state and Federal regulations and links to related sites.

CARIBBEAN COASTAL ZONE REFERENCES

<http://www.irf.org/iczrefs.html>

This is a bibliography of books and articles on coastal zone management from various sources. The page is part of the Island Resources Foundation web site.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO

<http://ioc.unesco.org/iocweb/>

This site provides information on global and regional coastal zone management programs and on IOC publications.

FREE US EPA PUBLICATIONS ON COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Treasured Waters: Protecting Our Coastal and Marine Resources **EPA 842B96001**

Coastal America: A Partnership for Action. **EPA 842K91100**

Protecting Coastal & Wetlands Resource Guide for Local Governments **EPA 842R92002**

Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds 1998 Publications List **EPA 840B98001**

Protecting Coastal Waters from Vessel & Marina Discharges: Guide for State & Local Officials. **EPA 842B94004**

Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Program Development & Approval Guidance **EPA 841B93003**

Coral Reefs and Your Coastal Watershed **EPA 842F98008**

Nearshore Waters and Your Coastal Watershed **EPA 842F98007**

Estuaries and Your Coastal Watershed **EPA 842F98009**

The Beach and Your Coastal Watershed **EPA 842F98010**

These publications are available from the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NSCEP):

NSCEP
US Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 42419
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-2419
USA
Telephone: (513) 489-8190
Fax: (513) 489-8695
Orders take 2-3 weeks to process.

Current Conferences Coastal Zone Management



April 5-7, 1999 -- *Coastal GeoTools '99*, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact Steve Meador, NOAA Coastal Services Center; Telephone: (843) 740-1334; E-mail: smeador@csc.noaa.gov.

April 29-May 1, 1999 -- *EnviroDesign3*, Baltimore Maryland. The architecture and design community's premier event exploring sustainable design issues. Contact: Jenny Miles, Conference Management, 840 US Hwy. One Suite 330, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408; Telephone: (561) 627-3393; E-mail: jenny@isdesignet.com.

July 24-30, 1999 -- *Coastal Zone '99*. San Diego, California, Contact the CZ99 Secretariat, Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125; E-mail: CZ99@umbsky.cc.umb.edu; Web: <http://omega.cc.umb.edu/~cz99/>

INDUSTRY JOURNALS

Tropical Coastal Area Management/ICLARM (ISSN 0116-4082) - Journal of the ASEAN/USAID Coastal Resources Management Project.

Ocean & Coastal Law Journal (ISSN 1073-8843) - US maritime law; publication of the Marine Law Institute (University of Maine School of Law)

Coastal Research (ISSN 0271-5376) - Covers science, engineering and other matters of coastal interest.

Coastal Management (ISSN 0045-723X) - Covers coastal management community development and certain aspects of tourism.

Guidelines for Contributions to *CARIBBEAN CURRENTS*

Any organization or individual operating or involved in the English and French-speaking Caribbean Region is welcome to contribute to the newsletter. Contributions should be addressed to:

Caribbean Currents Coordinator
INFOTERRA/USA
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Library, 3404
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
UNITED STATES

Telephone: (202) 260-5917; Fax: (202) 260-3923; E-mail: library-infoterra@epamail.epa.gov

Please note that submissions should meet the following criteria:

- They should be relevant to environmental issues
- They must be of interest to or directly involve the Region
- They must not endorse or recommend any product or commercial service, explicitly or implicitly
- They must be brief--under 250 words; Bulletin Board requests should be under 100 words
- They must be received by the posted deadline (see below)

Please feel free to contact the *CARIBBEAN CURRENTS* coordinator if you are interested in submitting a longer article. You should contact the coordinator to discuss your topic and any size or content restrictions beforehand. Be aware that once your article is submitted, it is subject to editing as needed. Final decisions on editing and inclusion of any contributions are left to the INFOTERRA/USA Manager. Please contact INFOTERRA/USA using the address above to contribute any comments, questions, problems, or ideas.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO Vol. 7, No. 2: March 8, 1999

Welcome to The *CARIBBEAN CURRENTS* Bulletin Board

Each issue, we will publish questions or concerns of interest to CURRENTS readers. Anyone who has materials or information that they are seeking or that they feel will be helpful should feel free to contribute. We will post queries and offerings of general interest on the Bulletin Board. You may respond by contacting the reader who has placed the item, or the RSC.

Bulletin Board



Coastal Zone Management

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission
of UNESCO Subcommission
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Coastal America Reporters Bldg.
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Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: (202) 401-9928
Fax: (202) 401-9821
E-mail: klesch@fas.usda.gov
<http://www.coastalamerica.gov/>



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction:

In the last issue, the Internet address for the Interamerican Water Resources Network was incorrectly written as <http://www.iwrn.ces.fau.edu>. The correct address is <http://iwrn.ces.fau.edu>. We apologize for the error.

Caribbean Currents is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/earlink1/currents/>

About the NFP Directory

This directory reflects changes and additions to the INFOTERRA Directory of National Focal Points distributed by INFOTERRA/PAC, dated November 1998. Please check this information to verify that it is correct and up-to-date. If you have any changes or corrections, please notify the RSC as soon as possible. We will be happy to relay the information to the PAC.

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