

FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS - (FTAA)

Public

Open Invitation to Civil Society

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Name of Organization: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation
(CCAM)
*A Jamaican environment and development NGO
registered as a non-profit limited liability company.
We manage one of the three demonstration sites
funded by the OAS-ISP programme (Inter-American
Strategy for Public Participation in Environment and
Sustainable Development Decision-Making in the
Americas).*

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Title of Submission: *TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES
SET OUT IN THE SAN JOSÉ MINISTERIAL
DECLARATION: A Perspective based on
Overview of the Jamaican Situation*

**Number of Pages including this
page and the Executive Summary:** Eight (8)

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT. THANK YOU.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Caribbean Coastal Area Management (CCAM) Foundation accepts the open invitation to present a point of view concerning the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas.
2. CCAM's starting point is the San José Ministerial Declaration (1998) wherein Ministers expect the FTAA to:
 - * improve the well-being of *all* our people
 - * contribute to raising living standards, working conditions and better protect the environment;
 - * create opportunities for full participation of the smaller economies and increase their level of development.
3. CCAM considers that Jamaica is one of the FTAA negotiating countries which qualifies as a smaller economy.
4. Based on an analysis of its exports and imports, it is felt that an FTAA:
 - * offers no significant new market opportunities;
 - * creates taxation revenue problems;
 - * could have a negative effect on development of rural communities and small businesses.
5. However, development of the services sector has great potential, and negotiations should consider proposals such as movement of labour, money and technology to stimulate this.
6. Development of tourism (particularly nature tourism) offers immediate development potential and can also be the stimulus for solving some environmental problems.
7. CCAM makes various suggestions consistent with the spirit of the San José Ministerial Declaration:-
 - * Further transparency of the negotiating process and inter-action with civil society is needed;
 - * Case studies of specific countries to test the objectives of the San José Declaration should be prepared;
 - * Creation of an integration/Development Fund to prepare smaller economies for participation in the FTAA.
 - * Feedback between the FTAA negotiators and the Civil Society Groups making submissions should take place.