



## **Green Economy Coalition National Dialogues**

### **Caribbean Dialogue regional workshop report**

**February 02<sup>nd</sup> – February 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

**Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, St. Anns, Trinidad**

## 1 Introduction

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) National Dialogues is a series of events organized by members of the GEC in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. The GEC is a broad alliance that brings together environment, development, trade union, consumer and business sectors, in the North and the South, for the purpose of accelerating a transition to a



**Figure 1 Participants organised into several small groups**

new green economy. The Dialogues will focus on mapping the fundamental changes needed in economic governance to mainstream basic tenets of sustainability at local, national and global levels. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which hosts the GEC, approached the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to facilitate a process for the Caribbean small island developing states as part of this

initiative.

CANARI dedicated this process to Professor Dennis Pantin, a

renowned Caribbean economist and visionary who passed away on July 13, 2010. Among Professor Pantin's extensive contribution to Caribbean economic development, he was a member of a group of experts who were mandated by Heads of Government in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to develop a Strategic Plan for Regional Development geared towards the creation of a Single Economy by 2015.

The Caribbean Dialogue process was implemented by CANARI, with the support of IIED and other members of the Green Economy Coalition, and in partnership with the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), where Professor Pantin was Coordinator since its inception in 1996. The process involved a range of institutions and individuals, including academics, civil society and labour leaders, entrepreneurs, as well as managers and policy makers in national and regional institutions, who were asked to contribute to shaping a vision of a new economy and a Caribbean response to the current global drive towards a Green Economy. Leading Caribbean experts and scholars in sustainable development and economic policy provided guidance to the overall process and participated in the main activities.

Specific objectives of the Dialogues given by the GEC were:

- To identify and raise awareness amongst key actors about imperatives of a green economy – at national, regional and global levels.
- To invest in the formulation of innovative, effective and realistic strategy options to create a green economy, as well as transition roadmaps of how to move forward.
- To build a position, endorsed by key stakeholders, on the creation of a green economy that is used at the Rio 2012 Conference and other high profile events.

The Caribbean Dialogue process sought to ground the processes of change into local realities at regional and national levels, to identify ways in which existing initiatives and successes can be nurtured and expanded, and to ensure that the promotion of a green economy remains attentive to existing and potential inequalities and respectful of diversity. It helped provide a platform for transformative ideas and action for small islands states in the Caribbean and beyond.

Building on an identification and analysis of current thinking and experiences at micro and macro levels in the region, the Caribbean Dialogue attempted to define the main elements of a new approach to economic development and governance that pays greater attention than in the past to key issues of environmental sustainability, social justice, equity and rights. It examined a number of critical questions, including:



**Figure 2 Gordon Bispham sharing his experience in plenary**

- What is the role of regional cooperation and integration<sup>1</sup> in achieving a new vision of economic development in the Caribbean?
- What is the place of economic diversification in a new economy?
- How can a new economy contribute directly to job creation, enhanced livelihoods and resilience at community and national levels, in ways that benefit– instead of further excluding – the poor and marginalized?
- Can and should issues of food and energy security be made more central to our development strategies?
- What are the main policy and governance changes that are needed at the national and regional levels, and what accountability mechanisms could help accelerate the process of change?
- What are the implications of a new economy for fiscal policy? for remittances? for the financial sector? for non-renewable natural resource extraction? and what is the potential offered by public sector procurement?

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to various political and technical cooperation groupings, there are several key regional initiatives for Caribbean integrated economic development that are relevant to the discussion of macroeconomic policy, including:

- a) The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), which is intended to benefit the people of the Region by providing more and better opportunities to produce and sell goods and services and to attract investment. It will create one large market among the participating member states. The main objectives of the CSME are: full use of labour (full employment) and full exploitation of the other factors of production (natural resources and capital); competitive production leading to greater variety and quantity of products and services to trade with other countries. It is expected that these objectives will in turn provide improved standards of living and work and sustained economic development.
- b) The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Economic Union established with signing of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in June 2010 by the nine member states comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are associate members of the OECS

- What are the main strategic policy and investment choices that will be needed with respect to infrastructural development, energy, land use, coastal zone management and transportation?
- Are there dangers that the global interest in a transition to a Green Economy could have perverse negative impacts on the region, e.g. in the form of conditionalities, external control of development agendas or excessive reliance on external expertise?

***The process:***

This Caribbean Dialogue was organised into five phases:

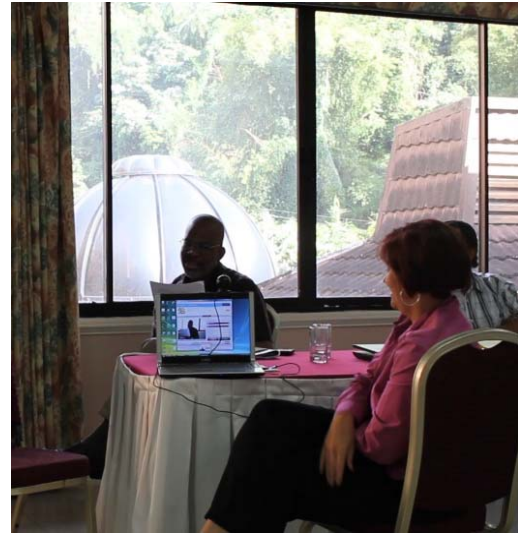
A preparatory phase, focused on an identification of key stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector, as well as development partners, and the dissemination of information on the Dialogue and the proposed process.

A phase of research and analysis, with a literature review, interviews with scholars, selected decision-makers and key institutional actors, and a small number of focus group sessions, which led to the preparation of a discussion paper.

A workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago in February 2011, which examined the discussion paper through panel and plenary discussions and developed a draft Caribbean position and agenda, resulting in the publication of a tri-lingual draft position paper. Adequate media coverage and the use of communication technologies ensured that Caribbean societies were aware of this process and that people interested were able to follow the discussions by webcast and to contribute questions and positions by e-mail and other media.

A phase of consultation was facilitated with all relevant sectors in the region, on the

basis of the draft position paper, encouraging organisations and networks to discuss the paper internally and formulate their responses and recommendations.



**Figure 3 Cletus Springer's comments shared with a wider audience through the webcast**



**Figure 4 David Smith, Akilah Jaramogi, Steve Bass and Francois Wasmith in an animated group discussion**

A final position paper was developed, to be disseminated widely in the region, and to be presented at a GEC global meeting as well as at a Commonwealth/Earth Charter meeting tentatively scheduled for early 2011. Feedback from that meeting and formulation of an agreement on the next steps in the process (including the option of joint activities with other small states and small island regions) will be communicated to Caribbean stakeholders.

## 2 Workshop objectives and agenda

The specific objectives of the regional workshop were to:

- generate a draft Caribbean position on new/green economy
- develop a strategy and work plan for use and promotion of that position



**Figure 5 Shawn Carter, Judith Wedderburn, Deven Basdeo and McHale Andrew in a panel discussion**

The workshop was held over two days. The introductory session provided a background to international work being done on green economy, including the United Nations Environment Programme's Green Economy Report. This was followed by a presentation of the background discussion paper (produced through a desk review and interviews with key stakeholders before the workshop). Two panel discussions followed, one on issues, challenges and contexts and the second on Caribbean responses. The afternoon was spent on small group work. The second day focused on distilling principles, recommendations, and next steps. See Appendix 1 for the agenda.

## 3 Target audience/ participants

The workshop targeted key persons and organisations within the region that were involved in development and environment within the region, including key sectors such as tourism, labour and trade. The 25 participants represented regional government agencies, academia, civil society and private sector organisations throughout the region. International agencies such as the Organisation of American States (OAS), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Phillips Electronics also participated in the two-day workshop. (See Appendix 2 for the list of participants)

## 4 Findings

Presentations given by panellists are shown in Appendix 3. Key points made by panellists and in the following discussions are summarised below.

### 4.1 *Issues, challenges and context*

Several challenges in various sectors exist that may present challenges for the Caribbean transitioning to a green economy.



**Figure 6 Plenary session webcast**

#### 4.1.1 Energy

Hydrocarbon production in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region are being reduced. Trinidad and Tobago has enough hydrocarbon reserves for only about 16 more years yet there is no real effort to diversify the energy sector. Energy is highly subsidised so there is little incentive to explore alternative energy sources or to reduce the current very high rate of energy consumption in Trinidad and Tobago. Labour within Trinidad and Tobago has also been against privatisation of the energy sector that can bring cleaner techniques into the industry. Although there are some small incentives to switch to solar and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), these are not enough. The government is converting all its ministries vehicles to run on CNG. It is also seeking investments in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation renewable energy to improve the energy security of the twin- island state.

A holistic people-centred approach is needed (in tourism), rather than what exists now which (is) ... “superficial, unimaginative and myopic”.

Several Caribbean economies are striving to transform their energy sectors. Guyana has adopted the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), the national strategy that is to guide its multi-sectoral approach to development. The country is also seeking to install renewable energy in several of its rural areas.

#### 4.1.2 Labour

The levels of unemployment are high within region with high levels of uncertified and unskilled workers. The labour market is also highly segregated with women largely confined to industries that are time and labour intensive but low yielding while men dominate the energy and construction sectors.

#### 4.1.3 Tourism

Tourism is the primary economy sector in most of the Caribbean islands. The market share for tourism in the Caribbean is declining and the current share is approximately 2%. Energy consumption within the tourism industry is unsustainable. The key challenge is how to optimise

the demand for goods and services by tourists and the provision of these by Caribbean people. Local ownership is key and essential for sustainability.

#### 4.1.4 Agriculture

Food security in the Caribbean is an increasingly important issue.

#### 4.1.5 Gender and inequality

The Caribbean is a region of dramatic inequality, with very high poverty in certain countries, even though overall it is classified as middle income. Inequality is associated with many factors including gender, class, race, and disabilities. Crime in the Caribbean is bred, not by poverty, but by inequality and the widening gap between rich and poor.

Single women are charged with the burden of care in many Caribbean households. Many female-headed households are impoverished. Access to resources by women needs to be addressed. The women's unemployment or low waged labour leads to the children's poverty, perpetuating the intergenerational poverty prevalent in some Caribbean societies.

#### 4.1.6 Education

The current education system does not offer opportunities to transition to a green economy. Approximately 70% of students are leaving school with two or less passes in the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) exams. Some are educated at the primary school level and the levels of illiteracy and innumeracy are rising. The majority of students leave school without labour market skills and certification. There is a gender disparity in the education system; boys are not performing as well as their female counterparts at school. In Jamaica 92.5% of boys do not pass mathematics. The drop-out rate among boys is high. The school system was described as "irrelevant" by one panellist, who felt that it was not building basic skills that must then be addressed at the tertiary level.

### **4.2 *Caribbean responses to the challenge: Greening various Caribbean economies***

#### 4.2.1 Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago is striving to reform its non energy sectors. The country is introducing the Beverage Container Bill into parliament to encourage the populace to recycle. It is also changing the archaic laws that perpetuate ecologically perverse practices and modernising its non-energy industries. It is starting to look at energy security and the development of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation renewable energy, including solar and wind. Green businesses are emerging in Trinidad and Tobago as a promising area for private sector development, for example one company is producing photovoltaic cells which can be supplied to the rest of the Caribbean. Energy audits are taking place and energy-efficient infrastructure (for example at the government's E-Teck Park) is being developed.

#### 4.2.2 Guyana

Guyana has adopted the LCDS and has provided incentives for avoiding deforestation. It is currently developing a rainforest investment fund (Guyana REDD Rainforest Investment Fund) and is actively involved in payment for ecosystem services. Priorities include electrification of rural remote areas using solar power for homes, using solar banks in the middle of villages to power laptops for each household, and the development of hydroelectricity.

#### 4.2.3 Jamaica

The island has adopted a National Renewable Energy Policy that seeks to provide the



**Figure 7 McHale Andrew explaining one of his comments at the end of a group discussion**

framework for using renewable technologies. Constitutional reform may be necessary to ensure that green principles are entrenched in all sectors. It will be impossible to reach the 2030 deadline without relating education to green economy. The dialogue should be simplified so that all could understand that without a green economy there will be no food and water.

#### 4.2.4 Barbados

Barbados has taken many steps towards a green economy. In 2010 the Cabinet made a commitment to building a resource efficient green economy. The government of Barbados commissioned the University of the West Indies (UWI) to conduct a scoping study to assess policy interventions and potential investments to ensure that development does not occur at the expense of social equality and environmental sustainability. A cross-sectoral approach is being



**Figure 8 Akilah Jaramogi explaining the community's perspective during plenary**

taken which is enabling the process.

#### **4.3 Principles and indicators**

Several principles and indicators emerged from the discussions. These are shown in Figure 9 below.



Principles for a green economy	Indicators for a green economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient economy</li> <li>• Self-directed – resistant to foreign control</li> <li>• Self reliant – regional collective interdependence</li> <li>• Operating within a realistic assessment and sustainable use of our resources nationally and regionally</li> <li>• Optimising our strengths and resources</li> <li>• Driven by participatory governance (horizontally and vertically) with voice, accountability and transparency and including community participation</li> <li>• Offers opportunities to all</li> <li>• Informal economy is valued</li> <li>• Individuals committed to and collective responsibility for the social good</li> <li>• There are equitable benefits to society</li> <li>• There is a collective vision with popular acceptance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full employment for all and decent work</li> <li>• Decent housing for every family</li> <li>• Health care for all</li> <li>• Guaranteed human rights</li> <li>• Protection and safety of the law</li> <li>• Participatory political processes</li> <li>• Universal education</li> <li>• Sustainable livelihoods</li> <li>• The Caribbean has a leading position in the world</li> </ul>

**Figure 9 Principles and indicators for a green economy**

#### **4.4 Specific recommendations**

For addressing gender issues:

- Ensuring that new green jobs are female – headed household friendly
- Address the gender segregation in the work
- Make women better economists to avoid intergenerational poverty
- Empowerment of women
- Proper education of all

For education and culture:

- Use language and culture to engage the imagination of the students
- Focus on trade schools and on-the-job training

#### 4.5 Policy and political agenda – where do we go from here?

Integrating “green” into national planning process is important. What is needed is a clear understanding of the scope and benefits that a green economy approach can deliver at the national and regional levels and clear and targeted communication of this to policy makers in government.

Some national governments were described as having insular thinking and lacking vision. The challenge of policies being articulated only verbally and not in formal law or policy is a challenge as new administrations may not follow the set policy.

There is also no discussion at the heads of government level on the green economy so it appears to be unimportant. This is clearly seen in the lack of regional initiatives from CARICOM on a green economy.

### 5 Conclusions and general recommendations

Participants felt that the concept of green economy was not new, but a means to deliver sustainable development. Green economy as a new approach to economic development in the Caribbean holds promise if it is pro-poor, pro-growth, and pro-jobs. Key issues discussed included:

- Human capital is key and we need to build on the “native genius of our people” through education and empowerment of women and other marginalised groups.
- Building social capital and promoting social cohesion is important.
- Change is needed at both the macro level through directly engaging politicians as well as change in mind set and individual behaviour.
- Simplifying the dialogue was seen to be important so that a common language can be used to discuss these complex but fundamental issues.
- Diversification and engaging the private sector is important, and industries need to be realigned to make them work for us.
- Searching for a new direction in the Caribbean economies requires that we also examine the roles of private and public sectors would play.
- Governance is critical, and measures are needed to be able to hold national governments accountable. One panellist expressed that we need to “provide a new democracy... this one is worn out”.
- A bottom up approach to the new direction in economic development is needed. It is important that we examine the models of community governance to ensure that all is involved never forgetting that there is an individual responsibility in the development. Civil society should be seen as a partner for government and efforts must be made to improve the capacity of CSOs.
- Regional integration is vital to the new direction in economic growth. By working together, the disparate countries can reach the critical mass necessary to develop sustainably and withstand many of the internal and external shocks.
- The region needs to also develop better relationships with our Latin American neighbours.
- Competitiveness and economic resilience needs to be built.

...we need to build on the “native genius of our people”.

...we need to “provide a new democracy... this one is worn out”.

- The green economy process needs to be included in other sustainable development initiatives, for example sustainable consumption and production.



**Figure 10 Vanda Radzik sharing Guyana's experiences with low-carbon development**

It was felt that although green economy has not yet been fully defined, the key principles are recognised on the ground in the Caribbean and that the current crisis affords an opportunity for economic and social development. While discussion is taking place and policy change is being sought, there is need for some immediate tangible actions on the ground. A clear definition of what is a green economy, how green is green, and how this provides benefits at local, national and regional levels is needed.

## 6 Results (outcomes and outputs)

Outputs:

- Background discussion paper
- Workshop report
- Draft position paper

Outcomes:

- Increased understanding of participants of green economy and what this means in the Caribbean context



**Figure 11 Dickie Crawford during plenary**

- Increased commitment of participants, and in particular a core group, to broaden and deepen the Caribbean Dialogue

## 7 Next steps

**Crystallising ideas:** The results of the workshop will be fed into a draft position paper that will crystallise the emerging Caribbean ideas. The discussion paper is shown in Appendix 4.

**Expanding the discussion:** This position paper will be disseminated widely throughout the region via email and discussion forums for feedback. CANARI will establish a discussion board on its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=159735514051858&topic=276>) and strategically presented the findings of the workshop at various meetings. CANARI will coordinate a core group (so far CANARI, University of the West Indies Institute for Sustainable Development, OAS, and UNECLAC) to develop an approach to broadening and deepening the

Caribbean Dialogue on green economy

***Communicating the message:*** The core group will to explore how this could be fed into and learn from international discussions of the GEC and ultimately into the Rio+20 and other international processes on sustainable development.



## The search for a new economy in the Caribbean: A Regional Workshop as part of the Green Economy Coalition National Dialogues

### Regional workshop

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, St. Ann's, Port of Spain, Trinidad

### PROGRAMME

#### 1. Background

The Caribbean and the world are facing a convergence of unprecedented challenges that call for new approaches to development. The global economic crisis had a huge impact on the region, and recovery has so far been halting and uneven. The environmental constraints of small island states are being compounded by the effects of climate change. Achieving the region's vision of sustainable and equitable development seems farther away than ever. In response to this critical moment, a Regional Dialogue to consider new ways to approach economic development in the Caribbean is being organised by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with support from the Commonwealth Foundation and other partners. This Caribbean Dialogue is part of a series of initiatives organised by the Green Economy Coalition (GEC) in various parts of the world, bringing together environment, development, labour, consumer and business sectors, in the North and the South.

Building on current thinking and experiences at micro and macro levels in the region, this Dialogue will attempt **to define the main elements of a new approach to economic development and governance that pays greater attention than in the past to key issues of environmental sustainability, social justice, equity and rights.**

Following an initial phase of research and consultation, a regional workshop is being held in Trinidad and Tobago February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 to formulate ideas and recommendations, and develop a draft position paper that will then be circulated widely throughout the region for comments, amendments and additions. The final version of that position paper will be disseminated to all relevant organisations, with the expectation that its contents will be used in policy and programme formulation at national, regional and international levels.

#### 2. Workshop objectives

- To generate a draft Caribbean position on new/green economy
- To develop a strategy and work plan for use and promotion of that position

### 3. Workshop process

The language of the workshop is English, but arrangements will be made to facilitate the participation of francophone and hispanophone colleagues if necessary.

### 4. Participants

The workshop brings together a selected group of thinkers and actors from across the Caribbean, including politicians, senior technical officers, civil society organisations (at local, national and regional levels), regional and international organisations, private sector, academia, and key individuals involved in innovation and change in economic thinking in the Caribbean.

### 5. Draft agenda

#### **Day 1: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011**

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome, introductions and workshop objectives	Nicole Leotaud, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
9:00 – 10:00	<p>The Green Economy Coalition, Rio+20 and the Caribbean Dialogue process</p> <p>Presentation on the United Nations Environment Programme's Green Economy Report</p> <p>Caribbean challenges and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlights from the background paper</li> <li>• economic development perspectives</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>	<p>Steve Bass, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)</p> <p>Jyotsna Puri, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tighe Geoghegan, Green Park Consultants (GPC)</li> <li>• Judith Wedderburn, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><u>Panel discussion on issues, challenges and context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caribbean challenges and opportunities: sectoral perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Labour</li> <li>○ Tourism</li> <li>○ Gender</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Chair: Nicole Leotaud, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Abdullah, Oilfield Workers Trade Union and Federation of Independent Trade Unions and Non – Governmental Organisations (FITUN)</li> <li>• McHale Andrew, Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association</li> <li>• Roberta Clarke, United Nations</li> </ul>

		Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
11:00 – 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 12:30	<p><u>Panel discussion: Caribbean responses to the challenge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trinidad and Tobago perspectives on trade and industry and national development</li> <li>• Guyana Low Carbon Development strategy</li> <li>• Jamaicans United for Sustainable Development</li> <li>• The Barbados green economy process</li> </ul>	<p>Chair: Asha Kambon, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Steven Cadiz</li> <li>• Vanda Radzik, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)</li> <li>• Dickie Crawford, (JUSD)</li> <li>• Shawn Carter, University of the West Indies</li> </ul>
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Discussion and identification of key issues and objectives for small group work	Tighe Geoghegan, Green Park Consultants
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Small group work	
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Small group presentations, discussion and plenary summary of key points	Tighe Geoghegan, Green Park Consultants

**Day 2: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Moving towards a new economy for the Caribbean: development of principles and recommendations	<p>Chair: David Smith, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of the West Indies</p> <p>Plenary discussion</p>
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Panel discussion: The policy and political agenda, where do we go from here?	<p>Chair: Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organisation of American States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon Bispham, Caribbean Policy Development Centre</li> <li>• Dave Persaud, Ministry of Housing and the Environment, Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>• Asha Kambon, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Building support for a new	Plenary discussion

	economy in the Caribbean: national, regional and international actions	
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Summary of conclusions and next steps  Rising to the challenge: a regional call to action	Nicole Leotaud, CANARI  Cletus Springer, Organisation of American States
12:00 noon	Vote of thanks	Keisha Sandy, CANARI
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	

## 6. Workshop communications

Communications will facilitate sharing of information coming out of the workshop, as well as input from stakeholders unable to attend the workshop in person. This will include:

- Hosting of the background paper, the report of the workshop and the draft position paper at [www.canari.org](http://www.canari.org)
- Webcast coverage of some of the sessions hosted at [www.canari.org](http://www.canari.org)
- A dedicated e-mail address [new.economy@canari.org](mailto:new.economy@canari.org) prior to and during the workshop, with e-mail inputs fed into the workshop
- Media coverage



## Participants list

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## Exploring 'green economies', reinvigorating sustainable development




The search of a new economy in the Caribbean:  
Regional Workshop  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011  
Steve Bass, IIED

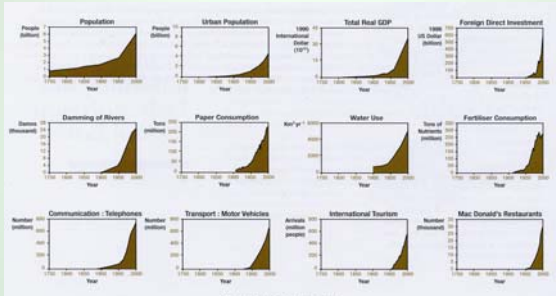


'Citizens and Nature are silent victims of the way our Economies have grown'

Development Alternatives, India, 2010




## Rapidly growing economic activity....



Source: Stoffen et al. (see note 20)



## ... is breaching ecological limits





## And people suffer, too

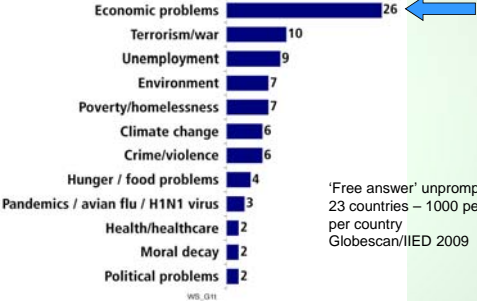
Affluenza and Povertitis:

- Poverty – poorest 40% have 5% global income – and lack access to env services
- Material affluence – obesity, lack of fulfilment...
- Loss of social capital...

➤ *Limits of growth (as well as limits to growth)*



## Economy is global public's top concern...



'Free answer' unprompted.  
23 countries – 1000 people per country  
Globescan/IIED 2009

WS\_011

**'Green economy' now often proposed as the answer to multiple problems**

- 1. Financial collapse:** resilient, longer-term **green growth** is the answer (G20 stimulus)
- 2. Environment problems** – limits to CC negotiation: engage mainstream in **green economy** (UNEP)
- 3. Social problems** – 500M more jobseekers by 2020: **green jobs** is the answer (ILO)

➤ *Rethink economy – the 'backbone' of public policy*

**But could GE be a bad idea?**

Yes, if it resulted in:

- **Greenwash** – not halting bad practice
- **Elite gains only** – rich countries, big companies, speculators...
- **Green conditionality** – anti-growth or protectionism
- **Poor investments** – low returns, NR 'poverty traps'

[www.greeneconomycoalition.org](http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org)

Labour, business, consumer, env/dev civil society, UN:

- Platform for joint research and debate (dialogues)
- Organise and share knowledge (web)
- Build consensus on 'green economy' (eg Rio2012)

**Debate dominated by UN, big co's, HICs**

So Coalition supporting GE exploration in MICs & LICs:

- **Micro** – 'glimpses' of GE – formal and informal economy, communities, social enterprise, etc (60+)
- **Macro** – econ governance – bad practice to stop (subsidies), good instruments to introduce
- **Values** – changing ideas of economic paradigm

GE = best explored in **specific** economies

➤ **India, Brazil, Caribbean, Sahel > Chile...**

**First two GEC dialogues: highlights**

**INDIA TARAGram Yatra, 2010:**


- Focus: business models helping poverty elimination with env regeneration at significant scale – beyond many pilots
- Key: Strong people's institutions & appropriate technology creating green jobs/livelihoods

**BRAZIL, 2010:**

- Focus: Support 'promising but vulnerable' env policies (eco-evaluation, PES, forestry, waste) that support employment
- Shape 'Common Agenda of Brazilian Society for GE' for GoB and Rio2012, via six regional dialogues in 2011

**The big 'green economy' transition?**

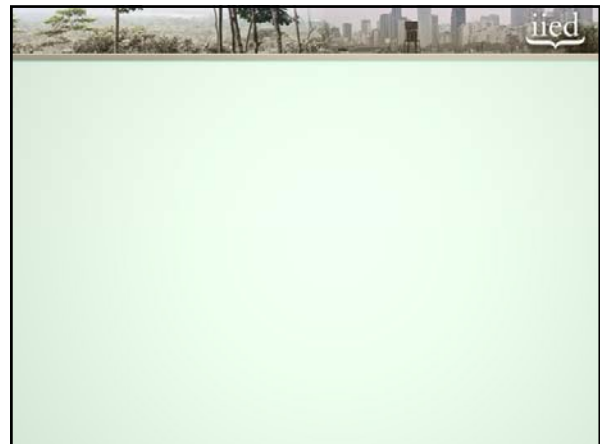
A **fair and resilient** economy, which provides a better quality of life for all, achieved within the **ecological limits** of one planet



### Coalition and the Caribbean

1. Small state knowledge, attributes, needs?
2. GE drivers, precedents, and signs of change?
3. How to make transition: doable, credible, bankable policies and activities
4. Staying engaged with the Coalition e.g. to Rio2012 – thinkers and doers cf. negotiators

*A 2-year 'GE' window for reinvigorating SD?*




### GE = 40 years of thinking

- Resources: limits to growth (Meadows) 1960s
- Consumption: I = PAT (Ehrlich) 1970s
- Integration: Sustainable devt (Brundtland 89)
- Economic policy: 'Blueprint' (Pearce 1989)
- Returns to env investments: PEP (Pearce 2005)
- Economics of climate change: (Stern 2006)
- Economics of biodiversity: (TEEB 2009)
- Paradigm: Prosperity without Growth (Jackson 2009)
- Measures: Beyond GDP (Sarkozy Commission 2009)

➤ *Plus! Planet and people: equity/inclusion/knowledge*



### Recognise bottom-up GE drivers

Key drivers involving poor groups:

- Informal economy – 20-65% of economic activity; flexible, innovative, resilient; +200M 2009 recession
- Communities – \$2.5B annual investment by forest communities in sustainable forestry > all IGOs
- Social enterprise – solar, cookstoves, footpumps, community toilets, etc <50% cost + other benefits



### GE Coalition collating micro practice

**Identify GE Glimpses**


1. Zero carbon
2. Zero waste
3. Sustainable transport
4. Sustainable materials
5. Sustainable food
6. Sustainable water
7. Habitats and wildlife
8. Culture and heritage
9. Equity and fairtrade
10. Enabling conditions

**Zero carbon glimpses:**

- Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh
- Solar Cooker, Kenya
- Rice Husks to Energy, Cambodia
- Retrofitting Buildings, Germany
- Masdar City, Abu Dhabi
- Efficient Cook Stoves, Ghana, China
- The Plant Oil Stove, Philippines
- Solar Power from the Sahara
- Supergrid, Clean Power for Europe




people, planet, prosperity



### Explore pro-poor green economics


e.g. 480M Indians depend on farms, forests, fisheries

**Ecosystem services as % GDP**



7%

**Ecosystem services as % "GDP of the Poor"**



57%

GIST's Green Accounting for Indian States Project, 2002-03



### Citizens in a green economy require:

**Rights & voice:** focus on women and equal global 'eco-space'

**Access:** to env info / decision-making / justice: Principle 10

**Choice:** available green options to meet needs (cf. wants)

**Subsidies:** shifting from bads (fossil fuels) to env/social goods

**New finance mechanisms:** social stock exchanges, very-long-term green bonds, Tobin tax...

**Means to hold govts and corporations accountable:**

- wellbeing measures (not GDP)
- integrated accounts (enc/social into monetary accounts)



### Lay out pro-poor GE options...

**Investment – in long-term resilience and competitiveness**

- Green BATs/jobs (off-grid, ICT, transport, water-saving, agric/forest)
- Finance mechanisms: social stocks, microinsurance, green bonds, Tobin
- Help local organisations that deliver (intermediaries, soc enterprise)


**Policy and govt systems – stop bad practice! And enable good**

- Legitimate, inclusive economic growth – where, for whom, with what
- Green accounting, accountability systems, (resource budgets?)
- International dimension – manage footprint, inclusive globalisation

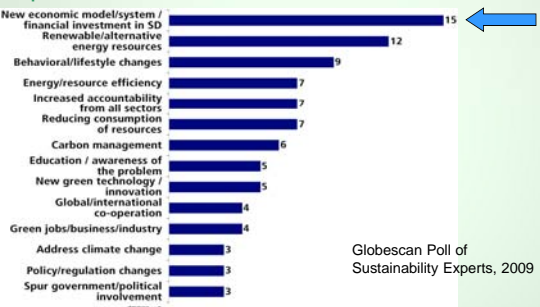
**Development paradigm, leadership and innovation**

- Govt leadership (sustainable public procurement)
- Measures: GE 'test'/indicators (ecol limits, social justice, econ resilience)

*Where/how can DFID take GE to the devt mainstream?*



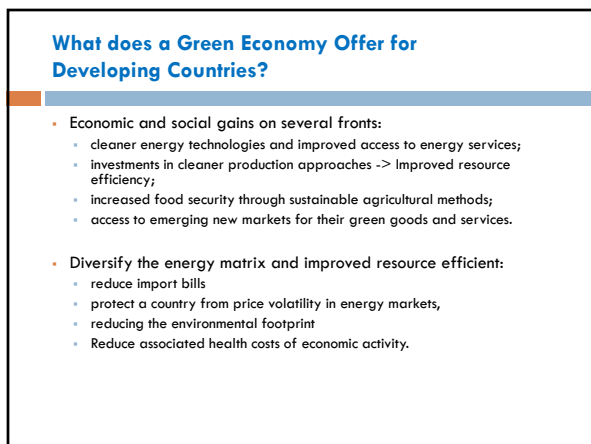
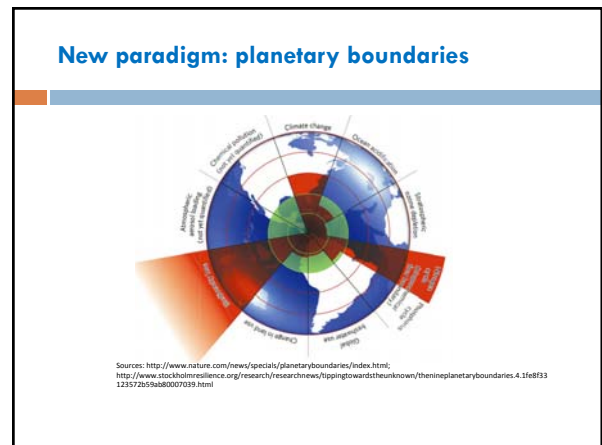
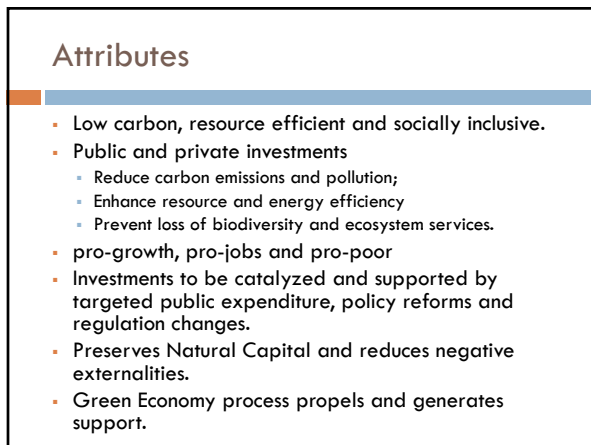
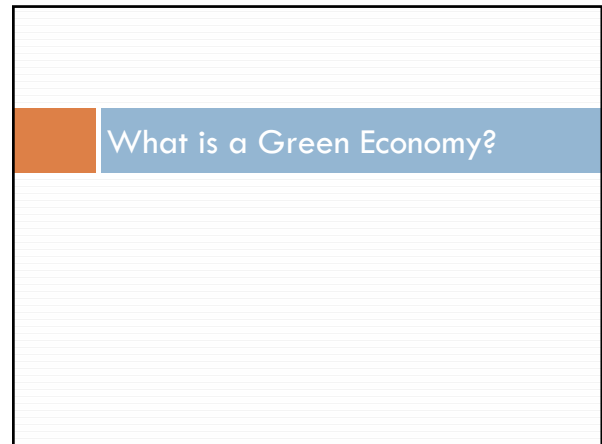
### Experts see opportunities from current crises: esp. new economic models



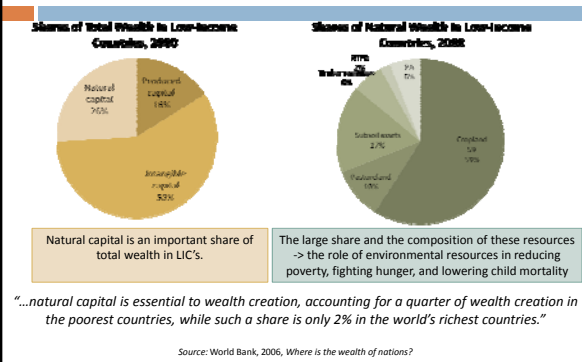
Opportunity	Value
New economic model/system / financial investment in SD	15
Renewable/alternative energy resources	12
Behavioral/lifestyle changes	9
Energy/resource efficiency	7
Increased accountability from all sectors	7
Reducing consumption of resources	7
Carbon management	6
Education / awareness of the problem	5
New green technology / innovation	5
Global/international co-operation	4
Green jobs/business/industry	4
Address climate change	3
Policy/regulation changes	3
Spur government/political involvement	3

Globescan Poll of Sustainability Experts, 2009





## Capital composition in Low Income Countries



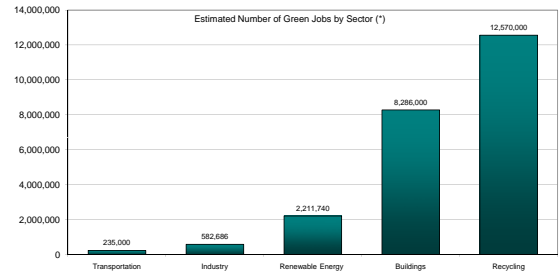
## Activities in Green Economy

1. Investment, employment, and output in key sectors of the green economy
2. Decoupling economic growth from impacts on the environment
3. Aggregate indicators of economic progress and well being, including poverty alleviation and natural capital depreciation

## A Green Economy Creates and Supports Employment

- A green economy creates jobs
  - organic agriculture,
  - renewable energy,
  - building retrofits for energy efficiency,
  - public transportation,
  - reclamation of brown-field sites,
  - Recycling and waste Management, amongst others.

## Green Jobs in the Green Jobs Report



Notes:  
 (\*) Sectors and countries for which information is available  
 - Transportation: Jobs in manufacturing green vehicles.  
 - Buildings: Including indirect jobs.

Source: Green Jobs - Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World. UNEP/UNEP/UNEP/STUD. September 2008

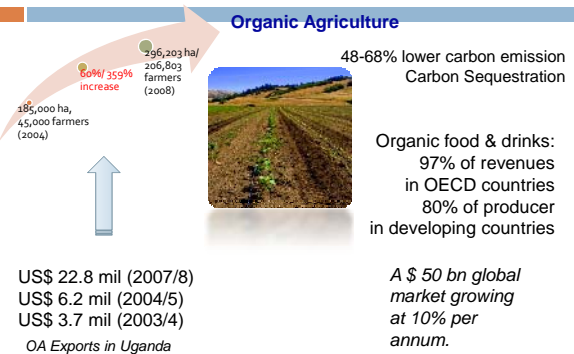
## Green Jobs Projection

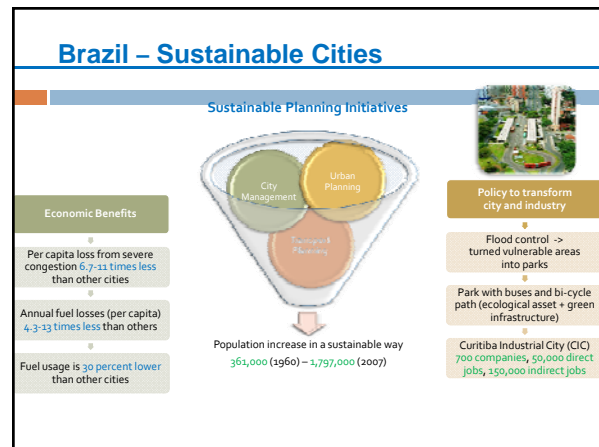
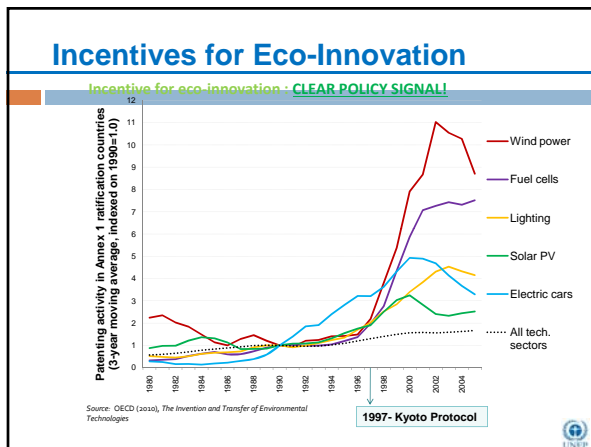
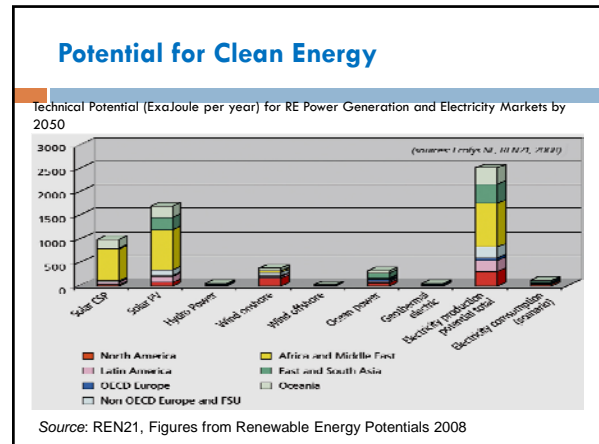
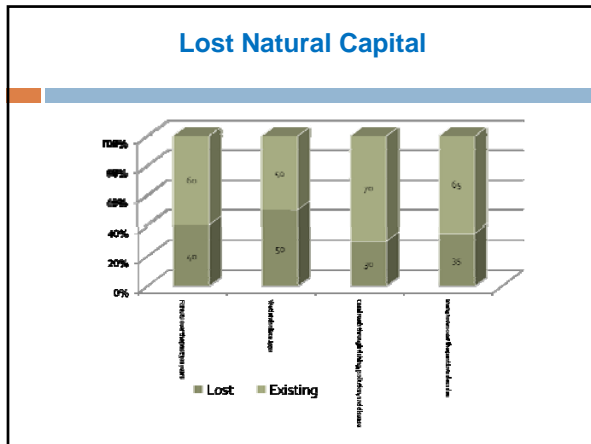
20.4 million jobs by 2030 in renewable energy

- Solar PV**
  - 6.3 million jobs by 2030
  - Source: Greenpeace and EPIA
- Biofuels**
  - 12 million jobs by 2030
  - Source: Greenpeace and GWEC
- Wind power**
  - 2.1 million jobs by 2030
  - Source: Worldwatch Institute (2006)

Source: Green Jobs Report (UNEP 2008)

## Uganda's Organic Agriculture Transformation



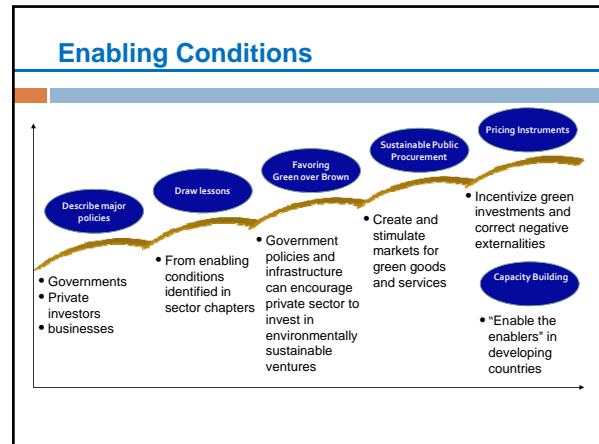


## Progress in greening: Measuring it

- ### How is a Green Economy Measured?
- Economic indicators: share of green investment or output or the share of output and employment.
  - Environmental indicators: resource use efficiency or pollution intensity - energy use/GDP, or water use/GDP
  - Aggregate indicators of progress and well-being: e.g. macroeconomic indicators to reflect natural capital depreciation, including integrated environmental and economic accounting, or broader interpretations of well-being beyond narrow definitions of per capita GDP.

### What Can Governments do to Enable a Green Economy?

- regulatory and economic instruments
- public-private partnerships
- voluntary initiatives
- public finance and fiscal measures.
- sustainable public procurement
- A legal framework that facilitates green economic activity and regulates harmful forms of production and consumption
- Building the capacity of governments and other stakeholders
- Public support



### Green Economy Advisory Services

### Green Economy Advisory Services: Five pillars

- Operationalizing GE:
  - Assessment and
  - Menu of fiscal policy options
- Models: (National and Sectoral)
  - Evidence base for projections of outcomes
  - Evidence for gap.
- Customized goals, targets and indicators
- Scaling up successful initiatives
- Engendering a process and creating support.

### Green Economy Advisory Initiatives

- Jordan
- Kenya
- Egypt
- China
- Indonesia
- Barbados
- Armenia and Moldova
- Republic of Korea

### Barbados

- Achieving a green economy is one of the six goals of Barbados National Strategic Plan for 2006-2025.

**Activities**

- A green economy scoping study led by the University of West Indies to assess macro-economic opportunities and options of a green economic transformation – ongoing.
- A regional conference on green economy in the Caribbean in 2011.

**Expected outcomes**

- Macro-economic assessments that contribute to the implementation of the medium-term development plan 2010-2014.
- Setting the stage for a regional initiative on green economy in the Caribbean region, in the context of regional integration and the creation of a common market in the Caribbean region.

## Indonesia

The government of Indonesia set the objective of reducing its carbon emissions by 41 per cent by 2020 (with international support).

### Activities

- A national green economy workshop was held in September 2010 involving several government ministries, donors and stakeholders.
- Sectoral studies in the building, tourism and forests sectors.
- Assessment of policy instruments focusing on fiscal reform and government procurement.

### Expected outcomes

- Sectoral assessments and policy reforms to support a transition to a low-carbon economy.
- A programme on REDD and green economy launched in Indonesia.

## Kenya

- An Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up involving several government ministries, including finance, energy, agriculture, housing ...to develop a green economy programme for Kenya.
- A renewable energy feed-in-tariff (FIT) introduced in 2008 is expected to stimulate generation of 1300 MW of power, nearly a doubling of Kenya's current installed capacity.

### Activities

- Macro-economic assessment in support of the development of a green economy programme for Kenya.
- A workshop hosted with the Inter-Ministerial Committee in Jan. 2011.
- A national green economy conference scheduled for April 2011.

### Expected outcomes

- An economic assessment to contribute to the development of a green economy programme, incl. costs and benefits of expanding the FIT.

## More Information

UNEP Green Economy Website

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/>

## Regional Dialogue on the Search for a New Economy in the Caribbean

### Situation Analysis

The factors that have contributed to the emergence of the Green Economy concept are all relevant to the Caribbean

- Economic volatility and vulnerability
- Climate change
- Environmental degradation and unsustainable natural resource use

### How Caribbean governments are responding


- Most in a crisis management mode with little room to manoeuvre
- But a few innovative initiatives
  - Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy
  - Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan
  - Nevis energy self-sufficiency policy
  - Barbados Green Economy policy process

### How other development sectors are responding

- Private sector mostly “weathering out the crisis”
- Civil society and academia too dispersed and voices too weak to drive changes
- Regional institutions addressing effects rather than underlying causes

### Where change is needed


- The overarching policy environment
- Institutional structures
- Market structures and incentives
- Energy production and consumption
- Public engagement and demand




## A Caribbean New Economy & Tourism - A Wider Perspective

Prepared and Presented by

McHale ANDREW  
Executive Vice-President SLHTA





## Introduction

- What really is Tourism?
  - Expansion of market size on daily basis
  - Opportunity for provision of good or service to expanded market
  - Exporting within national borders
- Who benefits from tourism?
  - Direct, Indirect and Induced impacts

Caribbean New Economy 2




## Overview

- Travel & Tourism largest sector in the world economy
- Significant element of economic activity in almost every country
- Caribbean region has highest tourism penetration level in the world !
- OF THE 10 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD MOST DEPENDENT ON TOURISM, 7 ARE IN THE CARIBBEAN !!



Caribbean New Economy 3




## Caribbean Tourism Trends

- 23.1 million stayover arrivals, 20.2 million cruise ship passenger visits and US\$23 billion spent in 2010
- 2.3% share of World Tourism arrivals with < 1% of world population
- More than 50% of World cruise tourism destination ~ 10% Yacht Market share & market share

Caribbean New Economy 4

## Challenges Facing Region's Tourism:

- How to:
  - *optimize* relationship between **demand** for goods and services generated by non-residents on one hand and, on the other hand, the **overall domestic supply** of these goods and services
  - offer a consistent/competitive **value-for-money proposition** reflective of region's allure and its people's needs/aspirations

Caribbean New Economy 5




## Yet....reality is :

- Extremely high level of import leakage
- Weak economic/sectoral linkages
- Social inequity
- Environmental degradation
- Too much hubris, division and myopia within sector

Caribbean New Economy 6



***New Approach Required :-***

- Holistic, People Centred
- Approach to tourism mirrors that to crime:
  - Unimaginative
  - Superficial
  - Myopic

Caribbean New Economy 7



***Development:***

- Not One- Dimensional Economic Advancement
- Must Embrace ***Triple Bottom line:***
  1. Economic Competitiveness
  2. Social Equity
  3. Environmental Sustainability

Caribbean New Economy 8



***Way Forward***

- International/Regional/ National Coordination
- Build "coalition of change"
- Inward Stretch/Outward Reach
- Replication of Best Practices
- Sharing of information & Experiences



Caribbean New Economy 9




Caribbean New Economy 10



***Dangers***

- Esotericism
- Malicious Compliance
- Unrealistic/Unsustainable
- Blindly following International Agenda

Caribbean New Economy 11



***THE END.... Thank You***

Caribbean New Economy 12



## Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study

University of the West Indies (Cave Hill): A Partner for  
Building a Resource Efficient Barbados

## Formal Engagement of UWI

- December 16, 2010 Cabinet Commitment to Building a Resource Efficient Green Economy

## Barbados- A Background

- Small Island Open Economy
- GDP
- Population
- Major Sectors
- Natural Resource Base
- Signatory to several MEAs
- CARICOM Member State

## Barbados- Pursuing Sustainable Development

- Historical Commitment to Social, Economic & Environmental Goals
- Commitment to Further Implement the Rio Outcomes & BPOA/MSI

## BPOA Context

- “1. The survival of small island developing States is firmly rooted in their **human resources and cultural heritage, which are their most significant assets**; those assets are under severe stress and all efforts must be taken to ensure the central position of people in the process of sustainable development.”
- “2. Sustainable development programmes must seek to enhance the quality of life of peoples, including their health, well-being and safety.”

## Green Economy Defined

- An integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system that at its core
- reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems as the basis for
  - **natural resource protection policy intervention,**
  - **business and investment choice,**
  - **human development programming, and the**
  - facilitation of **export market development strategies**

## Barbados' Recent Policy Milestones: Green Economy

- 2006-2025 NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN
- 2007 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY STATEMENT
- 2009 Commitment by the new Minister of Finance and Prime Minister
- 2010-2014 MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

## Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS)

### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

...to support and complement national initiatives on green economy, through macroeconomic economic assessments and policy analysis with a view to better understand how government policies and public and private investment can help achieve the fundamental macroeconomic objectives of income growth, economic development/diversification, and job creation, following a path that also contributes to social equity and environmental improvement.

## GESS Institutional Arrangement

### UWI & UNEP TEAM MEMBERS:

- Macroeconomists
- Resource Economists
- Fiscal Policy Analysts
- Resource Efficiency Specialists
- Sectoral Experts: Tourism, Agriculture, Transport, Building/Housing
- Cross Sectoral Issues Experts: Water, Waste, Energy

## GESS Institutional Arrangement

### GESS TECHNICAL STERING COMMITTEE (GTSC)

- Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Public Investment Unit
- Ministry of Environment (including Environmental Protection Dept)
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry Agriculture
- Ministry of Housing

## GESS Institutional Arrangement

### GESS TECHNICAL STERING COMMITTEE (GTSC)

- Ministry of Transport and Works
- Energy Division
- Town and Country Development Planning Office
- Government Information Service
- Barbados Investment Development Corporation
- Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- The Barbados Sustainable Finance Group

## Expected Outcomes

- Macro-economic assessment
- Policy recommendations
- Contribution to formulation of a national strategy on Green Economy.

## Related On-going Initiatives

- Barbados Sustainable Energy Framework
- Trade and Environment Programme
- SCP& the 10YFF- Agriculture and Tourism
- National Capacity Assessment - MEAs
- Climate change Policy
- Waste and Sanitation Upgrade Project
- Coastal Risk Assessment

## Issues to Consider Under the GESS

- Which models do we use? What suits us?
- Legal Framework
- How do we assess our policies? Understanding Real Policy Impacts
- Information for decision making – What indicators do we need?
- Best practices – local, regional and international
- Strategic engagement of various publics - sectors
- Role of civil society
- Self Assessment

## Lessons for Dialogue

- Caribbean is a history lesson in pursuing Sustainable Development
- 1994 Programme of Action for SIDS- highly relevant to the Green Economy- where are we?
- Synergies are critical with SCP, Climate Change and Energy
- Civil Society engagement and voice is critical as we move to Rio and beyond
- Need to focus on implementation- requires a harmonized approach to MEAs, etc
- Partnerships are important (UNEP, Govt, civil society)

## Thank You

### **Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS)**

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## **Gender and the Green Economy**

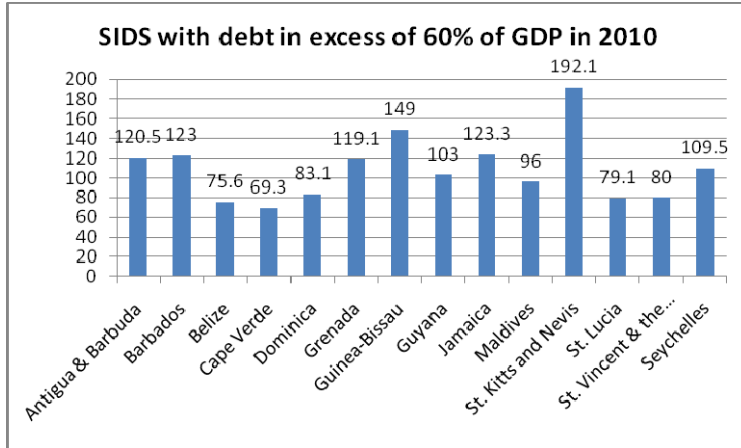
I am neither an environmentalist nor an economist. But I understand the challenge is that of meeting the growing population needs and wants with diminishing natural resources.

The literature tells us that a green economy (GE) can be defined as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. A GE is characterized by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that build on and enhance the Earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks.

And so we are not just looking a green economy, but something more technicolor- part green, part pink (if we take that hue as symbolizing equity) and part black, as in living within ones means and not in excess. What we have now are economies and societies that are metaphorically coloured quite differently. Our economies are brown in that we are not made the shift to environmentally-conscious collective and individual ways of living, producing and consuming, we are not pink but something way bleaker given the levels of poverty and social exclusion and we are well in the red.

It is in the present context of cascading implications of the global recession that we having this meeting, a meeting in which we seek to share ideas about moving our economies out of debt, into vibrant sustainability. Caribbean countries are no strangers to economic challenge or crisis, nor are their populations distant from hard times. Yet, the current crisis is being felt in acute ways by Caribbean populations and by Caribbean governments who find themselves between the winds of high indebtedness, declining economic activity and revenue, limitations on natural capital and the rough weather of population needs for social protection and greater economic security.

The debt to GDP ratio is well over 100% in Antigua & Barbuda, St Kitts, and Grenada and is projected for Barbados to be over 100% in 2010/2011.



Source: Jason Jackson: *Individual Governments and IMF Article IV Consultations and Review Documents*

And the needs are significant as so many in the region are poor. Recent studies for the Eastern Caribbean:

St. Lucia 28.8	Grenada 35.3	St. Vincent 30.2	St. Kitts 23.7
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I have been asked to bring something of a gender lens to the analysis of the challenges and imperatives of constructing a green economy. Simply, I would say that this request of UN Women is entirely relevant for there are very little in the realm of socio-economic policy making where the realities of women and men, boys and girls do not have their own specificity. And there can be no doubt that structural fragility has differing consequences on women and men in the labour market and consequentially in the society. Or that men and women may well be differently placed to participate or take advantage of green economy opportunities.

To start with what gender analysis offers: simply it is a tool, an analytical tool that leads to a better understanding of the socially constructed differences between women and men in their lived realities, their roles, responsibilities, opportunities and access to resources and assets. Gender is but one social divider and intersects with other bases of difference such as economic class, ethnicity, age, disability, orientation for example.

The premise of gender analysis is that there is little by way of policy making that is gender-neutral in its impacts. Policy and programmes impact people where they actually are, can either reinforce exclusion or create opportunities to those who are marginal or excluded. Gender analysis gives us our best chance for policy making that takes account of differences between the situation of women and men and addresses explicitly those differences for the purpose of equity and equality- process and outcome.

So we need to be thinking here about where women and men are located; thinking about the location of women and men in the twin spheres of the private and public- in the public economy and in the social economy of care.

In this presentation, I want to focus on to main differences in the realities of women and men as we think of transitioning to the green economy.

1) The care economy

3) The structure of the labour market

### **The Care Economy**

Although some studies are showing that the global decline is having differential gender impacts depending on labour market participation and economic structures of countries, I am not sure that I find it compelling to tally up who is more affected. Is it a recession or a shecession? I want to take as a given that both men and women are harshly affected, and more so women and men who are already because of intersecting inequalities such as class, living in dire poverty and exclusion But gender analysis does help us with prescriptions for appropriate action.

I would argue that there is a particularity to women's economic situation that demands attention when we put our minds to thinking about target populations for the transition to green economies and the opportunities that may arise. What is this particularity? Simply, women's burden of care and the negative multiplier effects of women's poverty. Where children are women's responsibility, then women's poverty is children's poverty and in this transmission of intergenerational poverty, societies are impoverished and vulnerable to the host of social challenges associated with poverty. Now over 50% of households in many countries are female headed households. For example, In Grenada, 40% percent of children living in non-nuclear households live with their mothers only, compared to 3% who live with their fathers only. Furthermore, in Grenada, over 60% of elderly persons that reside with one of their children live with a daughter.<sup>1</sup>

Women's burden of care is heavy in the region. Many women heads are caring by themselves, without sometimes a robust family safety net or a partner. And many studies show that on average more of women's resources and capital are dedicated to familial wellbeing, less on recreation, less on discretionary spending.

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Grenada (2005) Core Welfare Indicators Survey, CDB/UNDP, St. Georges

Where children are women's responsibility, then women's unemployment or low waged labour leads to children's poverty.

### **Labour market structures**

Levels of unemployment and under-employment are quite high across the region, with the consequential growth in the informal economy. Sex segregation in the labour market is also quite evident with women clustered in the services (tourism, administration, financial) sectors and men in construction, crafts, mining and the energy sector.

In the informal economy there is also the research suggests quite a sharp distinction in the location of women and men which is worth thinking about as we plot the opportunities for building a green economy. Women tend by and large to be in retail, typically time and labour intensive yet low yielding. Men are in construction related occupations.

And the majority of Caribbean workers are still relatively uncertificated and unskilled.

### **The implications:**

Active labor market policies and broad social protections are therefore essential to ensure a fair and just transition to a green economy for workers and their communities. This must involve income protection as well as adequate retraining and educational opportunities.

### **The need for targeted social protection:**

Notwithstanding the confluence of low income employment, under-employment and unemployment with the burden of child care, there are few countries which provide social safety net support to these households. The work of the OECS shows that a paltry 12% of social safety net funds go to single women headed households. UNIFEM/UNICEF studies of social welfare programmes show that low income women's status of single heads is not a qualifying criterion for eligibility for social welfare payments. The work that UNICEF and UNIFEM are doing now in collaboration with the OECS is calling for integrated social safety net policy. We are not asking states to spend more. They spend between 2-4 percent of GDP on SSN. Rather we are suggesting a comprehensive approach with well defined principles, with well defined outcome statements, with more appropriate and transparent targeting and which ultimately meets the needs to those in most need to move towards self-reliance and out of poverty.

Green economy initiatives must empower and here I take Maxine Molyneux definition of empowerment: the acquisition of capabilities which have the potential to assist people in

achieving autonomy (legal and material), equality (social and personal) and voice and influence (over decisions that affect their lives).

And so green economy initiatives must incorporate concerns for training and resources are allocated to enhance women's and men's capabilities; social and economic empowerment.

### **The Education Sector:**

Simply, Caribbean populations are not being well schooled or educated to make the transition to the green economy with all of its implications for creativity and innovation, particularly in the fields of applied technologies.

CXC data suggests that 70% of youth leaving school with less than 2 CXC passes and few productive skills. In St Kitts and Nevis over half of men and women in the poorest income quintile have no formal educational certification. (UNICEF-UNIFEM, St Kitts and Nevis Social Safety Net Analysis, 2009). The August 2007 *Survey of Living Conditions* in Antigua and Barbuda shows 29% of the population have only primary school education, suggesting that almost a third of the entire workforce has very limited formal education. The gender disparities are also clear. While there is little difference amongst men and women at the lowest level of educational attainment, 54% of women versus 46% of men have only a primary school education, by the secondary school level the disparity grows to 58% versus 42%, and further to 64% versus 36% at the Antigua State College.

Despite significant investments in the education sector in all countries (ranging from 3.5% percent to 6.7% of GDP in 2008 for five countries in the Eastern Caribbean), issues of access, inclusiveness, quality and relevance of the sector are apparent. While gains have been made in the extension of universal primary and more latterly secondary education, the dominant model emphasizes academic certification with lesser attention to the building of technical and vocational skills and with limited resourcing for remedial or early childhood education.

The investments in the education sector, mostly in meeting recurrent expenses do not realize the expected gains in a flexible, creative labour force since the majority of young adults leave school with few labour market skills or certification.

These issues are critical from the standpoint of subregional development interventions programming through the related programmatic perspectives of workforce development and youth entrepreneurship. These issues are also critical to securing youth resilience to drugs and criminal or asocial activities.

So we start off knowing that we have a significant "skills gap" in meeting the needs for the green economy. There is a need to put appropriate education and training arrangements in



place. The best approach—whether to focus on trade schools, universities, on-the-job training in the workplace. Solid R&D, engineering, and manufacturing capacities are a critical aspect of building green industries and jobs. Indeed, some occupations in the renewables sector or in energy efficiency require highly educated and even quite specialized personnel, including a variety of technicians, engineers, and skilled trades. And green employment is not limited to high-end skills. There are many positions that demand a broad array of skill and experience levels, especially in installation, operations, and maintenance.

Let us start with the things we can change- reforming the education sector, changing consumption patterns, including energy consumption and managing the environment.

Roberta Clarke

2 February 2011

## Caribbean New Economy Dialogue

### Towards a Green and *Resilient* Economy for the Caribbean

#### Draft Position Paper for Review and Further Discussion Among Stakeholders

*“A Green Economy is a new approach to economic and social growth embracing ecological and eco-friendly principles and guidelines that will lead towards sustainable livelihood practices and development at community, national and regional levels.”*

(Definition of a Green Economy proposed by a participant at the Caribbean New Economy Dialogue, February 2011)

#### INTRODUCTION

The term “green economy” has recently emerged to describe a form of development that addresses in a holistic way the multiple economic and environmental challenges confronting the world. The concept is rapidly being picked up in international development arenas, and the way in which it is understood and applied will have major implications for developing countries. In order to assure that the evolution of the concept is based on actual needs and priorities, the Green Economy Coalition is sponsoring a series of national and regional dialogues around the world. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and the University of the West Indies were invited to design and organize such a dialogue for the Caribbean. One output of the dialogue process is expected to be a regional “position paper” to guide actions and positions taken by Caribbean countries at national, regional and international levels.

As an initial step in the process, a multi-stakeholder workshop was held in Trinidad in February 2011, to develop a working draft that can be taken further through a widening discussion throughout the region over the coming months. This draft paper thus reflects a broad but as yet incomplete picture on what a Caribbean green economy could look like and aim to achieve. Clearly the final picture that emerges from the process must be one that reflects perspectives from the widest possible range of stakeholders and that accepts the inevitability and value of diverging opinion. This implies an ongoing and consciously inclusive process involving a series of discussions as well as a range of other opportunities for input.

While this Caribbean process can and should influence international initiatives, it deliberately does not reflect the premises of those initiatives or draw on the growing body of literature on green economy, much of which is based on Northern experience, opportunities and perspectives. The aim of the process is not to align the Caribbean with an international consensus on green economy, but rather to allow the Caribbean’s own unique development pathway to emerge and inform international understanding and action.

#### WHY THE DIALOGUE IS RELEVANT AND TIMELY

Unsustainable global economic growth over the last few decades is breaching ecological limits, increasing social inequality and resultant instability, and intensifying the eventual magnitude of climate change. These interacting global developments are mirrored at the local level, threatening the political, economic, social and ecological viability of Caribbean states. Yet the region has the opportunity to use this global moment of crisis to its advantage, by developing an inter-connected and mutually reinforcing response aimed at building the resilience of its natural, social and economic systems to both internal and external impacts and shocks. The major underlying objectives of such a response are the furthering of social equity, environmental sustainability, cultural resilience, economic competitiveness and good governance.

The Green Economy concept offers a lens to view this enduring quest for sustainable development from a fresh perspective, by centring the discussion on the challenge of economic development that is equitable, sustainable and resilient. In such a way the discussion is able to engage new audiences, including the private sector, labour, consumers

and economists, and to speak more directly to key issues of public policy, both nationally and internationally.

### **RATIONALE FOR SHIFTING TO A GREEN ECONOMY**

The current economic paradigm has failed to address many of the major problems facing the region; these problems in turn contribute to continuing economic and environmental vulnerability.

**Poverty and social inequality:** Per capita income ranges widely, from \$24,233 in Trinidad and Tobago to only \$949 in Haiti. Many countries are classified as “middle income”, but with wide, and growing, economic disparities. For example, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Jamaica are all estimated to have poverty rates of around 30%. Levels of poverty and near-poverty have increased with the current economic crisis, with declining educational performance also contributing to rapidly increasing rates of unemployment. Poverty is often linked to issues of social inequality. The region has a large percentage of female-headed households, many below or close to the poverty line. Underproductive domestic sectors and dependence on volatile external markets have contributed to the persistence of poverty in the region.

**Disaster risk:** The region is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, including hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides, which have caused tremendous loss of life as well as environmental, social and economic impacts (in some cases exceeding 180% of GDP<sup>1</sup>). Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, droughts and other climate-related hazards. The current strategy of externalizing the costs of disasters on the assumption that the state or international aid agencies will cover them is unreliable and unsustainable.

**Public indebtedness:** Levels of public debt have skyrocketed in recent years, with combined external and domestic debt ranging from over 70% to nearly 200%<sup>2</sup>. The cost of debt servicing has been eroding state capacity, making this economic crisis feel especially acute. The burden of the adjustments that have been made to public services have been largely felt by those who need the services the most, thus contributing to further poverty and social inequity.

**Diminishing sectoral benefits:** Returns from key economic sectors have been decreasing. In the tourism industry, growth now brings only marginal net benefits to the region, largely because of the sector's heavy reliance on imported goods and services. The agricultural industry, long the mainstay of the rural economy, has been neglected into virtual stagnation. In the energy sector, unsustainable consumption and lack of investment are shrinking the benefit-cost ratio even in oil-producing countries such as Trinidad and Tobago. There is insufficient effort to create mutually reinforcing sectoral linkages, which could increase sectoral resilience while reducing dependency on imports.

### **FACTORS LOCKING THE REGION INTO ITS CURRENT PARADIGM**

While the need for a new direction is widely acknowledged, the obstacles to shifting to a new economic paradigm are formidable, and include:

**Political disincentives:** Few politicians are prepared to take substantive leadership towards changes that could alienate powerful interest groups that benefit from the current paradigm. Divisive partisan politics in most countries reduces the ability of any government to achieve the political consensus required to make major policy shifts.

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<sup>1</sup> ECLAC figures impact of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada and The Cayman Islands.

<sup>2</sup> ECLAC. 2008. *Public Debt Sustainability in the Caribbean*. Port of Spain, Trinidad: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Weak bottom-up demand:** Over the past twenty years the influence of civil society on national and regional development has declined significantly. Some of the roles once played by NGOs have been captured by the state; financial support for civil society work has therefore declined; issues that created a sense of solidarity among civil society and academia in earlier decades are no longer on the table; and few young people are engaging in development action and debate. As a result, civil society organizations are becoming increasingly demoralized and dispersed, despite the continued leadership and engagement of a few.

**Declining human resource base:** The region has for decades suffered from significant brain drain; this is now being compounded by the poor performance of national education systems. In many countries, drop-out rates are at all-time highs, especially for boys, and rates of illiteracy and innumeracy are increasing. For example, over 70% of boy school leavers in Jamaica failed their qualification exam in maths. Most countries also lack any system of training in skills that match the opportunities available. Skilled jobs are often outsourced or filled by outsiders, and opportunities to add value to existing sectors through enhanced human resources are lost.

**Outdated and inadequate regulatory frameworks:** Existing legal frameworks and regulations do not encourage improved environmental and economic practices or innovations that could create new, sustainable economic opportunities. In some cases, they actually encourage perverse practices.

#### **FOUNDATION FOR SHIFTING TO A GREEN AND RESILIENT ECONOMY**

A shift to a more resilient and green economic pathway must be built upon a more secure, equitable and democratic foundation. The key elements of that foundation include:

**A shared vision**, across political parties, nations, and sectors of society, which demonstrates a sense of a shared Caribbean identity and commitment to the collective social good.

**Human security**, including equitable access to health care, education, and economic opportunity.

**Good governance** that is democratic and transparent and that encourages respectful dialogue involving all sectors of society.

**A strong research and information base**, for understanding the underlying causes of problems and developing effective and efficient solutions.

**A well-educated citizenry** that is exposed to a wide range of ideas and perspectives and has the skills and tools to participate actively in the economy.

**Involved young people** who have a vision of the region's potential and the talents and motivation to become its future leaders.

**An informed and mobilized civil society** that takes a prominent role in national and regional debates on development priorities, that engages effectively with all sectors of society, that gives priority to the needs of the poor and marginalized, and that reflects a diversity of viewpoints and ideologies.

**A commitment to pan-Caribbean cooperation** across existing political, cultural and linguistic divides, and extending throughout the Caribbean diaspora, in order to expand economic markets and opportunities, facilitate the exchange of skills and labour, reduce dependence on uncontrollable external economic drivers, spread risk and increase resilience.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREEN ECONOMY**

In the context of the Caribbean, a green economy is one that aims for long-term prosperity, rather than solely for growth, through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective

management of ecological resources. It is economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks; self-directed and not driven by external agendas or funding opportunities, and self-reliant by being based predominantly on domestic production and investment. A Caribbean green economy is pro-poor and generates decent jobs and working conditions that offer opportunities for self-advancement for local people. Other characteristics of a Caribbean green economy include these:

- Industries optimize the relationship between demand and domestically produced supply.
- Best practices are rewarded and bad practices discouraged.
- Businesses apply “triple bottom line” principles to produce net flows of economic, social and environmental benefits.
- The needs and constraints of specific groups such as female single heads of households are addressed in labour and welfare policies and practices.
- Educational systems and options offer young people knowledge, disciplines and skills that are relevant to their lives and potential career opportunities.
- Dependency on imported or high carbon sources of energy is reduced and eliminated where feasible.
- Available natural, human, cultural and physical resources are used efficiently based on realistic assessment and optimal deployment.
- Positive and mutually reinforcing intersectoral and rural-urban economic linkages are created.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOVING TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY NOW**

Developing this vision of a green and resilient economy for the Caribbean can be best achieved through a mutually reinforcing process of discussion and action. Many opportunities for action that can move the region forward while broadening and strengthening the dialogue exist now. This preliminary list of opportunities, with progress already being made on some of them, offers an initial agenda for action over the coming year by different stakeholders, from governments and regional organizations to businesses and NGOs.

***Learn from and scale up best practices***, including traditional practices, through the creation of action learning groups and establishment of demonstration centres of excellence.

***Take an integrated development planning approach***, as Jamaica is doing with its Vision 2030 National Development Plan, using a resilience lens to consider and strengthen planning laws and regulatory frameworks.

***Complete the establishment of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy*** to build resilience by increasing regional integration through the free movement of labour and capital.

***Negotiate trade agreements that build resilience***, such as the one currently being negotiated between CARICOM and Canada, which includes strong environmental and labour protections.

***Create incentives for sustainable practices***, including energy efficiency, use of renewable energy and waste recycling.

***Transform the housing sector*** through regulatory frameworks that discourage waste and encourage energy efficiency and sustainable construction materials.

***Move existing industries up the value chain***, through greater emphasis on the generation of high-skill services and value added products, in sectors such as energy, tourism, agriculture, and the cultural industries. This can increase returns on investment, reduce vulnerability to competition and expand employment opportunities.

***Diversify export markets*** to reduce dependency on a small number of trading partners; reach out to currently underdeveloped markets such as Latin America.

***Build local markets to serve the diaspora***, for example through the development of food market chains servicing Caribbean communities abroad.

***Develop business continuity plans***, at scales from micro-enterprise to industry-wide, to enhance resilience to shocks such as natural disasters.

***Tap existing but unexploited incentives*** to stimulate green jobs and businesses; for example, through REDD+ facilities or the Trinidad and Tobago Green Fund.