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UNESCO in Its Small Member States

*Report
on Activities
Favour of
Small Member States
during the Biennium
1998-1999*



Unit for Relations with Small Member States
Bureau for External Relations

*... No man is an island, entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent,
a part of the main...*

John Donne

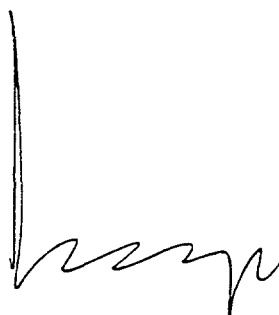
Foreword

The successful launching of "Focus on the Pacific" and "Focus on the Caribbean" - two major consultation processes in favour of our small Member States - marks a breakthrough in UNESCO's multi-lateral cooperation with this group of countries. This is a major new venture by the Organization to assist the small developing Member States and Associate Members. The follow-up activities on these consultations augur well for closer interaction in the future, with respect to the lasting sustainable development of the countries concerned.

Within its fields of competence for promoting peace and human development through education, science, culture, social and human sciences, and communication, UNESCO aims to execute its unique mandate to the fullest possible extent in its small Member States. The Unit for Relations with Small Member States has been entrusted with the task of ensuring optimum participation of these countries in all UNESCO's activities. It also co-ordinates the follow-up activities for "Focus on the Pacific" and "Focus on the Caribbean" at Headquarters and in the field.

The Organization considers increased cooperation with these countries as an urgent task. I am pleased to present this interim report on the follow-up activities carried out. The insertion of the two intersectoral projects on the Pacific and on the Caribbean, respectively, in *the Draft Programme and Budget 2000-2001* (30 C/5), will - we hope - testify to the determination of the Organization to step up its assistance to our small Member States.

We are confident that, in partnership with the Member States and Associated Members concerned, as well as international and regional organizations, our efforts to adopt a holistic approach and to sustain a concerted dynamic for the promotion of a culture of peace and development in the small developing States will contribute to a better quality of life for their people. On the threshold of a new millennium, we must ensure that these countries not only survive, but thrive.



Federico Mayor

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Introduction

The Unit for Relations with Small Member States

In the biennium under review UNESCO's policy towards its small Member States and Associated Members has, in relation to previous biennia, been further substantiated, on the one hand through an increase of activities in general and the initiation of on-going consultation processes, on the other. In this regard, the Unit for Small Member States of the Bureau for External Relations (BRX/SMS) coordinated all the activities at Headquarters pertinent to the launching of these processes mentioned in this report.

The first consultation processes for the small Member States, "Focus on the Pacific" and "Focus on the Caribbean" were successfully launched on 1 November 1997 - during the Twenty-Ninth Session of the General Conference - and on 10 October 1998, respectively, at UNESCO Headquarters. These activities are conceived as continuous processes of co-operation with the small developing States, the largest part of which are small islands. The overall objective is to try and address the specific needs of these countries, particularly our island Member States whose sheer existence is threatened in some cases by the increasing rise of the oceans, and help them elaborate their own agenda for peace and development in UNESCO's fields of competence.

Many of the problems small island developing States are faced with, go beyond the dimensions that are so characteristic of developing countries in general, e.g. poverty, problems of youth, unemployment. The reality of small States as a special category in developmental terms has been most aptly phrased by one of the Pacific delegates to the launching of "Focus on the Pacific":

"Basically what make small island ... States issues relatively different is the degree of vulnerability, the extremely low threshold of susceptibility to any form of change, including globalization, natural disasters, man-made disasters, economies of scale or any undertaking due to their isolation, geographically scattered nations; fragility of the environment, openness and – for most – high population density and rather limited resources as well as a high degree of dependency." ***

It is this reality regarding the specificities of small island States and their implications for the development of these States that prompted the Organization to initiate the above-mentioned consultations.

*** Senipisi Langi Kavaliku,
Deputy-Prime Minister, Minister of Education of Tonga

For both "Focus on the Pacific" and "Focus on the Caribbean", a Steering Committee was established by the Director-General to assist in the organisation of the meeting and ensure the follow up activities. The Unit for Relations with Small Member States that was established in 1990, "for facilitating the full participation of [small countries] in the multi-lateral co-operation process." was entrusted with the co-ordination of the Committee, the launching of the consultation and the co-ordination of the follow up activities at UNESCO Headquarters. It acts as focal point in the Secretariat to promote intersectoral and interdisciplinary projects for these States. The Unit also serves those far away countries with no Permanent Delegations at Headquarters.

Focus on the Pacific

The Launching of "Focus on the Pacific" was attended by high level delegations from the Pacific Member States and by representatives of donor countries, international organisations, as well as observers.

With a view to ensuring the efficient implementation of follow up activities, a Pacific-UNESCO Joint Committee was established, comprising members of UNESCO Secretariat and the Member States concerned. A draft Action Plan was discussed at the Consultation of National Commissions for Asia and the Pacific that was held in Thailand, Bangkok from 8 to 12 June 1998. As an outcome of this exercise, the intersectoral project "Human Development for Sustainable Living Conditions in the Pacific" as part of a sub-regional strategy, has been included in the *Draft Programme and Budget 2000-2001*

The Pacific-UNESCO Joint Committee agreed that all follow up activities for "Focus on the Pacific" should be initiated and implemented by UNESCO/Apia from 1998 onwards. All the on-going programme activities for the Pacific sub-region described in this report are, therefore, part and parcel of the "Focus on the Pacific" initiative.

Focus on the Caribbean

As focal point for "Focus on the Caribbean", the Unit for Relations with Small Member States participated in the preparatory activities for the meeting, and assisted the Caribbean sub-region with the organisation of the event. The Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO hosted two preparatory meetings, funded by UNESCO under the Participation Programme.. A working document, entitled: *Caribbean People: Tapestry of the Past, Fabric for the Future – Special Project on Human Development for Sustainable Living in the Caribbean* was produced for the launching of the event.

In collaboration with the UNESCO Field Offices in the Caribbean (Bridgetown, Kingston, Haiti, and Port-of-Spain), and the Steering Committee on Focus on the Caribbean, the Unit for Relations with Small Member States co-ordinated the preparation of a UNESCO Background Paper for the event, and will ensure the follow-up of this important initiative.

Focus on the Caribbean was launched on 10 October 1998 in the presence of the Director-General and all senior staff. High level delegations from the following Member States of the

Caribbean Sub-region participated in the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago; and the Associate Members: Aruba, British Virgin Islands, and the Netherlands Antilles. Delegates representing Member States of Latin America, major donors, and interested non-governmental organizations were also in attendance as observers.

The meeting submitted the above-mentioned "Special Project on Human Development for Sustainable Living in the Caribbean", and adopted by acclamation a declaration inviting UNESCO to include this project in its Programme and Budget for 2000-2001. This intersectoral project has been incorporated in the *Draft Programme and Budget 2000-2001* to be submitted for the approval of the Thirtieth Session of the General Conference.

Establishment of Cooperation Agreements

After consultations with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on the establishment of a formal Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO, the Unit for Relations with Small Member States co-ordinated the relevant process and, following the approval of the Executive Board, the agreements with the two intergovernmental organizations were, accordingly, signed by the parties concerned.

These formal agreements will open new paths of cooperation between OECS and UNESCO, and SPC and UNESCO, through the Unit for Relations with Small Member States, for the benefit of the small Member States of the Caribbean and the Pacific subregions, respectively.

Website on Small States

The website on the small Member States that was introduced by the Unit for Relations with Small Member States on the occasion of the launching of "Focus on the Pacific" has been further developed and presented at the launching of "Focus on the Caribbean". The website is available both on Intranet and the Internet. It will be updated and will serve as a useful tool to enhance the visibility of the Member States served by the Unit for Relations with Small Member States.

Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter *Small States, Big Issues* that was started on the occasion of the launching of Focus on the Pacific has, so far, been well received by our Member States and their National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as by other international organizations. It is an awareness bulletin designed, among other things, to bring the small Member States and Associate Members concerned into focus and to discuss topics that are closely related to the developmental problems that are characteristic of this group of countries.

*UNESCO and its Twenty-nine Small Member States
and Three Associate Members*

Africa

Cape Verde
Comoros
Lesotho
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles
Swaziland

Asia and the Pacific

Cook Islands
Fiji Islands
Kiribati
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Latin America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba *
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
British Virgin Islands *
Dominica
Grenada
Netherlands Antilles *
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

* = *Associate Members*

AFRICA

Cape Verde

Twice as many Caboverdians live abroad as in the country itself, and help to contribute to Cape Verde's economy, through their significant remittances.

Capital:	Praia
Total Area:	4033 km ²
Terrain:	steep, rocky and volcanic
Natural Resources:	salt, basalt, rock, limestone and fish
Population(1997 est.):	401,000
Languages:	Portuguese, Creole
Economy:	A largely service oriented economy, based on commerce and transport; also fishing and agriculture (bananas, corn, beans, sugarcane)
GNP per Capita(1997) ¹ :	\$1,090
Literacy:	71.0%
HDI ² :	0.73 (rank 106)
Joined UNESCO on	15/02/78

Comoros

"Islands in a Forgotten Sea", the Comoros Islands were once a thriving maritime link which connected Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean world«.

Capital:	Moroni
Total Area:	2170 km
Terrain:	mostly volcanic, the interior ranges from steep mountains to low hills
Natural Resources:	negligible
Population(1997 est.):	518,000
Languages:	Arabic, French, Comoran
Economy:	Primarily based on agriculture (vanilla, copra, coconut), fishing, hunting and forestry.
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$400
Literacy:	57.3 %
HDI:	0.56 (rank 139)
Joined UNESCO on	22/03/77

¹ Atlas Method (current US \$) World Bank, 1999.

² The Human Development Index (HDI) measures countries' achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income. Source Human Development Report, 1999, UNDP.

Lesotho

Economic expansion of this landlocked state has more recently been facilitated by the sale of water to neighbouring South Africa.

Capital:	Maseru
Total Area:	30 344 km ²
Terrain:	<i>Mostly highland, with plateaus, hills and mountains.</i>
Natural Resources:	water, some diamonds and minerals
Population(1997 est.):	2,014 000
Languages:	Sesotho, English
Economy:	Manufacturing
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$680
Literacy:	82.3%
HDI:	0.52 (rank 127)
Joined UNESCO on	29/09/67

Sao Tome and Principe

Once a major sugar producer during the Seventeenth Century, introduction of cocoa to the island in the nineteenth century brought economic prosperity and has remained the economic mainstay .

Capital:	Sao Tomé
Total Area:	1,001 km ²
Terrain:	volcanic and mountainous
Natural Resources:	<i>fish</i>
Population(1997 est.):	138,000
Languages:	Portuguese, Lungwa san tomé (Sao Tomé Creole), Lungwa iyé (Principe Creole)
Economy:	Cocoa is the major island export, also coconut, palm kernels, copra, cinnamon.
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$290
Literacy:	73%
HDI:	0.563 (rank 121)
Joined UNESCO on	22/01/80

Seychelles

Government provision of free education and health care have contributed significantly to this island's high standard of living.

Capital:	Victoria
Total Area:	452 km ²
Terrain:	narrow, coastal, hilly strips and coral, flat elevated reefs.
Natural Resources:	fish copra, cinnamon trees
Population(1997 est.):	78,000
Languages:	Creole, English, French
Economy:	Tourism is the mainstay of the economy, but diversification into other sectors such as fishing and agriculture are also important activities.
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$6,910
Literacy:	84%
HDI:	0.77 (rank 66)
Joined UNESCO on	18/10/76

Swaziland

One of the last remaining monarchies in Africa, tradition remains an important element in Swazi life, and is manifested in the annual celebration of "incwala" – a sacred ceremony of rejuvenation for the king, and "umhlanga" – a reed dance held in honour of the Queen Mother.

Capital:	Mbabane
Total Area:	17,364 km ²
Terrain:	mostly mountains and hills; some moderately sloping plains
Natural Resources:	abestos, coal, clay, cassiterite, hydropower, forests, small gold and diamond deposits, quarry stone and talc.
Population(1997 est.):	958,000
Languages:	English and Sisiwati
Economy:	Derived from a strong commercial agricultural sector, which includes maize, suger, sunflower, tobacco, fruits and vegetables
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$1,520
Literacy:	77,5%
HDI:	0.59 (rank 113)
Joined UNESCO on	25/01/78

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cook Islands

After declaring bankruptcy in 1996, the Cook Islands remain economically fragile, because of isolation from foreign markets, lack of resources and good transportation links.

Capital:	Avarua
Total Area:	237 km ²
Terrain:	low coral atolls in north, and volcanic, hilly islands in the south
Natural Resources:	Negligable
Population (1997 est.):	19,989
Languages:	English and Maori
Political Status:	Self governing in free association with New Zealand
Economy:	Agriculture provides the economic base (copra and citrus fruits), also light manufacturing.
GNP per Capita:	NA
Literacy:	76.7%
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on 17/10/89	

Fiji

Inhabited since the second millenium B.C, Fiji has been able to employ its natural resources to become one of the most economically developed Pacific Islands, with a large subsistence sector.

Capital:	Suva
Total Area:	18,270 km ²
Terrain:	mostly mountainous and of volcanic origin
Natural Resources:	timber, fish, gold
Population (1997 est.):	815,000
Languages:	English, Fijian Hindustani
Economy:	Sugar is the leading export crop; also cassava, rice and sweet potatoes. The tourism industry is expanding.
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$2,460
Literacy:	91.8 %
HDI:	0.79 (rank 61)
Joined UNESCO on 14/07/83	

Kiribati

The islands were first settled by early Austronesian speaking people before the first century. Arriving around the fourteenth century, Fijians and Tongans merged with older groups to form the traditional I-Kiribati Melanesian society and culture..

Capital:	Tarawa
Total Area:	717 km ²
Terrain:	mostly low lying coral atolls surrounded by extensive reefs.
Natural Resources:	formerly phosphate
Population (1997 est):	83,000
Languages:	English (official), Gilbertese
Economy:	Copra and fish are the main sources of production for export
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$910
Literacy:	N/A
Joined UNESCO on	24/10/89

Maldives

These secluded islands, scattered across the middle of the Indian Ocean, have become a model of sustainable development , through government policies aimed at minimizing the impact of tourism on the natural and human environment.

Capital:	Male
Total Area:	300 km ²
Terrain:	flat, white, sandy beaches
Natural Resources:	fish
Population (1997 est):	256 000
Languages:	Maldivian Devhi, English
Economy:	Tourism, fishing and light agriculture and manufacturing
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$1,180
Literacy:	93.2%
Joined UNESCO on	18/07/80

Marshall Islands

With 70% of the Marshall Islands' population, 25 years and under, there is great demand for increased facilities and organized programmes for the youth sector.

Capital:	Majuro
Total Area:	181.3 km ²
Terrain:	low coral limestone and sand island
Natural Resources:	phosphate deposits, marine products, deep seabed minerals
Population (1997 est):	60,000
Languages:	English, Marshallese dialects, Japanese
Economy:	Commercial crops(coconuts, tomatoes, breadfruits), fishing and tourism
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$1,610
Literacy:	95.7%
HDI:	0.66 (rank 93)
<i>Joined UNESCO on 30/06/95</i>	

Nauru

Although it may be the smallest republic in the world, the contribution of mining has made Naurueans, perhaps the wealthiest people of the Pacific and among the wealthiest in the world, per head of population.

Capital:	Government Offices in Yarin District
Total Area:	21 km ²
Terrain:	sandy beach rises to fertile ring around raised coral reefs with phosphate plateau in centre.
Natural Resources:	phosphate
Population :	10,273
Languages:	Naurian, English
Economy:	Derived from, export of phosphates
GDP per Capita:	\$10,000
Literacy:	NA
HDI:	NA
<i>Joined UNESCO on 17/10/96</i>	

Niue

The world's smallest self-governing state, where more than five times as many Niueans live in New Zealand as in their own country.

Capital:	Alofi
Total Area:	260 km ²
Terrain:	steep limestone coastal cliffs
Natural Resources:	fish, arable land
Population:	2,174
Languages:	Polynesian, English
Political Status:	self-governing, in free association with New Zealand
Economy:	Tourism, handicrafts, food processing
GDP per Capita:	\$1,200
Literacy:	NA
HDI:	NA

Joined UNESCO on 26/10/1993

Samoa

Tourism which embraces and revives traditional cultural elements, is being promoted as a key expanding sector in the Samoan economy.

Capital:	Apia
Total Area:	2,860 km ²
Terrain:	volcanic, rugged and mountainous interior
Natural Resources:	hardwood forests and fish
Population (1997 est.):	174,000
Languages:	Samoan, English
Economy:	Agricultural base, with expanding tourist sector
GNP per Capita (1997 est.):	\$1,140
Literacy:	98 %
HDI:	0.77 (rank 70)

Joined UNESCO on 03/04/81

Tonga

Fighting against a steady 'brain drain' the Tongan government has been working on strategies which encourage Tongans abroad to reinvest their skills and or capital in their homeland.

Capital:	Nuku'alofa
Total Area:	748 km ²
Terrain:	some islands have a limestone base formed from uplifted coral formation, while others have a volcanic base.
Natural Resources:	fish and fertile soil
Population (1997 est):	98,000
Languages:	Tongan, English
Economy:	A primarily agricultural base (coconuts, squaash and vanilla beans);tourism is also significant.
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$1,810
Literacy:	98.5%
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on	29/09/80

Tuvalu

It is perhaps a combination of Polynesian tradition of respect for the family, community and nature along with the island's isolation from the modern world, which gives Tuvalu the distinction of being the only nation in the world above reproach for human rights violations according to a panel of observers in June 1998.

Capital:	Funafati
Total Area:	26 km ²
Terrain:	very low-lying and narrow atolls
Natural Resources:	fish
Population (1997 est):	10,444
Languages:	Tuvaluan, English
Economy:	Based on subsistence agriculture (coconuts, copra); fishing
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$800
Literacy:	NA
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on	21/10 /91

Vanuatu

Spread across more than eighty islands Vanuatu has been recognized as one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, with at least one hundred and fifteen spoken languages.

<i>Capital:</i>	Port Vila
<i>Total Area:</i>	1,340 km ²
<i>Terrain:</i>	volcanic and mountainous
<i>Natural Resources:</i>	manganese, hardwood forests, fish
<i>Population (1997 est):</i>	177,000
<i>Languages:</i>	English, French, Bislamar
<i>Economy:</i>	subsistence agriculture, fishing, tourism, offshore financial services
<i>GNP per Capita (1997):</i>	\$1,340
<i>Literacy:</i>	64.0%
<i>HDI:</i>	0.71 (rank 116)
<i>Joined UNESCO on 10/02/94</i>	

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda

Increasing emphasis is being placed on manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing in order to expand the economic sector.

Capital:	Saint John's
Total Area:	441.6 km ²
Terrain:	mostly low lying limestone and coral islands with some higher volcanic areas
Natural Resources:	pleasant climate fosters tourism
Population(1997 est.):	66,000
Languages:	English
Economy:	Tourism is the major industry. Expansion of transport and communication sectors, trade and public utilities.
GNP per Capita(1997 est.):	\$7,380
Literacy:	95.0%
HDI:	0.83 (rank 38)
Joined UNESCO on:	15/07/82

Aruba

Unlike many of its neighbours problems of chronic unemployment, Aruba's small labour force and less than 1% unemployment rate, have led to a large number of unfulfilled vacancies, in spite of rises in wage rates.

Capital:	Oranjestad
Total Area:	193 km ²
Terrain:	flat with a few hills, scant vegetation
Natural Resources:	white sandy beaches
Population (1997 est.):	89,000
Languages:	Local Papiamentu, Dutch, English and Spanish
Economy:	Tourism, offshore banking, oil refining and storage
GNP per Capita (1996):	\$21,000
Literacy:	NA
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on:	21/10/87

The Bahamas

As in most other Caribbean islands, the Bahamas boasts a multicultural influence, starting with the Lucayans, Caribs and Arawaks. Today, African and Caribbean cultural values are strong, with a traditional British influence.

Capital:	Nassau
Total Area:	13,490 km ²
Terrain:	long flat coral formations
Natural Resources:	salt, aragonite, timber
Population (1997 est.):	289 000
Languages:	English
Economy:	heavily dependent on tourism (70% of economy) with an important sector of banking, insurance and financial services.
GNP per Capita (1997.):	\$11,830
Literacy:	95.8%
HDI:	0.81 (rank 31)
Joined UNESCO on:	23/03/81

Barbados

With one-fifth of government expenditure dedicated to education, it remains a cornerstone feature to this nation's economic and political success.

Capital:	Bridgetown
Total Area:	430 km ²
Terrain:	relatively flat, rises to gentle highland region. Northeast is broken and barren, remainder is coral limestone.
Natural Resources:	petroleum, natural gas, fish.
Population (1997 est.):	265,000
Languages:	English
Economy:	traditionally dependent on sugarcane cultivation and related activities, tourism, finance, business and insurance services are leading economic activities.
GNP per Capita (1997.):	\$6,590
Literacy:	97.4%
HDI:	0.86 (rank 29)
Joined UNESCO on:	24/10/68

Belize

Once a centre of the great Maya civilization, Belize hosts a small population with dynamic ethnic mix, which includes Creoles, Maya, Garifuna, Mennonites, as well as Chinese and Arabs, among other ethnic groups.

Capital:	Belmopan
Total Area:	22,960 km ²
Terrain:	flat, swampy coastal plain and low mountains in the south.
Natural Resources:	arable land potential, timber, fish
Population: (1997 est.)	230,160
Languages:	English, Spanish
Economy:	based primarily on agriculture (sugar), industry and merchandising, with tourism and construction assuming increasing importance.
GNP per Capita (1997.):	\$2,670
Literacy:	75.0%
HDI:	0.83 (rank 83)
Joined UNESCO on:	10/05/82

British Virgin Islands

With its success as one of the region's premier off-shore financial centres, the BVI's government has made infrastructural development a priority.

Capital:	Road Town (Tortola)
Total Area:	153 km ²
Terrain:	mainly steep, thickly wooded hills, with coral reefs, coves and beaches.
Natural Resources:	negligible
Population:	13,195.
Languages:	English
Political status:	British Crown Colony
Economy:	based on tourism and financial services; also fishing, rum distilling, construction.
GDP per Capita :	\$10,600
Literacy:	97.8%
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on:	26/10/83

Dominica

The largest of the Windward Island groups, Dominica is the home of some descendants of the indigenous Carib Indians.

Capital:	Roseau
Total Area:	750 km ²
Terrain:	rugged mountains of volcanic origin
Natural Resources:	timber
Population (1997 est.):	74,000
Languages:	Local French Patois and English
Economy:	Agriculture (bananas), tourism
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$3,040
Literacy:	94%
HDI:	0.82 (rank 53)
Joined UNESCO on:	09/01/79

Grenada

Women are well represented in the Grenadian labour force, comprising some forty-nine percent of the active population.

Capital:	St. George's
Total Area:	340 km ²
Terrain:	volcanic in origin, with central mountains; thick forest and brushwood, springs and rapid rivers; slopes gradually to east and south-east coast.
Natural Resources:	timber, tropical fruit, deep waters and harbours
Population (1997 est.):	96,000
Language:	English
Economy:	agriculture (bananas, cacao, nutmegs, sugarcane, coconut), light manufacturing; tourism is a steadily expanding sector.
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$3,140
Literacy:	96.0%
HDI:	0.78 (rank 52)
Joined UNESCO on:	17/02/75

The Netherlands Antilles

Two island groups comprise this Dutch entity, which includes Bonaire and Curaçao in the north east, and Saba, Sint. Eustatius and Sint Maarten in the south.

Capital:	Willemstad (Curaçao)
Total Area:	961 km ²
Terrain:	generally hilly, volcanic interiors; poor soils and inadequate water supplies hamper the development of agriculture.
Natural Resources:	phosphates (Curaçao only); salt (Bonaire only)
Population (1997):	210,000
Languages:	Dutch, Papiamentu, English, Spanish
Economy:	oil refining, tourism, financial services
GDP per Capita :	\$10,400
Literacy:	98%
HDI:	NA
Joined UNESCO on: 26/10/83 as an Associate Member	

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Some 30-40% of the labour force is involved in the country's major industry, sugar production.

Capital:	Basseterre (St. Kitts)
Total Area:	262 km ²
Terrain:	volcanic with mountainous interiors. Oval island of St. Kitts has central mountain range overlooking fertile valley. Upper slopes of mountains wooded, lower slopes planted with sugar cane.
Natural Resources:	negligible
Population(1997 est):	41,000
Language:	English
Economy:	agriculture,(sugar cane , cotton), manufacturing,; tourism is a rapidly growing sector, and a major source of revenue.
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$6,260
Literacy:	97%
HDI:	0.75 (rank 51)
Joined UNESCO on: 26/10/83	

Saint Lucia

Tourism is one of the most rapidly developing sectors in this island, which has produced two Nobel Prize laureates this century.

Capital:	Castries
Total Area:	610 km ²
Terrain:	Mountainous, volcanic in formation with some broad fertile valleys, intersected by many short rivers.
Natural Resources:	forests, sandy beaches, minerals, pumice, hot sulphurous springs, geothermal potential
Population(1997 est.):	159,000
Languages:	English, French Creole
Economy:	agriculture (bananas), food products, manufacturing, clothing, electronic items, information processing, tourism
GDP per Capita (1996 est.):	\$3,510
Literacy:	82.0%
HDI:	0.75 (rank 81)
Joined UNESCO on:	06/03/80

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

In spite of efforts to diversify the economy, monocrp banana production prevails.

Capital:	Kingstown (St. Vincent)
Total Area:	340 km ²
Terrain:	Volcanic in origin, mountainous, well watered and densely wooded.
Natural Resources:	<i>negligible</i>
Population:	112,000
Language:	English
Economy:	dominated by agriculture (banana), with some agro-processing, light manufacturing, and a growing tourism industry.
GNP per Capita:	\$2,420
Literacy:	82%
HDI:	0.80 (rank 75)
Joined UNESCO on:	15/02/83

Suriname

A former Dutch colony, Suriname has one of the most heterogeneous populations to be found in the Caribbean; including in its plural society, Amerindians, Chinese, Javanese, Creoles, Hindustani, Bush Negroes and Europeans.

Capital:	Paramaribo
Total Area:	163,270 km ²
Terrain:	mostly rolling hills, narrow coastal plain with swamps
Natural Resources:	timber, hydropower potential, fish, shrimp, Bauxite, iron ore and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum and gold.
Population (1997 est.):	412,000
Languages:	Dutch, Sranan, Sarnami, Chinese, Amerindian languages, Maroon languages
Economy:	dominated by the bauxite industry
GNP per Capita(1997):	\$1,320
Literacy:	93.5%
HDI:	0.75 (rank 64)
Joined UNESCO on:	16/07/76

Trinidad and Tobago

In addition to its petroleum based economy, the twin island republic has become a premier centre for international business and foreign investment.

Capital:	Port of Spain (Trinidad)
Total Area:	5,130 km ²
Terrain:	mostly plains with some hills and low mountains; one-fifth of islands consists of forest.
Natural Resources:	petroleum, natural gas, asphalt
Population(1997 est.):	1,307,000
Language:	English
Economy:	heavily dependent on oil extraction and refining; petrochemical industries, iron and steel
GNP per Capita (1997):	\$4,250
Literacy:	97.8%
HDI:	0.81 (rank 46)
Joined UNESCO on:	02/11/62

Education for All throughout Life

Early Childhood and Primary Education

Textbook Publishing Project: UNESCO/CARNEID is the executing agency for a UNESCO/CARICOM Textbook Publishing Project. It will provide a multi-cultural textbook for primary level students, which will promote the UNESCO ideals of peace, tolerance and justice. This project, which is co-sponsored by the Transdisciplinary Project, Towards a Culture of Peace, is expected to also provide the impetus for the expansion of the textbook publishing capacity in the region.

Under the UNESCO/WFP Co-operative Programme, a mission was sent to **Cape Verde** to review the Monitoring and Evaluation system of a school-feeding project.

The Organisation facilitated the participation of **Comoros** and **Seychelles** in the Regional Seminar on Early Childhood Education and the creation of an Early Childhood Indian Ocean Network in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 27 March-3 April 1999.

Sub-regional reviews were held in **Comoros**, **Seychelles**, Madagascar, and Tanzania in 1998, in co-operation with the respective National Commissions for UNESCO, to review activities carried out or being carried out on early childhood education and development, with a view to obtaining updated information on the subject for use at the 30th session of the General Conference.

Comoros hosted a meeting on capacity building for literacy and non-formal education from October to December 1998, to review strategies for the promotion of literacy and non-formal education, with particular focus on marginalized and disadvantaged groups

UNESCO provided funding to one delegate of **Cape Verde**, **Lesotho**, and **Seychelles** to participate in the Second International Congress on Vocational and Technical Education, in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 26-30 April 1999.

Samoa received support for early childhood education in 1998. An Early Childhood Education Council has been established..

Improving the Quality of Teaching In Large Classrooms

UNESCO/Dakar organized, in collaboration with the Institut pédagogique of Cape Verde, a seminar/workshop for the following Portuguese and Spanish-speaking African countries : **Cape Verde**, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, **Sao Tome and Principe**, Angola and Mozambique), to reflect on the teaching methodology for large groups. Participants committed themselves to apply this pedagogy in their respective countries. Furthermore, seminars for training and for sharing views will be organized in the future, to contribute to the development of a teaching guide.

Educational Strategies for the Twenty-First Century

Activities of the Working Group on Education Sector Analysis

Since the establishment of the Working Group on Education Sector Analysis (WGESA) UNESCO has co-ordinated its activities. The working group is under the aegis of the Association for Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). Activities undertaken so far include:

- The project "National Review of Education Sector Analysis", which identifies and analyses education studies, as well as the political environment of the studies by a national team. The overall aim is to improve the quality and utilisation of sector studies.
- A seminar to heighten awareness of education sector analysis was held in November 1998 in Lesotho with the participation of two WGESA consultants providing technical inputs.

Database of Educational Consultants

A regional database of educational consultants has been prepared by UNESCO/Kingston. It lists, inter alia, experts in education administration, information technology and its application to curriculum and instruction at various levels of the system; management; testing and measurement; textbook publishing and translation.

UNESCO/APIA facilitated a study tour for Pacific Directors of Education in 1998 on Australian Distance Learning Facilities in cooperation with Australia's Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs. There was a demonstration of the possible uses of distance learning in the Pacific.

Adult Education

UNESCO Kingston collaborated in a number of conferences/seminars on the development of policy and the implementation of programmes in adult education. These include:

- The Guyana National Consultation on Adult Education
- Adult Education in Changing Times, held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in March 1998
- Lifelong Learning for All: The Role of Higher Education and Universities, held in Mumbai, India, in April 1998
- The Caribbean Regional Council for Adult Education (CARCAE) General Assembly held in Barbados in May 1998, funded under the Participation Programme to Barbados. The Assembly agreed to mount specialized courses in adult education methodologies for adult educators, and training programmes in such areas as parenting and conflict Management, literacy, prevention of drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. The target groups for these programmes will include out-of-school youth, parents, migrants and prisoners.
- UNESCO/Kingston collaborated with CARCAE and the Jamaica Council for Adult Education in the hosting of the World Assembly of the International Council for Adult Education in Jamaica, in May 1999.

Two publications are in preparation: *Adult Education in the Caribbean at the Turn of the Century*, in collaboration with CARCAE and *Adult Education in Caribbean Universities*, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies.

UNESCO/APIA organized a meeting on promoting a reading environment in the Pacific, in cooperation with the **Solomon Islands** National Commission (Solomon Islands, 1980). Among the proposals for important follow-up activities was a Pacific Book Fair.

Renovation of General Secondary and Vocational Education

CARNEID will host a symposium of all educational stakeholders in June 1999, to devise a new curriculum and support the reform of the secondary school in such a way that it will recognise and help students. Measures will be taken to monitor the implementation and evaluate the impact of the new curriculum on the application of multiple intelligence in learning. This is expected to also address the improvement of male performance in schools.

In support of the implementation of the CARICOM Human Resource Development Strategy, the Kingston Office is collaborating with the CARICOM Secretariat in an upstream project to identify and eventually address factors that affect quality secondary education in the Caribbean.

To encourage youth participation in developmental activities and in the formulation of policy, support has been given to the National Secondary Students' Association of Jamaica, which addresses themes of democracy and human rights.

Teacher Education

Changing the Culture of the Classroom: UNESCO/CARNEID has begun this innovative programme to train teachers in new techniques and approaches on counselling and listening. The programme aims at introducing teachers to a new concept of their role and a fresh appreciation of the scope of their influence. A total of 114 persons in teacher education, educational administration, and classroom teachers have been introduced to the concept.

The Facilitation of Teacher Education by Distance Methodologies: UNESCO/Kingston has collaborated with consultants in a project funded by the Commonwealth of Learning on the conceptualisation, design, and implementation of this survey to examine needs in teacher education and the availability in the Caribbean of relevant distance teacher education programmes and materials. Technical support was received from the University of the West Indies. The findings of the project will be used to assist ministries of education in decision making in teacher education.

Seychelles hosted a workshop on the preparation of gender-sensitive post-literacy booklets, and radio programmes.

Lesotho and **Seychelles** have received the following educational materials developed by ED/SVE/STE:

- Innovations in Science and Technology Education
- Science and technology education documents (STED) series
- Poster on Oceans (in co-operation with NOAA and USGS)

Model Schools Project in the Pacific: This activity is now in its third year, using funding of US\$400,000 provided by New Zealand and seed funding from the Regular Programme in 1998. The project is innovative in that it provides in-service teacher training in the context of selected Pacific schools rather than in conferences or workshops. It promotes sustainability, as all staff are trained and can support each other when the trainers have gone. So far, the recipient countries are:

Samoa	(two schools)
Kiribati	(three schools)
Tuvalu	(two schools)
Nauru	(one school)
Niue	(one school)

In co-operation with Ministries of Education, a secondary in-school teacher training (model schools) project started in 1996. Pilot projects were first conducted in **Niue, Tonga** and **Fiji Islands**, and are currently running in **Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, and Kiribati**. This project greatly improved teaching, and will be extended to the other countries of the region in 1999. It can be seen as an example of wise practice.

Between 1996 and 1998 activities were conducted in **Cook Islands**, in co-operation with the Department of Health, for the prevention of alcohol abuse. These activities pertained to the training of staff and to local publicity.

UNESCO provided support for the following events:

- The Annual Meeting of Pacific Principals of Teachers' Colleges, in cooperation with the University of the South Pacific.
- The Delors Conference that was held in Australia 1998, with a view to ensuring a high Pacific participation; in cooperation with the Victoria Department of Education.
- A UN AIDS seminar, in cooperation with WHO.

In 1998 a Pilot project for Science and Technical Education was implemented in cooperation with the Samoa National Commission. It proved to be a very successful pilot project for teaching students technological skills for generating income.

UNESCO/Apia organized the following Education conferences during the biennium under review:

- Meeting of Pacific Directors of Education on Vocational Education (Australia, 1998) with Queensland TAFE, for planning national curricula.
- Vocational Education at the Pacific Steering Committee meeting in **Fiji Islands** (1998). A Ten Year Plan for vocational education in the Pacific has been drafted.
- Meeting in **Fiji Islands** (1998) for Pacific Teachers, employers and Directors of Education to consider the Joint ILO/UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers. Proposals have been made in cooperation with ILO to support Pacific teachers.

Higher Education and Development

One Hundred Young Leaders - Assessing Tertiary Education the Next Millennium: UNESCO/Kingston supported the St. Andrew Junior Chamber, a leadership training organization for young people in implementing this project. The outcome of the seminar was presented at the sub-regional conference on higher education.

The UNESCO/CARICOM Sub-Regional Consultation on Higher Education (29 June - 1 July, 1998):

In preparation for the World Conference on Higher Education, UNESCO funded this consultation under the Participation Programme to the CARICOM Secretariat. The consultation, which was organised by the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit of the University of the West Indies in co-operation with the Kingston and Caracas offices, attracted key policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education in the Caribbean.

Two areas for priority action emerged from the consultation: the articulation of proposals across institutions to increase access to tertiary level education in the region and staff development. The latter includes regional exchanges to promote bilingualism among staff of the tertiary level institutions, to facilitate cooperation within Latin America and with other regions. UNESCO/Caracas will facilitate the projects.

Gender Management Systems in Higher Education: This is a framework and kit designed for use in institutions of higher education seeking to institute or strengthen gender management, research and instruction. It is a project of the Commonwealth Secretariat with co-operation from UNESCO/KINGSTON.

The Organization facilitated the participation of **Cape Verde, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe**, and **Seychelles** to the World Conference on Higher Education, which was held at UNESCO headquarters from 5 to 9 October 1998.

Regional Consultation on Higher Education in Portuguese and Spanish-Speaking African Countries:

The consultation, which was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 9 to 11 September 1998, was attended by the Association of African Universities and by 32 participants representing the four lusophone countries of Africa, among which were **Cape-Verde** and **Sao-Tomé and Principe**. The meeting resulted in the setting up of a Conference of Rectors of Universities and Heads of Higher Education Institutions, which will first and foremost be entrusted with the coordination and implementation of university co-operation.

Promotion of Academic Freedom

Cape Verde, Comoros, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe, and **Seychelles** participated in the Second Joint Meeting of the Six Intergovernmental Committees entrusted with the implementation of regional conventions on the recognition of studies, diplomas and grades in higher education. The meeting was held in Paris from 29 September to 2 October 1998.

IIEP Training Activities for Small Member States

The IIEP's annual international course is a nine-month training programme held each year at the Institute's headquarters in Paris. It is the cornerstone of the Institute's range of training activities. Addressed to practising educational planners and administrators, as well as those who have (or will have) responsibilities for training in these fields, the programme is action-oriented and designed to improve the technical skills of the participants in educational planning and administration, as well as prepare them for the important task of analysis, design preparation, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, strategies and plans for the development of their national education systems. The following persons from small Member States were full-time participants in 1998-1999:

- Mme Dulce Lush (Cape Verde), Technician, Research and Educational System Cabinet, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Cape Verde.

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- Mr Saula Baleikaba (Fiji Islands), Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Fiji Islands.
 - Mr Martin Elkjah Baptiste (Grenada), Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Grenada.

There was one Visiting Trainee in 1998-1999 from Saint Kitts and Nevis for a five-week period: Mr. Osmond Petty, Director of Education Planning, Ministry of Education, Labour and Social Security.

IIEP Sub-regional Intensive Training-Course on Costs, Financing and the Budgeting of Education for the South Pacific

In co-operation with the **Fiji Islands** National Commission for UNESCO, a course was held in Suva, Fiji Islands, from 17 to 28 August 1998. It was attended by 20 participants from **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu**. These courses are designed for educational planners and budget specialists within the ministries of education. The objectives are to reinforce cost analysis capacities, review some of the applications for education, reflect on issues about the financing of education, analyze the budget process at the national level, and reinforce capacities for budget preparation and implementation.

In September 1999, a similar IIEP course on 'Costs, financing and budgetary processes in education' will be organized in Angola for educational planners and financial managers from Portuguese-speaking Africa. The course will cover subjects of cost analysis, evaluation of funding requirements, funding policies and budgetary programming and management, and will be attended by participants from **Cape Verde** and **Sao Tomé and Príncipe**.

Officers from the Ministry of Education of the **Netherlands Antilles** took part in an IIEP intensive training workshop on 'School mapping and micro-planning', which took place in Curaçao in February 1998.

Nationals from **Cape Verde** and **Sao Tome and Principe** participated in an intensive training course on the use of indicators in educational planning, which took place in Mozambique from 6 to 17 July 1998. This training activity has allowed national teams to prepare a first set of core indicators that should serve as the basis for the development of full-fledged national indicator reports. In April 1999, a follow-up meeting was held in Praia, Cape Verde to discuss the first drafts of the respective national documents, with a view to strengthening the indicator analysis and finalizing the document.

The **Maldives** sent two participants to the seminar on 'Improving school efficiency', organised by the IIEP on behalf of the Asian Network of Training and Research Institutions in Educational Planning (ANTRIEP) and hosted by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Colombo from 15-17 December 1998.

Senior officers from **Lesotho** and **Swaziland** attended the IIEP policy seminar on 'Improving school supervision and support services for basic education' organized in Gaborone, Botswana, from 22 to 24 June 1999.

IIEP Intensive Training-Course on Educational Management Information Systems (EMIS) for the Caribbean Region:

Recognizing the need of training of educational planners in EMIS, the last few years IIEP has organized five-day EMIS courses within its Annual Training Programme. A series of training modules providing essential information-related skills required for effective participation in educational policy dialogue has been produced. These modules will be tested and validated during a two-week training course on EMIS, which is to take place in Jamaica in November 1999. Invitations have been sent to **Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

Co-operation and Networking

The University of the South Pacific in Suva, **Fiji Islands**, is among the institutions that have signed a partnership agreement with IIEP and has co-operated with IIEP in 1998-99.

IIEP has been working with **Lesotho**, the **Seychelles** and **Swaziland** within the framework of the Southern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ). These countries participate in the second phase of the project with 14 other countries from Southern and Eastern Africa.

On the invitation of the Ministry of Education, IIEP's Director visited the **Maldives** in May 1998 to provide information to senior ministry officials on IIEP's programmes and activities as well as to give two lectures : the first on the implications of the Delors Report for Small Island States; and the second on the factors contributing to the improvement of the quality of education.

IIEP also participated in the 'Consultation on Education in Small States' organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, October 1998.

The Sciences in the Service of Development

Social and Human Sciences and Social Development

New Initiatives for Children and Youth: Building Partnerships

In cooperation with International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI), UNESCO organised a meeting in **Suriname** on the above-mentioned theme. The meeting was organized in two stages, with the first day having the character of a seminar, attended by over 150 participants and the two subsequent days as workshops attended by approximately 50 participants.

The three-day meeting aimed at contributing to the healthy development of children and youth in Suriname and adjacent Caribbean countries. It sought to achieve this primarily by bringing together local, regional and international specialists.

Workshop Recommendations:

- Seek further co-operation between UNESCO and the Suriname Government, particularly in the fields of youth and education policy, including research on youth issues;
- Establish a joint UNESCO/ICDI committee to closely follow up on the outcome of this workshop with the Government of Suriname,
- Organize an evaluation seminar in two years to take stock of the progress on the Children in Suriname Programme;
- Contribute to the establishment of a national policy for children and youth in Suriname;
- Assist the Government of Suriname in establishing a national education policy;

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- Assist the Suriname Government in strengthening its capacity to collect social data through data collection training workshops;
 - Collaborate with UNICEF and other international agencies in attaining these objectives

Strengthening MOST Activities

A National MOST Liaison Committee was established in **Cape Verde**. It will participate in the preparation of a plan for the struggle against poverty, and for the development of local governance. This UNDP-supported programme is implemented jointly by the National Committee for the Struggle against Poverty, the Ministry of Labour and Social Integration, and the Ministry of Justice. The creation of a MOST network in the Portuguese-speaking African countries is envisaged.

Negotiations are held between UNESCO and UNDP to develop projects in the following areas:

- social stability and development in Portuguese-speaking African countries;
- local governance and development;
- master plan for the integrated development of Tarrafal site (former prison).

SIS/Bangkok

The Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and Pacific (RUSHAP) has implemented a project for a number of small States in the Asia/Pacific region. RUSHAP is in the process of setting up a project in Thailand, jointly with the Swankularbwitayalai Nonthaburi School (SKN) and the National Electronic and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC). The project, (Asia-Pacific School Social Science network - APSSNET) aims at strengthening the mechanisms for disseminating and sharing social science information among individuals and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

The project will be organized in different stages. The first involves the setting up of the necessary technology and the Internet connections for the schools in Thailand who have agreed to take part in the pilot stage. Based on the responses from the pilot schools and the results of the current survey of schools being conducted throughout the region, we hope that more schools will join on the basis of accessibility to the technology and other factors such as staffing, curriculum, etc. As part of the pilot stage, a video conference is being organized at the end of the year for participating schools.

The project will include, but not restricted, to ASP schools. It will be reviewed continuously, and we hope to initiate activities that will raise the necessary resources to ensure extensive coverage in the Asia-Pacific region. The project, which aims at including about 1000 schools in the Asia-Pacific region, was planned for June 1999.

SHS/Caracas

The Regional Adviser of the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Director of UNESCO/Caracas participated in the consultation meeting on Higher Education in the Caribbean that was held in St Lucia from 29 June to 1 July 1998. The meeting was organized jointly by UNESCO and CARICOM. The two main subjects examined by the meeting were the transformation of higher education and the status of higher education in the Caribbean. At the end of the meeting the "St Lucia Declaration on Higher Education in the Caribbean" was drawn-up. Recommendations were made for a Plan of Action. Based on the results of the meeting, IESALC/UNESCO subsequently published a book in 1998 entitled *Higher Education in the Caribbean*.

Pacific

Support for the Pacific Migration Research Network:

This important project will help to provide Pacific data that is scarce. It is, therefore, a long-term activity, carried out in cooperation with the Australian National Commission for UNESCO.

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

A colloquium of high level Pacific leaders met in Apia, Samoa to discuss Human Rights in the context of Pacific cultures. Participants included two High Court Judges, political leaders and professors of education, media and culture representatives. The colloquium was organized in co-operation with Waikato University, New Zealand.

Youth Leadership for a Culture of Peace in the Pacific:

This two-year inter-sectoral project is now more than half way through the second of its three phases. The work began at a Forum in Brisbane early in 1998 and was attended by four youth from each of thirteen Pacific countries and a number of Pacific resource people. The youth's views on Growing Up in a World of Change were collated, a Pacific youth network was established and training for Phase Two was given. In Phase Two, more than half of the Pacific Member States have now held their national fora, working with their own Ministries for youth and national youth NGOs. A number of other bodies cooperate in this project including the US Peace Corps, National Commissions for UNESCO, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. By the end of the project in-country extrabudgetary contributions are anticipated to be about US\$100,000.

Support was provided to the Sport and Physical Education Data Centre at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, **Fiji Islands**. This funding was a grant by the Director-General of UNESCO to assist in the establishment of the centre. It will provide a source of information on sport and physical education in the Pacific.

Natural Sciences and Environmental Sciences

Division of Earth Sciences

The International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) as the major instrument of UNESCO's action in Earth Sciences has involved geoscientists from universities and geological surveys in the implementation of its global projects. Furthermore, participants from the small Member States have been trained in regular postgraduate courses in Earth Sciences, in remote sensing and geodata handling.

Within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) UNESCO has notably included geoscientists from the Pacific and the Caribbean regions in research and training activities focused on reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and landslides.

Division of Life Sciences

- Research and training activities have been conducted in the English-speaking Caribbean countries through the UNESCO Microbial Resources Centre (MIRCEN) established at the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute/University of the West Indies, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- Within the framework of UNESCO/BAC and UNESCO/MIRCEN, fellowships have been awarded to research students from **Samoa, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Fiji Islands, Comoros, and Barbados** during the last two biennia
- A gift of technical books and scientific journals was made to the MIRCEN CARIRI, for use by the Caribbean Biotechnology Conference and Network.

Division of Water Sciences

The following reports have been prepared:

- **Kiribati:** Groundwater Recharge in Low Coral Islands, Bonriki, South Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati by I. White, A. Falkland, L. Crennan, P. Jones, T. Matutera, B. Etuati and E. Matai.
- **Tonga:** UNESCO/SOPAC IHP Groundwater Pollution Study, Pangai, Hitrifo, Lifuka, Kingdom of Tonga.
- All islands of the South Pacific. UNESCO Water Resources Workshop Report, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands, 18-22 July 1997. Available from UNESCO-Apia

Division of Mathematics, Physical, and Chemical Sciences

Under UNESCO/American Chemical Society cooperation, 20 tons of scientific books and journals were delivered to the national university of **Lesotho**; an international training workshop on microscience experiments was organized at the same university.

A fellowship was provided to a participant from **Seychelles** for training on microscience experiments at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Engineering and Technology Division

EST/SC has no current activities in Small Member States and Associate Members, but is assisting in the development and promotion of a proposal for the "Centre for Education and Training in Renewable Energy for the Pacific Region". A review mission to the Pacific to that end was planned for July or August 1999.

Unit of Coastal Areas and Small Islands

Launched in 1996, as a component of UNESCO's Fourth Medium-term Strategy (1996-2001), the Coastal Regions and Small Islands Platform is putting in motion the Organisation's primary comparative advantage: its capacity for integrated action involving Natural and Social Sciences, Culture, Education and Communication. Through joint planning and implementation at Headquarters and in Field Offices, pilot projects have been established in 20 (out of 32) small Member States and Associate Members, uniting decision-makers, local communities, cultural heritage experts and scientists. UNESCO Chairs are being established to foster these new interdisciplinary ways of thinking and acting, by providing training and capacity-building for environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and culturally appropriate development in coastal regions and in small islands.

Caribbean

In addition to country-based pilot activities in Haiti and Jamaica, CSI executes two projects in the Caribbean Subregion, on "Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity" (CARICOMP), and "Planning for Coastline Change"(COSALC).

CARICOMP

The CARICOMP project contributes to the development of a CSI pilot project that focuses on the interface between coastal ecological and socio-cultural systems, and aims at their integrated management and sustainable development. In addition to continued support for systematic biological monitoring, a particular effort is being made at a selected number of sites to analyse the socio-economic and cultural dynamics of natural resource use. Sites identified by the respective countries have been regularly monitored. The following countries of the Caribbean Subregion participate in the CARICOMP project: **Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, The Netherlands Antilles, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

Experts from **Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago** attended the workshop on 'The Use of Natural Coastal Resources at CARICOMP sites: monitoring, community-based management and socioeconomic/cultural aspects' held in Jamaica in May 1998. The same experts attended the second workshop on the same subject in **Grenada**, in May 1999.

COSALC

This coastal monitoring programme was continued through 1998-99 with several national agencies, with a view to providing stakeholders with recommendations and practical solutions related to the degradation of coastal properties. A summary report entitled 'Coast and Beach Stability in the Caribbean Islands - COSALC Project Activities 1996-97' (published as No.6 in the *CSI Info* series) and a report entitled: 'Planning for Coastline Change - COSALC project Review, 1998' were submitted to the authorities of the participating countries. Public information material distributed included: a COSALC poster 'The Sea at your doorstep', three articles in the *Sea Grant in the Caribbean Newsletter* (January-December 1998), and 'Coping with Beach Erosion' (published as UNESCO-CSI *Coastal Management Sourcebook* No.1). The following countries of the Caribbean subregion participate in the COSALC project:

Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

A consultant visited Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia in 1998 to determine coastal development setback guidelines. These missions were followed by subsequent ones, to provide support to the beach-monitoring programme, to consult with the national agencies involved and organize public discussions for stakeholders on sustainable coastal development matters. Other consultancy missions provided further support to the beach monitoring programmes, which included training workshops on 'Shoreline Management' and a public forum on 'Coastal Development Setbacks' held that same year. Country-specific guidelines were produced, as well as reports on Planning for Coastline Change - Coastal Development Setback Guidelines, on **Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis.**

Grenada hosted a workshop under this project, and in co-operation with the Communication Sector of UNESCO/Kingston, a sub-regional training workshop on video production for broadcast and exchange in November 1998, for people from the environmental and broadcasting agencies in Anguilla, **Grenada** and **Saint Lucia**. The purpose of the workshop was to produce a series of video clips to 'bring to the living room' an environmental message based on local material. A set of video equipment was provided. The second workshop on the same subject took place in Grenada in May 1999 and gathered participants from Anguilla, **Grenada**, **Saint Lucia**, and **Trinidad and Tobago**. A few video clips prepared by the participants were presented and evaluated. One observer from **Grenada** attended the intersectoral workshop 'Towards Wise Coastal Development Practices' held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in the beginning of December 1998.

A video production expert from **Trinidad and Tobago** was in charge of the COSALC Sub-regional Workshop on 'Video Production for Broadcast and Exchange', held in Grenada in November 1998. Preparation of a source book on the Caribbean Sea and the Caribbean Islands for schools in the region was supported by the Port of Spain Office, in co-operation with the Caribbean Sea Project of the Associated Schools Project of the Education Sector.

Pacific

In the Pacific, CSI cooperates with the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and MOST (Management of Social Transformation) in addressing societal impact of water problems in small island developing States as well as sustainable island living issues.

Building on the International Hydrological Programme's activities relating to freshwater use and management in the Pacific region, CSI is developing pilot project activities in **Fiji Islands**, **Solomon Islands**, **Tonga**, and **Tuvalu**, in co-operation with IHP and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). The activities draw upon expertise in the social and natural sciences. Moving towards an increasingly integrated approach to sustainable development in small islands, CSI is focusing on local community perception and knowledge relating to the conservation and wise use of freshwater and coastal resources.

The **Solomon Islands** have participated in the preparatory work for a proposed study on catchment and communities

CSI runs a pilot project in **Kiribati** on 'Freshwater Security in Small Pacific Islands'. It aims at drawing on, and combining expertise in social and natural sciences to develop an integrated approach to sustainable development in small islands. The focus is on the local community's knowledge and perceptions of conservation and the wise use of freshwater and coastal resources. The University of the South Pacific Atoll Research Programme is conducting a study of community knowledge of climate variations and their effects on freshwater supplies, crops and fishing, in order to relate this to scientific understanding of climate.

A contract was established with the **Samoan** National Commission was issued to develop a CSI pilot project in Samoa entitled: 'Sustainable Village Living in a Small Island Setting' in the

Saanapu Conservation Area. At a meeting held with the chiefs and orators of Saanapu and Sataoa villages in April 1999, the project team members presented the project's main goals: development of teaching modules in environmental education; collection of traditional ecological knowledge; and training to involve youth in creating better communities. One person from Samoa participated in the intersectoral workshop 'Towards Wise Coastal Development Practices' held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in the beginning of December 1998. A UNESCO mission to Samoa in April 1999 visited the pilot project site, met with project team members, and planned the continuing development of activities.

In the Indian Ocean sub-region, CSI co-operated with several Member States, with a view to launching pilot activities in education and communication. One participant and one observer from the **Comoros** attended the CSI intersectoral workshop 'Towards Wise Coastal Development Practices' held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris at the end of 1998.

A CSI grant was given to **Maldives** to raise general public awareness in the Maldives about the ocean and to celebrate the 'International Year of the Ocean'.

Two experts from **Seychelles** attended a CSI-led workshop on 'Education and Communication for Sustainable Coastal Development', which was organized jointly with the Communication and Education Sectors, and the UNESCO Dakar, Maputo, Nairobi and Pretoria Offices as part of the 'Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSIKOM)' held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 1998.

Bureau for Coordination of Environmental Programme

UNESCO has actively participated in the work of the UN system-wide inter-agency bodies, whose deliberations also aimed at enhancing information exchanges, coordination, cooperation and synergies among UN system organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994). The bodies concerned are the ACC Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) and its two Sub-Committees on Freshwater, and on Oceans and Coastal Areas, respectively. In this vein, UNESCO also contributed in its areas of competence to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. Through these mechanisms, UNESCO has been fully involved in the preparations of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action to be held in New York on 27 and 28 September 1999.

Intergovernmental, Oceanographic Commission

Pilot Project on Sensibility Mapping of Shallow Water Areas of Mahe, Seychelles

An Atlas on Sensibility Mapping of Shallow Water Areas of Mahé, **Seychelles**, was produced in 1998. This atlas is a concrete result of the technical and financial support granted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Indian Ocean Commission through

the Environmental Regional Programme - European Union (PRE/COI-UE), as a contribution to the national environment programme of Seychelles.

This atlas is a working tool that provides the decision-makers with a guide to:

- set the required environmental standards for the integrated coastal management, such as quality of water and level of studies
- orientate the infrastructure management (development sites, choices of protected areas)
- minimize the conflicts that may occur and alleviate pressures that affect the marine environment, by controlling activities such as fisheries, recreational activities, transportation.

The Atlas constitutes a tool that can assist in the establishment of a plan for the integrated coastal zone management of Mahé. In addition, the experts specialized in the marine environment will use this atlas as Terms of Reference when studying the various types of marine environments.

The methodology used for the production of the atlas is cost efficient and is easily transposable and adaptable to other small island developing States. During the process, national experts were trained to carry out ground-truth assessments, and handling of environmental data through the use of Geographic Information System.

In February 1998, the IOC organized a workshop on Global Ocean Observing Systems (GOOS) Capacity building in **Fiji Islands**. The IOC and SOPAC were co-sponsors of the workshop, which numbered thirty-four participants. Pacific-GOOS was initiated during this workshop, and its first meeting proper is planned in Noumea, New Caledonia, in spring 2000, to initiate planning for monitoring and observing in the region's coastal seas.

Division of Ecological Sciences

SC/ECO organised a seminar in **Cape Verde** from 24 to 25 September 1998. The aim of this seminar was to establish close links between the Cape Verde islands and the Lanzarote Biosphere Reserve (Spain), in order to evaluate the possibility of establishing the first biosphere reserve in Cape Verde. This future biosphere reserve is most likely to be established in three Cape Verde Islands: Sal, Boa Vista and Maio. Before the meeting, a field trip took place to the three islands.

The Government of **Cape Verde**, the Government of Canary Islands, and UNESCO jointly sponsored the meeting. UNESCO support came from SC/ECO's extra-budgetary IBSICA project (Integrated Biodiversity Strategies for Islands and Coastal Areas). Delegates from Lanzarote presented a programme of co-operation between Lanzarote Biosphere Reserve and the possible future Cape Verde Biosphere Reserve. The two parties have signed an Agreement of Co-operation, accordingly.

Cultural Development: the Heritage and Creativity

Cultural Heritage

International Norms

As most small Member States are islands, the normative programme has evolved mainly around the protection of the underwater cultural heritage

The meetings of Governmental Experts on the Draft Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage were held at UNESCO Headquarters, 29 June to 2 July 1998 and 19 to 24 April 1999, respectively. They were attended by representatives from **Belize, Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.**

Representatives from **Barbados** and UNESCO attended the meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials Responsible for Cultural Policy of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Underwater Cultural Heritage. The meeting took place in Santo Domingo on 12 March 1999.

Barbados organised the Tenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials Responsible for Cultural Policy of Latin America and the Caribbean, from 4 to 5 December 1998 in Bridgetown, **Barbados.** UNESCO was also represented at this meeting.

Representatives from **Barbados** and **Trinidad and Tobago** attended the First Technical Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean countries on the underwater cultural heritage held in the Dominican Republic from 14 to 17 June 1998, and aiming at preparing the first UNESCO meeting of governmental experts

Operational Activities

During the present biennium, under the Fellowship Bank Scheme financed by the Regular Programme, two professional staff from the National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research participated in the training workshop on Care and Maintenance of Museum Objects,

organized in Lucknow (India) by the National Research Laboratory for the Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), from 3 to 14 August 1998. In 1999, UNESCO/Delhi will organize a short-term consultant mission to the **Maldives** for the development of the national museum.

During 1998-1999, national heads of cultural heritage programmes and museum specialists from the **Seychelles** participated in training and seminars organized within the UNESCO/PRENIA programme (Prevention in African Museums).

Museum Development: Training and equipment provided for museums in projects continue to stand the sub-region in good stead. A survey on the status of museums, a set of training manuals and a model cultural legislation were additional important outputs of those projects. Support for the work of the Museums Association of the Caribbean has been an important component of this process.

Division of Creativity, Cultural Industries, and Copyright

- CARIFESTA VII: The Culture Adviser is a member of the CARIFESTA Advisory Committee and over the years has given the festival invaluable support. At most festivals UNESCO has provided seed funding for the implementation of new aspects of administration and presentation, to develop Caribbean arts and artists, and to promote regional integration through the arts.
- Training: Short term fellowships are provided each year for artists to attend summer schools in the arts particularly at the Edna Manley School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica. Approximately six artists benefit annually.
- Copyright: Support was provided for work in the updating of copyright legislation and the protection of artists' rights.
- Cultural Exchanges: In an effort to expose Caribbean art within the region and internationally, the Culture Sector has supported artistic exchanges among Caribbean countries, as well as in Europe and the Americas. This has allowed several artists to hold exhibitions in neighbouring countries and to participate in major regional biennials. An exchange among Austrian and **Dominican** artists in 1998 and the University of the West Indies Travelling exhibition, in observance of the 50th Anniversary of UNESCO was of great significance. A video documentary on Caribbean cultures such as the Maroon Societies have been supported.
- Tertiary Education: Focus was placed on the development of the Arts and Culture programmes at the University of Technology in Jamaica.
- Indigenous Peoples: Over the years support has been provided for the sustenance of the Caribbean Organization of Indigenous Peoples. This has taken the form of support for major conferences, administrative processes and office equipment. In 1998, work was concentrated on the following areas: indigenous technology, video documentation, bibliography of indigenous documentation, exchange of indigenous technology and improved rural communication.

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- **Cultural Policy:** The sector has set up national consultations in various Caribbean countries to examine the question of cultural policy and, eventually, to formulate government policy on the subject. Important work was done through the CARICOM Culture Desk that developed a model cultural policy for use by CARICOM governments.
 - **Media:** Financial support has been provided for the development of television programming promoting the arts and culture.
 - **Poverty Alleviation:** An approach to poverty alleviation through artistic and cultural expression in the inner city is now in progress. The Area Youth Programme in Kingston has, so far, been a major success and can serve as a model for similar projects in inner cities in other Caribbean countries.

Pursuant to the Co-operation Agreement between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNESCO participated in the organization of the Symposium on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Traditional and Popular Cultures in the Pacific islands, held from 15 to 19 February 1999 in Noumea, New Caledonia. Among the 21 States and territories represented at the Symposium were representatives of the **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu**. They all had the opportunity to present papers on the state of legal protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of traditional cultures in their respective countries.

The Symposium allowed for a wide exchange of opinions on the possibility of legal protection, at the national and international levels. At the end of the meeting, the participants adopted a Final Declaration in the form of a Plan of Action, recommended to the relevant national authorities, the Commonwealth of the South Pacific, UNESCO and WIPO.

Division of Intercultural Projects

During the current biennium, the following activities on the Slave Route Project were implemented:

1. The fourth session of the International Committee for the "Slave Route Project" and a Seminar on "The ideological and Legal Foundations of Slavery and the Slave Trade" held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 9 to 12 December 1998. An expert from **Sao Tome and Principe**, member of the Committee, participated in the meetings.
2. Meeting on the launching the UNESCO-WTO Joint Programme of Cultural Tourism on the Slave Route for the Caribbean, held in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, 28-30 June 1999). Experts from the following countries were invited to the meeting: **Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago**.

General History of the Caribbean

The General History of the Caribbean continues to be the major project of the Culture Sector in UNESCO/Kingston. The main task at hand is that of raising funds from extra budgetary sources and partnerships.

In 1997 Volume III, *The Slave Societies*, was published in collaboration with Macmillan, and has been receiving favourable reviews. The next three Volumes to appear in 1999 will be: Volume 1, *The Autochthonous Societies*; Volume II, *The New Societies*; and Volume VI, *The Methodology and Historiography of the Caribbean*. Volume IV, *The Long Nineteen Century*, and Volume V, *The Caribbean in the 200 Century* are scheduled for the year 2000.

World Heritage Centre

Caribbean

The World Heritage Centre has continued to give attention to the promotion and application of the World Heritage Convention, among other things, by advising Caribbean governments on the need to preserve and enhance the heritage of their countries. This has been done mainly through the awareness building seminars on the relevant UNESCO conventions:

- In March 1998, an expert meeting was held in Martinique on 'The Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean and the World Heritage Convention'. Twelve experts from French, English, and Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean participated in the meeting. They examined different types of cultural heritage, and, with a view to strengthening the particular characteristics of the Caribbean, recommended that further regional thematic studies be undertaken.
- In July 1998, a meeting with representatives from States Parties and experts was held in Dominica, on the occasion of the inscription of the first tropical forest in the Caribbean on the World Heritage List. The meeting strengthened the co-operation between the World Heritage Centre and the States Parties in the Caribbean, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and encouraged States Parties and their environmental ministries to fully implement the World Heritage Convention.
- In October 1999, an expert meeting will take place in **Suriname** on the natural heritage of the Caribbean and its relevance for the World Heritage List.
- Technical co-operation for management planning has been provided under the World Heritage Fund to Morne Trois Pitons National Park in **Dominica** and to Cuba for preservation projects.
- New nominations for World Heritage listing have been received from **Saint Kitts and Nevis** for Brimstone Hill Fortress, and from **Suriname** for its capital city, Paramaribo. Attention is now being turned towards the protection of the underwater heritage of the region and the need to control the activities of treasure hunters.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

A project for the presentation of the history and culture of the indigenous Island Carib people of the region was undertaken through collaboration with a historian and artist team in **St. Lucia**, where a "comic book" for schools is being produced on the subject. The book is scheduled for publication at the end of 1999.

Pacific

The World Heritage Centre and PIMA (the Pacific Islands Museums Association) are jointly organizing a World Heritage Global Strategy meeting for the Pacific. It will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 24-27 August 1999. Representatives of the **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu**, and other Pacific countries will be invited to the meeting. The objective of the meeting is to build the capacity of Pacific Island heritage managers, to facilitate the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Pacific.

The Organization provided funding for the following activities:

- To the Pacific Youth Leadership for a Culture of Peace Forum.
- To the institute of Performing Arts and Tourism, **Samoa** to develop traditional performing arts/skills tourism and produce a film on one of the productions.
- To the International Federation for Women's Research in Pacific Women History.
- For research into chemical properties of traditional medicinal plants, for a publication in Samoan as well as in English.
- For publications including Vaka Moana promotion/awareness articles, and for the Pacific Islands Museum Association Newsletter
- To the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, for the revitalization of the Vaka Moana Radio Series Programme by Radio New Zealand
- To Papua New Guinea for participating in the PIMA/PREMO course in Tahiti.
- To **Fiji Islands** to attend a training Conservation Workshop in India
- For compiling a songbook of old, traditional common songs of the Pacific for use in schools in the Pacific, as a tribute to Vaka Moana/World Decade for Cultural Development.
- For research into dying indigenous languages and the development of strategies for their revitalization.
- For a survey on Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites in **Niue**, in collaboration with the Cultural Adviser of UNESCO/APIA.

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- For the documentation of traditional dances, and songs of cultural groups in **Fiji Islands**.
 - For a skills analysis survey of Pacific Member States for the Development of Training Programmes for Cultural Personnel.
 - For the publication of the Journals (from 1827-1845) of Charles Pittman, an early missionary in Rarotonga.
 - For the participation in the Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival Port Vila, **Vanuatu**.
 - For the promotion of the Samoan language and culture within the University community.

Communication, Information and Informatics

Regional Activities

Caribbean

Free Flow of Information

The launch of the activities for the biennium 1998-1999 focussed on the organisation of a Caribbean Media Seminar, to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, 1998, in collaboration with the Media Association of Jamaica, the Caribbean News Agency, and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union. The first meeting of its kind for ten years, the Seminar brought together seventy-six key persons from eighteen countries concerned with policy, practice and philosophy of the media profession in the region. The seminar stressed the need for such activities to be on-going; the role of the media in fostering an informed citizenry should engage in addressing social problems; and the need for the media to undertake the several challenges and opportunities of the new information technologies.

Other activities undertaken in this programme area include assistance to the Jamaica Broadcasting Commission for studies into new programming standards for the development of a new National Public Service Broadcasting system in that country and exposure of the media professionals and institutions to the Canada-based global alert system, IFEX.

Development of Communication

In response to the call for more local content, to fight against the deluge of foreign productions, the sector provided support to small independent and public mainstream media houses for productions geared largely towards young children, youth, women and the environment. Given the deterrent of production costs in the region, institutions are further being encouraged in their efforts at co-productions and other strategies to cope with this problem.

Other activities in this programme area include a planned consultation on concrete methods of cooperation in the development and expansion of broadcasting and other programmes and products; continued support to the Merit Awards scheme for excellence in broadcasting; and a sub-regional workshop on production and broadcast of environmental videos.

Women

A major emphasis is placed on women media practitioners, particularly under the "women-speaking-to-women" community radio project. The training manual entitled *Whose Perspective?: A Guide to Gender-Sensitive Analysis of the Media*, was produced early 1998 by the Women Media Watch of Jamaica. On-line networking of WMW activities in the region is being pursued by the same institution under an IPDC project.

Training

In response to the rapidly falling standards and the apparent retreat in professionalism in the media, the development of communication programme continues to focus considerable attention on the education and training of all professionals - from media managers to sub-editors and reporters.

A large portion of the programme resources were used to assist six practitioners from CBU member systems, as well as ten community radio practitioners to take part in the hands-on summer broadcast training sessions at CARIMAC. One outstanding result of this course is the eagerness of the participating stations to deepen their media activities in the community and begin to network by electronic means, for the exchange of news and materials, and to experiment with virtual radio. An outcome of this is an IPDC project proposal for the Nineteenth Session of the Council in 1999.

Contributions are also foreseen for the development of multi-media language training packages for journalists in collaboration with CARIMAC and the publication of a regional manual of principles and ethics for practitioners. In-house radio training workshops are also envisaged for CBU members beginning late 1998 under the IPDC project to upgrade radio broadcasting skills in the region.

Community Media

The third issue of the *Eastern Voice*, a community newspaper set up in Sangre Grande, **Trinidad and Tobago**, is now at press, following a desktop publishing workshop for young community workers, and on-going journalism and marketing training under an IPDC project.

The Organisation provided additional materials to the regional Centre for Cartoon and Animation Production in **Trinidad and Tobago**, newly operational and outfitted with state-of-the-art technology, and benefiting from on-going hands-on training, with IPDC assistance.

A contribution was made to Radio Toco (*Women-speaking-women*) in **Trinidad and Tobago** and Roots FM (Jamaica inner-city radio) for reinforcement of their technical and operational

activities. Roots FM has been charged with initiating an on-line discussion service in Jamaica before the end of 1998. Radio Muye (*Women-speaking-to-women*) **Suriname**, will also receive further training and technical assistance.

Within the context of the Jamaica Area Youth intersectoral project for urban marginalized young people that is supported on an intersectoral basis by UNESCO/Kingston, technical support is being provided to deepen workshop-publishing skills and help to ensure regular production and dissemination of a community newspaper by this group. Two Area Youth members, also participated in the CARIMAC 1998 Community Radio Summer programme, and are now in an apprenticeship training programme with Roots FM. With regard to community television, a contract is under execution, in collaboration with Baha'i International for a feasibility study on the establishment of a community television station in **Trinidad and Tobago**.

International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

The IPDC projects remain a major source of funding in the reinforcement of the technical and human resource infrastructures of Caribbean media houses and institutions. Under the IPDC in 1998, almost US\$1.5m were approved for projects. Four projects with a total request of US\$ 0.5m, have been submitted for consideration to the 1999 IPDC Council. UNESCO/Kingston is presently executing a total of approximately \$1.5M of IPDC and FIT projects in the region.

Intra-CII Activities

Following repeated requests for assistance for the preservation of audiovisual archives in the region, a preliminary contract was drawn up to develop a database on the audio-visual holdings of media houses and institutions in Member States. This is in anticipation of a joint UNESCO/CBU-Lomé IV expert study on the state of audiovisual archives in the region, for the preparation of a regional project for extra-budgetary funding.

UNESCO is providing for the training in the use and application of the computer at a Community Telecentre site in **Suriname**. Within the framework of NETDAYS, assistance was provided for the production and broadcast of a thirteen-part television series on the computer with special focus on the virtual radio service, and on-line public radio networking, to be set up under contract with Roots FM community radio.

Pacific

World Press Freedom Day

In 1998, a regional media campaign was organized to mark World Press Freedom Day under contract with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). The UNESCO press kit and a PINA radio and television spot were sent to the printing press, radio and television; posters and stickers were produced and distributed. Articles were commissioned by Pacific media personalities, radio programmes were compiled and a video spot produced on Article IX of the

UDHR. All products were distributed and published widely by the media outlets in the PICs. This regional activity was co-ordinated by the Pacific Islands News Association, PINA, which is the only Pacific NGO having status with UNESCO. Support was also provided to the Journalist Association of Samoa. A television discussion was recorded for the regional *Pacific Way* magazine. A contribution was given for the publication of the *Pacific Journalism Review* (Vol. 5, No. 1).

Support was given to promote pluralist media voices (**Samoa**, Newslite, at the 1998 PINA GA 11 - 15 December 1998). A special session will be organized on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to be followed by a publication.

In 1998, a national seminar was organized in **Kiribati** to support good governance, access to public information as well as publicize the principle of World Press Freedom Day.

Under the IPDC funds (\$60,000), a regional project entitled "PACMAP" is being implemented through the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association (PIBA), to streamline selected critical management functions of the radio stations in small island countries in the Pacific. The beneficiaries of this project include broadcasting stations of **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu**.

An IPDC project (PDC/19 RAS/03) (\$30,000) was implemented in 1998-1999 for the Pacific Women TV Exchange. The seventh Pacific Women TV workshop was organised by UNESCO in April 1999 in co-operation with the SPC Regional Media Centre with co-funding from the AusAid Media Programme. Representatives from the **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu** attended the workshop. The second part of the workshop will take place in August 1999 to screen the productions started in April. For some years now this has been one of UNESCO's flagship activities, to promote women's access to better jobs in TV and video, and to encourage local TV and Pacific Islands video production.

Support was provided to continue the regional television magazine *The Pacific Way*, which is produced by the SPC Regional Media Centre. Two programmes will be dedicated to "Women Speaking to Women".

A training course on how to access information that is useful to women in the rural areas will be held at the South Pacific Centre for Communication and Information for Development, University of Papua New Guinea, in 1999. The participants will be government and NGO information officers and journalists. The aim is to improve the life of women in the rural areas by providing them with better information services.

An on-line publishing workshop will be organized for the small indigenous newspapers, in the context of the PINA General Assembly in December 1998. The aim is to conceive a project for funding.

Support was given to a Pacific Islands participant in the World Association of Community Radios, AMARC, General Assembly in Milan, in August 1998.

An Internet and a community radio expert participated as resource persons in the UNESCO Pacific Youth Forum in Brisbane in May 1998. The participants also had an opportunity to visit a community radio studio and produce their own programmes. The Internet expert guided the youth and organized on-line Internet interviews and discussions throughout the week.

A series of national workshops aimed at improving the ability to communicate environmental issues to the public, is being organized and held under the South Pacific Regional Environment Information Network Project (352/RAS/83), which received funding support (\$66,000) from IPDC. The latest of the six workshops was held in **Marshall Islands**. SPREP/UNESCO national workshops on communicating environmental information to the public will be held in **Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu**.

Several workshops have been organised under the PACTRAINER project (352 RAS 64), funded by IPDC (\$66,000) to train Pacific islanders as media trainers. The basic IPDC fund has been supplemented by activities sponsored by other organizations. The training manuals produced under this project are expected to be ready by the end of 1999. The project is implemented through the Pacific Island News Association. The beneficiaries include trainers from all Small Island Member States in the Pacific.

Among the planned regional activities in the Pacific for the small island States are the PACVISION project to reinforce local TV Production in small island countries. For this purpose an IPDC project was formulated and approved (\$ 33,000). The project will be implemented towards the end of 1999.

The *ASTINFO* Newsletter is distributed in the Pacific for information exchange to the small States of the region.

In the framework of UNESCO's programme to develop training packages on informatics, a complete training module on the objectives, benefits, organization and methods of Internet user co-operation and user consortia, with text and examples was prepared for use in a three-day workshop that was organized in Malta in March 1999 for representative users from small developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific on the theme: " Information and Communication Technologies Strategies for Islands and Small States". The workshop was attended by representatives from the **British Virgin Islands, Fiji Islands, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tonga** and other countries.

A regional training workshop for archivists on the "Archives, Land and Culture" at the PARBICA annual meeting will take place in Suva in August 1999. Special emphasis will be placed on the use of information and communication technologies.

The "Pacific Islands Association for Libraries and Archives" (PIALA) will organize a training workshop on basic library skills in the context of its annual meeting of 1999.

A Pacific Online 1999 Internet training package was compiled as part of the UNESCO Chair in communication at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia. It is meant as a learning aid for teachers, students, and others who wish to start exploring the Internet technologies.

Support was given for the participation of five representatives of the Pacific island countries in the "Asia-Pacific On-line Meeting" in Bali, in March 1999. It was organized by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) with funding under the Participation Programme and from Australia. The Minister of Education of **Samoa** was the keynote speaker. A working party was set up to plan a regional meeting on Internet content questions.

A number of Pacific Islands representatives participated in the Internet Seminar for small countries that was held in Malta from 17 to 19 March 1999.

Three representatives of the Pacific: **Fiji Islands**, Papua New Guinea, and **Tonga** participated as observers in the RINSCA/RINSEAP meetings in Bali from 23 to 24 March 1999. The meetings aimed at assessing the feasibility of such a network for the small islands region. It was decided to start with the establishment of an Internet discussion group.

All the small Member States have been invited to participate in the establishment of a UNESCO database on youth, launched in January 1999 within the framework of INFOYOUTH, and currently being implemented; and in the UNESCO Observatory on the Information Society by providing official documents accessible on the Web and related to the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the Internet. Their participation in the next INFOETHICS 2000 Congress (autumn 2000) is also encouraged.

All the small Member States and the Associate Members of the Caribbean, with the exception of the Netherlands Antilles, receive the INFOLAC Newsletter, which keeps them posted on information developments within the region. They are also invited to participate in regional networking meetings and library association conferences, such as ACURIL (Association of Caribbean Research and Institutional Libraries), being held in Aruba from 6 to 12 June 1999.

National Activities

Aruba

From 6 to 12 June 1999, Aruba will host the 29th ACURIL (Association of Caribbean Research and Institutional Libraries) Conference, which seeks to strengthen co-operation in information among international libraries the region.

Barbados

Funding was provided for a representative to attend the 7th INFOLAC Consultation Meeting in Colima, Mexico, in March 1999, and for the National Distributor to the 8th Regional Meeting of National CDS/ISIS Distributors, in Montevideo, Uruguay in October, 1998.

Belize

An IPDC project (PDC/18 BZE/01) (\$80,000) was implemented in 1998-1999 to enable countrywide access to national radio. Funding was provided for a representative to attend the

7th INFOLAC Consultation Meeting in Colima, Mexico, in March 1999, and for the National Distributor to the 8th Regional Meeting of National CDS/ISIS Distributors, in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October 1998.

Cape Verde

The following three IPDC projects were implemented in Cape-Verde in 1998-1999:

- PDC/18 CVI/01 (\$60,000) for the computerization of the newsroom of the national radio;
- PDC/19 CVI/01 (\$25,000) for the documentation centre;
- PDC/19 CVI/02 (\$25,000) for strengthening of the independent newspaper "A Semana".

In cooperation and with financial support from Banque internationale d'information sur les Etats francophones (BIEF), UNESCO has provided technical assistance for the preparation of a National Information Policy Seminar that is to be held in June 1999.

A project entitled "Bibliothèques et Internet au service de l'enseignement au Cap Vert" is being implemented (\$100,000). This project aims at:

1. developing document collection
2. selecting the documents, books and audiovisual material to be purchased
3. implementing a computerized system for libraries of the Institut pédagogique, the Institut Supérieur, and an Internet server.

UNESCO made a financial contribution for a workshop on the preservation of archival material for technical staff of archives in Portuguese-speaking African countries in Praia, **Cape Verde**, from 12 to 17 April 1999.

Cook Islands

An IPDC project was implemented in Cook Islands (352 CKI 51) (\$50,000,) in 1998-1999, to upgrade the local production facilities of the Cook Islands Television.

Fiji Islands

In Fiji Islands, a project (352 FIJ 81 - PDC/18 FIJ/01) supported by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) (\$57,000), is being implemented to enhance the national training programme at the Fiji Islands Journalism Training Institute. This will involve the media editors/publishers, the Fiji Islands Media Association and the Ministry of Information.

Grenada

The 4th meeting of the Caribbean Consultative Committee on Regional Information Systems (CCCRIS) was held in St. George's, Grenada from 13 to 14 July 1998. The meeting, which was attended by representatives of thirteen Member States of the sub-region, was organized

by the Grenada Government with the support of UNESCO and the Caribbean Development Bank.

Lesotho

An IPDC project (PDC/19 LES/01) (\$10,000) has been implemented for the Lesotho News Agency.

Funding was provided to two participants from the Ministry of Education to participate in the Subregional Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies in Education for Southern Africa, held in Mbabane, Swaziland from 2 to 5 February 1998.

A workshop on backlog problems in archives, for an emergency plan on accumulation of records and archives in government services involving Lesotho, has been planned for the second half of 1999. The contract was established with the International Council on Archives.

Maldives

The project entitled "Maldives: Establishment of Atoll Media Production Centres", and submitted by the Ministry of Information and Culture, was approved by IPDC (\$47,000) and was implemented.

The main objective of the project is to establish three Media Production Centres in the Haa Dhaalu, Gaafu Dhaalu and Fuah Mulak atolls, in order to produce news and information about the islands of these atolls, since most of the radio programmes are produced on the main island of Male and do not include news and information from other parts of The Maldives.

Basic studio equipment for three media centres was purchased under the project. The construction of the centres is funded by the Maldivian government, and falls under the responsibility of the National Radio, Voice of Maldives.

Marshall Islands

A national workshop aimed at improving the ability to communicate environmental issues to the public was organised and held under the South Pacific Regional Environment Information Network Project (352/RAS/83). It received funding support (\$ 66,000) from (IPDC).

Niue

In 1999, IPDC approved a project (PDC/19 NIU/01) (\$ 35,000) to develop "Niue Star", the only regular newspaper in Niue.

Samoa

In Samoa, UNESCO assisted the "Leo o Viiga" radio programme production, which focuses on the prevention of youth suicide. The Samoa Observer Newspaper Development Project supported by IPDC (44,000) was completed in 1998. The project helped to enhance the role of Samoa Observer as an independent media outlet, and to provide a forum for discussions and education on issues of vital importance to national development efforts.

Solomon Islands

In Solomon Islands UNESCO has provided support to the Women's Communication and Information Network (SIWNET) to produce and maintain a new weekly radio programme targeted at girls and young women.

The newsroom operations at the national radio station of Solomon Islands were computerised with UNESCO/IPDC assistance (\$ 55,000).

A project with a contribution from IPDC (\$ 30,000) has been approved, to support women and community radio productions in Solomon Islands. Under this project a complete radio production studio will be established at the premises of the Solomon Islands Women's Communication and Information Network (SIWNET).

A national seminar will be organized to develop government archiving systems and national archives.

Saint Lucia

Funding was provided for a representative to the 7th INFOLAC Consultation Meeting in Colima, Mexico (March 1999).

Suriname

An IPDC project (PDC/19 SUR/01) (\$60,000) was implemented in 1998-1999 to develop a communication network in the interior of Suriname.

Swaziland

An IPDC project (PDC/19 SWA/01) (\$13,000) was implemented in 1998-1999 to implement a radio listening ratings survey.

A workshop on information communication technology in Education was organized in Swaziland from 2 to 5 February 1998, in collaboration with the Government of Swaziland and co-financed by The Netherlands, for the identification of project themes to be focused on when developing generic projects for the sub-region. The participating countries formed a task force to develop at least one generic project for the sub-region.

Tonga

Continued support was given to the central women's organisation in Tonga to produce and broadcast a weekly radio programme on women and development. The newsroom operations at the national radio station of Tonga were computerised with UNESCO/IPDC assistance (\$66,000) (352/TON/61). Further improvements to the newsroom operation are being planned with funding support (\$40,000) (520 TON 60) from the French Government.

Trinidad and Tobago

UNESCO participated in the Second Annual Caribbean Media Conference that was held in Port-of-Spain from 30 April to 2 May 1999, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. The event was organized by the Trinidad and Tobago Publishers' Association and its partners MATT, CBU and CANA. It represents an opportunity for media professionals from the many nations of the Caribbean to come together and share ideas on issues of interest and relevance to them.

From 15 to 19 June 1998, an information specialist from the National Library Services (NALIS) attended a Webmaster training course at the University of Colima, Mexico. This specialist was trained for the elaboration of a mirror of the INFOLAC's Web, which will be hosted in the NALIS server in Trinidad.

Trinidad is one of the INFOLAC founders and since 1996, has been a member of its Executive Committee and has offered to host the 8th INFOLAC Consulting Meeting to be held in March 2001.

Funding was provided for the National Distributor to the 8th Regional Meeting of National CDS/ISIS Distributors that was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 20 to 23 October 1998.

Tuvalu

Support was given to upgrade Tuvalu's TV Service to broadcast educational, cultural and information pertinent to the audience in Tuvalu, including endogenous Pacific production. The related training will be provided. This is a joint venture between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Media Centre.

Vanuatu

The newsroom operations at the national radio station of Vanuatu were computerized with UNESCO/IPDC assistance (\$ 60,000) (352/VAN/71)

Capacity Building in Information and Informatics

Memory of the world

A contract was concluded between IFLA and UNESCO headquarters, to support the participation of Pacific Islanders in a meeting on oral tradition in the context of the IFLA General Assembly (August 1999).

Libraries and Archives

A regional survey was carried out by Chief, USP Library, to take account of the existence and needs of libraries and archives in twelve countries. The study will be used as a basis for fund-raising purposes, the raising of awareness and for general information.

The Pacific Islands Library and Archive Association (PIALA) organized a subregional Micronesian training course, on the cataloguing principles, in the context of their annual meeting in 1998. The participation of a Pacific Islander in the regional library training workshop in Hawaii was supported, pending reporting to the professional community. A contract was concluded with the National Commission of Papua New Guinea for UNESCO.

The participation of two Pacific Islanders in the sub-regional training course on the Preservation of Audiovisual Archives, in Vietnam, October 1998, was supported. The Southeast Asia Pacific Audio-visual Archives (SEAPAVAA) organized the training, with the Fiji Islands Film and TV Unit.

Science, Culture, Education Networks/Connectivity

The following sensitization and on-line Information sessions were organized:

- At the Directors of Education meeting in Honiara, Tonga, on 1 November 1998, an on-line "Internet and Distance Education" workshop was organised. It was followed by a discussion on "What role the Directors of Education can play in promoting electronic connectivity". A contract was concluded with the Tongan Royal School of Science. No recommendations emerged from the meeting but the awareness raising aim was met.
- An Asia/Pacific Science Conference was organized in Sydney, in December 1998, and an on-line session on "Internet and Science", as well as special lectures on "Cultural and Legal Issues Related to Cyberspace". A contract was concluded with the Australian National Commission. As follow-up, a Regional Informatics Network for the Pacific, RINPIN, will be established on an experimental basis.
- The participation in INET98, and a workshop for people from countries at the early stage of Internet development of a Pacific islander was sponsored. The aim was to collect information for a possible establishment of a Pacific ISOC. This was a follow up to the workshop on the "Use of Internet", organized in Fiji Islands in November 1997, by PITA and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. The study-visit was co-funded with the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Support was provided for the e-mail connectivity of small national radio stations for members of PIBA.

Telematics and Technology Training

Caribbean

A multi-agency pilot project on access to telematics facilities in the Eastern Caribbean, in particular Internet access, was initiated by ITU and UNESCO/CARNEID to improve access to such facilities of public concern in developing countries. The project was formulated in response to three major problems identified in a study carried out by ITU/UNESCO/COL/ICSTI. These were:

- the high cost of services offered by the public telecommunication operators,

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- low levels of training, awareness and appreciation of the values of information on the part of users,
 - the lack of forceful government policies concerning telematics.

The project targeted high-level professionals with technical and/or managerial backgrounds in the Health, Environment and Education sectors and provided access to and training in the use of scientific, technical and managerial information available via Internet. The final project document was signed by six international organisations, namely COL, ACSTI, ITU, PAHO, UNDP and UNESCO, the executing agency.

Pacific

Support was provided to "on-line journalism resource base "at the Journalism Programme of the University of South Pacific (USP). The resource base (on WWW) is ready and can be widely used by journalism students and media professionals in the region.

Eight internships were provided at the New Zealand based web design and Internet service provider enterprises, in March 1999. Special attention will be given to develop local Pacific islands training capacities in these fields. This is a follow up to the regional workshop on the use of the Internet that was organised by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO .

The USP journalism programme as a part of their video/ TV training programme will produce a series of fifteen TV spots to illustrate the concept of sustainability. The spots will be aired either through the "Pacific Way" regional TV Magazine and/ or distributed to the national TV stations in the region. A weekly radio programme on the same topic is being produced in **Samoa** by the ZAP national radio.

Transdisciplinary Projects

UNESCO Indian Ocean Forum 2000

Within the framework of consultations with small Member States, UNESCO organized the "Indian Ocean Forum 2000" in Mauritius, from 29 to 31 March 1999. The Forum aimed at enabling the participating countries, i.e. **Comoros**, France, Madagascar, Mauritius, **Maldives**, **Seychelles**, as well as international and sub-regional organisations to establish a more extensive co-operation, and to jointly develop a sub-regional strategy and to identify some national and subregional projects to be integrated into UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2000-2001.

Among the proposals and recommendations made were the creation, in Mauritius, of an "Institute for the Study and Promotion of Inter-Culturalism" and the establishment of a UNESCO Chair for the study of inter-cultural relationships and learning processes at the University of Reunion. An agreement of co-operation between UNESCO and the Indian Ocean Commission is in course of preparation, with a view to pulling resources for follow up activities of the Forum recommendations.

PACSICOM

UNESCO funded the participation of **Cape Verde**, **Comoros**, **Lesotho**, **Sao Tome and Principe**, **Seychelles**, and **Swaziland** to the Pan African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSICOM) that was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 18 to 24 July 1998.

Cape Verde

The following projects, funded by extra-budgetary sources are on-going in Cape Verde.

- 702CVI 10 – Restructuring and expansion of the education system: secondary school teacher training. The African Development Bank funds the project.

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- 519 RAF 10 – Quality Improvement of Basic Education through the use of Radio in the Portuguese-speaking countries of African (IRI/PALOP). Cape-Verde hosted the project on improving the quality in the teaching of mathematics and the Portuguese language.
 - Libraries and Internet in the service of teaching.
 - 510 CVI 55 – Training of municipalities in democracy and human rights. The project is funded by DANIDA.
 - Project for the development of an independent press in Cape Verde. Luxembourg funds the project.
 - Project for computerizing of the national radio. The project is funded by IPDC.

Sao Tome and Principe

Following the official visit of the Director-General to Sao Tome and Principe in January 1997, a memorandum of understanding was established with the country in September 1997. Accordingly, UNESCO provided assistance in support of the following activities:

- Rehabilitation of the Culture House: In order to elicit the participation of other donors in the implementation of this heritage-preservation activity, the Director-General provided seed funding.
- Procurement of equipment and installation of an audio-visual system in favour of the Press service of the Presidency of the Republic.
- A project entitled "Youth and a Culture of Peace."

Lesotho

On the occasion of the Director-General's official visit to Lesotho from 6 to 18 January 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNESCO and the country. The following on-going activities can be mentioned:

- Training and equipment in the fields of communication, information and Informatics: the Communication Division is implementing a project to develop human resources for the media in Lesotho.
- Technical assistance and funds for the implementation of the Lesotho Highlands water project.
- Five fellowships have been awarded for the SADC's Universities.

Lesotho and **Swaziland** participated in the sub-regional workshop, the first phase of the *Special Project on Scientific, Technical and Vocational Education of Girls in Africa* that was launched during the biennium 1996-1997. This is a joint project of the Section for Science and Technology Education and the Section for Technical and Vocational Education, undertaken in

close co-operation with field offices of the region. The project, which aims at reducing gender disparities, has the following overall objectives:

- To improve the access of girls to scientific, technical and vocational education (STVE);
- To break the barriers for girls in secondary school, notably through improving the quality and effectiveness of SWE
- To make an impact on the attitudes and stereotypes of teachers, which prevent girls from taking advantage of current opportunities in science and technology;
- To promote a positive image of women in scientific and technical careers;
- To sensitize policy makers, parents, employers and the general public on the ways in which women's full participation in science and technology can make a positive difference for current and future generations.

The objective of the workshop was to propose concrete actions for making curricula, textbooks and teacher training more gender sensitive, as well as to address socio-cultural constraints and negative role modelling that impede women's access to scientific, technical and vocational education.

Maldives

The following activities were co-ordinated by UNESCO/New Delhi

- Activities focusing on the International Year of the Ocean
- Project on Strengthening, Assessment and Evaluation Techniques in Primary Schools
- Strengthening of Local Capacities for Curricular Development
- Revision, Reprinting and Distribution of Post Literacy Materials.
- Two Workshops on Locally Produced Low Cost Equipment from 16 to 20 March 1998 and from 27 to 29 September 1998.
- International Field Training on the Establishment of a Computerised Inventory of Plant Resources of Island Nations, Male, from 30 May to 1 June 1998.
- Setting up of Network services for Maldives under the RINSCA programme

Activities for 1999

- Workshop to assess and enhance the Self-Learning Materials for Integrated Coastal Environment Education for Secondary School Students.
- Support Training Programme on 'Object Oriented Programming' in relation to Information Technology
- Provision of equipment for a Community Radio Broadcasting Station

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- Follow up activities for the on-going project on Strengthening Assessment and Evaluation Techniques in Primary School
 - Follow up activities for the on-going project on Strengthening of Local Capacities for Curricular Development

Education for a Culture of Peace

Caribbean

The Associated Schools and Caribbean See Projects

These projects are managed by UNESCO/ Port of Spain. They are part of a worldwide UNESCO initiative. Their main focus is to introduce subjects of importance that are often omitted from the school curricula. It is believed that by implementing this approach students will be better prepared to deal with world issues in the future. The effectiveness of the programme in ASP schools can be testified by the improvement of cultural, humanistic, and international dimensions of education. It is hoped that in the long run the attitude of the student and the community will change, in order to improve the marine environment, the interaction between the school and community, and the strengthening of intercultural understanding.

In 1998, the year observed as the International Year of the Oceans, UNESCO sought to increase the number of schools participating in the ASP and CSP projects. Specific ASP and CSP projects undertaken during the biennium include: a series of national and sub-regional meetings for students and teachers, to promote sensitive interaction with the natural and human environment; the production of ASP\WP project workbook entitled: *Glimpses of the Blue Caribbean: Oceans, Seas, Coasts and How They Shape Us*, as well as a meeting of the task force of experts to develop a conceptual framework for the ASP educational, intercultural "slave route" project.

Youth development through the Arts:

As a means of helping the development of inner city youth, UNESCO/Kingston has worked through its three sectors, in collaboration with the Area Youth Programme. The programme addresses inner city community development through the arts and education. Active support has also been given to various other youth groups pursuing community development programmes.

Internships

UNESCO/Kingston collaborated with the University of the West Indies in providing summer internship opportunities to four students. The aim of the internship was to familiarize students of international relations with the philosophy and operations of an international organization. The interns were assigned to the different sectors and given responsibility for various activities. They were given the opportunity to attend the International Reading Association Conference held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The interns' evaluation of the attachment and their on-going commitment to volunteer for the Organisation indicate that they considered the exercise to be a valuable learning experience.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNET)

With the overall goal of promoting a culture of peace and encouraging educational innovation, efforts were directed at introducing the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in territories of the Caribbean sub-region where the network does not exist, and consolidating it in others as a means of:

- achieving a multiplier effect of the innovations experimented with, and
- launching ASPnet Pilot and Flagship Projects relevant to Caribbean educational priorities and developmental needs.

Expansion of the ASPnet Network

In 1996, the ASPnet was primarily active in **Trinidad and Tobago** in the English-speaking Caribbean, and Cuba. It has now been reactivated, introduced, or consolidated in the following sixteen Caribbean territories: **Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, The Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

Results achieved also include the following:

- Greater awareness of aims and objectives of the ASPnet
- Greater interest in the ASPnet
- Greater understanding of the potential contribution of the ASPnet to the renewal of educational systems.
- Launch of Young People's World Heritage Education Project
- Launch of ASPnet Triangular Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project
- Promotion of UNESCO's Concept of a Culture of Peace and Strategies for Conflict Resolution

Major Publications and Documents

- Joy Rudder. *Glimpses of the Blue Caribbean, Oceans, Coasts and Seas and How They Shape Us*. An ASPnet Caribbean Sea Project Publication. The second revised edition is being produced in collaboration with UNESCO's Unit on Coastal Areas and Small Islands (CSI).
- *Caribbean Heritage Journey*. This publication is to support the launch of the Young People's World Heritage Education Project for the Caribbean.
- First Regional ASPnet Newsletter in the context of the ASPnet Caribbean Sea Project
- *Regional Survey on Attitudes, Values, and Knowledge in Relation to the Marine Environment and Caribbean Culture*. The main focus is here on **The Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago**, and Venezuela.

Meetings and Workshops

- First ASPnet Caribbean Sea Project Regional Environmental Education Workshop, Tobago, July 1998. It was hosted by the **Trinidad and Tobago** National Commission for UNESCO, with collaboration from UNESCO/Port of Spain.
- UNESCO ASPnet Sub-regional Workshop, Dominica, October 1998; in collaboration with the **Dominica** National Commission for UNESCO and the Young People's World Heritage Education Project.
- UNESCO ASPnet Sub-regional Workshop, Nassau, **The Bahamas**, November 1998; in collaboration with the National Commission for UNESCO of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and UNESCO/Kingston.
- Sub regional Workshop to launch UNESCO ASPnet Triangular Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project (TTS) within the framework of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, and supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), St Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, December 1998.
- The ASPnet Sub-regional Coordinator directed the Fourth Regional Workshop of National Co-ordinators of the ASPnet Caribbean Sea Project, hosted by the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** National Commission for UNESCO, 25-27 May 1999, and in which the following small States participated: **Belize, Dominica, Grenada, The Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

Forthcoming Activities for 1999

JULY 1999

Regional Training Workshop for National Co-ordinators of the ASPnet Transatlantic Slave Trade Project to be hosted by the Department of History, Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies, **Barbados**.

AUGUST 1999

One teacher and one student from **Barbados, The Netherlands Antilles, and Trinidad and Tobago** will participate in the World Heritage/Transatlantic Slave Trade Youth Forum to be held on Gorée Island, Senegal from 21-27 August 1999.

OCTOBER 1999

A conference on the Transatlantic Slave Trade will be organised by UNESCO/ Port of Spain, in collaboration with the History Association of **Trinidad and Tobago**, for teachers and students participating in the ASPnet in **Trinidad and Tobago**.

Special Projects: Reaching the Unreached and Fostering a Culture of Peace

Literacy, Productivity and the Quality of Life is a project initiated by UNESCO Kingston. It initially involved key stakeholder grown-ups, including education ministry officials, training institutions, the private sector, key institutions like correctional services, and community groups for brainstorming on the related issues. The findings from the brainstorming session were

presented to the meeting of National Commissions in **Barbados** on June 22, 1998 and are now being used as the basis for the formulation of proposals to address literacy and productivity issues in the sub-region.

Education in Prisons. In collaboration with the Government of Jamaica and other partners, UNESCO/Kingston has embarked on a programme: "Fostering a Culture of Peace through Education, Rehabilitation and Empowerment". It seeks to address through a five module phased activity, areas of concern as they relate to the culture of prisons and the reintegration to society of former prisoners. Training modules have been prepared for pre-testing in correctional institutions in **Trinidad and Tobago**, Jamaica, and **Barbados**.

Fostering a Culture of Peace for Children in Residential Care: This project has been undertaken in collaboration with the National Commission in **Trinidad and Tobago** and UNESCO/Port of Spain. It is intended to orient wards, guardians and caregivers of children in residential care towards a culture of peace and positive living. It will employ methodologies similar to those of the "Changing the Culture of the Classroom" and "Arts in Education" programmes. One home will be used as a pilot and others will be involved in a consultative mode throughout the project. At the end of the project, materials produced will be disseminated for use in similar homes throughout the Caribbean.

As a contribution to a Culture of Peace, UNESCO/Kingston has co-ordinated on-the-job journalism training, which resulted in the regular production of the newspaper, *Guyana Hinterland News*. It contains articles on the promotion of peace and harmony amongst the people of Guyana.

Pacific

High Level Colloquium: A High Level Pacific Colloquium was organised at UNESCO/Apia, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Participants in this colloquium included High Court Judges, political leaders, Professors of Education, media and culture representatives. A book will be published shortly of the presentations.

In cooperation with National Commissions, the Associate School Project (ASP) network has developed from 3 to 140 schools by December 1998. A strong Pacific Associate School Project (ASP) network now exists, while a Flagship project has started.

Two Regional Workshops were held for ASP National Co-ordinators in Australia and Cook Islands, respectively in 1998, to strengthen the ASP network and monitor the Flagship Project.

UNESCO/APIA organized a High Level Colloquium in New Zealand in 1998, to consider Human Rights in the context of Cultural Rights in the Pacific, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in cooperation with Waikato University of New Zealand. A book will be published on the subject.



Bureau for External Relations



DIVISION OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

During the 1998-1999 biennium, the Division of National Commissions for UNESCO (BRX/NAC) continued to contribute to the reinforcement of the participatory action and operational skills of the National Commissions of small Member States and Associate Members, as well as to the consolidation of cooperation among them. Accordingly, the role of the Division was instrumental in:

- establishing new National Commissions in some small Member States;
- strengthening the human resources and technical capacities of new or already existing National Commissions;
- and ensuring their participation in the implementation of UNESCO's activities.

Establishment of New National Commissions for UNESCO

As a number of Small Member States and Associate Members have joined the Organization in the recent past, BRX/NAC has provided them with additional advisory and technical assistance regarding the modalities of the establishment of their National Commissions and the enhancement of their operational capacities after their creation. Accordingly, three Small Member States, namely: **Kiribati**, **the Marshall Islands**, and **Nauru** officially set up their National Commissions for UNESCO in 1998. Furthermore, **the Solomon Islands** set up an interim National Commission for UNESCO in 1999 to coordinate the country's relations with UNESCO. Continuous rapport was maintained between BRX/NAC and UNESCO/Apia in this regard.

Training of Newly-Appointed Secretaries-General at Headquarters

Efforts were made to strengthen the human resources of National Commissions in the Small Members States and Associate Members through staff training. Newly appointed secretaries-general of six National Commissions of small Member States and Associate Members, namely: **Aruba, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Nauru, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago**, were trained during the intensive two-week long Inter-regional Training Seminar for Recently-appointed Secretaries-general of National Commissions for UNESCO that was organized and led by BRX/NAC at UNESCO Headquarters from 30 November to 11 December 1998. Some of those attending proved particularly active and demonstrated strong leadership skills during the session. In some cases, results have already been felt as some of the National Commissions listed have developed into some of the best of their sub-region

Training of Staff of National Commissions

UNESCO granted financial assistance under the Participation Programme for 1998-1999 to the Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO to host a Sub-Regional Training Workshop for the Officials of National Commissions for UNESCO for the Pacific. It was held in Port Moresby from 5 to 7 July 1999. Representatives of **Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Vanuatu** attended the Workshop.

Standing Committee of National Commissions for UNESCO

During the Consultations of National Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2000-2001, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 22 to 26 June 1998, the Secretary-General of the **Saint Kitts and Nevis** National Commission for UNESCO was designated as one of the 22 members of the newly-established Standing Committee of National Commissions for UNESCO, which held its Preparatory Meeting from 4 to 7 May 1999 at UNESCO Headquarters.

Consultations of National Commissions on the Draft Programme and Budget

Twenty-six of the twenty-nine National Commissions from small Member States and Associate Members were represented at the five Regional Consultations of the Director-General with all 187 National Commissions for UNESCO on the Preparation of the *Draft Programme and Budget for 2000-2001* that were held from May to July 1998. Their participation in the Consultations was essential, in that they could voice their wishes to be included in the Organization's activities for the next biennium. It was at the Consultation for Asia and the Pacific that was held in Thailand, Bangkok, from 8 to 12 June 1998 that the intersectoral project "Human Development for Sustainable Living Conditions in the Pacific" was shaped. The project, which is part of the follow up activities for "Focus on the Pacific", has been inserted in the *Draft Programme and Budget for 2000-2001*. Similarly, during the similar Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 22 to 26 June 1998, some contributions were made to what was to become "Focus on the Caribbean".

Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO of the Africa Region

Five small Member States of the Africa Region -- **Cape Verde, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, and Swaziland** took part in this Ninth Regional Meeting for the fifty-three National Commissions for UNESCO of the Africa region that was held in Bamako, Mali, from 14 to 19 June 1999. The meeting dealt with the general co-operation among the National Commissions of the region and the elaboration of common strategies. The Secretary-General of the **British Virgin Islands** also attended as an observer, thus establishing new links between her National Commission and those represented in Bamako.

Seventh Consultation of the Pacific Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO

The National Commission of **Vanuatu** hosted the Seventh Consultation of the Pacific Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO with funds under the Participation Programme. Eleven of the fourteen National Commissions of the Pacific are listed as small States. All the Member States of the Pacific subregion attended the Consultation that was held in Port Villa, from 26 to 29 July 1999, in order to prepare themselves as a sub-region for the Thirtieth Session of the General Conference. They debated and agreed on the Draft Resolutions to be submitted to the General Conference, designated the lead speakers for their interventions in the Commissions; and agreed on some of the areas calling for action in the 2000-2001 biennium.

Cooperation among Portuguese-Speaking National Commissions

During the current biennium, BRX/NAC has paid special attention to the seven National Commissions of the Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe, of which **Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe** are listed as small Member States. Great efforts have been made to bring them together, in order that they would try and identify specific national or subregional projects. This led to the finalization of a previously scheduled meeting to be hosted by the Angolan National Commission for UNESCO before the end of 1999, and to be funded under the Participation Programme.

Increasing UNESCO's Visibility

In an effort to increase UNESCO's visibility in its Member States, BRX/NAC has encouraged National Commissions to prepare documents on the tangible benefits of UNESCO membership and the importance of participating in its activities, and submit these to their decision-makers. During the last three years eighty-two National Commissions have prepared papers along these lines, including seven from small Member States or Associate Members, namely, **Antigua, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Lesotho, Saint-Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME (1998-1999)

Country	Amount Approved	Number of Requests
Antigua	106 000	7
Aruba	70 000	4
Bahamas	112 500	6
Barbados	125 000	5
Belize	109 500	7
British Virgin Islands	78 000	4
Cape Verde	15 000	1
Comoros	46 000	4
Cook Islands	49 000	4
Dominica	66 000	5
Fiji Islands	104 000	5
Grenada	8 900	5
Kiribati	76 000	4
Lesotho	184 230	9
Maldives	41 000	6
Marshall Islands	69 000	4
Nauru	72 000	5
Netherlands Antilles	60 000	2
Niue	91 000	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	129 000	6
Saint Lucia	64 100	7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	107 000	5
Samoa	110 500	5
Sao Tome and Principe	128 730	7
Seychelles	128 000	6
Solomon Islands	105 000	4
Suriname	101 500	5
Swaziland	167 000	8
Tonga	100 000	5
Trinidad and Tobago	170 000	7
Vanuatu	80 000	3