

CHAPTER 9

St. Kitts and Nevis

9.0 Introduction

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis has a total area of approximately 269 square kilometres: the respective islands having areas of 176 square kilometres and 93 square kilometres. The population of the Federation is approximately 46,000. There has been an upsurge in the urban growth in and around the capital city of Basseterre, due, in part, to a decline in the agricultural sector. There is some degree of migration, with workers from other Caribbean islands seeking employment either in the sugar industry, or within the services sector, which is dominated by tourism, the single largest contributor to GDP.

9.1 The Environment

In 1987, St. Kitts and Nevis adopted the National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act which links the management and protection of the natural resources to the broader development objective of the Federation. The Act provides for the establishment of a National Conservation Commission (NCC). An amendment to the Act provided for the establishment of the Department of the Environment which supports the NCC and which has assumed the major role in environmental management, through the design and implementation of environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and projects; the negotiation of environmental treaties; and the provision of data for documentation and reporting.

In 1994, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis prepared a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) which addressed key environmental concerns and formulated policies and actions. The Plan provided for, among other things, a review of developmental policies and the upgrade of existing institutions to combat environmental degradation. The NEAP also prioritised national needs as well as their integration into subregional projects such as the OECS Solid and Ship-Generated Waste Management Project; Building Capacity for Sustainable OECS Fisheries; the Environmental Capacity Development Project; and Promoting Long Term Sustainable Use and Conservation of Marine Resources in the Eastern Caribbean.

A Biodiversity Plan has been drafted and is awaiting approval. It is also envisaged that, by December 2003, a National Management Strategy will be in place. Due to the nature of funding available, most projects are taking on a sustainable development/sustainable livelihood dimension. Some environmental projects are therefore linked to tourism and community-based management initiatives, such as the one at Bloody River/Stone Fort which seeks to develop amenities and a documentation centre. The project being managed by persons from the local community.

9.1.1 Watersheds, Agriculture and Forests

Recent concerns in the environmental context include the use of catchment areas for hiking and bathing. New trails are being created: a practice that has stretched the monitoring

capacity of the Forestry Division, which is responsible for watershed management. Guidelines for the conduct of eco-tours are being developed. Steps are also being taken towards the establishment of an entity to train and inform tour guides.

Another environmental hazard arises from the burning of trees and also from their destruction by other means in support of such activities as the making of fish pots and fishing rods.

Sugarcane is the main agricultural crop and is not normally planted above the 30-foot contour. Above this level, there has been some deforestation and planting of crops by farmers, though this has not as yet significantly impacted the forest regimes. This unregulated farming of, mostly, ground provisions and vegetables, helps to control erosion and is aided by citrus trees from old orchards. Erosion occurs as a natural phenomenon given the steepness of the gullies. This is aggravated by a number of factors, among them, inappropriate building practices on slopes; spontaneous combustion during the dry season; and the clearing of vegetation from the hillsides. The phasing out of sugar cane also presents a dilemma in this context, since the crop provides a measure of groundcover for the underlying soil.

9.1.2 The Coastal and Marine Environment

The Ministry of Health and the Environment is responsible for the removal of garbage from beaches. It is also the designated agency for the monitoring and control of sand mining. Sand mining is permitted given the lack of alternative aggregate and the prohibitive cost of importing the material. Thus, beach sand, mixed with sand from the ghauts of gullies, is used in construction. A site has been identified for mining and sand removal is permitted at the rate of 100 cubic yards per person, per week.

Beach erosion continues to be a serious problem on beaches that are nourished by the Caribbean Sea. However, there are signs of beach accretion on the Atlantic coasts. In addition, there are situations where permanent structures are located too close to the high water mark, frustrating the natural cycle with respect to sand accretion and depletion. Beach profile monitoring has been instituted to facilitate the determination of the actions necessary to correct the negative impacts.

The marine environment is also negatively impacted by a number of other sources, including storm drains that discharge grey water into the near-shore region; raw sewage from squatter settlements; and garbage which is dumped into the ghauts and discharged into the coastal waters. Consideration is being given to the installation of a sewerage system, principally to serve the Basseterre area. While there is no reef monitoring system in place, a number of studies suggest that the reefs are not being adversely affected by run-off. It is noteworthy that, at present, there are no marine parks in St. Kitts and Nevis. The designation of such parks would have facilitated the prevention of pollution of these areas.

With respect to wetlands, St Kitts also has a series of natural wetland ponds with associated mangroves. These ponds are all brackish and are located in areas where the water table is high. In many situations, the mangroves have been destroyed to make way for the

installation of tourism infrastructure. A few pristine areas remain. However, in some of these, run-offs from manufacturing plants have been quite destructive.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is handicapped by a general lack of capacity, particularly in the areas of training; enforcement; and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

9.2 Water Resources

The islands of St. Kitts and Nevis differ markedly in their water resources profile. In St. Kitts, most of the water consumed is extracted from, approximately, 20 wells: the remainder being taken from, approximately, 12 springs. Over 90 per cent of the water extracted is well-based. Given the relative abundance of water on St. Kitts, historically, a culture has developed whereby water conservation is not regarded as a priority. A system of water storage is however in place, with the Government having built a number of concrete storage tanks. In Nevis, there is a system of water storage in cisterns. The need for more storage in St. Kitts is now obvious from the fact that, during the 2003 dry season, water yield from wells declined by some 40 per cent.

Areas served by springs in St. Kitts experience shortages during the dry season. However, the water supply is maintained by utilising water from areas served by wells, through a system of pumps to provide greater supply at times of greatest demand. Springs were first used to supply the island, but surface springs reached their limit in the late 1970s. These springs were estimated to have the capacity to provide sufficient water until 2010. However, with the growth of the tourism sector and rising standards of living, that scenario has not materialised. More than 90 per cent of households in St. Kitts now have a pipe-borne water supply. All water is tested and the WHO standards are used as guidelines for water quality. Salt water intrusion into wells is prevented by appropriate well design. Aquifers have been mapped together and their capacity has been measured, to facilitate monitoring of consumption levels.

In St. Kitts and Nevis, there is no integrated water management plan. Nor is there a thoroughly scientific basis for determining water use and allocation. The percentage of unaccounted-for water is not known. Public awareness and education programmes are ongoing, aimed, mainly, at changing the public's perception of water as a free good.

As is the case in almost all other Caribbean SIDS, there is no centralised sewage system in St. Kitts and Nevis. The only treatment plant is located at Frigate Bay, in St. Kitts. Houses have septic tanks and soak-away systems that operate at depths of 15 feet, thus reducing the risk of contamination of the ground water supply. Grey waste water from homes, restaurants and other establishments drain into storm drains or ghauts and thence into the near-shore marine environment. In the Basseterre coastal area, high levels of coliform bacteria have been detected. This is partly accounted for by the release of sewage water into the storm drains as a result of the existence of squatter settlements in the urban area.

Thus far, the encroachment into watershed areas by locals and farmers, as well as by eco-tourists and hikers does not appear to be impacting the quality of water. Flooding is also not a hazard, given the effective natural drainage system of the islands.

9.2.1 Water Resources in Nevis

The major source of potable water in Nevis is groundwater, obtained from some 14 active wells around the island. The present number reflects a reduction of hitherto resources arising from the abandonment of some wells because of low yields.

Water is pumped from the wells, stored and allowed to flow by gravity to the various locations. Water treatment is effected by the introduction of powdered chemical tablets and the resultant water quality meets the WHO standards for potable water. Gas chlorination is being considered for the near future.

Nevis needs about 1 million gallons of water per day due to the high water requirements of the exclusive tourist resorts on the island. The development of a full size golf course and other smaller golfing areas also increase the demand on the water resources. Similarly, the transformation of agriculture from a seasonal, to a year-round activity, has placed increased pressure on the resource. Agricultural production focuses mostly on vegetables and livestock.

Water storage capacity currently stands at approximately 3 million gallons and this is expected to be increased in the near future. Notwithstanding the proximity of the marine environment, no salt water intrusion has been detected in the wells. However, in some wells, the water is naturally brackish and is used to facilitate irrigation for agriculture and landscaping. The high calcium content which produces “*hard water*” has led to scale formation on the cast iron distribution pipes and corrosion of the pipes is increasingly becoming a problem. Residents have also complained of scale formation and the consequent blocking of pipes. The introduction of PVC pipes into one of the main distribution pipe systems is reported to be very effective in this regard and may be extended island-wide over time.

At present, the water in the wells is being utilised in quantities that approximate the capacity of these sources. During the dry season of 2003, for example, recourse had to be had to the rationing of the water supply. This is a new phenomenon that has emerged only over the last two years. Nevis envisages the discovery of new water sources. However, should this not materialize, desalination of sea-water would present the obvious alternative recourse.

As regards the disposal of waste, the Four Seasons resort is the only institution that is equipped with a facility that permits the reuse of grey water or the treatment of sewage. In most buildings, either septic tanks or soak-aways are installed for sewage treatment. To date, this has not resulted in any contamination of the groundwater resources. In areas where the water table is high, closed septic tanks are used.

Training for water resources management is conducted on an ongoing basis under the auspices of the Caribbean Basin Water Management Programme, based in St. Lucia.

9.3 Poverty and Social Welfare

9.3.1 General Policy

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has embarked on a Poverty Reduction Strategy, within the context of macroeconomic growth policy; the redistribution of resources in a more equitable manner; the strengthening of public, private, and community based organizations to enhance human resource capacity; community empowerment with emphasis of vulnerable groups and improved social services; and social safety net programmes.

The eradication of poverty in St. Kitts and Nevis is based on three pillars of reform, namely capacity-building; the engendering of life skills; and the personal development of those affected by poverty. There is a safety net system which provides either financial assistance or food baskets to poor families; assistance for the acquisition of school uniforms by families earning less than \$250 per week; and a programme that offers corrective eye wear for persons of school age. In addition, a school-feeding programme provides a meal a day to all primary and secondary school students, on request. A free school bus service is provided for all primary and secondary school students, while books are provided free of charge to secondary school students.

9.3.2 Children and Youth

The Government has established a subsidized Day Care Centre to facilitate working parents. Health care is freely accessible at health clinics. Tertiary health care is also provided free of cost to persons of school age.

Victims of child abuse are accommodated in foster homes and the Social Department provides for foster care at a modest fee. A programme that emphasises the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders is being considered. In the case of certain classes of offenders, legal measures are being put in place so that they may be released on probation or assigned to undertake aspects of community service.

The Salvation Army has been involved in social work and collaborates with a few state agencies to provide probation services for juvenile offenders. This is especially relevant in cases in which parents have neither the time, nor the resources to provide the necessary protection and parenting.

9.3.3 Health Services

Medicines and medical tests, such as those for blood pressure irregularities and diabetes, are provided free of charge to persons over 60 years of age. Provision is also made for the disabled and otherwise housebound persons to receive medical treatment at home. While there is a specialized institution, the Cardin Home, which caters to the needs of senior citizens who are unable to care for themselves, the culture within the Federation does not favour the institutionalisation approach. Consequently, the majority of the elderly are cared for at home, with assistance from various Government agencies, as may be required. Provision is also made for the treatment of patients with mental disorders.

9.3.4 HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS problem is being approached not only as a health threat but also as one that has its roots in social/gender issues and in the manner in which male-female relationships are structured. Thus, there is the proposal for the development of a project to analyse gender issues within the context of the spread of HIV/AIDS. The number of reported cases of HIV infection during the first quarter of 2003 surpassed the total recorded for 2002. It is not clear whether this was due to under-reporting during earlier periods, or to a real increase. Attention is also being focussed on mother- to- child transmission since there is at least one confirmed case of this in Nevis. Medication is available and a Health Promotion Unit assists in its procurement. However, efforts continue toward ensuring the availability of the required medicines at affordable prices.

On 21 July 2003, the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project for St Kitts and Nevis was launched. The objectives of this Project, which is financed by the World Bank and Government counterpart funds, are, *inter alia*:

1. to establish prevention programmes targetting high-risk groups, as well as the general population;
2. To strengthen treatment, care and support of persons living with HIV/AIDS; and
3. To strengthen the multi-sectoral capacity to more effectively respond to the disease.

9.3.5 Migration

There has been an influx of migrants from the Dominican Republic and Guyana, most of whom are unskilled and semi-skilled labourers. More generally, the immigration issue is to be situated in the context of initiatives within the Caribbean Community, of which St Kitts and Nevis is a member, to facilitate the free movement of CARICOM nationals within the proposed CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The implementation of such an initiative has implications for the provision of social services, such as education and health care, among other important aspects. In addition, consideration is to be given to the economic impact of these persons on the local economy, to the extent that their presence was not factored into the economic planning process.

9.3.6 Youth and Unemployment

More recently, a phenomenon, referred to as the "*fragmentation of youth*" has emerged, arising from, *inter alia*, the adoption of the more consumer-oriented lifestyles prevalent in metropolitan countries, coupled with a lack of focus on such considerations as career-planning. Thus, in the context of the youth, unemployment issues present a more complex problematique, given, *inter alia*, their inability to secure jobs that can support their newly acquired lifestyle. Many, therefore, resort to illegal activities in order to obtain the necessary finance. There is also a lack of skills among youth, especially among the many young males who are opting out of the education system. This, phenomenon, coupled with the cultural norms associated with certain aspects of male socialisation and the formation of gangs, has increased the related phenomenon of *juvenile delinquency*. The implications of this development are reflected in, *inter alia*, the

increase in the crime rate; the cost of rehabilitation of offenders; and the negative impact on the tourism industry.

A number of skills-building programmes are being implemented such as the Life Skills Programme for unemployed persons, including those whose former jobs have been declared redundant; a Youth Skills Programme; and a collaborative effort between the Government and the exporters who operate within the Export Processing Zone. This last focuses on the employment of women, especially single mothers. An Information Technology Training Institute has also been established to build skills among the less privileged in the use of technologies.

9.4 Globalisation and Trade

9.4.1 Structure of the Economy and Trade Patterns

The economy of St. Kitts and Nevis is essentially based on the services sector. The provision of Offshore Financial Services is the main contributor to GDP in Nevis while tourism is the main economic sector in St. Kitts. The export sector is dominated by sugar, which is sold on the European market. The area of land under sugarcane cultivation is gradually being reduced, with other crops being planted in rotation. However, the period of rotation back to sugar is being extended. The other crops being grown during rotation are consumed locally. However, export markets are being explored. Over 70 per cent of the Federation's imports are sourced from the United States of America (USA), with processed foods, clothing and machinery and appliances being the most prominent items. The importation of motor vehicles leads to significant trade deficits. Energy requirements are met through the importation of oil from Trinidad and Tobago.

9.4.2 Sectoral Developments

The downturn in the economy of the United States of America, especially after the events of 11 September 2001, in that country has had a significant impact on the tourism sector. As is the case in most other SIDS, business enterprises in St. Kitts and Nevis recognise the need to become internationally competitive. In a related context, attention is to be drawn to the shift in flows of ODA to the least developed countries, under the European Union's "*anything but arms*" trade and aid pact with the African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) States under the Cotonou agreement. On the other hand, more direct market access has been afforded.

Average economic growth over the last 4 years has slowed considerably due, in particular, to the negative impact of Hurricanes Georges and Lenny, in 1998 and 1999, respectively and the subsequent rehabilitation efforts. The construction industry has thus emerged as the dominant sector, buoyed also by significant private sector investments in tourism.

Agriculture contributes less than 5 per cent of GDP, with sugar cane as the major crop. The Federation imports most of its food products and any agricultural exports, with the exception of sugarcane products, are directed to neighbouring islands. Irrigation schemes to address the problems that arise during the drought period are being devised in collaboration with the FAO. Livestock production is being revived following the Caribbean *Amblyoma Tick* which seriously affected the productivity of this sector.

Fishing is also a small sector in the islands. At present there is a fishing complex which buys fish from the fishermen for sale to the public. There is intensive exploitation of the near-shore fisheries, using mostly pots and seine. Incentives are being offered to nationals to engage in small long-line fishing operations. However, given the tradition of near-shore fishing, the response has been tentative. Some training has also been provided in pelagic fishing with assistance from the FAO and the Trinidad and Tobago Government. The Fisheries Legislation developed and adopted by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is now being updated in St Kitts and Nevis, to incorporate actual, as well as proposed changes in the fisheries sector. The ecosystems management approach to fish exploitation, as developed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), has been adopted.

Internationally, the terms of trade of primary agricultural commodities such as sugar, cotton and coconuts continue to decline annually. Technical barriers to trade, coupled with the generous subsidies provided by the industrialised countries to their agricultural sector, continue to exacerbate this decline. The imposition of the tariffs on steel imports and the passage of the Farm Bill in the United States of America further exemplify the measures that have had severe negative repercussions across the Caribbean.

9.4.3 Economic Prospects

Continued growth of the economy will be based mainly on such sectors as tourism; construction; banking; and insurance, supported by fiscal and monetary reform. A major thrust is towards a lower level of primary agricultural production. However such production will need to have firm linkages to the tourism sector. In St. Kitts, this entails moving away from sugar and, to this end, the Government commissioned a study from the Subregional Office of ECLAC for the Caribbean, in the form of a social audit of the sugar industry incorporating recommendations and scenarios in the context of the scaling down of the sugar industry. In Nevis, the thrust of diversification is to generate movement from cotton and coconuts, to services.

9.4.4 Challenges

The major challenges in the area of trade policy revolve around:

- (i) the emergence of a liberalised and increasingly competitive regional, hemispheric and global trading regime;
- (ii) the gradual withdrawal of the protected market access to the EU market;
- (iii) the lack of capacity to cope with the rules of the WTO, given the lack of trained personnel;
- (iv) the need to keep abreast of and simultaneously participate in a number several negotiating for a, for example, the ACP-EU; the CSME; FTAA; and the WTO;
- (v) the unpreparedness of micro-producers to meet the standards and technical regulations dictated by the international market. In addition, in the last 60-plus years, there has been but a single application for a patent in St Kitts and Nevis;
- (vi) the continued heavy reliance of the small economies of the OECS countries on tariffs for national revenue, which retards the trade liberalisation process.

Under the WTO, a number of agreements have been signed but implementation remains problematic given the lack of skilled and trained personnel. The effective implementation of an agreement such as TRIPS requires its own secretariat, including lawyers. Yet, in the public sector there is an acute shortage of such professionals.

In addition to the implications of the central role of tariffs in the determination of the quantum of national revenue, reference must also be made to the impact of the imposition of consumption taxes which has resulted in imported products such as beer, aerated beverages and pasta being sold on the local market at prices lower than those of similar, locally-manufactured products. The situation is aggravated by the absence of economies of scale since, even if inputs are now cheaper, the domestic value-added is very low compared with that of the larger economies, with significant implications for competitiveness. Moreover, international companies tend to trade in bulk quantities thus giving rise to a situation in which the relevant quantities may not be achievable by St. Kitts and Nevis. In this situation, any initiative on the part of a number of enterprises to jointly import bulk quantities, would result in the need for greater storage facilities and consequently, increased cost to consumers. Added to this, is the very high cost of energy; insurance premiums; raw materials; transportation; marketing; and research and development.

9.4.5 Facing the Future

In an effort to come to terms with the several trade-related issues mentioned, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has:

- (i) engaged in national consultations with the public and private sector on the establishment of the CSME initiative;
- (ii) facilitated a trade policy review by the WTO to assess the transparency of its trade policy and to highlight conflicts between WTO agreements and national economic policies; and
- (iii) liberalised the telecommunications sector in an effort to boost competitiveness.

Further, an Investment and Export Production Unit has been established to, *inter alia*:

- (i) facilitate the international marketing of locally-produced products and investment opportunities in St. Kitts and Nevis;
- (ii) aggressively promote activities to encourage domestic and foreign investment in all productive sectors, especially services, which offer greater scope for competitiveness;
- (iii) provide greater concessionary loans and technical assistance to producers seriously affected by trade liberalisation; and
- (iv) promote continued diversification of the economy into services, focussing on information and communications technologies, call centres; and international business services.

The Small Business Development Unit also provides free advice to businesses in addition to the provision of assistance in the establishment of budgeting and accounting systems. The

Foundation for National Development and the St Kitts and Nevis Development Bank offer loans to small businesses and deliver outreach programmes. The majority of the persons who access these loans become involved in tourism-related activities.

The tourism sector also receives special assistance through, *inter alia*, the modality of tax incentives, whereby tax holidays of 5-15 years are granted to hotels in respect of profits, in addition to a waiver of taxes and duties on some imports. Similar concessions are granted to nationals establishing small hotels or guesthouses.

9.5 Planning for Development

The more salient challenges confronting the planning process in the Federation, but more especially in St. Kitts, include:

- institutional weaknesses and the need for institutional rationalisation;
- a deficit in institutional co-operation and collaboration;
- the need for Public Sector Reform to make planning more efficient;
- the absence of uniform planning standards across the country;
- unsustainable patterns of land use;
- the need for appropriate technologies to address the problems caused by sewage and grey water run off; slope stabilisation; and
- issues related to the provision of social services.

Aided by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States/Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS/ESDU), St. Kitts and Nevis enacted new Planning Legislation in 2000, which, for the first time, addressed the issue of standards. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is also an area of particular concern and a Coastal Zone Management Plan is being developed which will also address the lack of standards in relation to artificial beach structures and related engineering works.

In an effort to comprehensively address these diverse challenges, the Government is in the process of preparing a *Physical Development Plan for the island of St. Kitts*. The Plan was prepared by the Development Control and Planning Board with technical assistance from the Physical Planning Division of the Planning Unit and is approached as a blueprint for land use over the next 15 years. It is also envisaged to be used to inform the provision of public infrastructure and facilitate private sector investment. The Plan was developed on the basis of wide public consultation.

A land- use strategy is articulated, based on the principle of the creation of "growth poles" or "planned concentration." These growth poles have land resources that are free of developmental constraints, offer a good level of service and significant potential for agriculture and agro-industrial development. It is envisaged that this "growth pole" concept will encourage tourism development and lead to the formation of linkages with other sectors of the economy such as agriculture and manufacturing. Within this context, it is hoped that balanced development of land resources will take place.

At the operational level, the Plan also identifies and analyses the institutional, including the administrative and financial frameworks, within which it is to be implemented. Thus, it recommends the strengthening of the Physical Planning Division to carry out the functions of land-use planning; the clarification of the roles responsibilities and relationships between the PPD and the department of Lands and Housing; the adoption of an inter-sectoral approach to plan preparation, implementation and development; and the integration of land-use and economic planning. It also suggests that the detailed policies and proposals be implemented in tandem with the 5-year cycle of economic planning and the incorporation of the policies and proposals into the Public Sector investment Programme to facilitate the selection and phasing of development projects.

Planning in Nevis: The Planning Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Environment is responsible for physical planning in Nevis. Nevis is in the process of formulating a Physical Development Plan, with funding assistance from the CDB. This responds to the need to update the currently used Zoning Ordinance of 1991 to take into account the present social, economic and environmental situation on the island.

Development proposals tend to be basically of two types: hotels or other tourism- related facilities; and family dwelling units. There are areas of property referred to as "family land" on Nevis which is owned by particular families but are not legally sub-divided for development. However, informal mechanisms of sub-division and construction have allowed dwelling units to be placed on these land, in many cases, without the necessary infrastructure or permission. Even in upmarket areas, the infrastructure that is present on the sub-division tends to be inadequate and not compliant with the development control guidelines. In this context, it is to be noted that the existing Planning Law deals only with subdivisions of land within 1 mile of the main town, Charlestown.

With respect to the larger commercial developments, there is lack of clarity as to which agency is responsible for supervising the required EIAs. The National Conservation and Protection Act predates UNCED and therefore does not incorporate either the core environmental issues or the concept of *sustainable development*. Further, the authority of the Act is vested in the Federal Government, which, reportedly, has not clearly identified an agency for the supervision of EIAs.

The Land Registration and Titling systems dates from the nineteenth century and is not cadastral or map-based. It therefore needs to be modernised. The deed system for land ownership purposes also needs upgrading, if the issue of unplanned development on family lands is to be comprehensively addressed.

Steps are being made to modernise the planning legislation and a consultant provided by the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean, in 2002, has carried out a review of the planning legislation and provided draft revised legislative texts. The major aims of the proposed new legislation are to entrench planning as a mandatory tool in development and to provide for a more community or participatory approach to planing issues.

9.6 Tourism

The greatest contribution to the GDP of St. Kitts and Nevis is generated by the tourism sector. The islands offer a mixed package, catering to both cruise ship visitors and overnight tourists. Currently, there remains a lack of land-based activities, with the beaches constituting the main attraction. This prompts the need to guard against overcrowding of the corresponding locations.

There are natural sites and places of historical interest. Marketing presents another challenge to the tourism sector. Since St. Kitts is not popularly regarded as an eco-tourism centre, some "re-imaging" is required for this thrust to be successful. In an effort to increase tourist arrivals, Government is currently guaranteeing flights into St. Kitts to boost tourist arrivals. However, the cost involved is likely to render the initiative unsustainable. In order to boost the entire service aspect of the tourist industry, a programme has been introduced with assistance from the European Union, to expand hospitality training. A series of programmes on tourism awareness is also being developed.

A programme is in place to revive the aesthetics of the islands. This involves collaboration between the private sector and the public sectors in dealing with health, environment and solid waste aspects. In this context, through the "*adoption of spaces*" programme, communities and business enterprises now contribute to landscaping activities

Overall, there remains inadequate collaboration and coordination among the departments entrusted with the management of the tourism sector. There is a need for more flexibility in tourism planning. The capacity of the public and private sector level to promote and market the tourism product is also critical.

9.6.1 Tourism in Nevis

Nevis has been quite successful in positioning itself as an upscale tourism destination. Here, the tourism sector is based on low volume but high economic yield, the *Four Seasons* establishment being the driving force behind the tourism activity. A number of independent boutiques have managed to maintain patronage from the tourists and feed into the ambience of exclusivity. There are also a number of plantation style villas which offer an intimate type of reception and these are being promoted. In fact, the current policy trend is away from the construction of new hotels, in favour of villa and cottage-style accommodation in an effort to maintain the low volume-high yield pattern of tourism. The yield from the tourism sector is further enhanced by the length of stay of visitors which averages seven days or more.

The presence of the Four Seasons resort has also contributed to the development of the island's human resources development. In this regard, this resort continues to invest in the training of locals, as well as migrant workers from other Caribbean islands, in highly specialised areas, with a view to ensuring the maintenance of its premier league status.

On the other hand, airlift into Nevis can present certain difficulties due to the small size of the airport's runway. Nevertheless, more recently, there has been an increase in air service to

the island by airlines such as American Eagle, Caribbean Star and LIAT. Since the largest hotel establishment on the island does not command more than 120 rooms, the need for frequent flights with large volume of tourist is not a necessity. Moreover, creative solutions have been developed to circumvent any problem that might arise from the unavailability of direct flights. In such instances, visitors to the island are received in St. Kitts, given a short reception and transported by ferry to Nevis. The docking and pier facilities at Nevis are well developed to facilitate the smooth and efficient transfer of visitors.

Infrastructure such as roads is recognised to be in view of upgrading and improvement of these access ways has already commenced. The water supply, while adequate at present, has to be carefully monitored since Nevis does not have either the rainfall pattern or the subterranean availability of water as obtains in St. Kitts.

9.7 Waste Management in Nevis

The Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority is the agency responsible for collection of domestic waste in Nevis. The island is subdivided into five districts for this purpose. Four districts are served directly by government and the fifth, by a private contractor, hired by the government. Solid waste is collected from households at least twice a week. Companies and private institutions hire private contractors to remove their solid wastes. However, small inns and villas tend to be serviced by the Government free of charge. .

Nevis has a sanitary landfill which is expected to be operational by the end of September 2003. At present waste is taken to the site of the landfill but is burnt. The landfill was constructed and equipped with funding from the World Bank on the basis of an OECS waste initiative at a cost of just over \$ US 2 million.

The estimated life-span of the landfill is about a decade, but it is envisaged that by resorting to separation of garbage in individual cells that receive paper, plastics, metal and glass, respectively, the life-span would be extended. There is also a used oil facility with a capacity of some 120,000 gallons. An incinerator has also been installed for burning oil and should be commissioned shortly.

A concrete cell in the landfill is reserved for used batteries. It is intended that these batteries will be drained, crushed and deposited in this cell for eventual export when a sufficient quantity will have accumulated.

Semi-solid waste from the pumping of sewer systems is also brought to a special section of the landfill. This sludge is neutralized by lime and retained in cells. This process avoids the percolation of the liquid contents into the soil.

Hazardous waste is stored separately and arrangements are being made for its trans-shipment for decontamination abroad in cases where the facility is unable to provide the necessary treatment for the particular substance.

Notwithstanding the landfill's expected life-span of a decade or so, the Government has already been advised to set aside land for future waste disposal sites.