



**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
IN
BARBADOS AND THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORISING OFFICER
IN
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

**COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

JOINT ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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The Cotonou Agreement

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1. Executive Summary

Antigua & Barbuda's real GDP increased by 2.7 per cent in 2002 and was expected to continue to rise during 2003 by 3.2 per cent. However, the fiscal position of the Government has deteriorated in recent years as a result of an expansionary fiscal policy, including a high public sector wage bill, increasing expenditure for post-hurricane rehabilitation, and a weaker performance in the tourism industry. The operations of the central government resulted in a considerable reduction in the current account deficit during 2002, down to US\$ million –40.5 but the indicators point to a widening of the fiscal deficit for 2003. The budget presented by the PM Mr. Bird on 30 March 2003 projected an overall deficit of EC\$271 million, or 17 per cent of GDP. The Government is taking measures to address the economic and fiscal challenges, but the performance remains highly dependent on the recovery of the global - especially the US – economy and international peace and security.

The Country Support Strategy and National Indicative Programme for Antigua under the 9th EDF was signed on 28 November 2002 between Prime Minister, Mr. Lester Bird and the Head of the European Commission Delegation Ambassador John Caloghirou. Under the 9th EDF, which amounts to €2.4 million for Antigua and Barbuda, EC funds have been concentrated in the education/human resources development area. Progress in the preparation and implementation of projects under the earlier EDFs has been slow. However, following the Country Review meeting 2002, measures were agreed and taken to fasten the operations. Antigua and Barbuda was allocated a total of €12.5 million under the 6th, 7th and 8th EDF, but disbursement at end-2003 had only reached €0.069million.

During 2003, global commitments reached €4.8 million, individual commitments €0.23 million, and total payments €0.069 million. Total active project portfolio reached the amount of €8.8 million.

2. The Government's Policy Agenda

As reflected in the Medium Term Economic Strategy, the Government aims to create an effective and efficient economy through sustainable development with the main thrust being: achievement of economic growth rate of at least 2.5 per cent, reduction of the recurrent deficit to 0.5 per cent, enhancement of the country's planning culture, public sector reform, strengthened efforts to expand offshore financial services sector and tax reform to facilitate revenue generation. Enhancing safety and security, strengthening and diversifying the economy and improving social services are of special importance for the Government. The Government is also convinced that the key source of economic growth of a small state is in trained and educated human capital.

3. UPDATE ON THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

3.1 Millennium Development Indicators

Indicator	2001
1. Life expectancy at birth	73.9
2. Adult literacy rate (%)	86.6
3. Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	69
4. Maternal mortality ratio – per 100,000 live births (1985-2001)	150

5. Underweight children under age five (%)	10
6. Immunization against measles – one year old (%)	97
7. Infant mortality rate – per 1,000 live births	12
8. Under five mortality rate – per 1,000 live births	14
9. Infants with low birth weight (%)	8
10 AIDS incidence rates (1998) per 100,000 population	7.5
11. Access to improved water sources (%)	91

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2003, OECS Human Development report 2002

Indicators above are selected on the basis of their availability, importance and relevance to the EC cooperation under the 9th EDF, in which human resources development is the focal sector. No projections are available regarding the development of the Millennium Development Goal Indicators.

3.2 Political Situation

There are two main political parties, the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) and the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP). The Prime Minister is the Honourable Lester Bird of the ALP who gained power in 1994 and is serving his second five-year term. The most recent elections were held in March 1999 with the ALP gaining 11 seats, the UPP secured 5 seats, and the Barbuda Peoples Movement won one seat. The next general elections will take place on 23 March 2004.

Political disagreements within the governing party reduced the Government's parliamentary majority to one seat. The forthcoming general elections are to be held under the directions of the newly formed Elections Commission, which is being assisted by its counterpart in Jamaica. A new voters' list and photo identification of eligible electorates have been produced under a system of continuous registration.

3.3 Recent Economic Performance

Real GDP in Antigua and Barbuda increased in 2003 by 3.2 % compared with 2.7% in 2002. The earlier weakened economic growth evident in 2000 and 2001 was partly due to the effects of hurricanes, the September 11th attack and the global economic slowdown.

The fiscal position remains poor as public finances are under severe strain. The budget for 2003/04 presented by the PM projects a recurrent deficit of EC\$64 million or 3.4% of GDP and an overall deficit of EC\$271 million or 17% of GDP largely as a result of repeated borrowing for post-hurricane rehabilitation and reconstruction works, and exacerbated by expansionary fiscal policies. The operations of the central government in 2001 and 2002 resulted in a slight reduction in the current account deficit, but indicators point to a large fiscal deficit for 2003.

The crucial drain on the budget continues to be the maintenance of a large public service, which with civil servants and elected officials alone, accounts for 30% of national employment and represents 56.6% of current expenditure. The Government has rejected suggestions of retrenchments in the public sector, which accounts for 74% of recurrent revenue and instead proposed freezes on wage increases and new recruitments. The Government has faced problems in paying the public sector wage bill on time during 2003, resulting to numerous industrial actions by different workers' groups.

The Government's revenue policy is being revised to facilitate enterprise and to encourage compliance with tax laws. To promote tax compliance, the Government reduced corporate

income tax from 40% to 30% and withholding tax from 40% to 25%. The Government is also to actively pursue a policy of privatization of publicly held assets so as to help to reduce the fiscal deficit.

The level of external debt, including arrears, continues to be a significant burden on the finances of the Government and has affected the Government's access to external and domestic sources of funds. Public sector debt at end 2003 was estimated at EC\$1.5 billion or 103% of GDP, of which EC\$2.8 billion was external debt. Public debt servicing represented 23% per cent of the budgeted recurrent expenditure in 2003.

Tourism dominates the economy in Antigua and Barbuda, accounting for more than 65 % of the GDP and looks increasingly as the only strong factor for an eventual economic recovery. Antigua and Barbuda is the only country in the OECS region that has experienced growth in tourist arrivals (estimated between +5% and +7%) after several years of weak results. The most important markets for Antigua and Barbuda are the US and UK, and there was a notable increase of 11.45 per cent in UK visitors in 2003. Antigua and Barbuda suffers from a lack of airline seats from important markets such as Canada and some major population areas in the USA, Europe and South America. The Government is now attempting to attract additional air carriers to boost the airlift capacity into Antigua and Barbuda. It is also amending the Tourism Development Corporation Act to stimulate new investment in the industry. Downside risks include the possible resurgence of concerns over international terrorism or a renewed downturn in the global economy, although signs point to the opposite direction.

International Financial Services is the second biggest source of revenue and seen as the main area of economic diversification. International trade and transactions grew 9% in 2003, representing 58.65 % of total tax revenues and partly compensating for the modest performance of taxes on domestic goods and services. Compared to other countries in the region, Antigua and Barbuda has a significant number of banks in the offshore sector.

A significant set back in the development of the sector was experienced in 2000 when Antigua and Barbuda was placed on the black list of countries regarded as tax havens by the OECD. Since then, the Government has completed updates of the legislative framework for the sector, by introducing a draft Offshore Finance Sector Plan 2001-2004, aiming at improving and strengthening the regulation, management and promotion of the offshore finance sector in order to attract legitimate international investment so as to enhance this sector's contribution to the economy. Antigua and Barbuda has passed the criteria of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force regarding regulation and supervision in the fight against money laundering. It is in the process of completing the implementation of a single regulatory body for both the offshore financial services sector and the domestic non-bank financial services sector.

3.4 Regional Integration and Trade Policy

Antigua and Barbuda is a member of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). CARICOM members are in the process of establishing a Common Single Market and Economy (CSME) that will include not only a fully functioning common market, but also the harmonisation of macroeconomic policies and eventual monetary integration. The Government is committed to the CSME and plans to update its legislation to facilitate its integration into the CSME

The new regional trade arrangements are expected to be finally in place by 2005 alongside those of the FTAA. Harmonized regional positions are critical in the negotiations of FTAA

and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with the EU. The Caribbean region's EPA negotiations will be launched in the course of second quarter in 2004.

Within the context of liberalisation, Antigua and Barbuda's national trade policy, largely guided by that of CARICOM and the OECS, focuses on forward looking, outward oriented trade policy reform programmes geared towards the gradual removal of protectionist measures. The Government has made considerable progress in liberalising its trade regime by reducing both tariff and non-tariff barriers. A trade policy review was conducted by the WTO in June 2001.

In order to secure markets for its exports, the Government's strategy is to negotiate CSME/WTO compatible agreements with its trading partners. The country's main trading partners are the OECS and CARICOM, the United States, Japan, and the European Union countries, the main traded items being commodities, agricultural produce and beverages.

3.5 Achievements in the social sectors

According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2003, Antigua and Barbuda is ranked 56 among 175 countries on the basis of adult literacy, school enrolment, life expectancy at birth, and per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There has been no recent assessment to determine the extent of poverty in Antigua and Barbuda. However, the situation is likely to be exacerbated by increased unemployment affected partly by the Government's unavoidable decision to freeze wage increases and new recruitments.

Antigua and Barbuda is cooperating with regional and international agencies to prevent its borders from being a transshipment point for narcotics bound for the US and Europe. The problem of drugs has however spread within the country, being linked to wider social phenomena such as rising crime and violence, unemployment and poverty. The prisons have become overcrowded and the Government plans to address the problem through penal system reform, as well as measures to strengthen the role of the Police and the Defence Force.

Education: Free education at primary and secondary levels is provided for the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, although supported by the "Education Levy". The Government reports however that its objectives in education are not fully achieved yet, especially in the areas of participation in the post primary programme, curriculum development, curriculum evaluation and regarding repetition and dropout rates versus attendance rates. Teaching methods and the curriculum in general are in need of modernization to adequately fill the needs of the society. Government is developing a comprehensive education programme for all three different education levels.

The development of a new Education Plan 2002-2004 was launched in late 2003 in an effort to further improve the country's human resources development by concentrating in the areas of teaching and learning resources, qualification, standards and equivalencies school improvement programmes certification for global access education to combat HIV/AIDS, information and communication technology in education, scholarship, fellowship and exchange schemes, values education & teacher training and professional development.

Progress towards the merger of tertiary institutions (and to make these autonomous bodies) under the University College of Antigua and Barbuda continued in 2003, with draft Acts being circulated for input by stakeholders prior to its adoption by Cabinet and enactment by Parliament.

Health: The health profile of Antigua and Barbuda has shown marked improvements in recent years as major emphasis continues to be placed on health promotion, protection and prevention strategies as well as improved sanitation. However, there is still cause for concern since diseases related to lifestyle practices abound - HIV/AIDS, obesity, and other chronic non-communicable diseases. Non-communicable diseases are the leading causes of death while accidents and AIDS are the leading causes of death among young people. It is anticipated that the Government will commence also a comprehensive health reform process including a re-orientation of the Medical Benefits Scheme. Antigua and Barbuda is concerned with the problem of HIV/AIDS infection and has launched a National Strategic Plan against HIV/AIDS.

Gender differentials: As noted in the OECS Human Development Report 2002, the Caribbean region is considered peculiar in terms of gender inequalities. Females are more often likely to be unemployed, have lower labour force participation rates and are to be found in specific sectors of employment which do not have high level of remuneration, but the economic differences in population as well as poverty and consumption levels are not considered consistent or necessarily gender-biased. The gender differentials are not necessarily against women or in one direction only. The legal and constitutional rights of females are reasonably well established while indications of wide spread domestic violence exist.

Migration: Migration is the major force contributing to the variations in population change in Antigua & Barbuda, which has reached the final stages of the demographic transition, demonstrating low fertility and mortality rates. The net migration rate in 2003 is estimated at -6, 19/1000 population Antigua and Barbuda is the Caribbean country with the 3rd largest concentrations of immigrants (7.9%). The established OECS Economic Union is expected to have further influence on intra-regional migration flows.

3.6 Environment

The biological resources in Antigua & Barbuda, as in the other small OECS islands are under pressure caused by economic interests (tourism, agriculture and fisheries) and factors such as concentration of population and high frequency of disasters. Further degradation of the countries' natural resources greatly influences to their prospects for social and economic development.

3.7 Future Challenges and Prospects

The Government achieved real GDP growth of 2.7% in 2002, 3.2 per cent for 2003 and aims to achieve growth of 4 per cent in 2004. The global economic slowdown and uncertainty however are expected to have adverse effects on economic prospects. Antigua and Barbuda's indebtedness continues to grow as revenue declines and expenditure increases. The main challenge of Antigua and Barbuda is address the overall fiscal situation and high levels of external debt.

These issues, linked to the expenditure burden of a large civil service were addressed through the National Strategic Development Plan and Public Sector Modernisation Programme. The Government addressed the economic and fiscal problems by improving tax collection through tax reform; renegotiating loans; supporting provision of an enabling environment for private sector to attract investment and creating employment and pursuing a policy of privatization of publicly held assets. Economic diversification and sustainable

development are the tools being used by Government to prepare the country for the opportunities and challenges presented by globalisation and trade liberalisation.

4. Overview of past and ongoing EC co-operation

During 2003, global commitments reached €4.8 million, individual commitments €0.23 million, and total payments €0.069 million. Total active project portfolio reached the amount of €8.8 million.

Generally, EC aid has helped in tackling major capital projects, which the government was unable to undertake. The release by the Government of counterpart resources remains a concern and often results in delays in project completion, as in the case of the Hospitality Training Institute (HTI), the Science Block at the Antigua State College and in the case of a number of EIB funded projects. It is a significant explanatory factor for the low disbursement rates under Lomé III and IV.

4.1 European Development Fund – Focal Sectors

4.1.1 9th EDF €2.4 million – Focal Sector: Human Resources Development

Under the 9th EDF, 90% of the “A envelope” amounting to €2.34 million will be concentrated on the education sector, at the tertiary level. Part of the allocation may be utilised for accompanying measures under the education reform process initiated by the Government in the sector. The overall objective of the EC intervention is to upgrade the level of trained human resources in the labour market in the context of a changing economic, social and cultural environment. Priority sectors, such as business, tourism, financial services and information technology, shall be given special attention. The Antigua State College, the premier tertiary level institution in Antigua, is to be the beneficiary under this project and the upgrading of its facilities will be an important area for support. The Government in 2003 continued to work on the University College of Antigua and Barbuda Act, which has brought the State College, the Institute of Technology and the Hotel Training School under one administrative umbrella. Indicators building on those in the current intervention framework at Annex I will be expanded in the light of the development plan for State College, and in the preparation of the Financing Proposal for this EU intervention, the first draft of which has already been completed. A feasibility study was completed in early 2003, and a formal financing proposal must now await the design study and should be available by mid-2004.

4.1.2 The 8th EDF NIP €4.5 million – Focal Sector: Human Resources Development

The human resources development programme focuses on vocational training and in particular, the expansion of the Technical Vocational Centre at Tomlinson and the provision of equipment. The object of the programme is to lessen social disparities, widen employment access and opportunities, while providing sufficient human capital to diversify the economy. Major delays were experienced in putting forward a satisfactory financing proposal for the Technical Vocational Centre partly due to organizational changes in the Ministry of Education. A Financing Agreement for €4.3 million was signed in September 2003 and the project is being implemented.

4.1.3 7th EDF NIP € 3.5 million Focal Sector: Human Resources Development

Upgrading and Expansion of the Hotel Training Centre (€2.64 million): The objective of the programme is to improve the level of service and increase the levels of incomes for the growing number of persons employed in hotels, restaurants and hospitality enterprises. The project consists of the construction and equipping of the Hotel Training Centre, and curriculum development through training existing staff in managerial and pedagogical skills, and the recruitment of new staff. The works have been completed and the building is furnished. The formal opening took place on 30 October 2003. Financial closure of the project is now underway.

4.2. Projects and Programmes outside focal sectors

9th EDF

Fifteen per cent of the indicative programme (€0.4 million) has been earmarked for the newly introduced Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF), which aims at facilitating and supporting the implementation of the CSP. It will provide support for studies, audits, seminars/conferences and technical support. The B-allocation for Antigua and Barbuda to cover unforeseen needs is €0.4 million.

8th EDF

Drugs control programme (€0.36 million): intended to look specifically at the issue of demand reduction targeting young persons. A proposal has been prepared for four countries to be included in one Financial Proposal with the EC Delegation playing the role of coordinator and each country implementing its own individual Work Programme. The relevant Financing Agreement was signed in early 2003. A work programme for implementation of the project in Antigua and Barbuda is being implemented.

7th EDF

4.3 Utilisation of resources for non-state actors under 9th EDF

Given the size of the 9th EDF “A allocation” for Antigua and Barbuda, and taking into account the recommendation that for countries with an indicative envelope under €10 million there will be one focal sector and one project within that sector, no funds were set aside specifically for non-state actors from the 9th EDF allocation. However, it has been agreed with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda that non-state actors should as far as possible be involved at all levels in the activities to be carried out both in the focal sector and non-focal sector.

4.4. Other Instruments

4.4.1 Caribbean Regional Indicative Programmes (CRIP)

Antigua and Barbuda, a member of CARICOM/Cariforum, is a beneficiary of the many regional programmes funded through the EDF. The 7th EDF RIP has a global envelope of €105 million, while the 8th EDF RIP has €90 million available. Discussions on the programming of the 9th EDF RIP have led to the decision that the focal sector for support will be regional economic integration and integration into the world economy, for which an envelope of €57 million is available.

Under the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP), Antigua is benefiting from the construction of a three storey Science Block at the Antigua State College as part of the OECS Human Resources development - Tertiary level programme. A project (€1.99 million) for the rehabilitation of the Nelson Dockyard seawall has been approved from CRIP financing and the relevant Financing Agreement was signed in October 2002. The project's objective is to better maintain the Nelson's Dockyard site - which was badly damaged in hurricanes in 1995 and 1999 – increase visitors and commercial activities at the Dockyard. Site work commenced in April 2003 and was completed at the end of 2003. The 7th & 8th EDF CRIP projects that Antigua & Barbuda benefits from are presented in Annex VII.

4.4.2 Thematic Budget-lines

The EC approved in May 2003 a Caribbean regional programme from a budget line B7-701 (Human Rights Development) to further restrict the implementation of the death penalty in the Commonwealth Caribbean, with a view to its eventual abolition. Those sentenced to death in the region are the immediate target group. The main activities of this project include: (i) the provision of assistance and free legal representation to those on death row; (ii) strategic litigation at both the national level in criminal and constitutional proceedings and at the international level in individual and group applications to international human rights bodies such as the UN Human Rights Committee and the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights; (iii) consultation and dialogue with governments, judges, lawyers and human rights workers in the region; and (iv) the provision of interactive training, backed up with high level publications and to conduct criminological and legal analysis.

4.4.3 Support from All ACP funds

The EC approved €50 million all ACP Trade.Com programme in August 2003, which is aimed at reinforcing the analytical and research capacities for trade policy formulation in; providing immediate assistance for ongoing negotiation and promoting activities for institutional support in the area of trade support services ACP counties. A specific project has been designed for the Caribbean region, which is expected to commence early 2004.

In addition, €1.4 million has been provided for the OECS and Pacific from a €10 Million All-ACP Facility to Support ACP integration in the Multilateral Trading System. Further €0.76 million from €20 million All-ACP Support Programme for Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations (EPA), has been approved to support Caribbean Negotiating Machinery to participate in EPA negotiations. Other All ACP programmes in the Caribbean region are presented in Annex VIII.

4.4.4 European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)

The ECHO launched its first Disaster Preparedness (DIPECHO) Programme for the Caribbean in 1998, making available some €6 million for the activities to prepare for and mitigate against disaster and also, to a lesser degree, for disaster prevention. The 4th DIPECHO plan for the Caribbean was approved by the EC in 2003. The amount of the new plan is €2.5 million and it covers activities in Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

4.4.5 European Investment Bank (EIB)

The EIB has provided Antigua and Barbuda with a total of €9.45 million in financial assistance since 1979. EIB loans have been utilised for a road rehabilitation programme, an airport navigational system at V. C. Bird Airport, the improvement of the North Shore Water Distribution System and a livestock development programme. The EIB also participates in the funding of the Antigua and Barbuda component of the OECS waste management project.

4.4.6 Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)

The CDE supports private sector development by providing non-financial services to ACP companies and businesses and support to joint initiatives set up by economic operators of the Community and of the ACP States. In the OECS region the CDE supports Private Sector development through sector programmes in Construction and Mining, Agro-processing, Wood, Herbal Medicines and Tourism. Over the period 1999-2003, CDE has assisted in the OECS region a total of 56 enterprises carrying out 85 interventions at a total cost of €957,562 of which €532,041 was contributed by the CDE.

PROINVEST programme, managed by the CDE aims at increasing investments between the Caribbean and Europe. PROINVEST has a fund of €110 million over 5 years to support private sector development in the Caribbean, African and Pacific Countries. Summary of the CDE activities, including PROINVEST is presented in Annex X.

4.4.7 Centre for the Development of Agriculture (CTA)

The CTA supports policy and institutional capacity development and information and communication management capacities of agricultural and rural development organisations in ACP countries. CTA assists organisations in formulating and implementing policies and programmes to reduce poverty, promote sustainable food security and preserve the natural resources. CTA activities in the Caribbean region are presented in Annex XI.

5. Programming Perspective for the following years

The EC shall continue to support the Government in its efforts to broaden the country's production base which at present is constrained by the shortage of skilled labour at the middle and managerial levels in key sectors such as construction, tourism, manufacturing and business and commerce, as well as focusing on human resources development, in particular on the development of the Antigua State College. The Government of Antigua & Barbuda has made efforts to introduce measures aimed at the reduction of poverty. The need to reform the public sector and improve the overall public finances, including debt reduction is also essential

5.1 Integration of new EC/EU policy initiatives and commitments

Approximately 85% (€2.2 million) of the 9th EDF NIP, has been allocated to the focal sector support. The remaining 15% (€0.4 million) is reserved for the Technical Assistance under Technical Cooperation Facility. Due to full programming of funds, new items or commitments are not foreseen under 9th EDF support. However, as regards the new EC/EU policy initiatives and commitments that have impact on third countries, Trade and Development, including preparedness to the trade negotiations and trade liberalization is of increasing importance to Antigua & Barbuda.

Currently the EU support has been allocated to trade related issues through CARIFORUM Regional Trade and Private Sector Development Programmes. Needs for additional support exist, especially in the areas of environmental protection and support to non-state actors. Antigua and Barbuda would support efforts to strengthen existing mechanisms relating to democracy and human rights, co-financing with NGOs, food security, environment and forests, gender and health.

5.2. Proposal on a review and adaptation of the CSP

Preparation of the 9th EDF focal sector support, namely drafting of Financing Proposal for a programme that concentrates on the education sector (tertiary level) support was launched in 2003. The proposal is expected to be presented to the EDF Committee in fourth quarter of 2004. Revision of the agreed and planned support package to Antigua & Barbuda education sector is not foreseen. The Logical Framework for the programme including target indicators to 2003 - 2006 was updated in 2003 and will form the basis for the Mid-Term Review in 2004. The Ministry of Education is to provide progress reports in respect of action plans for all related activities.

7. Concluding Comments

The main recommendations from the Country Team, iQSG, ISC and EDF Committee were to enhance the involvement of Non State Actors and to better address environmental issues within the EU/A&B cooperation process.

The **environmental** organizations in Antigua & Barbuda have recognized the importance of community involvement and have supported public awareness efforts. As a result, there appeared to be strong interest in further establishment of a protected area. There are clear needs for an updated management plan, institutional strengthening of the National Parks authority, and greater involvement of local populations and NGOs.

Through the NGO Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), and the Antiguan Racer Conservation Project (ARCP) a lot of work in the North Sound has been done with regard to protecting endangered species, conservation of indigenous flora and fauna and public awareness. As a consequence of this work, the ARCP has gradually transformed into a broader Offshore Island Conservation Programme (OICP). A Country Environmental Profile will be attached to the present Joint Annual Report.

With the aim of strengthening **civil society** involvement in EU/Antigua & Barbuda development partnership, a Non State Actor (NSA) Advisory Panel, representative of Antigua & Barbuda's civil society, will be established in close consultation between the EC Delegation in Barbados and the National Authorising Officer. The main purpose of the Panel will be to provide a venue for tripartite (Government/EU/NSAs) policy/programming dialogue and to function as "sounding board" permitting collection of NSAs' views/input on EU-funded projects and programmes in Antigua & Barbuda.

The choice of the focal sector was confirmed: in 2003 preparation of the 9th EDF focal sector support (namely drafting the Financing Proposal for a programme that concentrates on the education sector support - tertiary level) was launched. The proposal is **expected to**

be presented to the EDF Committee in fourth quarter of 2004. Revision of the agreed and planned support package to Antigua & Barbuda education sector is not foreseen.

The **overall assessment** of Antigua & Barbuda **in terms of financial performance, sectoral performance and ‘special considerations’** (such as progress in institutional reforms and towards poverty reduction) under the 8th EDF has been rather slow. While the 6th and 7th EDF NIPs are virtually used up, the 8th EDF has been delayed. However, 90% of the 8th EDF represents only one project, the Technical and Vocational Training Project, the Financing Agreement for which was signed in October 2003. Now that this project is under way, the financial performance indicators have improved. The release by the Government of counterpart resources remains a concern and often results in delays in project completion, as in the case of the Hospitality Training Institute (HTI), the Science Block at the Antigua State College and in the case of a number of EIB funded projects. It is a significant explanatory factor for the low disbursement rates under Lomé III and IV.

On the basis of commitments made by the end of 2003 on a 10 year period, Antigua & Barbuda would need 3,17 years to complete current commitments, 19,99 years to complete assigned funds and 12,08 years to complete payments. During 2003, global commitments reached €4.8 million, individual commitments €0.23 million, and total payments €0.069 million. Total active project portfolio reached the amount of €8.8 million.

The Logical Framework for the programme including target indicators to 2003 - 2006 suffered several delays but was finally updated at the end of 2003. It includes input, output and outcome indicators and forms the basis for the Mid-Term Review in 2004. The Ministry of Education is to provide progress reports in respect of action plans for all related activities.

Given that one single project under the focal sector ‘Human Resources Development’ representing 85 % of the available resources is expected to be committed in early 2005 the Commission proposed not to change the strategy or the initial financial allocation.

A&B did not qualify for **FLEX** disbursements under application year 2003.

key perspectives for the future Due to full programming of funds, **new EC/EU initiatives** and/or commitments **are not foreseen** under 9th EDF support. Approximately 85% (€2.2 million) of the 9th EDF NIP, has been allocated to the focal sector support. The remaining 15% (€0.4 million) is reserved for the Technical Assistance under Technical Cooperation Facility. However, as regards the new EC/EU policy initiatives and commitments that have impact on third countries, Trade and Development, including preparedness to the trade negotiations and trade liberalization is of increasing importance to Antigua & Barbuda.

Annex I: Intervention Framework

Sector – tertiary education	Performance indicators	Status 2002	Target 2003	Target 2004
National Sector Target				
To provide sufficient and well trained human capital to diversify the economy.	Increased employment amongst young people ages 20 to 30 years old	unemployment rate of 40% for age group 20-30 years old	YSTP is 100% full (too small for market demand)	drop by 1% in unemployment rate of the age group
	Increased diversification of the economy	Number of people employed by Government, Tourism, Agricultural, Construction and other sectors: 28,500	Increase by 5% in skills availability in the job market	Number of people employed in targeted sectors increased by 1%
Intervention objective: improve capacity in technical and vocational training	expenditure for technical and vocational training in relation to total of education expenditure increased	2% of technical and vocational training in relation to total of education expenditure	2.4% of technical and vocational training in relation to total education expenditure	3% of technical and vocational training in relation to total of education expenditure
	GoAB makes available the required lands at Tomlinson for construction.	Lands designated and fenced.	Achieved Yes	Design brief developed
	increase in number of students being admitted to YSTP	60 students admitted to YSTP	Y 2002 number + 150	Y 2002 Number + 210
	increase in number of trained teachers	One trained teacher available	Y 2002 number +2	Y 2003 number +1
	technical assistance recruited	recruitment process	achieved No	achieved Yes
Results				

Fully operational, upgraded, purpose built facilities	Expanded facilities – physical and institutional	feasibility study	financing agreement	Achieved No
youth skills training programme	National Training Certification Council established	programme developed	Achieved No	Achieved Yes

Annex II Chronogramme of activities

	Indicative total EUR million	Consumption of commitments (all amounts in EUR million)							
		2004/1	2004/2	2005/1	2005/2	2006/1	2006/2	2007/1	2007/2
NIP 6 th /7 th /8 th	12.5	0.09	0.068	0	0				
NIP 9 th Co-operation Focal Sector: Education	2.4	0.257	0.443	2.575	1.620				
Non-Focal Sectors									
Studies, audits, monitoring, contingencies	0.4	0.08	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.03			
GRAND TOTAL		0.42	0.61	2.67	1.71	0.03			

ANNEX III: FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR 9TH EDF

STATUS AS AT 31.12.03

9th EDF Antigua Barbuda		EUR	2,600,000	NIP					
				0 Transfer					
			2,600,000						
Project Account Number	Project Title	Date of Financing Agreement	Global Commitments (A)	Individual Commitments (B)	(B)/(A) %	Payments as at 31.12.03 (C)	C)/(A) %	Status	Payments During 2003
9 ACP AB 1	Strengthening of the Technical and Vocational Education Project	30.07.2003	4,300,000	0	0%	0	0%	On-going	-
9 ACP AB 2	Learning Resource Centre, Preparatory Action	20.08.2003	5,000	0	0%	0	0%	On-going	-
9 ACP AB 3	Design and Construction Documents, Preparatory Actions	20.10.2003	150,000	0	0%	0	0%	On-going	-
Programmable	Totals		4,455,000	0	0%	0	0%		0
	Reserve/Balance		-1,855,000						

ANNEX IV: FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR 8TH EDF

STATUS AS AT 31.12.03

8th EDF Antigua Barbuda		EUR	4,500,000	NIP					
				0 Transfer					
			4,500,000						
Project Account Number	Project Title	Date of Financing Agreement	Global Commitments (A)	Individual Commitments (B)	(B)/(A) %	Payments as at 31.12.03 (C)	C)/(A) %	Status	Payments During 2003
8 ACP AB 01	Design Brief Learning Resource Centre	06.11.02	5,000	5,000	100%	4,375	88%	On going	4,375
8 ACP AB 02	TA to the NAO	18.11.02	298,000	105,200	35%	64,316	22%	On going	64,316
8 ACP AB 03	Multi-Contry Drug Demand Reduction Project	18.12.02	350,000	118,000	34%	0	0%	On going	
Programmable	Totals		653,000	228,200	35%	68,692	11%		68,692
	Reserve/Balance		3,847,000						
	GRAND TOTAL		653,000	228,200	35%	68,692	11%		68,692

ANNEX V: FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR 7TH EDF

STATUS AS AT 31.12.03

7th EDF Antigua Barbuda		EUR	3,500,000	NIP						
			228,872	Allocated amounts transfe						
			407	Reserve from Lome II						
			3,729,279							
Project Account Number	Project Title	Date of Financing Agreement	Global Commitments (A)	Individual Commitments (B)	(B)/(A) %	Payments as at 31.12.03 (C)	C)/(A) %	Status	Payments During 2003	
7 ACP AB 001	Livestock Development	18.12.91	142,395	142,395	100%	142,395	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 002	Antigua Hotel Training Centre	19.05.92	52,159	52,159	100%	52,159	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 003	Trade Fair-Top Resa '92 Deauville	09.06.92	6,800	6,800	100%	6,800	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 004	Trade Fair - BTF Brussels '92	02.02.92	9,547	9,547	100%	9,547	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 005	Livestock Development -Phase II	28.09.92	125,452	125,452	100%	125,452	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 006	Livestock Development-Ex Lomell	03.12.93	45,563	45,563	100%	45,563	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 007	Livestock Development (L)-Ex Lome II	03.12.93	-	-	0%	-	0%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 008	Upgrading & Exps of Hotel Training Ctr	13.10.94	2,640,000	2,633,690	100%	2,543,605	96%	To be closed	-	
7 ACP AB 010	Education & Training Sector Study	25.03.98	40,636	40,636	100%	40,636	100%	Closed	-	
7 ACP AB 011	9th EDF Programming Study	08.01.01	15,218	15,218	100%	15,218	100%	Closed	-	
Programmable	Totals		3,077,770	3,071,460	100%	2,981,375	97%		0	
	Reserve/Balance		651,509							
7 ACP AB 009	Hum. Aid - British Red Cross	21.10.97	657,811	657,811	100%	657,811	100%	Closed	0	
Non-Prog.	Totals		657,811	657,811	100%	657,811	100%		0	
GRAND TOTAL			3,735,581	3,729,271	100%	3,639,186	97%		0	

ANNEX VI: FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR 6TH EDF

STATUS AS AT 31.12.03

6th EDF Antigua Barbuda		EUR	4,500,000	NIP					
				0 Transfer					
			4,500,000						
Project Account Number	Project Title	Date of Financing Agreement	Global Commitments (A)	Individual Commitments (B)	(B)/(A) %	Payments as at 31.12.03 (C)	C)/(A) %	Status	Payments During 2003
6 ACP AB 001	Road Improvements Study	26.02.88	176,509	176,509	100%	176,509	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 002	Trade Fairs (OECS) Exposition	11.10.88	1,470	1,470	100%	1,470	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 003	Trade Fairs (Madrid & Paris 1989)	23.01.89	13,446	13,446	100%	13,446	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 004	T A Statistical Adviser	03.02.89	470,904	470,904	100%	470,904	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 006	Trade Fairs (Madrid & Paris '90	22.01.90	6,740	6,740	100%	6,740	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 007	Airport Management Services	12.11.90	51,603	51,603	100%	51,603	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 008	Trade Fair - ITIX Chicago	19.04.91	11,675	11,675	100%	11,675	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 009	Road Rehabilitation-Phase II (G)	04.11.92	2,088,718	2,088,718	100%	2,088,718	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 010	Road Rehabilitation-Phase III (L)	04.11.92	975,076	975,076	100%	975,076	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 011	Scholarship Award-Sorhaindo	02.02.93	10,104	10,104	100%	10,104	100%	Closed	-
6 ACP AB 012	Air Traffic Control Radar Operation	19.06.96	690,000	690,000	100%	610,879	89%	To be closed	-
Programmable	Totals		4,496,245	4,496,245	100%	4,417,124	98%		0
	Reserve/Balance		3,755						
6 ACP AB 005	EIB - Airport Nav. System	26.04.89	1,500,000	1,500,000	100%	1,500,000	100%	Closed	-
Non-Prog.	Totals		1,500,000	1,500,000	100%	1,500,000	100%		0
	GRAND TOTAL		5,996,245	5,996,245	100%	5,917,124	99%		0

ANNEX VII CARIBBEAN REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMMES (CRIP)

All ACP 8 th EDF Programme for the Caribbean Rum Industry -	€70,000,000
All ACP 8 th EDF Programme to strengthen Fishery products-	€44,860,000
7 th EDF Caribbean Regional Trade Sector Programme -	€14,000,000
8 th EDF Caribbean Regional Trade Sector Programme -	€11,200,000
7 th EDF OECS Export Enhancement Programme -	€ 1,180,000
7 th EDF Caribbean Telecommunications Union Project -	€ 750,000
7 th EDF Caribbean Broadcasting Union / News Agency Project -	€ 3,500,000
8 th EDF Strategic Planning for Public Services -	€ 1,300,000
7 th EDF Establishment of a Caribbean Postal Union (CBU) -	€ 640,000
8 th EDF Caribbean Tourism Sector Development Programme -	€ 8,000,000
7 th EDF Caribbean Tourism Sector Development Programme -	€12,800,000
7 th EDF Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (T&T) -	€22,200,000
7 th and 6 th EDF CARIFORUM University Level Programme (CULP) -	€25,200,000
7 th EDF OECS Human Resources Development Programme -	€ 5,950,000
8 th EDF Strengthening of Medical Laboratories Services in the Caribbean -	€ 7,500,000
8 th EDF Strengthening the Institutional Response to HIV/AIDS/STI in the Caribbean (managed by T &T) -	€ 6,950,000
8 th EDF Caribbean Anti-money-laundering Programme	€4,000,000
8 th EDF Epidemiological Surveillance Programme -	€ 1,300,000
7 th Caribbean Regional Environment Programme -	€ 9,150,000

8 th EDF Radar Warning System (managed by T &T) -	€13,200,000
7 th EDF CARIFORUM Secretariat Programming Unit -	€ 6,950,000
8 th EDF Air Access Improvement Programme for Dominica	€ 11.950,000
8 th EDF Design for Dominica Airport	€ 550,000

ANNEX VIII: ALL ACP PROGRAMMES

9 ACP RPR 5	Development of malaria vaccines and their multi-centre trial	€ 7.000.000,00
9 ACP RPR 10	EC/ACP/WHO partnership on pharmaceutical policies	€ 25.000.000,00
9 ACP RPR 17	Contribution to the Global fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis	€ 170.000.000,00
9 ACP RPR 7	TRADE.COM All ACP Institutional trade capacity building facility	€50.000.000,00
9 ACP RPR 6	Support to the competitiveness of the rice sector in the Caribbean	€ 24.000.000,00
9 ACP RPR 21	Support to the collaborative doctoral programme in economics	N/A

Annex IX European Investment Bank

Antigua and Barbuda	Risk Capital	LOME - CONVENTION 3	70788 VC BIRD AIRPORT NAVIGAT SYST	19/09/89	1,500,000.00
Antigua and Barbuda	Risk Capital	LOME - CONVENTION 4	71016 OECS SOLID WASTE B	10/10/95	3,400,000.00
Antigua and Barbuda	Risk Capital	LOME - CONVENTION 4 - PROT.2	71016 OECS SOLID WASTE B	10/10/95	1,300,000.00
Antigua and Barbuda	MANDAT	LOME - CONVENTION 1	80054 NORTH SHORE WATER DISTRIBUT°	21/11/79	494,500.00
Antigua and Barbuda	MANDAT	LOME - CONVENTION 1	80216 ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAMME	13/05/86	755,500.00
Antigua and Barbuda	MANDAT	LOME - CONVENTION 2	80216 ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAMME	13/05/86	786,500.00
Antigua and Barbuda	MANDAT	LOME - CONVENTION 2	80335 LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT	19/08/91	213,500.00
Antigua and Barbuda	MANDAT	LOME - CONVENTION 3	80381 ANTIGUA ROADS REH. PHASE II	19/07/93	1,000,000.00

ANNEX X: CDE activities in the OECS countries 2003

Construction and Mining

This is a broad sector that includes clay, granite, marble and limestone aggregate quarries. It also includes companies manufacturing bricks, dimension stone, limestone products, and sand products. CDE organised a Workshop on Environmental Management for the quarrying and mining industry, in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago in November 2003. Over 30 enterprises, consultants and government agencies from the region participated in this workshop, which provided a forum for discussions on best practice in the industry. The Workshop also provided the opportunity for the enterprises in the sector to discuss specific requests for CDE support. In September 2003, a group of enterprises involved in the ceramic industry participated in the Ceramitec Exhibition in Germany. Supported by a sector specialist, the company participants were exposed to current technology in the industry relevant to their needs, and in some cases identified appropriate technology and machinery to be acquired. One quarrying company from St. Lucia was among the participants

Agro-processing

The Agro-processing sector is characterized by the relatively large number of small companies producing similar products such as processed fruits, pepper sauces, jams and jellies and alcoholic beverages. The Centre's approach is to group these companies together, usually at workshops, to deal with technical and marketing problems and also to stimulate cooperation between the companies. The programme in the Agro Industry has focused mainly on assisting enterprises to achieve Quality Management systems for food handling (HACCP). Enterprises from Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and St. Lucia have benefited from this programme.

Wood

For many years the Centre has provided technical and marketing assistance for the wood processors in the Region. Initial emphasis on furniture manufacturing has broadened to include kiln drying of timber, particularly for export and on the milling to improve the production efficiencies and quality of the timber available to downstream processors. Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) has been the subject of technical assistance and training programmes to enterprises in Suriname, Guyana and Belize.

Herbal Products

The development of the Herbal sector is considered as a possible area for diversification of the agriculture sector in the region. Further to a Regional Partnership Meeting held in Jamaica in December 2002, CDE has embarked on a programme aimed at developing and strengthening the sector with the support of other agencies viz. the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CTA. 2003 saw the creation of the Caribbean Herbs Business Association which groups main enterprises in the region. The association is based at IICA in Trinidad, and is receiving support from CDE to develop a business plan.

A key component of the programme is the promotion of the Caribbean herbal industry, and in this regard several companies from throughout the region participated in an exhibition – Treasures of the Caribbean – which exhibited at the Natural Products Exhibition in London, Vitafoods in Geneva, and the Caribbean Gift and Craft Show in Grenada. The response to the Caribbean producers of herbal products has been very encouraging, several companies having established commercial relationships with their EU counterparts. Companies from Grenada, St. Lucia, Barbados and from other countries in the region participated at these events.

PROINVEST

1. Caribbean Investment Policy Summit workshop, organised by JAMPRO, TIDCO and BIDC in Kingston 10-11 JUNE 2003 to develop a strategy for addressing regional investment-related trade policy issues with respect to WTO, FTAA and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.
2. A mission for Dominican companies to attend the Florence Gift Mart Show in September 2003.
3. A mission for Dominican companies in conjunction with the AI-Invest meeting in Brussels on the Cinematography and Audiovisual Industry of Europe and Latin America (12-14 November 2003).
4. Promotion/access training workshops for intermediary organisations held throughout the region.
5. A workshop for stakeholders to present and discuss the results of the regional sector Studies in Port of Spain in October 2003.
6. Preparation of Tourism Sector Meeting for the Caribbean region (to be convened in 2004).

ANNEX XI: CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE (CTA)

No.	Projects	Implementing partner	
1	Support to Regional Agricultural Policy Network (RAPN)	Inter-American Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	
2	Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA)		
3	Generation and dissemination of agricultural information	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)	
4	Caribbean agricultural information system (CAIS)		
5	Caribbean agricultural marketing intelligence & development (CAMID)		
6	Question and Answer Service (QAS) – Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Christopher/Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago		
7	Training	Question & Answer Service Management – Haiti	
8		Scientific Data Management	
9		Electronic publishing of agricultural materials for rural development – all islands	
10	Caribbean table egg industry competitive study and consultation	CARDI/Caribbean Agribusiness Association	
11	Workshop on fisher folk organisations in the Caribbean	CARDI/CARICOM Fisheries	
12	Caribbean Pest Network (CariPestNet)	CARDI/CARINET	
13	Establishment of a Regional Farmers & NGOs Network	CARDI/CAFANN	
14	Selective Dissemination of Information (research and policy)	Organised directly by CTA	
15	<u>CD-ROM/Internet Database Service</u> University of Guyana, National Agricultural Research Institute Guyana, Ministry of Agriculture and the Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica, Ministry of Agriculture in St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture and CARDI in Trinidad & Tobago		
16	Science and Technology		
17		Regional workshop “Enhancing the S&T policy dialogue”	
18		National meeting in Jamaica on Agricultural systems of science, technology and innovation	
19		Finance participation of 3 Caribbean representatives to 3 rd meeting of Advisory Committee on S & T	
19	Information Needs assessment study		
20	Study on safeguarding the benefits of the Sugar Protocol (including Jamaica and Guyana)		
21	Evaluation of CTA supported location-based seminars		

22	<u>Support to national NGOs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Diversification Project Ltd (ADP) - Dominica • Konsèy Nasyonal Finansman Popilè (KNFP) - Haiti • Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) - Jamaica • Eastern Caribbean Agricultural Trading and Development (ECTAD) - St Vincent & the Grenadines • The Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) – Trinidad and Tobago 	

ANNEX XII: PROJECT SHEETS

Antigua & Barbuda

Annual Report

Project title: Construction of a Learning Resource Centre at State College

Accounting number: 8 ACP AB 01 9 ACP AB 03

Implementing Agency:

Date of Financing Agreement:

Date Financing Agreement expires:

Value of Financing Agreement: €5000 resp. €40.000

Accounting Situation as at 31.12.02

Primary Commitment in €	Secondary Commitment in	Disbursed in €	% Disbursed
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Project Overview:

The aim of this project is to prepare for the financing of a new LRC to the State College. By means of the preparatory project, an inventory of the needs was established and a draft Financing Proposal prepared.

On that basis, TOR for the design consultancy were completed and a restricted tender was issued. Contract award followed in March 2004 and a works tender is expected before the end of the year.

Antigua & Barbuda

Project title: Support Service to the NAO

Accounting number: 8 ACP AB 02

Implementing Agency:

Date of Financing Agreement: 25.11.02

Date Financing Agreement expires: 01.04.06

Value of Financing Agreement: €298.000

Accounting Situation as at

Primary Commitment in €	Secondary Commitment in	Disbursed in €	% Disbursed
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Project Overview:

The aim of the project is to assist the NAO to perform his duties efficiently and more specifically to be able to assist us the formulation and implementation of programmes in the educational field.

Progress

New office premises have been rented and furnished and an office manager recruited.

The first Annual Work Programme has been successfully completed and the second initiated.

ANNEX XIII: Environmental Profile



Environmental%20Country%20Profile%20hardcopy.pdf