

## **SECTION 5**

### **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

The FKCCS is mandated by the Florida Administration Commission Rule 28-20.100 to be completed no later than December 31, 2000. A large quantity of information, databases, GIS, the CCAM and the FKCCS report will be generated by that date. The final product of the FKCCS is to provide a database and interactive model (i.e. CCAM) that will enable planners and decision makers to evaluate the effects of their decisions on the Florida Keys ecosystem, hurricane evacuation and infrastructure such as stormwater and sanitary wastewater treatment facilities.

While the information, databases, GIS and CCAM will be final products of this study, it may be beneficial for the future success of planning efforts in Monroe County that an “adaptive” management paradigm be adopted. (Holling 1978, Waters 1986, Gunderson et al. 1995). Adaptive management views regional development policy and management decisions as “experiments” rather than as “solutions”, acknowledging that such complicated issues and questions as those addressed in the FKCCS will not be solved all at once. To maximize its utility, it may be that the Keys carrying capacity analysis is not one that can be completed in short or due time; but should be ongoing so that problems and opportunities could be continuously identified and addressed, various issues could be brought more clearly into focus over time, emphasis could be placed on monitoring and feedback to check and improve the CCAM, and staff and other participants could gain increasing understanding and technical expertise.

One possible solution for facilitation of planning and decision making in an ecosystem and human environment as complicated as the Florida Keys may be the establishment of a permanent operating center where relevant knowledge is continuously amassed, improved, reanalyzed, and utilized. This would require institutional infrastructure, i.e. an operations center including an office, computers and personnel. A long-term knowledge center or resource center may be the optimal ultimate destination for the FKCCS information, databases and the CCAM. This center could be utilized by local, state and federal planners and resource managers for obtaining information and data needed at one place for making their decisions.

A FKCCS knowledge center would also facilitate adaptive management of the information, databases and the CCAM. The emphasis could be placed on the ability to refine the model when new information and data is acquired, such as the addition of new elements or new interactions between elements. Although the study and model are scheduled to be complete by 2000, the modeling refinement process may need to continue past this date to reap the full benefits of this effort. The substantial funding obtained to complete the FKCCS and the development of the CCAM warrants an effort be made to ensure that the model not become obsolete soon after completion. Continuing refinement of the databases, GIS mapping, information and the CCAM after year 2000 will most likely improve and prolong their usefulness (Walters 1986). Recommendations

concerning continuation of use of the FKCCS and its information, databases, GIS and the CCAM will be developed during the course of this study.

References:

Gunderson, L., C. S. Holling, and S. Light (eds). 1995. *Barriers and Bridges to the Renewal of Ecosystems and institutions*. Columbia University Press: New York, New York.

Holling, C. S. (ed). 1978. *Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management*. Wiley: London, England.

Walters, C. J. 1986. *Adaptive Management of Renewable Resources*. McGraw Hill: New York, New York.