1. Summary

The last report to the Sustainable Tourism Technical Committee and the CTO Board of Directors covered the period February 2008 – April 2009. The major work activities implemented covered the areas of Sustainable Tourism, Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and Tourism Standards.

2. Main Activities Executed

- **Sustainable Tourism Development Technical Committee (STTC)**

A meeting of the CTO STTC has been scheduled to take place on 22nd September, 2009 at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort, The Bahamas. A decision was taken to host this meeting prior to the Board Meeting to enable Committee Members to provide feedback on the work programme of the ST Division as well as to focus on issues including climate change, disaster risk management as well as measures that countries have been implementing in order to address the impact of the global recession on the Caribbean tourism industry. The Meeting will occur on the final day of the CARIBSAVE Country Partners Symposium on Climate Change, Tourism and Livelihoods which will take place from 21-22 September, 2009 at the same venue.

- **Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC)**

Up to the time of report preparation, official confirmation on the hosting of STC-11 by a potential host country was still being awaited. In spite of this, preliminary research and planning with respect to possible sub-themes, speakers and the Conference format is ongoing and a draft CTO budget for the event has been prepared. STC-11 has also been included as an agenda item for the above-mentioned STTC meeting.

- **Ecotourism**

The ST Product Specialist participated in an International Conference on Turtle Conservation, Ecotourism and Sustainable Community Development at the UWI - St. Augustine Learning Resource Centre from 28-29 July, 2009. The Conference was hosted by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies as a forum for policy makers, students and professionals to exchange ideas on critical issues based upon its theme.

- **Tourism Standards**

The ST Product Specialist conducted a presentation on policy guidelines for tourism standards at a Guyana National Bureau of Standards/CROSQ Workshop in Georgetown on 28 May, 2009. Additionally, research is being conducted on tourism and health/food safety.
Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project

The ST Product Specialist attended the CDEMA Regional Workshop for the Development of the Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Plan of Action and Standards for Conducting Hazard Mapping, Vulnerability Assessment and Economic Valuation for Risk Assessment for the Tourism Sector from May 5-6, 2009 in Trinidad. She also co-chaired the second meeting of this Regional Public Good (RPG I) Project and Technical Advisory Committees (PACTAC) on May 7th.

The Workshop participants, mainly representatives of disaster management and tourism sector organizations provided valuable feedback which supplemented that of the PACTAC Members. The comments were forwarded to the project’s consultants to assist them in refining and finalizing the afore-mentioned RPG I outputs which would be presented to the CTO Board for endorsement in October. An Adaptation/Guidance Tool is also being developed to aid in national adaptation of the Regional Strategy. It is also anticipated that these outputs would also form basis for the RPG II project which is being finalized for funding from the IDB. RPG II will seek to establish a regional monitoring and evaluation framework for DRM and climate change adaptation for the Caribbean Tourism Sector.

Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Coordination and Harmonization Council (CHC) Meetings

The first CDEMA CDM-CHC Tourism Sector Sub-Committee (TSSC) meeting (chaired by the ST Product Specialist) to advance CDM implementation at the sector level was held on May 8th in Trinidad. It obtained agreement on the Terms of Reference and composition of the Sub-Committee. Representatives from CTO, CHTA-CAST, OAS, ACS, UWI and The Bahamas were invited to form the core Sub-Committee. Additional membership that could be co-opted was also suggested. The Meeting facilitated initial discussions on the way forward for mainstreaming DRM into Caribbean tourism planning and development activities. Presentations were made by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) staff as a basis for the discussions. Two major needs which were identified were that of capacity building and public awareness with respect to addressing DRM in the regional tourism industry. It was agreed that the outcomes of the discussions would be fashioned into a work programme for the Committee. The next TSSC Meeting has been tentatively scheduled to take place during the same timeframe as CTO’s October 2009 Business Meetings in St. Lucia.

The ST Product Specialist also attended the Fourth Meeting of the CDEMA CDM-CHC at the UN House, Barbados on 16 July. The Meeting objectives included reviewing the Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for the Enhanced CDM Strategy; and tracking progress in the mainstreaming of CDM at the sector level. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction opportunities were also discussed.
**Climate Change**

*High Level Advisory Committee (HLAC) for the Review of the Economics of Climate Change (RECC) Study*

This ECLAC-POS study aims to assess the likely economic impacts of climate change on key sectors of Caribbean economies and to stimulate governments, regional institutions and private sector actions to develop and implement policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The tourism sector is one of the priority sectors for which research on the possible impacts of climate change on nine Caribbean countries is being conducted. The study will suggest specific adaptation and mitigation strategies for the tourism sectors in these countries. The costs and benefits of these strategies will also be analyzed.

The ST Product Specialist attended an ECLAC-HLAC meeting at its Port-of-Spain Office on 21 August, 2009. This meeting was a follow-up to another that took place on 12th March, 2009. The preliminary results of the afore-mentioned study were shared and discussions took place on the region’s preparatory activities for the COP-15 Climate Change forum which is carded for December in Copenhagen. The other attendees included representatives of key donor organizations and developmental agencies as well as country representatives.

*CARIBSAVE – Caribbean Climate Change, Tourism and Livelihoods: A Sectoral Approach to Vulnerability and Resilience: Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation and Capacity Building*

The CTO has been collaborating closely with the Oxford University Centre for the Environment (OUCE) on the CARIBSAVE Partnership project. As a follow-up to the June CARIBSAVE Oxford Donors and Partners Symposium, a CARIBSAVE Country Partners Symposium will take place from 21-22 September in The Bahamas. CTO has been lending support in the organization of this event. This Symposium will focus on consensus building; vulnerability awareness raising; identification of national and regional needs, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities; discussion of core priorities; support networks and identification of funding to address climate change impacts in the Caribbean. Additional funding from DFID has been obtained by CARIBSAVE and Barbados has been added as a pilot country. Eleuthera in The Bahamas and Ocho Rios in Jamaica are additional sites for pilot projects on climate and adaptation modeling and vulnerability screening to be replicated in other Caribbean destinations.

*CHENACT – Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Program*

The ST Product Specialist has been integrally involved in the procurement process for the hiring of a consultancy firm to implement the CHENACT. She has participated in IDB’s Financial Reporting and Procurement training sessions. At the time of writing this report, detailed technical proposals from six short-listed firms were being evaluated with respect to the implementation of Project activities. In the interim, the Project Manager has been liaising closely with CTO, CHTA-CAST, the Government of Barbados and other relevant agencies in an effort to ensure that the groundwork is in place when the consultants are recruited.
**Green Team Training**

The ST Product Specialist participated in a BHTA Green Team Training Workshop on 26th June in Barbados. An outcome of this training has been the development of an environmental policy for the CTO Secretariat which is being finalized.

### 3. Projected Activities

- Execute activities for ongoing projects.
- Explore and develop regional sustainable tourism initiatives informed by identified Member country needs and priorities.
- Provide continued technical support for the CARIBSAVE Partners Project including participation in the Country Partners Symposium in The Bahamas, September 2009.
- Organize the STTC Meeting for The Bahamas, September, 2009.
- Organize STC-11 in collaboration with CTO NY and the host country.
- Organize and chair the CDM-CHC Tourism Sector Sub-Committee Meeting in St. Lucia in October, 2009.
- Participate in the CTO Business Meetings in St. Lucia in October, 2009.
- Participate in the International Centre for Responsible Tourism’s International Conference on Responsible Tourism, University of Belize, October, 2009.
- Participate in the CDEMA’s Annual CDM Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica in December, 2009.
- Explore and develop collaborative ST research and development opportunities with other international and regional organizations.
- Provide technical input to the RTC-6 Committee on the development of tourism industry standards.
- Publish an enhanced Sustainable Tourism Division newsletter.
- Represent CTO and organize/participate in tourism conferences, seminars, consultations and workshops and on other Committees and bodies including the CHTA-CAST Governing Council, the CCCCC Board of Governors, ACS’ Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism, and the PAHO Health and Tourism Advisory Committee.