



**Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative  
St. Kitts and Nevis  
Travel report: Bio-Energy Consultation  
St. Kitts & Nevis, Aug 27 - Aug 30, 2007  
Travelers: Mark Lambrides and Kevin de Cuba (Project Team)**

## **Meetings and Activities Summary**

Monday, Aug 27, 2007

- Preparation and review of presentation and related documents for the Bio-Energy consultation (project team).

Tuesday, Aug 28, 2007

Bio-Energy Stakeholder Consultation

- Mr. Starret Greene, local OAS director opened the Bio-Energy Stakeholder Consultation and welcomed the various technical personnel, international partners and potential funding agencies to look at the challenges and opportunities for Bio-energy on St. Kitts and Nevis. Mr. Mark Lambrides and Mr. Kevin de Cuba followed by presenting the results of a bio-energy assessment study entitled “Background Discussion Paper on Bio-Energy Potential for St. Kitts and Nevis”. An extensive Bio-Energy Analysis Overview was provided and discussed during the session. Participating in these consultations were members of the various Ministries who held stakeholder interest in the Bio-Energy project. These included representatives from the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, of Environment, the Ministry of Planning and the Department of Solid Waste Management. Among other invited, were International Agencies and Donors, as the U.S. State Department, the U.N. Foundation, the Brazilian, Austrian and Italian Governments, UNIDO and IICA. The international donor community had the opportunity to respond to the presented results of the bio-energy assessment study. The featured guest speaker for the after lunch session was Dr. George Philippidis, Director of the Center for Energy and Technology for the Americas (CETA) of the Applied Research Center (ARC) Florida International University (FIU). The consultation took place at the Ocean Terrace Inn on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

See attached:

- [Agenda of Bio-Energy Stakeholder Consultation](#)
- [Participants List](#)
- [Presentations](#)
- [Press release in local News Paper, \*The Democrat\*:  
<http://www.pamdemocrat.org/Newspaper/Details.cfm?Nz=%280GIZ4I%26%3DAG8%20%0A&Iz=%23%29%22HL%0A>](#)



Wednesday, Aug 29, 2007

- Meeting: Min. Nigel Carty, Minister of State of Finance, Sustainable Development, Information and Technology; IICA<sup>1</sup>; UNIDO<sup>2</sup>; UNF<sup>3</sup>; FIU<sup>4</sup>; U.S. State Dep.<sup>5</sup>; Brazilian Embassy<sup>6</sup>; project team.

During this breakfast meeting the results and conclusions of the Bio-Energy Stakeholders Consultation were discussed with the Minister. An initial conversation was held about steps required for the development of Bio-Energy in the Federation, acknowledging the key challenges, including the lack of local technical capacity. In response to this matter, he requested the team for technical support in:

- 1) Outlining key issues (Issues Paper) to present to Cabinet with the objective of securing commitment from the overall Cabinet to pursue a Bio-Energy Strategy.
- 2) The need for technical assistance to proceed down that pathway, via an establishment of a full time bio-energy staff in the Ministry of Sustainable Development. This person will also serve as the Bio-Energy Liaison to the (Agro)-Energy Committee. The Minister acknowledged that there is not likely to be a local professional capable of assuming this position, therefore suggested that the initiative may provide such a staff person for a period of up to one year to fill this post and facilitate the transition to a local person.

- Meeting: Mr. Patrick Williams, Director of Physical Planning Department and Ms. June Hughes, Designated Authority UNFCCC-CDM; UNIDO; UNF; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy; project team.

Mr. Williams commented on the results and conclusions of the Biomass to Energy study and the Bio-Energy Stakeholders Consultation. He was requested to provide information on the access to lands, a soil survey that was performed in the 60s and available GIS information. He noted that he does not have access to the soil survey but could give an indication of how much land is available via the GIS information. He would request his colleague, Mr. Greame Brown, to extract this information and send to us. Other environmental related topics were discussed as clean water provision and other considerations.

- Meeting: Min. Earl Assim Martin, Minister of Public Works, Utilities, Transportation, and Posts; UNIDO; UNF; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy; project team.

During this meeting the results and conclusions of the Bio-Energy Stakeholders Consultation were discussed with the Minister. The minister highlighted the need to better regulate the energy production and distribution respective:

- 1) To resolve conflicts between hotels independent generators and stand-by position of the St. Kitts Electricity Department.
- 2) The need to expand the Energy Production Mix including Renewable Energy

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<sup>1</sup> Represented by Ms. Uma-May Gordon and Mr. Albert Binger

<sup>2</sup> Represented by Mr. Marco Matteini (UNIDO)

<sup>3</sup> Represented by Mr. Manfredi Caltagirone (UNF)

<sup>4</sup> Represented by Mr. George Philippidis (FIU)

<sup>5</sup> Represented by Ms. Brenda Heandler (U.S. State Department)

<sup>6</sup> Represented by Mr. Emerson Kloss (Brazilian Embassy)



- 3) Recently (August 07), the Increasing Generation Capacity was 37.5 MWe, including a newly installed Heavy Fuel supplied (4MWe) generator. An additional 4MW expansion is expected on short term (January 08) and is considered as the last additional diesel fueled unit at the Needs Must Facility and potentially the last conventional generator that the SKED hopes to put in place. Following this, it is hoped that additional capacity is provided by RE alternatives which may be developed by independent power producers (IPPs).
- 4) As a response to the need for regulatory reform, the Ministry signed a TOR with a Consultant to investigate, design and realize the corporatization of the St. Kitts Electricity Department. He indicated that renewable energy independent power producers are welcome and that the corporatization process should go hand in hand with regulatory reforms.

- Meeting: Ms. Hillary Hazel, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Ms. Amicia Mussenden and Ms. Shirley Skerrit, Senior Officers of Ministry of Sustainable Development; UNIDO; UNF; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy; project team.

During this meeting the results and conclusions of the Bio-Energy Stakeholders Consultation were discussed with the Department of Sustainable Development. The conversation went about the data regarding available lands for sugar production and policy reforms required for Bio-Energy Development. PS Hazel suggested that she can provide us with the latest information from the land use survey and also reconfirmed their need/interest in having a technical person placed in the Ministry to aid in the Bio-Energy development process. The Ministry would follow up by providing the following set of information:

- 1) Acres of sugar cane land currently uncommitted to other destinations and requests for land already in the pipeline from the Land and Survey Dept.
- 2) National Sustainable Plan 2006 – CD – from Ministry of National Security
- 3) What is the price of gasoline and diesel for transport before tax?
- 4) Contact reference of Consultant working on the corporatization of SKED.

- Site Visit: IICA, UNIDO; UNF; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy; project team.

A site visit tour was organized by the project team to the St. Kitts Electricity Department, the SSMC Facility and Sugar Cane Lands on the North-Eastern part of the island.

Thursday, Aug 30, 2007

- Meeting: Min. Cedric Liburd, Minister of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs; Keith Phillip, Project Officer and Director of the Sugar Transition Team; UNF; UNIDO; FIU; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy; project team.

During this meeting the results and conclusions of the Bio-Energy Stakeholders Consultation were discussed with the Minister. He was pleased to receive the outcomes of the study and reminded the importance of time to plea a case to secure agricultural lands. Several topics were elaborated. The Minister informed the team that:

- 1) FAO has a program with St. Kitts and Nevis helping the Ministry of Agriculture to develop food crops with 100 workers (former sugar workers). FAO is funding \$453,000 over 2 years for this initiative.



- 2) The Ministry is suggesting a specific committee for agro-energy.
- 3) He has been traveling the island to talk with sugar workers regarding current living conditions and senses interest among the population in re-establishing cultivation in sugar, regardless of the final product. Also he suggested that many rural people wish to remain working and living in rural regions.

The Ministry would follow up by providing the following set of information:

- 1) Provide a copy of the 1966 Soil Survey Study.
  - 2) An assessment of the current job situation of former employees of SSMC. How many still unemployed, roughly?
  - 3) The envisaged land requirements for the farmers program (FAO-funded) described by the Agricultural Ministry.
  - 4) Provide contact information of the person within the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for the European Commission - St. Kitts Sugar Strategy. Provide a copy of a document that describes and states the St. Kitts Sugar Transition Strategy.
- Meeting: Mr. Conrad Kelly (Agronomic Consultant); Mr. Starrett Greene (OAS director St. Kitts and Nevis); UNIDO; FIU; U.S. State Dep.; Brazilian Embassy project team.

Kelly commented the results of the Bio-Energy Stakeholder Consultation and would be interested in working in this area if sugar for energy is established. Currently he is working as an independent consultant. The conversation was focused on technical issues related to possible scenarios for Bio-Energy Development, including:

- 1) Former cultivation activities; traditional vs. latest technologies.
- 2) Crop; soil conditions; research centers; gene modification.
- 3) Discussed the latest SSMC annual report. Ms. Brenda Heandler (U.S. State Dep.) went back next day to pick up and had copied/scanned this annual report.

For more background information feel free to contact:

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