

was given help to generate statistical data that is critical to more efficient tourism planning and decision-making in the region. An intra-regional tourism market study to promote tourism within Southern Africa has also been completed.

Trade Information

Recognising the growing importance of regional groupings in international trade, the Secretariat

has produced a number of guides for business people and exporters who need information on tariffs as much as micro-level information on, for example, rules of origin and safety and environmental standards. It has produced guides for trading with the Single European Market and the NAFTA countries. Practical guides for the exporting of products such as fruits, vegetables and flowers to various markets in Europe have also been produced.



EXPLOITING NATURAL RESOURCES

Governments have targeted the exploitation of natural resources, such as minerals and petroleum, in their efforts to attract foreign investment and realise the potential of their hidden wealth. Secretariat assistance to these efforts has focused on advising these governments, on request, on appropriate legal, economic and fiscal terms for the exploitation of mineral resources, and on promotional efforts targeting international companies for investment. It has also helped countries settle maritime boundary questions and develop legal and regulatory frameworks in the fisheries sector.

Mining and Petroleum

With more countries seeking to develop their natural resources, competition to attract foreign exploration companies has become keen. Many governments have therefore turned to the Secretariat for assistance in formulating appropriate policies, for advice on competitive legal, economic and fiscal terms for the exploitation of mineral resources, and on how to attract investment. The main resources targeted by governments in the past two years were oil, gas, diamonds, gold, platinum, copper, lead, zinc and coal.

The Secretariat's in-house consultants have assisted some 15 Commonwealth countries, including several small states, in this period. In Lesotho, for example, new mining legislation has been drafted.

Legal and economic expertise has also been provided to the Governments of Botswana (in mining), India (in petroleum and mining) and Tonga (in petroleum) in reviewing their existing exploration and extraction terms. The creation of a sound policy framework and the formulation of terms conducive for foreign risk investment are the main themes underpinning all natural resource work.

In Pakistan, the Secretariat's in-house consultants helped a national task force frame a new minerals' policy. Substantial legal and economic inputs were similarly made in Namibia, Solomon Islands and Zimbabwe during the course of negotiations covering the further development of three major mineral deposits.

Advice was also offered prior to and during mining and petroleum negotiations elsewhere, for example in Grenada, Malta and Sierra Leone. Other examples of the type of activity undertaken in this period include assistance with the formulation of a new mining tax regime in Sri Lanka, with the drafting of model investment agreements in a number of countries and with the conduct of international promotion meetings for a number of governments, including that of Seychelles.

In October 1994, the Namibian Government signed historic agreements with De Beers Centenary which will govern the future exploitation of diamonds in

the country's major diamond-producing areas. These agreements were negotiated with the assistance of the Secretariat's in-house consultants. Production of very high-quality diamonds remains the mainstay of the Namibian economy and the new arrangements will bring the nation substantial economic and social benefits.

Considerable CFTC-funded technical assistance and advice has been given to Namibia since it became independent in 1990. The Secretariat helped its first international petroleum exploration round which succeeded in attracting many foreign

oil companies and then with the many complex negotiations leading up to the award of the licences under which seismic and drilling work was undertaken. The Namibian Government also requested Secretariat help when it launched its second petroleum licensing round in 1994.

Maritime Boundaries

The Secretariat assists member governments, particularly small states, reach agreement with their neighbours on an equitable delimitation of maritime boundaries. It provides legal and hydrographic assistance covering the design of maritime legislation, the construction of charts and maps suitable for boundary delimitation purposes, and assistance in the preparation for and conduct of negotiations. If a disagreement involves two Commonwealth states, the Secretariat offers legal and hydrographic assistance to both parties through external consultants, with Secretariat consultants acting as co-ordinators.

A number of Caribbean countries as well as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States were among those who received Secretariat assistance in this field in the past two years.

Fisheries

As part of its assistance to governments in the development of the fisheries sector, the Secretariat offers advice on fisheries access agreements and on the management of Exclusive Economic Zones. A recent example of its activities in this area is its package of services to the Government of Brunei Darussalam in creating a modern legislative and regulatory framework for the management and regulation of all aspects of the fishing industry.

This framework includes detailed provisions for the management of the fisheries industry, licensing of fishing boats, preservation of the marine environment, regulation of fish-landing complexes, and regulation and development of an aquaculture sector within the fisheries industry. The new legislative framework seeks to enhance the techniques of fisheries management, including conservation and surveillance within the waters of Brunei.



Helping with drawing up legal frameworks for the benefit of fishing industries