

**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/STV/1
1 March 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Special meeting
24-28 May 1982, Geneva
Agenda item 3(d)

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR SAINT VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
for the period 1982-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$ 3 250 000

INTRODUCTION

1. The first country programme (1982-1986) for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is presented for approval by the Governing Council at its special meeting in May 1982. The UNDP supported activities during the second programming cycle came to an end in December 1981. However, during 1981 preparatory activities leading to new project approvals were carried out.

Note: In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, Annex I), the first country programme for Saint Vincent is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator.

The previous UNDP supported activities in Saint Vincent were described in the country programmes of the Caribbean and in the accompanying notes by the Administrator which were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/CAR/R.1-DP/GC/CAR/R.2 and DP/GC/CAR/R.1/RECOMMENDATION-DP/GC/CAR/R.2/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

2. Preparation for the country programme commenced in April 1981, and was essentially regional in nature fully involving executing agencies with representation in the Caribbean. Representatives of FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, PAHO/WHO and WFP formed a United Nations team, which visited Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for three days under the leadership of UNDP. All executing agencies received copies of the Resident Representative's Note (a listing of developmental priority issues for the country) and a detailed statement of financial resources, in advance of the country visit. Following the country visit, UNDP hosted a two-day country programme meeting at which representatives of the agencies participated. In addition, representatives of UN/DTCD, ILO, the Caribbean Development Bank, the World Bank and several Economic Planning Advisers in the region also took part. Subsequent to this meeting, the draft country programme was prepared by UNDP and transmitted to the Prime Minister's Office for finalization. Copies of the draft country programme were also circulated to all agencies for comments.

3. A UNESCO/World Bank education sector study was carried out around the same time of the country programme visit and preliminary results were made available for consideration by the Government for inclusion in the country programme. The Caribbean Airports Maintenance and Operations Study (CAMOS), undertaken by ICAO on behalf of the Caribbean Development Bank, was also a valuable input for the country programme exercise. A further sectoral study on Civil Aviation Development was also prepared by ICAO, the results of which were made available to UNDP and the Government in the form of a technical assistance project proposal.

4. The country programme discussion with the Government centered on programming scarce UNDP financial resources, development of cost-effective modalities of implementation through pooling of all United Nations resources, contribution of IPF resources to multi-island activities, sharing of available international and regional expertise throughout the Caribbean giving practical effect to TCDC, Government execution, multi-bi operations and repatriation of nationals through a modified TOKTEN approach.

5. During the programming exercise it became evident that in the absence of a long-term development plan the Government was unable to forecast all its technical assistance requirements over the 1982-1986 period. Hence, an attempt has been made to identify the country's needs in the first two years of the third cycle in relation to the public sector investment programme prepared under the auspices of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development (CGCED) and other high priority activities.

6. Due to the Government's tight financial position, the financing of the public sector programme and other priority developmental activities is almost entirely dependent on external assistance. In light of this, the needs identified for UNDP technical assistance were much greater than the available IPF resources and utmost care was exercised in the selection and prioritization of the projects for the third cycle.

7. The illustrative IPF allocated for St. Vincent for 1982-1986 is \$ 3,250,000 of which 80 per cent, or \$2,600,000, is available for programming. With \$325,000 carried over from the second cycle, the total available amounts to \$2,925,000 of which \$2,788,000 has been programmed leaving a reserve of \$137,000. These un-programmed resources will be allocated on a priority basis through annual country programme reviews for 1984 through 1986.

8. Recognizing the need for effective public sector management and institution building, emphasis in the country programme is put on socio-economic planning, project preparation and implementation. The feasibility study by the World Bank on hydro-electricity development is a notable pre-investment activity.

9. Innovative approaches to technical assistance have been applied in such a way as to programme the limited resources for activities that are designed to enhance the country's effort to become self-reliant. Examples of such approaches include the Multi-Sector Development project (with modified TOKTEN approach) to be executed by the Government; the contribution of national IPF resources to sub-regional projects; and the utilization of such regional resources as the University of West Indies and College of Arts, Science and Technology in Jamaica for training purposes.

Review of previous UNDP supported activities

10. The allocation to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines during the second programming cycle, 1977-1981, was \$1,810,000 which included a bonus following the achievement of independence on 27 October 1979. These resources were utilized on the basis of the programming exercise which St. Vincent undertook in 1978. The resources were apportioned to general development policy and planning, 32.5 per cent; disaster relief preparedness and prevention, 37.6 per cent; transport and communication, 13.7 per cent; industry, 9 per cent; and natural resources 7.2 per cent.

11. The development of an effective central planning machinery is an important pre-requisite for the efficient management of the economy. This planning machinery has been attempting to co-ordinate the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes designed to achieve the Government's development objectives of reducing the openness of the economy, benefiting lower income groups and rural dwellers, reducing unemployment and promoting the balanced development of the country. In this regard, the Socio-economic Development Planning project (STV/78/002) has not only been assisting the Government in strengthening the Central Planning Unit, but has also been providing direct support in the preparation of a Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan for 1982-1986 and a number of sectoral and project evaluation reports. In addition, architectural briefings, evaluations, and site management for a number of public buildings, notably the Georgetown Hospital and the Kingstown Paediatric Ward, have been provided in conjunction with European Economic Community financing.

12. Although disaster preparedness and prevention was not envisaged as a priority at the time, the eruption of La Soufriere in April 1979 brought about the urgent need to establish such a mechanism. Hence, the Volcano Monitoring Installation project (STV/80/001) was designed to establish an early warning system consisting of a volcano observatory and volcanic detection equipment which would assist in minimizing the effect of similar disasters on human and other resources. This project has been implemented in collaboration with the Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies.

13. The extent of UNDP involvement in the natural resources sector was limited to assisting the Government in upgrading the efficiency of electrical services, which was carried out through the Electrical Inspection project (STV/75/001).

14. Apart from resources allocated under the multi-island IPF, UNDP has provided emergency assistance from its Programme Reserve. Following the disasters of the Soufriere eruption in 1979 and Hurricane "Allen" in 1980, UNDP not only co-ordinated assistance from other United Nations agencies such as UNDRO (\$21,000), but also approved \$20,000 for the supply of food in 1979 and \$60,000 for the

reconstruction in 1980 of sea defence in small agricultural and fishing villages.

15. In addition to UNDP resources, St. Vincent has benefited from regular programmes of other agencies in the United Nations system. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has provided approximately \$525,000 for projects that assist in areas related to family planning and family health. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) also provided services in such fields as immunization, nutrition and veterinary public health.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES
TO BE SUPPORTED BY UNDP

16. Having recovered from the effects of the eruption of La Soufriere, and the devastation of Hurricane "Allen", the Government's strategy for the medium term is to raise productivity, increase employment, increase general government revenue and savings and improve the balance of payments.

17. The following are the high priority areas where UNDP assistance is programmed and is expected to contribute to the fulfilment of the development objectives:

(a) Strengthening of Government's planning and project preparation capabilities;

(b) Increasing and diversifying agricultural production;

(c) Development of alternative sources of energy particularly hydro-power as a substitute for imported petroleum fuel;

(d) Improvement in transportation facilities particularly road and related services; and

(e) Improvement of education facilities and the reorientation of curriculum to meet the demands of the economy.

Summary of UNDP assistance proposed in relation to objectives

A. General development policy and planning

18. An ongoing project, Socio-Economic Development Planning (STV/78/002) (DTCD/FAO), will continue and focus on project identification, preparation and implementation, engineering, architecture, agricultural planning and training including an input for the National Commercial Bank. The estimated cost is \$595,000.

19. A new project, Multi-sector Development, a modified version of the principle of TOKTEN emphasizing the importance of national self-reliance, will assist the Government in alleviating its shortage of skilled personnel through the recruitment of expatriate nationals and regional experts for short-term consultancies as well as long-term services (1-2 years) in the priority sectors of the economy. The initial implementation of the project will be in the area of public finance with an estimated UNDP contribution of \$25,000. This project is to be executed by the Government.

B. Natural resources

20. Under a new project, Hydro-electric Development Scheme (STV/81/001) (IBRD), studies will be conducted to select the most economic hydro-electric scheme in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and prepare a feasibility report and bidding

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documents for the selected scheme. The development of such a hydro-scheme is expected to reduce considerably the country's fuel imports and meet its future electricity demand requirements. The estimated cost of the feasibility study is \$500,000.

C. Agriculture

21. The sub-regional project Agriculture Development and Training (CARICOM) (CAR/77/007), implemented during the second cycle, aimed at increasing domestic food production on a sustained basis through the provision of technical assistance particularly to small farmers. A second phase (CAR/81/002) is envisaged during the third cycle to which Grenada will contribute from its national IPF to supplement the reduced resources under the Multi-Island Fund. The estimated contribution is \$25,000.

22. Under a new project, Fisheries (FAO), a study will determine the potential for, and constraints to, fisheries development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines including possibilities for fish and prawn culture in fresh and salt water. The estimated cost is \$30,000.

23. Another new project, Soil and Water Conservation, is designed to assist in the identification of demonstration sites extending over an area of 800 acres within the Lindley and Cumberland Watersheds. It will introduce improved farming techniques, soil conservation measures, carry out an awareness programme among farmers and train local staff. The estimated cost of the project which will be Government-executed is \$300,000.

24. Under a third new project in this sector, Land Tenure Law, regional consultant will examine present legislation and recommend an updating of laws in the area of land law and conveyancing. The estimated cost is \$24,000.

D. Transport and communications

25. Through an ongoing project, Equipment Maintenance (ILO), equipment will be provided to complement the sub-regional vocational training project CAR/77/006 based in Saint Lucia. The availability of this equipment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will allow the trainees to apply newly-acquired techniques and continue the training process locally. The contribution from the IPF is \$36,000.

26. Under a new project, Construction Monitoring Unit (CMU) (DTCD), CMU will be established within the Ministry of Communications and Works and will be involved in designing studies, monitoring and implementing projects, preparing specifications and quantities and supervising the development of infrastructure. The proposed UNDP contribution is \$75,000.

E. Education

27. Saint Vincent will be participating in a sub-regional project Education Development (UNESCO), designed to improve planning and administration, curriculum planning, teacher training, technical/vocational education, and adult education. The contribution from the IPF is \$110,000. This project will be supported by a major World Food Programme project of approximately \$1,8 million for feeding daily 20,000 primary school students, 3,450 malnourished children and 2,400 pregnant and nursing mothers.

F. Employment

28. A new project, Manpower Planning (ILO), will provide for a study to determine the manpower requirements within the context of the public sector investment programme and provide recommendations on training and the development of an information system. The estimated UNDP contribution is \$25,000.

G. Disaster relief, preparedness and prevention

29. The establishment of a permanent observatory and a real-time system for the detection of volcanic activities was initiated in collaboration with the Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad through the on-going project Volcano Monitoring (STV/80/001) (UNCTAD). Most of the equipment requirements were fulfilled in 1981 and the contribution from the third cycle IPF is about \$107,000.

H. Social conditions and equity

30. The Eastern Caribbean Multi-Island Social Security Project (CAR/75/004) has been providing assistance to participating countries in the development and co-ordination of social security measures by introducing or broadening their social insurance systems. St. Vincent will continue to benefit from the project, which would have been otherwise terminated due to the reduction in the Multi-Island Fund, by contributing \$36,000 from its national IPF.

31. In addition to the projects described above, St. Vincent will benefit from the regular programmes of the executing agencies. In health, PAHO/WHO will assist the Government in identifying donors for refurbishing rural clinics and will also provide training in hospital equipment maintenance, inventory and standardization. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of the public information system, UNESCO will provide \$5,000 from its regular programmes, through a new project to examine existing arrangements including coverage of agriculture, health, education, training and equipment. UNESCO is also considering assistance to the steel band community to improve the tuning and arrangements of pans at an estimated cost of \$5,000. In addition, it is fielding a mission to prepare the basis for developing a national science policy. UNICEF's Rehabilitation Services for Children Programme, which started in 1980 and aims at the restoration of services affected by the eruption of La Soufriere, will continue into 1982.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. <u>Resources</u>					\$
(a) IPF and other resources					
(i) Illustrative IPF for programme period				3 250 000	
(ii) Carry-over from previous IPF cycles				325 000	
(iii) Other resources				-	
(b) Provision for adequate programming				-	
				<hr/>	
	TOTAL			3 575 000	
				<hr/>	
B. <u>Use of resources</u>					
(a) Programmed					
(i) Ongoing projects				799 000	
(ii) New projects and new phases included in the country programme				1 089 000	
(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out (continuous programming at a later stage)				900 000	
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	Subtotal			2 788 000	
(b) Reserve (if any)				137 000	
(c) Unprogrammed balance <u>a/</u>				650 000	
				<hr/>	
	TOTAL			3 575 000	
				<hr/>	
C. <u>Financial distribution of programme, by sector</u>					
	<u>Sector</u> ^{b/}	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>Sectoral earmarkings</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		\$	\$	\$	\$
02	General development issues, etc.	595 000	25 000	350 000	970 000
03	Natural resources	-	500 000	400 000	900 000
04	Agriculture	25 000	354 000	-	379 000
06	Transport and communication	36 000	75 000	150 000	261 000
11	Education	-	110 000	-	110 000
12	Employment	-	25 000	-	25 000
13	Disaster Relief Preparedness and Prevention	107 000	-	-	107 000
14	Social Conditions and Equity	36 000	-	-	36 000
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	TOTAL	799 000	1 089 000	900 000	2 788 000
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a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming in accordance with the Administrator's instructions contained in UNDP/PROG/FIELD/111; UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/126.

b/ According to ACC classification.

