

Island Resources Foundation

1991 REPORT

AN ANNUAL SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1991

Red Hook Center Box 33, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands 00802 Tel: 809/775-6225 Fax: 809/779-2022

FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT CLOSES WITH RELEASE OF SYNTHESIS REPORT

Environmental Agenda for the 1990's Put Forward

A five year environmental assessment program for the Eastern Caribbean -- launched by the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), implemented by the Island Resources Foundation (IRF), and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) -- came to an end in September of this year. Known as the *Country Environmental Profile (or CEP) Project*, this effort involved a unique collaboration between regional and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Governments of six Eastern Caribbean countries. The result was a first-of-its-kind program to examine and assess priority environmental issues in selected island areas.

A milestone event in the project was achieved in July when publication of six *Environmental Profiles* was formally announced at a ceremony held in Barbados. Copies of the recently published (June 1991) *Profiles* were presented to Government and NGO delegates from the six participating countries, and remarks were presented by representatives from key sponsoring institutions, including Aaron

Williams, outgoing director of the USAID Regional Development Office, Barbados; Calvin Howell, executive director of CCA; and Edward Towle, president of IRF.

THE IRF MISSION ...

*Environmental planning
for the sustainable
development of islands*

The comprehensive, multi-island CEP series provides the reader with a national overview of the state of the environment in six neighboring island states in the Lesser Antilles -- Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The documents go beyond a mere historical review, however, to highlight current pollution problems, research and planning needs, conservation issues, and environmental policy weaknesses in the Profile countries. Additionally, each 200-300 page report presents a broad spectrum of action agendas

reflecting the inputs of in-country review committees.

In short, the *Environmental Profiles* were designed to assist the six target nations in the difficult task of balancing development and environmental demands. To make this task easier, a smaller, seventh volume was prepared as an executive summary of the first six volumes. Entitled *Environmental Agenda for the 1990's: A Synthesis of the Eastern Caribbean Country Environmental Profile Series*, the report was prepared by IRF vice president, Judith Towle.

The Synthesis is intended to provide easy access to Profile findings and recommendations and thereby to increase their visibility to a wider audience of Caribbean leaders -- both political and environmental. It highlights those issues and recommendations common to Profile countries and, by so doing, provides an updated and organized framework for change in environmental policies and resource management programs in the targeted countries -- and, by extension, in the Eastern Caribbean region.

LAUNCHING CEREMONY FOR CEP SYNTHESIS REPORT

Formal announcement of the publication of the CEP Synthesis Report (*Environmental Agenda for the 1990's*) was made jointly by the Caribbean Conservation Association and Island Resources Foundation at a ceremony held on September 24 in St. Kitts. A CEP Follow-up Workshop was held the next day when delegates from participating CEP countries were given an opportunity to report on post-CEP activities and to informally outline steps for CEP follow-up by donor agencies, regional and national NGOs, and CEP Governments.



Judith Towle, IRF vice president and author of ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA FOR THE 1990's, is pictured with CCA executive director, Calvin Howell (left), and Albert Merkel of USAID, at a reception held in connection with the formal launching of the CEP Synthesis Report.



Bruce Horwith (left), IRF's NGO Program Director, chats with Andrew Bierzynski, president of the Grenada National Trust and Historical Society, at a CEP reception held in St. Kitts in September.

A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT THE CEP REPORTS AS RECEIVED AT IRF HEADQUARTERS

This is an amazing document (St. Vincent CEP), and I'm surprised so much was assembled in [a relatively short time]. ... the bibliography is the most complete assembled to date.

- Richard A. Howard
Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

[The CEPs] are a great compilation of information and will certainly help in assuring more effective land and resource management in the OECS [countries].

- Richard M. Huber
Organization of American States

I am sure they will become a valuable reference source in the future and perhaps more importantly, the production of the docu-

ments was a valuable process in environmental planning for the islands.

- Gillian Cambers, Conservation Officer
British Virgin Islands Government

Personally, I think the CEP report for Dominica is an excellent document. We only hope that a mechanism to have the recommendations implemented can be put in place as a matter of urgency.

- Felix Gregoire, Director
Forestry and Wildlife, Dominica

The very impressive set of 6 volumes arrived today. A splendid compilation it is! Congratulations on your magnum opus.

- Jim Thorsell, World Conservation Union

I want to congratulate the Foundation for the excellent job that was done with these country profiles. This is an important contribution to the literature on the islands.

- Ariel E. Lugo, Director
Institute of Tropical Forestry
Puerto Rico

Needless to say, you have chalked up a significant first in this area in the Eastern Caribbean. My congratulations ... for the winner ... produced in ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA FOR THE 1990's. The cover is so compelling that it hooks readers who [might] otherwise have ignored the title.

- Frank L. Mills, Eastern Caribbean Center
University of the Virgin Islands

UPDATE ON FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been the home base of the Island Resources Foundation since its formal establishment in 1971. Utilizing its institutional resources on behalf of the community in which most of IRF's staff live and work has always been a Foundation priority. Thus, over the course of the last two decades, IRF has undertaken research, technical assistance, and educational programs in the U.S. Territory totaling almost two million dollars. Fifty-five separate grants or contracts have been awarded to the Foundation in the execution of V.I.-based programs, of which over two dozen were awarded by various agencies of the Virgin Islands Government.

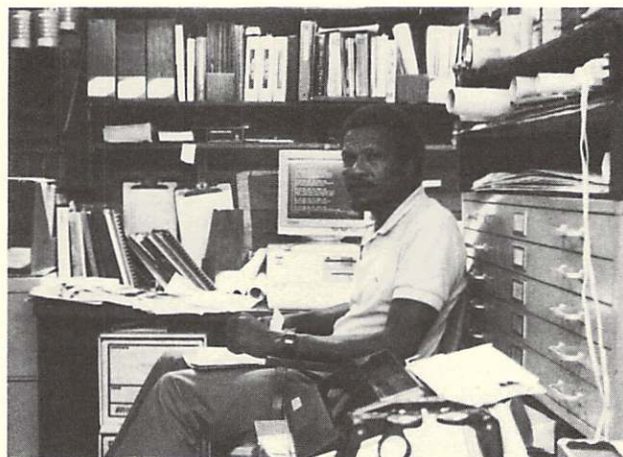
IRF president, Ed Towle, has long maintained that institutional and resource management models developed and tested in the Virgin Islands have potential usefulness elsewhere in the Caribbean. For example, Towle has pointed to the V.I. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program -- with over a decade and a half of experience -- as a useful island model for neighboring insular areas now facing coastal-intensive development issues similar to those confronted in this U.S. Territory.

Collaboration with V.I. Government

Since the mid-1970's the Foundation has enjoyed a solid working relationship with the V.I. governmental department charged with environmental planning and management responsibilities -- initially, the **Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs (DCCA)** and, more recently, the **Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)**. Under contract to DCCA, several of IRF's accomplishments in the 1970's and early 1980's were quite unique, both to the territory and the region:

- development of the Territory's coastal planning guidelines;
- design of a susceptibility indexing system for V.I. bays and harbors;
- completion of a first-of-its-kind vessel waste pollution study; and
- preparation of a series of mangrove lagoonal system case studies with management guidelines.

More recent efforts carried out by IRF for DPNR have focussed on the Territory's land use planning initiative, assessment of the environmental damage inflicted



Roy Watlington, currently on leave from his faculty position at the University of the Virgin Islands while pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Miami, returned for a second summer at IRF headquarters in St. Thomas. He served as project coordinator during the early phases of IRF's APC project, funded by the Virgin Islands Government.

on coastal systems by Hurricane Hugo, and preparation of a feasibility study for a proposed territorial park system.

In 1991, DPNR asked the Foundation to design management plans for five sites designated by the Government as "*areas of particular concern*" (or APCs). Eighteen such areas (all coastal) were first designated by the Territory's 1978 CZM Act, but no boundaries were drawn or management plans formulated. Five pilot sites have now been earmarked for initial APC management planning, and a team of IRF resource planners, in cooperation with DPNR personnel, have been at work on this project since mid-summer.

As a unique feature of the APC effort, the **Eastern Caribbean Center of the University of the Virgin Islands (ECC/UVI)** joined DPNR and IRF in project implementation. Under a Memorandum of Understanding initiated by ECC Director **Dr. LaVerne Ragster**, IRF was able to secure the services of UVI faculty member **Roy Watlington** to assist in the early phases of the APC effort. Dr. Ragster, who is also an IRF Research Associate, and IRF's president Ed Towle are exploring similar opportunities for collaboration.

(continued on page 4)

V.I. PROGRAM UPDATE, continued from page 3 . . .

MacArthur Planning Grant to Assist Reestablishment of VIRMC

The recent cooperation of DPNR, UVI, and IRF demonstrates the intent of an important program initiative which IRF has pursued during the last year, namely, the building of stronger public and private sector coalitions in the pursuit of common resource management objectives in the Virgin Islands. This initiative acquired added incentive with receipt of a planning grant from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**.

The MacArthur grant focuses on the prospects for reorganizing the **Virgin Islands Resource Management Cooperative (VIRMC)**, a unique institutional vehicle created in the mid-1980's with the assistance of the Virgin Islands National Park and approximately a dozen public and private sector research and resource management institutions based in or carrying out programs in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Although coordinated research initiatives undertaken by VIRMC in the 1980's focused on baseline research and resource assessment for the Virgin Islands Biosphere Reserve in St. John, a rejuvenated VIRMC would expand its framework to encourage a partnership of federal, territorial, and NGO institutions concerned about resource management issues in the Territory.

A further objective would be to look seriously at "lessons learned" from the Virgin Islands' experience with managing development impacts, in part, because the Virgin Islands continues to be viewed as a successful development model elsewhere in the Caribbean region. Therefore, there is an extra-territorial dimension to assessing the Virgin Islands' successes and failures and its two decades of experimentation in managing high densities, rapid growth, modernization, and insular ecosystems. In this regard, a leadership role could be assumed by a revamped V.I. Resource Management Cooperative.

New Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. National Park Service

IRF and the **U.S. National Park Service** have executed a *Cooperative Agreement* which establishes the foundation for programmatic collaboration between the two institutions. The Agreement was signed by the Foundation's president and Robert M. Baker, Director of the Park Service's Southeast Regional Office.

Under the terms of the Agreement, in 1991 IRF took over institutional sponsorship and management of a long-term monitoring program of coral reef communities within the Buck Island Reef National Monument in St. Croix. The project is part of the Park Service's regional Coral Reef Assessment Program, directed by V.I. National Park research scientist **Dr. Caroline Rogers**, and was formerly run by the West Indies Laboratory (WIL) in St. Croix, headed by **Dr. Elizabeth Gladfelter**.

Transects have been monitored every three months since late 1988, while individual colonies have been monitored for bleaching and other damage since March of 1989. Hurricane Hugo (September 1989) damage to the coral colonies was reported on by WIL in its report on the first two years of work.

The final project report, currently under preparation by principal investigator **Dr. John Bythell**, will be released early in 1992 by IRF and the National Park Service.



IRF staffers Jean-Pierre Bacle (left) and Adrian Schottroff aboard the Foundation's research vessel ODYSSEY at IRF's Red Hook dock in St. Thomas. ODYSSEY, first donated to IRF in 1984 by a Florida-based environmental film maker, recently underwent a complete overall following extensive damage incurred during Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

IRF OUTREACH SERVICES

In 1991, the Foundation carried out a variety of service activities not specifically linked to ongoing programs. These included, in part:

- Keynote address by IRF's president at the 30th anniversary meeting of the **British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust**;
- Election of Judith Towle to the Board of Trustees of the **Mukti Fund**, a Florida-based foundation whose funding activities focus on the dual-island state of St. Kitts-Nevis;
- Consultancy by Ed Towle for the **Inter-American Development Bank**, including preparation of an environmental impact assessment for a \$37 million out-island electrification project in the **Bahamas**;
- A series of seminars and lectures by the IRF president at **Dalhousie University's** Marine Affairs Program in Halifax, Canada;
- Address by Ed Towle at the annual convention of the **Caribbean Hotel Association** on eco-tourism and the need for visitor impact mitigation;
- Assistance to the **Organization of American States** and the **St. Christopher Heritage Society** by IRF Research Associate, **George Tyson**, including establishment of a computer-based inventory of historic sites and other amenity features as part of a tourism master plan for St. Kitts-Nevis.
- Week-long tutorial seminar for CCA's marine parks project coordinator, **Nick Drayton**, including visits to the Eastern Caribbean Center and the V.I. National Park and Biosphere Reserve, and briefings by **Adrian Schottroff**, IRF's territorial park project coordinator.

1991 AWARD TO ALISSANDRA CUMMINS

The 1991 Euan P. McFarlane Leadership Award was presented by Island Resources Foundation to Ms. **Alissandra Cummins** of Barbados. This year's award recipient, currently the Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, is an articulate and resourceful advocate for historical and cultural institutions in the Caribbean. Long active as a regional leader for museum development, Ms. Cummins played a key role in the establishment of the Museums Association of the Caribbean and served

as that organization's first president.

The McFarlane Award for Outstanding Environmental Leadership was first established by IRF in 1987 to provide recognition for young West Indians (under 35 years of age) who have demonstrated environmental leadership in the Eastern Caribbean. It includes an unrestricted \$1,000 cash gift.

TOWLES HONORED BY REGIONAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Edward and Judith Towle were honored in August by the Caribbean Conservation Association as recipients of CCA's Twenty-Five Year Service Award.

Presentation of the award was made at the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Association in St. Croix. It was particularly appropriate that CCA delegates convened in the Virgin Islands for this anniversary meeting because the regional body grew out of an initiative first spearheaded by the then College of the Virgin Islands in the mid-1960's. That idea culminated in the first regional meeting of conservation leaders, held at Caneel Bay, St. John in 1965, a session which, in turn, gave birth to the Association two years later.

CCA Service Awards were given to seven individuals from throughout the region in recognition of their long term contributions to and interest in the Association. In addition to the Towles, other recipients were from Barbados and from the Spanish-speaking, Dutch, and French Caribbean, thus pointing to the multinational, multilingual composition of this regional organization.

Edward Towle was president of the Association from 1968-74. During that period, both of the Towles were involved in early strategic planning initiatives and in laying the groundwork for the ultimate emergence of CCA as a recognized leader for environmental affairs in the Wider Caribbean. More recently, the Towles played a leading role in implementing CCA's Environmental Profile Program for the Eastern Caribbean.

NGO PROGRAM COMPLETES SECOND YEAR

FOCUS ON NGO GRANTSMANSHIP SKILLS, FINANCIAL and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

It has been five years since the Island Resources Foundation launched its **Eastern Caribbean NGO Institutional Development Program**. Since that time, the Foundation has invested substantial resources in this initiative, based on its belief that a strengthened private sector -- in partnership with the public sector -- will enhance environmental leadership in the region. This is an ongoing IRF program objective which will continue well into the 1990's.

During the last two years, primary funding for the Foundation's NGO Program has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), under a five-year matching fund grant.

NGO Directory Published

In April, IRF published an annotated *Directory of Eastern Caribbean Environmental NGOs*. With 55 entries, it is the most complete guide available on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support conservation and resource management programs in the Eastern Caribbean. It has been distributed as a public service to organizations participating in IRF's NGO Program, but copies may also be purchased by contacting IRF's Publications Office in Washington, D.C.

Grantsmanship Workshop

The Foundation hosted a "grantsmanship workshop" for NGOs in June on the island of Antigua. Sessions focused on those

grantsmanship skills needed for improved project planning and proposal writing, with participants being led through a series of activities designed to improve their understanding of the basic building blocks of proposal design and preparation.

A manual, entitled *Proposal Writing Overview for Eastern Caribbean NGOs*, was prepared by IRF staff for use at the workshop. It is available by writing NGO Program Director, Bruce Horwith, at the Foundation's Program Office in Antigua.

Assistance To NGOs

Six institutional development grants were awarded during 1991 by IRF as a part of its program of assistance to environmental NGOs.

- \$1,405 to the **Carriacou Historical Society**;
- \$2,500 to the **St. Vincent National Trust**;
- \$2,750 to the **British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust**;
- \$2,000 to the **Nevis Historical and Conservation Society**;
- \$2,470 to the **Small Projects Assistance Team (Dominica)**
- \$2,500 to the **Antigua Historical and Archaeological Society**.

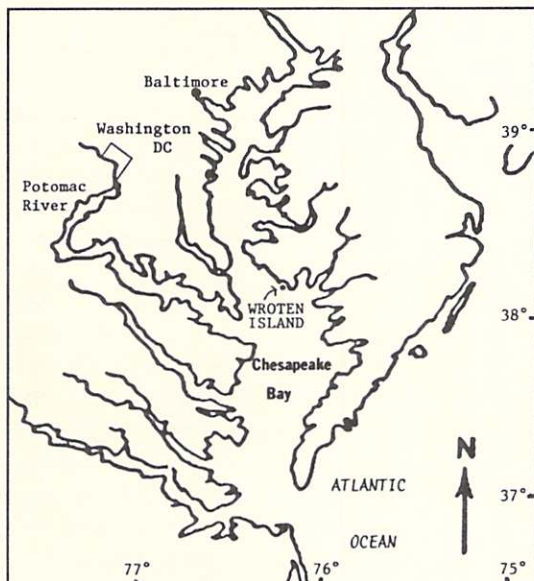
Direct training and technical assistance services were also provided to NGOs over the last 12 months, including: the Antigua Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua Historical and Archaeological Society, Guiana Island Society (a new NGO in Antigua), North East Timber Cooperative (Dominica), Dominica Conservation Association, Montserrat National Trust, St. Christopher Heritage Society, and the Nevis Conservation and Historical Society. Several regional organizations also benefited from the services offered by the IRF NGO Program during 1991, including the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, the Museums Association of the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Conservation Association with whom IRF co-sponsored a three-month internship by **Ms. Kate Irvine**, an environmental educational expert.

Biodiversity Initiatives

In response to a need to improve the biodiversity leadership of Caribbean NGOs, Program Director Horwith worked with organizations in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts to design new biodiversity initiatives that are linked to findings specifically identified in the recently published *Country Environmental Profiles*.

Each initiative focuses on an NGO-led research and monitoring program to protect the biological heritage of the target islands, with an emphasis on addressing a common regional problem -- namely, the lack of an adequate environmental database for assessing development pressures on tropical ecosystems. With the assistance of IRF, proposals for the three biodiversity programs were prepared and submitted to external donors for support.

IRF's ISLAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Almost a decade ago, **Wroten Island** in the Chesapeake Bay (see map above) was donated to the Island Resources Foundation. The 500 acre island possesses a rich diversity of estuarine habitats and, consequently, unique opportunities for programs in insular ecology. A two-story farmhouse can accommodate 10-15 persons dormitory-style, thus enhancing the island's potential utilization for research and educational programs.

IRF research associate **Dr. Walter Rosen**, a biologist formerly affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences, has been investigating opportunities for more active use of Wroten by the Foundation. During the last six months Dr. Rosen has met with potential collaborators from the Smithsonian Institution, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other groups interested in the programmatic potential of Wroten.

IRF plans to establish an advisory group to provide counsel on Wroten Island development. Various funding options for program activities are also being pursued. Those wishing more information on Wroten Island should contact Dr. Rosen or the Foundation's president, Ed Towle, at IRF's Washington, DC office. A short videotape on the island is available for viewing.

Wroten Island is one of three properties which comprise the Foundation's *Island Stewardship Program*. Other IRF land holdings are a barrier island beachfront facility for visiting researchers at Fire Island, New York, and 50 acres of coastal, dry evergreen woodlands on the island of St. John adjacent to the Virgin Islands National Park. The latter was named the **Nancy Woodson Spire Nature Reserve** in 1987 in honor of one of IRF's long-standing patrons.



A warm welcome awaits visitors to IRF's headquarters in St. Thomas where the Foundation's V.I. office manager, Sandra Tate, has been on duty since 1979.

MEMBERSHIP and DONATION INFORMATION

Island Resources Foundation is a non-endowed, operating foundation, incorporated as a tax exempt, non-profit organization under the laws of the United States. Contributions, including membership, are tax deductible in the United States. Contact the Foundation's headquarters in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, for more information.

The Foundation reminds U.S. citizens that income and inheritance tax laws are designed to encourage "planned gifts" to organizations such as IRF. Such contributions may be made:

- as gifts from current income
- as donations of property, stocks, bonds, insurance or annuities
- through bequests and wills.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES *

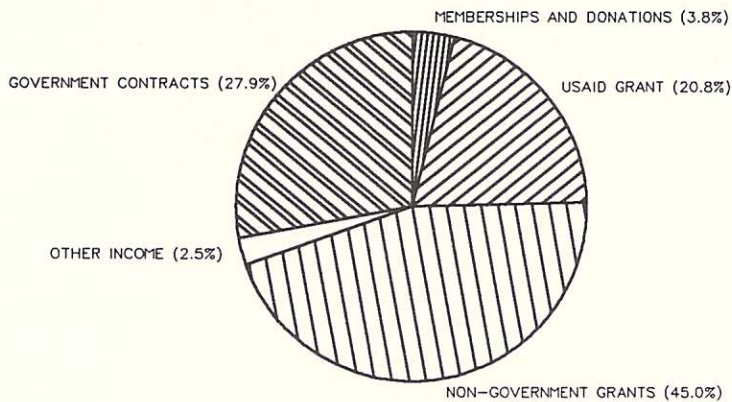
INDIVIDUAL:

Associate Membership	US\$ 25.
Family Membership	US\$ 50.
Sponsoring Membership	US\$ 100.
Life Membership	US\$ 500.

INSTITUTIONAL/CORPORATE:

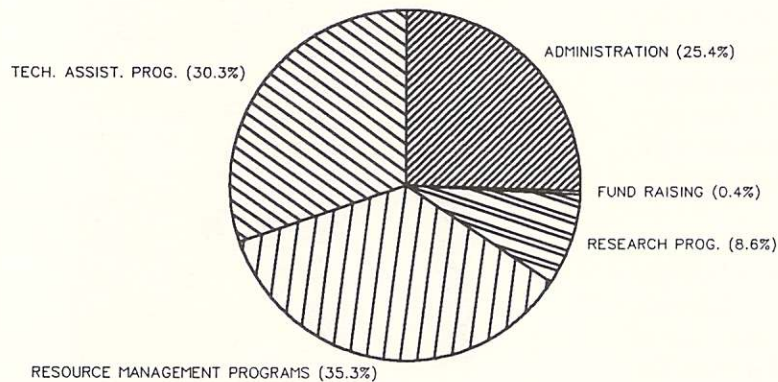
Contributing	US\$ 200.
Donor	US\$ 500.
Patron	US\$2,000.

* 25% discount on publications for members

INCOME - Fiscal Year 1991**FINANCIAL NOTES**

Fiscal Year 1991 (July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991) was somewhat of a banner year for the Island Resources Foundation – for the first time in the organization's history, revenues exceeded one-half million dollars for a 12 month period.

As the figure to the left indicates, almost two-thirds of IRF's income was received as grant revenue and was linked to the implementation of specific Foundation programs. A smaller portion of income (a little over one-quarter) was derived from contract work undertaken for agencies of the U.S. or Virgin Islands governments. Less than five percent of revenue in FY 91 was received as unrestricted contributions.

EXPENSES - Fiscal Year 1991

Of FY 91 expenditures, three-quarters was earmarked for direct program implementation. The remainder was used for day-to-day management costs, including maintenance of IRF's unique library facilities in St. Thomas and Washington, D.C., and a very small portion for fund raising activities. The largest expenditure category, Resource Management Programs, included costs for execution of the CEP project and two DPNR-contracted projects. Most expenditures within the Technical Assistance program category were related to implementation of the Foundation's Eastern Caribbean NGO Program.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT

HEADQUARTERS

Red Hook Center Box 33
 #11 Estate Nazareth
 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
 00802 USA
 Tel: 809-775-6225; Fax: 809-779-2022

BRANCH OFFICE

1718 P Street, Northwest
 Suite No. T4
 Washington, D.C.
 20036 USA
 Tel: 202-265-9712; Fax: 202-232-0748

NGO PROGRAM OFFICE

Bruce J. Horwith, Program Director
 c/o Antigua-Barbuda Museum
 Long Street, Post Office Box 103
 St. John's, ANTIGUA
 Tel/Fax: 809-460-1740

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