



**The Caribbean dialogue on “Green Economy”**

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)



**A REGIONAL DIALOGUE PROCESS:**

Discussing what does a “Green Economy” mean in the Caribbean context



**Caribbean regional dialogue**

- What does a “Green Economy” mean in the Caribbean context
- Facilitated by CANARI
- Supported by IIED and the Commonwealth Foundation
- **Phase 1: dialogue** (Dec 2010 – Feb 2011)
- Desk study, interviews
- Regional workshop Feb 2011
- Develop draft position paper



- **Phase 2: communication and advocacy** (March 2010 – March 2011)
- Dissemination by email, websites, Facebook discussion
- **Presentation at international meetings:**
  1. Rio+20 PrepCom GEC side event (New York, March 2011)
  2. Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (Trinidad, April 2011)
  3. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Green Economy Coalition (London, Nov 2011)
  4. Green Growth Forum (Mexico, January 2012)
  5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Transition Dialogue (NY, March 2012)
  6. Global Green Growth Summit (Korea, May 2012)



**Discussion at Caribbean meetings:**

1. Saint Lucia National Development Forum and follow-up workshop on "Walking the path towards a green economy" (June 2011 and Feb 2012)
2. CARICOM Caribbean Rio+20 Sub Regional Preparatory Committee Meeting (Guyana, June 2011)
3. CARICOM 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) (Guyana, Aug/Sept 2011)
4. Trinidad and Tobago Rio+20 National Consultation (Trinidad, Nov 2011)
5. Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group sub-group planning workshop (Saint Lucia, Jan 2012)
6. Caribbean Green Economy Forum (Barbados, March 2012)
7. Caribbean Urban Forum (Jamaica, March 2012)
8. CARICOM 39<sup>th</sup> special COTED to prepare for Rio+20 (Guyana, April 2012)




**CARIBBEAN IDEAS:**

What is a  
"Green Economy"  
in the Caribbean context?



**Rationale for shifting to a green economy**

- Poverty and social inequality
- Disaster risk
- Public indebtedness
- Diminishing sectoral benefits



**Factors keeping the region in its current paradigm**

- Political disincentives
- Weak bottom up demand
- Declining human resource base
- Outdated and inadequate regulatory frameworks



### Characteristics of a green economy in the Caribbean

- Equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources
- Economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks
- Self-directed and self-reliant
- Pro-poor and generating decent jobs and working conditions for local people



### Key principles for a green economy in the Caribbean

- Common vision
- Human security
- Good governance
- Well educated citizenry
- Involved young people
- Informed and mobilised civil society
- Commitment to pan-Caribbean cooperation



### Key opportunities

- Learn from and scale up best practices
- Take an integrated development planning approach
- Complete establishment of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)
- Negotiate trade agreements that build resilience
- Create incentives for sustainable practices
- Transform the housing sector
- Move existing industries up the value chain
- Diversify export markets
- Develop business continuity plans to build resilience
- Tap existing but unexploited incentives

Yes consider all existing SD initiatives but focus on economic transformation



### EMERGING CARIBBEAN INITIATIVES:

*“We wish to thank the world for giving our model of development a name.”*



### Regional policy, institutions and initiatives

- CARICOM Single Market Policy Framework
- CARICOM Regional Framework and Implementation Plan for development that is resilient to climate change
- Caribbean Sea Commission
- Sectoral e.g. CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy
- CARILED CIDA funded project on local economic development in CARICOM countries
- UNEP green economy programme for the Caribbean



### National policy initiatives

- Barbados Green Economy Policy Framework
- Guyana Low-Carbon Development Strategy
- Dominica Organic Development Policy Framework and low carbon climate resilient development strategy
- Saint Lucia developing a national vision
- Grenada Alternative Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Dominican Republic Climate Compatible Development Strategy
- British Virgin Islands environmental mainstreaming



### National Accounting

- Trinidad and Tobago valuation of ecosystem services to be included in national policies and accounting (University of the West Indies, Cropper Foundation – under global ProEcoServ project coordinated by UNEP and funded by GEF)



### Sectoral initiatives

- Sustainable rural livelihoods based on the use of natural resources
- Greening urban development: Caribbean Network for Urban Land Management (CNULM)
- Greening private sector: Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, Green Business Barbados
- Renewable energy: Solar, wind, geothermal
- Organic agriculture
- Sustainable tourism, community-based tourism, natural and cultural heritage tourism



How can we move forward as a region sharing experiences, building and sharing knowledge, working together to address regional issues, and having a common and strong voice in international processes?



## A PROCESS FOR MOVING FORWARD:

Facilitating a Caribbean Action Learning Group on Green Economy (GE ALG)



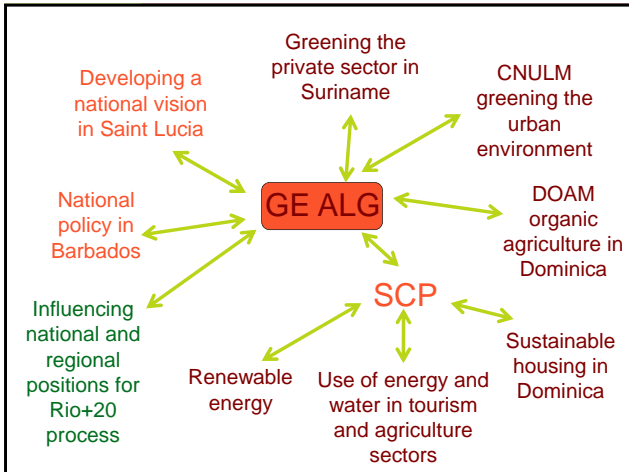
### GE ALG overall purpose

- To identify and promote ways in which “green economy” can advance sustainable development in the Caribbean through shaping visions, perspectives, positions and actions.
  - What are the opportunities?
  - What are the potential threats?
  - What could be a Caribbean vision of economic development?



### GE ALG areas of work

1. Building and sharing knowledge
2. Policy influence
3. Action learning to “test” ideas and approaches
4. Capacity-building



Thanks!

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