

The background image shows several wind turbines silhouetted against a sunset sky with orange and blue hues. The sun is visible on the left side, low on the horizon.

# Energy efficiency and renewable energy

**Duración: 07/2014 – 06/2016**

## **Relevance of the Project**

Although the Caribbean region is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels (with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago), the region has a considerable scope for the development of sustainable energy solutions.

In particular, improvements in energy efficiency, the development of renewable resources such as biomass, bioethanol, geothermal, hydropower, solar, waste-to-energy, and wind as well as an intelligent grid development have high potential to contribute to a more sustainable development of the region. The usage of sustainable energy solutions and improved efficiency not only implies ecological benefits but also economic benefits since it reduces the reliance on fossil fuel imports, generates employment and new incomes as well as provides more reliable energy for businesses and individuals. Despite these potential benefits, sustainable energy and efficiency initiatives in the Caribbean have been employed in a limited manner.

With the project, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is continuing its efforts of the previous programme (ECLAC-BMZ/giz 2012-2014). As part of the previous programme, ECLAC granted technical assistance to the governments of Guyana, Curaçao and Belize in order to identify the regulatory and fiscal barriers that hindered the use of energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy technologies, and developed recommendations for their removal. As a result, the countries planned to remove the identified barriers, in particular in the transport area. Furthermore, ECLAC's activities led to the development of Curaçao's first national energy plan, which includes the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Moreover, the governments of Aruba, Suriname and The Bahamas have accepted national energy policies that had been prepared by ECLAC for the promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies. In this regard, The Bahamas will be presenting the policy before their Cabinet for approval, followed by the development of an action plan for implementation. The Aruban Prime Minister has already formed a team for the implementation of the policy, and their "Nos Aruba Vision" seeks to have 100% renewable energy sources by the year 2020.

## **Objectives**

The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of policymakers and technical experts in the Caribbean countries in order to gain access to, and utilise new concepts, strategies and mechanisms for the formulation of projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The main objective of the project is to prepare the Caribbean subregion to build resilience to external shocks and to natural phenomena by increasing investment in energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies in selected countries. More specifically, it aims to support the efforts of Caribbean countries in adapting to, and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

## Strategy

In order to achieve the goals previously mentioned, the project aims to:

1. Sensitise policymakers, experts and civil society actors regarding the positive impact of using renewable energy technologies and promoting energy efficiency for the sustainable development of the Caribbean region.
2. Build capacities among national and regional policymakers and technical experts in order to improve the promotion of energy efficiency measures.
3. Promote a regional approach between national governments with respect to the financing of energy initiatives within the Caribbean.

In order to remove barriers for the use of renewable energy and the application of energy efficiency measures in the Caribbean region, the project draws on the experiences made in cooperation with the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP), a joint project of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the German International Development Cooperation (GIZ).

## Activities

The project continues to focus its activities mainly on the direct technical assistance of three national governments (Dominica, Martinique and Saint Lucia), both in the identification of mechanisms for the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, and in order to propose new and innovative mechanisms for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. This includes the examination of grant and loan financing and the procedures that need to be employed in accessing the financing as well as the identification of interested stakeholders and institutions. Furthermore, capacity building workshops on best practices to promote energy efficiency measures will be included.

Foto: Tim-Patrick Meyer

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