

COUNTRY PAPER
JAMAICA
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

I Introduction

Jamaica became a party to the UNFCCC in June 1995. It is an island in the Caribbean Sea south of Cuba. Its land area is over 10, 830 square kilometres and its population is in excess of 2.5 million people. Located between 17 and 19 degrees North latitude this tropical country experiences year round sunshine. The land rises is mostly mountainous with a narrow, discontinuous coastal plain.

The natural resources are bauxite, gypsum and lime stone. Arable lands are about 14% mainly sugar cane and bananas, permanent crops 6%, permanent pastures 24%, forests and woodland 17% and other 39% based on 1993 estimates. Irrigated lands are about 350 sq. km.

The key sectors of the economy are Tourism and bauxite. Per capita income is \$3,300. (1998) and GDP is \$8.8 billion (1998). Comparison of GDP by sectors is Agriculture 7.4%, Industry 42.1% and Services 50.5% (1997 estimates).

Electricity consumption in 1996 was 6.125 billion kWh produced by fossil fuels 97.96% and hydro 2.04%.

Jamaica in 1997 had 350,000 telephones facilitated by a fully automatic domestic telephone network.

Jamaica is strategically located on the main sea-lanes for the Panama Canal.

II Technology needs and technology needs assessments

- Jamaica has never had an assessment of its technology needs.
- Exploration of the potential for utilizing solar, wind, biomass (sugar cane), organic power, wave action to produce energy.
- Exploration of the potential for the use of alternate energy in the transportation system both public and private, electric powered cars, fuel cells powered buses.

III Capacity building needs

- This is required for all relevant sectors public, private and non-government.

IV Barriers to technology transfer

- Lack of awareness by all groups.

V Possible actions and initiatives to remove barriers

- Strong public awareness aimed primarily at policy makers and the private sector

VI Opportunities for investment and private sector participation

- Most sectors in particular the tourism, manufacturing and mining.

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VII Ongoing and planned technology transfer activities

- Currently the island is involved in a renewable energy project designed for the member of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM and funded by the GEF.
- On the island are several small-scale wind turbines.

VIII Elements of successful transfer of technology activities

- Must include the smaller economies.

IX Possible elements of a framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention

Whenever action is initiated within the region of Latin America and the Caribbean there is sometimes a disparity as regards as to the participation and distribution of projects. The experience is that the smaller countries of the Caribbean are usually at a disadvantage. For any framework to be successful it must recognize and give special consideration to the smaller countries of the Caribbean.

X Conclusions

The small countries of the Caribbean have benefited least so far from the climate change process. We were not a part of CC: Train, we did not benefit from country study programs, and we have no AIJ projects. We hope that our experience as regard to Technology Transfer will be one of full participation.

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