



**Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative
Biomass to Energy Assessment St. Kitts and Nevis
Travel report: Follow up mission
St. Kitts & Nevis, Dec 04/05 - Dec 08, 2006
Travelers: Mark Lambrides and Kevin de Cuba**

Meetings and Activities Summary

Monday, Dec 04, 2006

- Arrival Kevin de Cuba to St. Kitts and Nevis

Tuesday, Dec 05, 2006

- Arrival Mark Lambrides to St. Kitts and Nevis
- Preparation and review of presentation and related documents
- Work on draft Biomass to Energy Assessment Report
- Confirmation of meetings for 05-08 December

Wednesday, Dec 06, 2006

- Meeting: Mr. Starrett Greene (OAS director St. Kitts and Nevis).

General briefing on Biomass to Energy Assessment, Sustainable Energy Plan for St. Kitts and Nevis and the Geo-Caraibes project on Nevis. Confirmation of meetings for 06-08 December.

- Meeting: Min. Cedric Liburd, Minister of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs; Keith Phillip, Project Officer and Director of the Sugar Transition Team; Starrett Greene; project team.

During this meeting the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study were explained to the Minister. He noted the ongoing land use competition for other sectors of the economy as Tourism, and the need for Housing. He stressed the importance of time and results of this study to plea a case to secure agricultural lands.

- Meeting: Min. Earl Assim Martin, Minister of Public Works, Utilities, Transportation, and Posts; Starrett Greene; project team.

During this meeting the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study were explained to the Minister. The minister referred to Min. Carty as to be the main responsible for energy related issues. He highlighted the importance of confirming the available agricultural lands to assure that the outcomes of the Biomass to Energy Assessment are realistic and in accordance to the current situation on St. Kitts.

- Meeting: Ms. Shirley Skerrit, Senior Officer of Ministry of Sustainable Development; project team.

A general briefing was provided to Ms. Skerrit on the SEP, Biomass to Energy Assessment and the Geo-Caraibes project. Ms. Skerrit provided a document related to the Sugar



Transition Plans for St. Kitts and Nevis, whereby a general development scope is described. Ms. Skerrit mentioned her concern regarding the amount of land (total acres) available for sugar cane production. At the closure of the industry there was 7,900 acres available. Due to competing pressures (new golf courses, hotels, houses) land is being grabbed fast. We have been arguing that a minimum of 6,000 acres is essential for a bio-energy operation.

- Meeting: Mr. Patrick Williams, Director of Physical Planning Department; Starret Greene; project team.

Mr. Williams was informed about the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study. He indicated that the long term Land Use Management Plan was recently finalized. A colleague, Mr. Greame Brown, will provide a map and data on the available agricultural land for sugar cane production.

- Meeting: Hon. Prime Minister Denzil Douglas, Minister of Sustainable Development, Finance, Cultural Affairs, Information & Technology, Sports and Tourism; Chief Secretary Llewellyn Edmeade; Starret Greene; project team.

During this meeting a general introduction was provided to the PM, related to all the ongoing OAS (GSEII/Geo-Caraibes) renewable energy initiatives in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. The preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study were explained to the Prime Minister and Chief Secretary. The PM acknowledged the importance of the renewable energy initiatives. He in particular wanted to set a time frame for the conclusion of the Biomass to Energy Assessment Study, and start with the process of peer review and tendering to attract commercial financiers. We promised to provide the initial findings of the report by the first week of January. Then we will work with the government to secure bids from several (approx. 5) developers based on a common set of inputs.

Thursday, Dec 07, 2006

- Meeting: Mr. Conrad Kelly, former Chief Agronomist at the SSMC; project team.

Mr. Kelly was informed about the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study. He provided valuable feedback on the assumptions made for the study, commented on the results and provided additional technical information. He explained that there are several options for the optimization of the sugar cane cultivation and harvesting. As focusing on the mechanized harvesting, logistical planning and sugar cane breeding. He will send additional technical information and will confirm our data set used for the analysis. Also he will provide the team with two studies, one related to the sugar cane feedstock optimization study for St. Kitts and the preliminary study on sugar cane alternatives for Barbados.

- Meeting: Mr. Keith Phillip, Project Officer and Leader of the Sugar Transition Team; project team.

Mr. Phillip was informed about the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study. He described the current sugar cane conditions on St. Kitts. There is an urgency to harvest or burn the sugar cane, this to prevent deterioration and weed introduction. Sugar cane is important to prevent erosion, because of the sandy loam soil. Also does the sugar cane function as hydrological regeneration system for the fresh water aquifers. The



social aspect of the project were discussed, where of the 1100 former SSMC staff, 165 passed to retirement, 550 are enrolled in new jobs (service sector). Over the last decade the sugar cane cutting was done by imported labor. Mr. Phillip will provide additional data on the costing of sugarcane milling and energy consumption.

- Meeting: Hon. Premier Parry; Min. Carlisle Powell, Minister of Public Works, Utilities, Physical Planning, Environment and Posts of the Nevis Administration; Permanent Secretary Ernie Stapleton; Starret Greene; project team.

During this meeting a general introduction was provided to the Premier, related to all the ongoing OAS (GSEII/Geo-Caraibes) renewable energy initiatives in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. The focus was set on the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Project (Geo-Caraibas). Issues as the GEF re-allocation framework (RAF) process was discussed and alternative development options were highlighted and discussed.

Friday, Dec 08, 2006

- Meeting: Min. Nigel Carty, Minister of State of Finance, Sustainable Development, Information and Technology; Mr. Malcolm Knight, member of the St. Kitts and Nevis Energy Commission; Starrett Greene; project team

During this meeting the preliminary results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study were explained to the Minister. He stressed the importance of the results of the study to resolve the sugar cane industry problem. The Minister explained the role of the energy resource assessment study performed by Prof. Al Binger (funding from IICA/UNDP) for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. This study will form as a baseline study to identify renewable energy sources to be further elaborated. The minister acknowledged the detailed analysis being performed by the OAS/GSEII for the Biomass to Energy Assessment study and considers it as part of the overall Sustainable Energy Plan. In response to the activities by Prof. Binger, the project team notified the minister of a comprehensive study done by the OAS and that was finalized in March 2006 with the title “Towards a Sustainable Energy Plan for St. Kitts and Nevis”. See: http://www.oas.org/dsd/reia/Documents/gseii/skn_gseii.html to download the full size report. The minister was pleased with the project team’s presentation and will be awaiting the final draft of the Biomass to Energy Assessment study to review and discuss with the Energy Commission and other Ministries.

- Meeting: Ms. Skerrit; project team.

An informal meeting was held with Ms. Skerrit, to exchange information on follow up activities required for the SEP, Geo-Caraibes and the Biomass to Energy Assessment.

For more background information feel free to contact:

GSEII project manager: Mark Lambrides (mlambrides@oas.org, tel. 1-202-458-6261) and/or Kevin de Cuba (kdecuba@oas.org, tel. 1-202-458-6467)

See next page for an overview of the meetings held during the St. Kitts and Nevis Mission.



Mission to St. Kitts and Nevis (Dec 4-8, 2006)

	Monday, Dec 4	Tuesday, Dec 05	Wednesday, Dec 06	Thursday, Dec 07	Friday, Dec 08
8:00		Prepare document and presentation			
8:30			Mr. Greene (OAS)		Mr. Greene (OAS)
9:00			Min. Liburd (Agriculture)	Mr. Greene (OAS)	Min. Carty (Energy Committee)
9:30			Min. Martin (Utilities, Public Works)	Mr. Kelly (Agronomist SSMC)	
10:00				Ms. Skerrit / Ms. Hazel (SUSD)	Mr. Phillips (Sugar Transition Team)
10:30					
11:00					
11:30					
12:00					
12:30					Ms. Skerrit (wrap up meeting)
13:00					
13:30				Boat to Nevis	
14:00					
14:30	Kevin arrival to St. Kitts	Mark arrival to St. Kitts	Mr. P. Williams (Representing Hazel)	Premier, Min. Powell, PS Stapleton (Nevis Admin.)	Mark and Kevin, Departure to Washington DC
15:00					
15:30		Review presentation and preparations for meetings			
16:00			P.M. Douglas		
16:30					
17:00					
17:30				Boat to St. Kitts	
18:00					
18:30					
19:00					