

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Caribbean Regional Program
Program Title:	Improved Environmental Management
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	538-005
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$570,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2000
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

Summary: USAID promotes improved environmental management within the Eastern Caribbean through technical assistance and training that facilitate the adoption of best environmental management practices, policies, and standards in small tourism enterprises; environmental marketing and education to promote awareness; and access to financing for environmental improvements. USAID's environment program recognizes that the economies and the ecosystems of the Caribbean states are inextricably linked. USAID's work with the tourism sector ensures sustainability of the delicate natural resources upon which this critical industry, which is the region's engine for economic growth, depends. It also seeks to promote increased efficiency and competitiveness in international markets through improved environmental management and compliance with internationally accepted standards.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increased access to best environmental management practices (\$440,000 DA). USAID will offer environmental training and develop coaching tool kits for small- and medium-sized hotels, tour operators, and sites and attractions. USAID will work with more than 50 hotels to adopt environmental management systems. USAID will conduct public education environmental awareness programs to help key groups identify and address environmental management issues and implement more energy efficient mechanisms for doing business. In addition, USAID's implementing partners will develop and disseminate environmental messages for tour operators that promote awareness and encourage adoption of good environmental management practices. USAID-supported environmental and technology volunteers will be deployed to teach small hotel operators and other tourism industry professionals about how they can make their businesses more environmentally friendly and reduce costs at the same time. Of particular importance to the strategy will be the launching of Caribbean Experiences (CE), a not-for-profit cooperative that will serve as a marketing organization and hotel management company for small tourism enterprises throughout the region. It will give a "brand name" to Caribbean tourism enterprises and actively market them to potential visitors in Europe and the United States. USAID is supporting the development of this cooperative to ensure the sustainability of work done in the tourism sector once donor assistance is concluded. The program will also work with CARICOM to develop financing mechanisms for countries in the region to leverage resources to support sustainable development. Principal contractors, grantees, and other partners will include the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST).

Improved environmental policies and standards (\$130,000 DA). The program will continue to focus on policy issues related to the adoption of environmental standards by small tourism enterprises in order to meet international market expectations and regional certification objectives, as well as the development of a model eco-destination certification program for the Caribbean. Principal partners will include the OAS and CAST.

FY 2005 Program:

No new funds are requested for this program in FY 2005. During this fiscal year, USAID will focus on ensuring the sustainability of program impacts, to the extent possible.

Performance and Results: During the past year, substantial gains were made in the number of organizations adopting best practices and in exposing organizations to environmental information. Good progress was made toward implementing international and market-driven standards in the tourism sector and increasing tourism enterprises' accessibility to finance for environmental improvements. With 756 organizations in the region being exposed to environmental information, the target of 680 was exceeded by more than 10%. More than 282 organizations adopted best environmental practices, a significant increase over the annual target of 240. Fourteen private organizations independently secured financing for environmental activities, two more than the target of 12.

By the end of the Strategy in FY 2004, this program will have helped protect critical ecosystems that are vital to tourism and economic growth by assisting the region to address environmental concerns.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Caribbean Regional Program

	DA	ESF
538-005 Improved Environmental Management		
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	653	8,500
Expenditures	413	3,653
Unliquidated	240	4,847
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,526	0
Expenditures	542	2,990
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	3,179	8,500
Expenditures	955	6,643
Unliquidated	2,224	1,857
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	570	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	570	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	3,749	8,500