

ISSN 1727-9917

S E R I E S

**STUDIES AND
PERSPECTIVES**

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL
HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy

Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report

Charmaine Gomes
Vasantha Chase



UNITED NATIONS

E C L A C

Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy

Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report

Charmaine Gomes
Vasanthi Chase



UNITED NATIONS



This document has been prepared by Charmaine Gomes, Sustainable Development Officer of the Sustainable Development Unit of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

ECLAC appreciates the contributions of member States of the Caribbean in informing this report and gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Dr. Vasantha Chase, consultant, in the preparation of the final manuscript.

The views expressed in this document, which has been reproduced without formal editing, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Organization.

United Nations publication

ISSN 1727-9917

LC/L.3762

LC/CAR/L.431

Copyright © United Nations, February 2014. All rights reserved.

Printed at United Nations, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Member States and their governmental institutions may reproduce this work without prior authorization, but are requested to mention the source and inform the United Nations of such reproduction.

Contents

Introduction	5
I. The Caribbean subregion	9
II. Progress made in implementing the BPoA and MSI	15
III. Challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS in implementing the BPoA and MSI	35
A. Some specifics of the challenges of the BPoA and MSI implementation in the Caribbean... 37	
1. Climate change and sea level rise	37
2. Natural and environmental disasters	37
3. Management of wastes.....	37
4. Coastal and marine resources.....	38
5. Freshwater resources.....	38
6. Land resources	38
7. Energy resources	39
8. Tourism resources.....	39
9. Biodiversity resources.....	39
10. Social vulnerabilities.....	39
11. Other challenges.....	42
IV. Gaps in implementing the BPoA and MSI	45
V. New and emerging issues for the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS	47
A. Non-communicable diseases.....	47
B. Sustainable exploitation and management of the economic exclusive zone (blue economy) and the need for national oceans governance mechanisms	48
C. Impact of global economic crisis on resource mobilization and financial flows to Caribbean SIDS	48
D. Impact of globalization, trade liberalization and international tax regulationson the competitiveness of Caribbean SIDS.....	49
E. Impact of cyber crime on information driven economic and social sectors.....	49
F. Impact of global cultural penetration on national social capital.....	49

G.	A new paradigm for building social resilience in the Caribbean	49
H.	Using culture and cultural industries to build Caribbean social resilience.....	50
I.	Crime and citizen security.....	50
J.	Employment creation and poverty reduction	51
K.	Other new and emerging issues for Caribbean SIDS	51
VI.	Priorities of Caribbean SIDS for the Third International Conference for SIDS	53
VII.	Proposals for practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies for the further implementation of the BPoA and MSI in the Caribbean	57
A.	Sources of financial support for Caribbean SIDS	57
1.	Public private partnerships (PPPs).....	58
2.	Remittances as a development tool.....	58
3.	Pooling of resources.....	58
4.	Financing small infrastructure projects at the sub-national level.....	59
5.	Financing climate change resilience	59
6.	More targeted, productive foreign direct investment	59
B.	Post-2015 development agenda.....	60
C.	The Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development.....	60
D.	The green economy in the Caribbean.....	60
E.	The natural accounting workstreams and initiatives	60
F.	The sustainable development goals (SDGs).....	61
VIII.	Implications for the Caribbean.....	69
	Bibliography	71
	Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean: issues published.....	73

Tables

TABLE 1	CARIBBEAN SIDS AT A GLANCE.....	10
TABLE 2	CARIBBEAN GDP GROWTH RATES 2007-2013.....	11
TABLE 3	UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2006-2012.....	13
TABLE 4	A COMPARISON OF THE BPOA AND MSI THEMATIC AREAS BY CARICOM COUNTRIES	17
TABLE 5	CARIBBEAN SIDS: EMERGING ISSUES, NEW PRIORITIES AND PRACTICAL ACTIONS.....	62

Introduction

The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from the 25 April – 6 May 1994. This culminated in the Declaration of Barbados¹ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.² Ten years later an International Meeting to Review Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10–14 January 2005. This international meeting, in turn, resulted in the Mauritius Declaration³ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI).⁴

The 20 year review of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known as Rio+20) in the outcome document *The Future We Want* (paragraph 180) called for the convening in 2014 of a Third International Conference On Small Island Developing States (SIDS), recognising the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS, and invited the 66th Session of the General Assembly to determine the modalities of the conference.

The subsequent General Assembly modality resolution (A/C.2/67/207) welcomed the offer of the Government of Samoa to host the Conference and decided, *inter alia*, in paragraph 5 that the Conference should:

- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) building on, *inter alia*, existing reports and relevant processes;

¹ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Ibid.* annex II.

- Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPoA and MSI, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;
- Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community;
- Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

The resolution also called for “a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document.” SIDS from all regions (AIMS,⁵ the Caribbean and the Pacific) has also expressed their desire to highlight successful partnerships and areas of innovation.

There are a number of reports, emanating from meetings of the United Nations that are important to preparations leading up to the Third Conference. These include, inter alia:

- The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)⁶ including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States;
- The outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the MSI⁷ held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010;
- Resolution 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its previous resolutions on the subject;
- The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States;
- The Leaders’ Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012;
- The reports of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the MSI;⁹
- The review of United Nations system support to SIDS¹⁰ and concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA) and the MSI.¹¹

In the Caribbean, preparations for this Third International Conference on SIDS are currently underway, and began with multi stakeholder national preparatory processes. The outcomes of these preparations will inform a Caribbean regional meeting which will be convened from 2–4 July 2013, followed by an inter-regional preparatory meeting scheduled for Barbados in August 2013. The global process will begin in early 2014 with the partners adding their voices to those of the SIDS in advancing their sustainable development, strengthening partnerships, and contributing to the wider dialogue on a sustainable future for all.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of the focal point for SIDS and has embarked on a process of documenting progress made by Caribbean SIDS in implementing the MSI; the concrete actions taken in order to achieve the targets; best practices; and,

⁵ Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea.

⁶ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁷ Resolution 65/2.

⁸ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁹ A/65/115.

¹⁰ A/66/218.

¹¹ A/66/278.

importantly, the new and emerging issues that they are now facing as well as new and existing opportunities that may contribute to the development agenda. To this end ECLAC, together with the United Nations Development Group and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held, “The Caribbean Forum: Shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the 21st century”, which took place in Bogota, Colombia, from 5–6 March 2013, followed by the Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the development agenda beyond 2015 and Rio+20, which met from 7–9 March 2013.

The discussions at the Caribbean Forum revolved around key issues, including the need to: eradicate poverty; address Caribbean countries’ vulnerability to climate change; improve health services; and diminish violence. Regarding the need to increase financial flows from and into the subregion, many participants stressed that most Caribbean countries are considered as middle-income countries and, are therefore no longer eligible to be considered for certain types of development assistance. The role of the private sector, banking and new sources of development were emphasized in this regard. The adopted conclusions were considered by many as a useful identification of an agenda for future discussions at the regional and global levels to bring to the Third International Conference on SIDS, as well as a roadmap to address sustainable development in the subregion that could be integrated into the agenda at the regional level as a contribution to the post-2015 development agenda.

This report seeks to document the progress that Caribbean SIDS have made in implementing the BPoA/MSI and will highlight the potential challenges that they have faced and are expected to face in so doing. Furthermore any new and emerging issues will be presented and the expected plan of action by Caribbean SIDS to address these will be examined. The report will also enable Caribbean SIDS to prepare for the Third International Conference of SIDS by reviewing the BPoA and MSI, while focusing on priorities for the upcoming Conference in 2014.

The report is intended to cover all of the 19 islands identified by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and small island developing States (OHRLLS) to be within the Caribbean subregion. However, countries within the Caribbean subregion are members of the English-speaking Commonwealth, the Spanish-speaking Organization of Ibero-American States, or the French-speaking La Francophonie Group.

This report, in preparation for the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, is an attempt to document in a coherent manner, the perspectives and findings of the national assessment reports (NARs) and to prepare a regional synthesis of national processes following the common framework analysis of common themes of national reports. This synthesis report is to focus on:

- Progress made in implementing the BPoA and MSI;
- Challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS in implementing the BPoA and MSI;
- Priorities for Caribbean SIDS for the Third International Conference for SIDS;
- Proposals for practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies for the further implementation of the BPoA and the MSI;
- New and emerging issues for the sustainable development of SIDS, in the Caribbean;
- Challenges and barriers that Caribbean SIDS may encounter in addressing new and emerging issues and recommendations for overcoming these;
- Sources of financial support for Caribbean SIDS to facilitate continued support in further implementation of the BPoA and MSI; and
- The post-2015 development agenda.

At the time of writing of this report, 11 NARs had been received. Given the time constraints, rather than await receipt of all reports, the findings and perspectives of the 11 NARs together with additional research, and the outcomes of the regional meeting that was held in Kingston from 2–4 July 2013 have been used to develop this report.

I. The Caribbean subregion

The Caribbean subregion generally refers to an area 10° to 23 ° North and 60° to 80° degrees West extending in a broad arc of over 4,000 km from the Bahamas in the north to Guyana and Suriname in the south; the subregion also includes Belize which is in Central America. Countries within the Region border the Caribbean Sea.

The United Nations ECLAC/Caribbean Development Corporation Committee covers 28¹² countries in the Caribbean. For the purposes of the present report, however, only those 19 countries¹³ identified by the OHRLLS¹⁴ will be covered.

The countries are widely different in physical and population size as well as landforms and geology. The most populated Caribbean countries are Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, whilst those with the smallest populations include Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, and Grenada. The diversity of the Caribbean is further profiled by the multiple languages spoken and the political status of each of the countries. Of the 19 countries, the majority (14) is English speaking;¹⁵ 2 are Dutch speaking; 2 are Spanish speaking; and Haiti is French and Kweyol speaking. Two islands are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and one is a territory of the United States of America (United States Virgin Islands). The Caribbean subregion is truly a cultural, political, linguistic, economic, and social mosaic (ECLAC, 2010).

The countries of the Caribbean are characterized by small physical size, small populations, and vulnerability to the constant risk of natural disasters. The combined population and land mass for these countries is close to 7 million inhabitants and 404,850 square kilometers, respectively. This yields an estimated population density of 17 persons per square kilometre.

¹² Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint.Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the Turks and Caicos, United States Virgin Islands.

¹³ Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint. Kitts and Nevis, Saint. Lucia, Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States Virgin Islands.

¹⁴ See online: www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/ohrls/default.htm.

¹⁵ Kweyol is also spoken in Dominica and Saint Lucia.

As a result of relatively high per-capita incomes, Caribbean countries, with the exception of Guyana, which is now experiencing declining debt, have long been categorized as middle income countries. This classification is reflected in the composite Human Development Indices which place most of the countries in the categories of “high human development” and “medium human development”. One of the few exceptions is Barbados, which ranks 38th in the “very high human development” category.

Politically, the Caribbean is fragmented into independent States, associate states and colonial dependencies. The independent States represent about 90 per cent of the population and an equal proportion of the landed area. Aruba and Curacao are self-governing territories associated with The Netherlands and Puerto Rico is associated with the United States of America. A few other islands remain colonies of the United Kingdom. Despite the political fragmentation of the Caribbean, many of the countries have had a deep history of forging economic alliances and integration arrangements. These alliances and arrangements operate on many platforms that can be best described as concentric circles.¹⁶

Table 1
CARIBBEAN SIDS AT A GLANCE^{a b}

Country	Population (thousands) ^c	Land Area (sq. km)	GDP/capita (dollars) (2012)	GDP Real Growth Rate (2012) (percentage)	Human Development Index (2012)
Antigua and Barbuda	90 156	442.6	17 500	2.3	0.760
Aruba	109 153	180.0	25 300 ^d	2.4	
Bahamas, The	319 031	13 880	31 300	1.8	0.794
Barbados	288 725	430.0	25 500	0.0	0.825
Belize	334 297	22 966.0	8 400	5.3	0.702
Cuba	11 061 886	110 860.0	10 200 ^e	3.1	0.780
Dominica	73 286	751.0	14 600	-1.5	0.745
Dominican Republic	10 219 630	48 670.0	9 600	4.0	0.702
Grenada	109 590	344.0	14 100	-0.8	0.770
Guyana	739 903	214 969.0	8 000		0.636
Haiti	9 893 934	27 750.0	1 300	2.8	0.456
Jamaica	2 909 714	10 991.0	9 100	-0.3	0.730
Netherlands Antilles	203 748	800.0			
Saint Kitts and Nevis	51 134	261.0	15 500	0.1	0.745
Saint Lucia	162 781	616.0	13 300	-2.0	0.725
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	103 220	389.0	11 900	3.1	0.733
Suriname	566 846	163 820.0	12 300	4.5	0.684
Trinidad and Tobago	1 225 225	5 128.0	20 400	0.2	0.760
United States Virgin Islands	104 737	1 910.0	14 500	2	...

Source: Author's compilation.

^a See [online]: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vq.html>; Accessed on June 25 2013.
See [online]: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index#Complete_list_of_countries;
Accessed on June 25 2013 and <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/HTI.html>, Accessed on June 25 2013.

^b July 2013 est.

^c 2011 est.

^d 2010 est.

Caribbean economies share many of the characteristics of small States, with open and vulnerable economies, narrow resource bases, limited diversity in production, exports concentrated on a few products, thin markets and high transportation costs. Despite their best efforts, governments of

¹⁶ The inner most circle is the OECS. The next circle is that of CARICOM. The third circle is the Caribbean Forum of ACP States, also known as CARIFORUM. All Caribbean countries are also part of the Association of Caribbean States⁴⁶ (ACS) which constitutes the largest circle. There are a number of other initiatives within these main concentric circles. CARICOM, for instance has signed a Free Trade Agreement with the Dominican Republic; the Central American Common Market (CACM); trade agreements with Columbia and Venezuela; and a trade and economic cooperation agreement with Cuba. These agreements may not be fully operational; they are, however, clear attempts at alliance building within the very diverse Caribbean region.

Caribbean SIDS face considerable challenges in seeking to generate sustained economic growth rates that exceed the rates of unemployment and poverty. These challenges have been further exacerbated by a series of external shocks, including the global financial crisis, energy price shocks, fluctuating commodity prices, the rising cost of external credit, the dismantling of preferential market arrangements for traditional agricultural commodities, and the introduction of stringent market entry conditions including sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions.

The countries in the Caribbean are characterized by a considerable heterogeneity in terms of economic size and level of development. The subregion ranges from relatively larger countries like the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica to smaller ones as in the case of Grenada and Dominica, whose annual output represents less than 1 per cent of the largest Caribbean economy.

TABLE 2
CARIBBEAN GDP GROWTH RATES 2007-2013
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^a
Anguilla	17.3	-1.5	-18.4	-4.3	4.5	-6.8	-0.2
Antigua and Barbuda	7.2	0.1	-12.0	-7.1	-2.8	2.3	2.4
Bahamas	0.7	-1.7	-4.2	0.2	1.7	1.8	3.0
Barbados	3.4	0.3	-4.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.7
Belize	1.2	3.8	0.0	2.7	1.9	5.3	2.7
Dominica	3.9	7.8	-1.1	1.2	1.0	-1.5	1.1
Grenada	6.3	0.9	-6.7	-0.4	1.0	-0.8	1.2
Guyana	5.3	3.0	2.3	3.6	5.4	...	5.3
Jamaica	1.4	-0.8	-3.1	-1.4	1.3	-0.3	1.0
Montserrat	4.9	4.5	-0.5	-3.6	2.0	1.4	0.92
Saint Kitts and Nevis	5	7.4	-3.6	0.8	4.6	0.1	2.9
Saint Lucia	1.5	3.5	0.2	2.8	1.0	-2.0	2.7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3.1	1.7	-3.0	1.0	1.5	3.1	1.1
Suriname	4.6	4.7	3.8	4.1	4.7	4.5	5.3
Trinidad and Tobago	4.6	3.4	-4.4	0.2	-2.6	0.2	2.0
The Caribbean	4.7	2.5	-3.7	0.0	1.7	0.5	2.1
Service producers ^b	4.7	2.0	-5.1	-1.0	1.5	-0.3	1.5
Goods producers ^b	3.9	3.7	0.4	2.7	2.4	3.3	3.8

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data.

^a Forecast.

^b Regional or producer aggregates are calculated as simple average.

The global financial, energy and food crises presented serious economic challenges for the Caribbean (Clegg, 2009). Their small size and openness led Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) to experience the most severe impacts of the global crises in key sectors or 'drivers' of their economies particularly on export volumes and prices, remittances, and in the deterioration in consumer and producer expectations.

The expectations for 2013 are that growth will be positive in the subregion with the service producers growing at 1.5 per cent and the goods producers at 3.8 per cent.; the overall growth is expected to be 2.1 per cent. This performance will, however, depend heavily on improved performances

in the major export markets.¹⁷ In addition the projected growth is very much below the pre-crisis performance of 4.7 per cent in 2007. Furthermore, despite the projected growth, the large debt to GDP ratio will place considerable stress on public finances and will require bolder attempts at fiscal consolidation in order to reduce the debt burden over the medium term.¹⁸ Between 2011 and 2012 the average debt burden decreased slightly from 69.7 per cent of GDP to 65.4 per cent of GDP and in a few cases the debt burden was in excess of 100 per cent of GDP. Simply put most Caribbean nations exhibit high debt levels, which limit their accessibility to further financing. Debt levels range from 130.5 per cent of GDP in Jamaica to 27.7 per cent in Suriname. Indeed, in three of these economies, debt exceeds the country's annual production, as in the case of Barbados, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis.^{19 20}

The high debt levels of the subregion combine with an additional constraint regarding fiscal space. Fiscal expenditures in many of the Caribbean nations are mostly committed to payroll, interest payments and pensions, which limit the flexibility of allocation towards emergency programs or any related expenditures to counter the down cycle. Seven of the countries (Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Saint Lucia and Dominica) for which data are available have more than 50 per cent of fiscal expenditures allocated to wages, interest payments and pensions, leaving little room for readjustments in expenditures in the event of crisis.²¹

In addition to its limited capacity to cope with external shocks, the Caribbean subregion is an area vulnerable to natural disasters, which can have significant economic impacts and exacerbate the effects of crisis. Estimations²² of the yearly costs of natural disasters for the American continent indicate that most Caribbean countries have experienced high economic losses due to natural disasters. The most dramatic cases have been experienced in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), where losses have reached 87 per cent of GDP in Saint Lucia, 71 per cent in Grenada, 54 per cent in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 51 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda, and 42 per cent in Dominica. There is then sufficient evidence to suggest that natural disasters can decrease the momentum of development, as much time and resources in the Caribbean may be spent on reconstruction or regaining prior levels of development.

The weak growth performance, high debt levels, and impacts of natural disasters have translated into weak employment possibilities except for a few countries. Although data are available for only seven countries at the moment, except for Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, unemployment rates are likely to remain elevated for some time within the range in 2012 of between 11 and 21 per cent.²³

The negative fallouts of the global financial crisis have resulted in a decline in real wages and an increase in the number of vulnerable persons and communities with a resultant increase in poverty and a decline in consumption in poor households.

Notwithstanding the weak growth performance and the impacts of the energy, food and financial crises which spanned 2007 and 2008, and their residual effects which are still being felt today, notable progress has been made by Caribbean countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The most significant progress towards the MDGs in the Caribbean has been made in the areas of primary education, child survival, maternal health and combating HIV and AIDS, in designating marine and terrestrial protected areas, in reducing consumption of ozone-depleting substances, and in improving citizens' access to telecommunications, evident from the general preference for cellular services and the shift away from land lines.

¹⁷ ECLAC (2013) Preliminary overview of the Caribbean economies: 2012-2013.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Kouame, Auguste & Maria Ivanova Reyes (2010).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Based on data from EM-DAT (The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database) and WDI.

²³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2012 to 2013.

Table 3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2006-2012
(Percentages)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^a	2012 ^a
Bahamas	7.6	7.9	8.7	14.2	...	15.9	14.7
Barbados	8.7	7.4	8.1	10	10.7	11.3	11.6
Belize	9.4	8.5	8.2	13.1	14.4
Jamaica	9.6	9.4	10.6	11.4	12	12.6	13.7
Suriname	12.1	12	11.1	10	9.2	9	7.5
Saint Lucia	16.6	13.9	15.6	18.1	20.6	21.2	20.6 ^b
Trinidad and Tobago	6.2	5.5	4.6	5.3	5.9	5.1	4.9 ^c
Caribbean	10.0	9.2	9.6	11.7	11.4	12.5	12.5

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on official data.

^a Preliminary data excluding Barbados in 2011.

^b 3rd quarter data.

^c 2nd quarter data.

... Data unavailable.

Despite the progress made towards the MDGs, in many countries pockets of vulnerable communities live at risk in poor habitats, with low income levels and few physical and financial assets. This, in part, reflects the less established state of Caribbean social protection systems and the need to revamp education systems to ensure focus on capabilities. In most of the subregion, social safety nets and social protection provisions are being administered in a fragmented manner, whereby there is a range of institutions, each operating its own system. There are few instances where procedural manuals are in place, information technology is not fully maximized and there are significant information asymmetries (Mendoza and Stuart, 2011).

In terms of education, the participation of boys in the education system has declined progressively through secondary and tertiary levels. There have also been some concerns surrounding whether education systems across the Caribbean have been sufficiently focusing on building capabilities and skills sets that would make citizens competitive in a global environment.

Other contributing factors to socioeconomic vulnerability include ageing populations which is a reflection of improvements in life expectancy and healthcare quality. Notwithstanding these improvements, the subregion has the second highest level of HIV/AIDS prevalence worldwide, and health risks and deaths arising from non-communicable diseases and lifestyle choices have been rising.

Caribbean countries are, however, undertaking a number of measures to confront their socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Social sector initiatives include loans for education sector reform or improvement (Jamaica, Barbados), for enhancing life and employment opportunities for at-risk youth (Trinidad and Tobago), and for strengthening health services delivery through transformation (Trinidad and Tobago).

There is also an effort to establish a social policy support programme and to strengthen the pension system (Belize). Within OECS, there are strong initiatives underway in several countries to improve their social safety nets.

II. Progress made in implementing the BPoA and MSI

A comparison of the MSI thematic areas that CARICOM countries have considered and reported on in 2010 is provided in table 4. This comparative table also takes into consideration the 2013 NARs of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago that have already been drafted for the Third International Conference on SIDS.

The Antigua and Barbuda Report states that the country supports the priorities²⁴ identified in a meeting of United Nations Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) held in Santiago Chile on the 7–8 September 2012 and aligns itself at the national level with a commitment to ensure their implementation. In addition to this commitment some of the highlights of the progress of Antigua and Barbuda include the environmental protection and management which will be brought to Parliament for enactment in September 2013. In accepting the SIDS DOCK Challenge and making the voluntary commitment to the Copenhagen Accords, the country has established various measures to integrate renewable sources of energy within the economy in a coordinated manner. In 2010, the Government formed the Energy Unit, in the Office of the Prime Minister and developed a National Energy Policy and an associated plan. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan is intended to serve as a road map for future energy use in Antigua and Barbuda from 2012 until 2030. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan contains short (1–5 years), medium (5–10 years), and long (10–20 years) term actions designed to enhance the implementation of the policies and goals of Antigua and Barbuda National Energy Policy. These actions foster energy conservation, energy efficiency, and diversification of energy source and energy use needed for sustainable energy consumption and generation.

²⁴ A change in patterns of production and consumption; effective access to and transfer of safe and appropriate technologies; the promotion of a global intellectual property rights regime; full implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; a global institutional framework for sustainable development which is efficient and flexible and ensures the effective integration of its three pillars; new, additional, stable and predictable financing for supporting implementation activities in developing countries; the fulfillment of mitigation and adaptation commitments in relation to climate change and the building of resilience to its impacts; greater South-South cooperation and exchange of successful experiences; the restoration of harmony with nature; and better ways of measuring countries' wealth that adequately reflect the three pillars of sustainable development.

In 2012, the Antigua Public Utilities Authorities (APUA) launched Green Antigua, an initiative that focuses on reducing the wastage of water and electricity through the use of market incentives, public awareness, training and certifying renewable energy technicians and allowing interconnection of non-fuel generation of up to 50 Kw. Additionally, the twin island State has seen the emergence of micro-scale businesses creatively recycling used oil, both crude and cooking oil, to create other types of vehicular fuel. In the 2013 Budget Statement, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda identified a commitment to launch a Green Tourism Initiative Programme to assist tourism operators to assess and reduce their environmental impact.²⁵

Set against the backdrop of pursuing sustainable development, Antigua and Barbuda has identified climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, waste management and energy resources as being main areas of grave concern. Other areas of grave concern are crime and poverty.

The Barbados NAR presents an update of the MSI+5 review of all of the thematic areas. The Report states that its preparation benefitted from the completion of the Draft Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) Monitoring Indicators Report: Barbados 2012; The Green Economy Scoping Study for Barbados (2012) and the Barbados MSI+5 Report. In addition, Protocol VI in 2011 under the Social Partnership²⁶ integrates the Green Economy into sustainable development and provides a commitment to implement the BPoA. The report also states that the policy framework for sustainable development in Barbados encompasses a multi-layered and multi-sectoral approach driven by several key institutions across government, private sector and civil society. Furthermore, the country has strong policy and institutional commitment to sustainable development. The key mechanisms include: Long-term and medium-term strategic frameworks and fiscal strategy; Social Partnership; National Sustainable Development Policy; Physical Development Plan; and a National Sustainable Energy.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken and are on-going since 2010. Some of these initiatives include the preparation of waste management legislation; the drafting of the Fisheries Sector Management and Development Policy and Management Plan; the preparation of the Barbados Human Resource Development Strategy (2011 to 2016); and the drafting of a Cultural Policy in 2012. In addition, the Government of Barbados has received loans from the IADB to undertake a coastal risk and assessment and management programme; for water and sanitation systems upgrade; and for support for a sustainable energy framework. The Report also notes that an Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management Information System has been developed in order to enhance the planning process; the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation has been established; and the Government of Barbados has successfully partnered with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) in mobilising resources to give effect to the partnership for a resource-efficient green economy in Barbados.

²⁵ The programme will focus on the adoption and facilitation of energy efficiency of buildings, renewable energy, and water conservation, integrating waste management, environmental/energy-efficient technologies and developing “green” policies and procedures.

²⁶ A social compact constituting the Government, the private sector and the trade unions that oversees the development and execution of a social protocol, which integrates the three pillars of sustainable development.

TABLE 4
A COMPARISON OF THE BPOA AND MSI THEMATIC AREAS BY CARICOM COUNTRIES

Country/ Thematic area	Antigua and Barbuda (2013)	Bahamas (2013)	Barbados (2013)	Belize (2013)	Dominica (2003)	Grenada (2010)	Guyana (2013)	Jamaica (2013)	Saint Kitts and Nevis (2013)	Saint Lucia (2009)	Saint Vincent and the Genadines (2013)	Suriname(2013)	Trinidad and Tobago (2013)
I. Climate Change and Sea level Rise	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
II. Natural and Environmental Disasters		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
III. Management of Wastes		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
IV. Coastal and marine resources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
V. Freshwater resources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
VI. Land resources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
VII. Energy resources		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
VIII. Tourism resources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
IX. Biodiversity resources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
X. Transport and communication		x	x			x		x		x			x
XI. Science and technology		x						x					
XII. Graduation from least developed country status													
XIII. Trade: globalization and trade liberalization	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
XIV. Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
XV. Sustainable production and consumption			x										
XVI. National and regional enabling environments			x					x		x			
XVII. Health	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	
XVIII. Knowledge management and information for decision-making											x		
XIX. Culture								x					
XX. Implementation			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
A. Access to and the provision of financial resources													
B. Science and development and transfer of technology			x					x					
C. Capacity Development	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
D. National and International Governance			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	

Source: Author's compilation.

The Belize NAR reports that the country does not have a national sustainable development strategy, although the need for such a strategy to guide sustainable development has been well articulated within the environmental community. In response to concerns of stakeholders from the public and private sectors and our international development partners it is expected that the country may soon embark on the development of such a document.

Notwithstanding the absence of a comprehensive strategy, the country's position on sustainability issues has been generally well articulated in numerous policies, strategies and planning documents introduced by different sectors and prepared under the consultative process involving key national stakeholders. These planning instruments identify areas critical for national sustainable development.

The Horizon 2030 National Development Strategy is a long term strategic planning document produced to guide national development well into 2030. It embodies an overarching, long-term vision from which shorter-term development plans will arise. Horizon 2030 establishes strategic guidelines, development objectives, impact indicators and long-term interactions between the public and private sectors. Horizon 2030 also includes a monitoring, evaluation and follow-up process in order to evaluate the results obtained at the different execution stages of government programs and projects carried out in the country. Likewise, it provides for an executing body to ensure adequate implementation and continuity of the initiatives that are defined, in order to guarantee sound performance and optimum achievement of goals and objectives. The thematic areas covered within this report include most of the BPoA and MSI thematic areas.

A medium term development strategy was prepared for the period 2010–2013 under the caption “Building Resilience Against Social Economic and Physical Vulnerabilities”. The plan targets entrepreneurial development and support for improvement of the export sector's productivity and competitiveness, environmental protection and disaster reduction, human development and public safety. The medium term development strategy is currently under review and will be replaced with the more comprehensive Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2014. The new plan's particular focus on poverty reduction comes as a result of the country's increasing rates of poverty and indigence. The 2009–2013 National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plans is also under review.

In addition to the number of planning instruments, Belize continues to implement projects in a number of the thematic areas. Some of these are described below.

Belize has made major efforts to define climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; however efforts to implement defined measures have been constrained by limited investments and the absence of an existing critical mass to effect a national climate change programme of work. Programmatically works have been concentrated on public awareness and the elaboration of appropriate governance mechanisms guiding climate change monitoring, planning and programming into the country's productive sector. The overall lag in national progress is largely attributable to existing financial and technological constraints which continue to persist within an environment of economic uncertainty.

In the area of waste management, a new regional waste disposal facility is under construction together with a number of transfer stations and the incorporation of recyclable material “drop-off areas” and designated areas for white goods/bulky waste at the transfer stations.

The coastal and marine resources of Belize are richly vested in biological resources and greatly contribute to the economic development of the country since they are the basis for the tourism and fishing industry. These resources are also used extensively by Belizeans for recreation and to provide food and sustenance for the population. The crown jewel in the coastal zone is the Belize Barrier Reef System which has now been declared a World Heritage Site. According to the NAR, Belize Coastal zone has been increasingly impacted by marine and land based pollution, sedimentation from inland sources and removal of coastal vegetation including the rapidly disappearing littoral forest. In addition, recent petroleum exploration in the coastal zone has caused concern among stakeholders and is now the subject of legal challenges in the courts. In response to public concerns over offshore drilling the Government

did not reissue concessions for 1.4 million acres of offshore oil exploration license relinquished by Overseas Private Investment Corporation in October 2010.

Belize is currently running a project under the auspices of the Global Climate Change Alliance which will establish the National Integrated Water Resource Authority. In 2011 a national integrated planning framework for land resource development was produced for the Government of Belize. The purpose of the planning framework is to provide a comprehensive, transparent and democratic mechanism through which the national land use policy will be implemented and managed.

Belize intends to become a low carbon economy by 2030. A biomass plant was recently commissioned to produce electric power from the burning of bagasse. A pilot solar power scheme of 0.33MW capacity has been installed at the University of Belize to demonstrate the feasibility of solar power and to encourage the adoption of solar power. The Citrus Company of Belize has installed a 2MW cogeneration facility using citrus waste. Several companies are in the country to produce sugar cane for ethanol production and for the production of energy using cogeneration. Feasibility studies have been carried out on the wind potential of the country.

The assessment of the progress of implementation of the BPoA and MSI, used the Dominican Low-Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LCCRDS) 2012–2020 as the benchmark for assessing sustainable development progress in Dominica. This strategy is being implemented in response to continued global economic challenges and the direct effect on SIDS such as Dominica. The strategy aims to ensure that Dominica, the nature island of the Caribbean, will achieve its sustainable development aspirations while meeting critical social development and poverty reduction. The LCCRDS was developed as the key platform supporting the Government's Growth and Social Protection Strategy. This assessment was also complimented by a national stakeholders' consultation.

The NAR provides an assessment of 8 of the thematic areas in the BPoA and MSI. These include: Climate change, natural disasters, land resources, water resources; coastal and marine resources; waste management; health; and energy. The Commonwealth of Dominica has prepared a number of policy documents to guide development in some of the key sectors impacting the use of land and other natural resources such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. However, the majority of these policy documents have not received formal endorsement.

The Government is currently deliberating on the Dominica overall strategy for developing geothermal energy and outline plans for establishing a small power plant of approximately 120 MW capacity to supply electricity to the domestic market.

A slate of key concerns was also identified. These include, inter alia:

- The economy has been severely challenged with the introduction of the phased elimination of preferential access to the European Union for banana exports in 1992 resulting in a marked production decline with impacts until today. This has caused that sector to give way to tourism as the mainstay of the economy. This sector is, unfortunately, also plagued with problems and subject to increasing challenges in provisioning of required infrastructure to maintain the island as an attractive 'nature destination'. Other forms of foreign exchange earnings continue to struggle as manufacturing and exports seems to be declining as well as foreign investment capital.
- Unemployment continues to rise, exceeding 25 per cent compared to around 16 per cent in 1999 and 10 per cent in 1991.
- There are at present seventeen (17) pieces of major legislation relating to land management and administration. There are however problems associated with land degradation; urban encroachment; loss of biodiversity; and coastal zone management.
- Lack of coordination among the multiple agencies involved in coastal zone management.

The NAR of Grenada identifies progress to date on 6 of the thematic areas identified in the BPoA and the MSI. These include: Climate change and sea level rise; natural and environmental disasters and climate variability; fresh water resources; coastal resources; energy and tourism. The NAR also states

that political commitment to the SIDS agenda in Grenada can also be seen in the existence of policies and some legislation such as the National Physical Plan (2003), enabled by a Physical Planning and Development Control Act (2002); a Natural Parks and Protected Areas Act (1990), which accommodates biodiversity provisions; and the Environmental Levy Act, 1997, which provides for guaranteed financial support for the Grenada Solid Waste Management Program. Other policy-based initiatives include the National Environmental Policy and Management Strategy, the Policy and Strategy on Energy, and the Forestry Policy and Action Plan (2000).

Despite the progress achieved towards the implementation of the BPoA and MSI, the NAR identifies a number of gaps and challenges that speak to the absence of strategies and actions that are necessary for the achievement of the objectives outlined in the BPoA and MSI. Participants at a consultation on the BPoA and MSI identified the following challenges:

- Financial constraints,
- Inadequate legislative enforcement
- An absence of a systematic approach to implementation,
- Low levels of participation among the citizenry, and
- Insufficient documentation and monitoring and evaluation.

Participants at a consultation on national preparations for Rio +20 further reinforced this view. They also identified:

- Absence or inefficiency of data collection systems; and
- Inadequate response to social sustainability and its integration into the development agenda.

The emerging issues are identified as:

- The need, under the SIDS framework, to integrate the main pillars of environmental, economic and social development, for successful implementation of the BPoA, using the MSI. As a result, an unnecessary tension exists among policy-makers and communities of practitioners who feel the need to give primacy of place to one or the other pillar of development in the elaboration and implementation of programmes and projects. The challenge therefore is to consistently interpret sustainable development as necessarily economically, socially and environmentally integrated;
- There is a clear recognition of the links between sustainability, development and environment, and their impact on society and the economy, especially as they relate to issues of poverty eradication, youth employment and gender equality, to name a few;
- Persuading major stakeholders to embrace the green economy initiative as an opportunity to further their development agenda.

Guyana states in its report that it has made significant efforts to implement the BPoA and MSI. To a great extent, national policies including macroeconomic policies are supportive of national sustainable development goals and priorities. Many strategies reflect the importance of addressing critical elements of sustainable development such as macro-economic stability, poverty reduction, social development, environmental management, disaster management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In June 2009, the Government of Guyana launched its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) that is a national strategy which seeks to create a low deforestation, low carbon, climate resilient economy with the major objective of transforming the economy of Guyana while combating climate change. Under the LCDS, several projects are being implemented to expand the digital economy thereby avoiding a digital divide. These include: Fibre Optic Cable, The One Laptop per Family (OLPF) and Telecommunications Liberalisation.

The upcoming ‘Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Water Management Initiatives’ will allocate up to US\$ 100 million for a once-in-a-generation effort to upgrade the ability of Guyana to cope with climate change.

Government has committed to redoubling efforts to meet the MDGs and has outlined a number of initiatives to improve the quality of education, health, housing and water services. Additionally, there will be special intervention programmes to improve the poverty situation in the country (Government of Guyana, 2011). These efforts will compliment sustainable development actions.

There are many institutions in Guyana with responsibility for different aspects of sustainable development. However, these have operated mainly in their assigned areas with little or no collaboration on sustainable development related areas. To provide effective coordination, Cabinet has established the National Sustainable Development Bureau, chaired by the President of Guyana and involving the relevant Ministers and Heads of Agencies. It reaches out for stakeholder involvement through the National Sustainable Development Forum.

A new institutional arrangement that supports sustainable development is the establishment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment which was created in 2011. The Ministry’s primary focus is harmonising policy and management in the forestry, mining and other natural resources-based sectors, and better mainstreaming of conservation and environmental management. The Strategic Framework for the Ministry (2013-2018) is being developed

In its report, Jamaica notes that of the 14 priority areas of the BPoA, the eight that received the most attention were climate change and sea-level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resources, land resources, biodiversity resources, and national institutions and administrative capacity. Five of the others were also important in the policy agenda and the implementation programmes of action, though not treated as areas of the BPoA. These were energy resources, tourism resources, transport and communication, science and technology and human resources development. The area in which the implementation lag was greatest appears to have been contribution by regional institutions and technical cooperation.

In the case of the five additional areas of the MSI, health was second only to education in public expenditure and there has been increasing policy attention to culture. Very little seems to have been done in the areas of “sustainable production and consumption” and “knowledge management”, and the contribution of Jamaica to the resistance by SIDS of hasty “graduation from least developed country status”.

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis states in its NAR that the agenda for sustainable development is managed mainly by the Ministry of Sustainable Development. There are also several other institutions that provide support to the overall pursuit of the country's sustainable development agenda. The report however notes that there is a need to engender participation by the private sector, NGOs and the wider community.

There are a number of key programmes and policy instruments supporting the sustainable development agenda. Financial support for sustainable development initiatives have been derived primarily by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Several laws have been enacted to give effect to sustainable development in the Federation. The legislation is, however, sector specific and for the most part was not intended to address sustainable development in a holistic and programmatic way. In several instances there are no accompanying regulations and/or guidelines to direct the administration of these laws.

The NAR evaluates 13 of the thematic areas, covering all the natural resources themes, tourism resources, national institutions and administrative capacity, regional institutions and technical cooperation, science and technology, and human resource development. Unfortunately the assessment does not provide any information on the programme that the country is engaged in to give effect to the BPoA or MSI. The evaluation has been undertaken against the suite of sample activities provided in the aforementioned

instruments. Be that as it may, additional research shows that Saint Kitts and Nevis are involved in a number of initiatives that support the BPoA and MSI. One such initiative is described below.

It is the intention of the Government that that renewable energy services provided in Saint Kitts and Nevis will increase 60 percent by 2015. To this end, the exploration of geothermal on Nevis, has been completed and the federation is awaiting production drilling and geothermal power plant construction. In the meantime a 2.1 megawatts wind generation plant has been installed. The Government had also entered into an agreement with a private company to supply Saint. Kitts with some 20 megawatts of wind energy. The potential construction of a waste to fuel plant and a solar energy plant is also being considered by the Government to produce cleaner energy. The Government has also received proposals for waste to energy projects and solar energy projects.

In its NAR, Saint Lucia stated that its development agenda is guided by several national policy imperatives and instruments. These include the medium term development strategy, Annual Budget Statements (Policy), the Annual Estimates of Expenditure, the Corporate Plans of the individual Ministries and other Statutory Bodies. The priorities of the medium term development strategy (2006 - 2011) were focused on exploiting opportunities for sustained growth and development, and the restructuring and repositioning of the economy for successful integration within an increasingly liberalized international and regional trading environment, in particular the OECS Economic Union and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The NAR undertakes an evaluation of 10 of the BPoA, and MSI thematic areas. Of these, 8 pertain to natural resources and the environment while the remaining 2 thematic areas referred to tourism resources, and transport and communications. The NAR also confirm that although Saint Lucia shows good social indicators, there are high and increasing levels of poverty with rural poverty being as high as 35 per cent in some districts. Unemployment too remains high, particularly among the youth (45 per cent). Declines in the key economic sectors, such as agriculture, have exacerbated the effects of unemployment and poverty, the combined impact of which has contributed to a slowdown in economic activity in Saint Lucia over the last 3 years. Non-communicable diseases (hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases and cancer) were the main cause of death in Saint Lucia in 2012. Nevertheless, the number of persons who died from AIDS fell by 60 percent due to widespread testing and government funding for HIV/AIDS prevention programmes.

Although social safety net programmes have been implemented over the last several years they still have not adequately protect children, single parents (who are predominantly women) or the working age poor (with or without children) and, as a result, the rights of children and women to social protection are not being fulfilled.

Despite these challenges and vulnerabilities, Saint Lucian villages and communities have collectively adopted diverse and alternative coping strategies, created support networks and bridging relations, supported by the activism of community-based organizations in an effort to overcome conditions of deprivation. In addition, the Department of Planning and National Development will, in this financial year, embark on a major national planning exercise to develop a comprehensive development road map and agenda for the next 30 years. There have been more deliberate steps taken to integrate climate change issues and concerns into aspects of national development planning processes. For example, climate change issues were incorporated in the last medium term development strategy; and recent budget addresses and other major policy pronouncements highlight climate change issues.

Saint Lucia is party to the OECS Oceans Governance Policy which seeks to address several new and emerging issues such as piracy, maritime security, and management of maritime resources. The country has also elaborated a National Land Policy that speaks to all aspects of Land Management and Administration. To give effect to the policy, National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation and Drought has been formulated, and under an sustainable land management project, a zero land degradation approach is being promoted. It is anticipated that this initiative will contribute to the increasing rate of forest cover on the island which has grown by 1 per cent over the last 10 years.

Many of new and emerging issues highlighted in previous reports and fora still remain. There are however also other additional emerging issues such as citizen security, decent work, the free movement of people among OECS member States, and the forced return migrants, to mention a few.

The green economy has in recent times taken centre stage in the on-going conversation on sustainable development in Saint Lucia and has embarked on a number of initiatives which can facilitate the transition to a green economy.

The NAR concludes by calling for strengthening of the International Framework for Sustainable Development, and the continued systematic review and monitoring of commitments to the MDGs, BPoA and MSI.

The NAR from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did not undertake a review of the BPoA or MSI according to the thematic areas. The NAR however reflects the philosophy and issues central to the 2013–2025 Development Plan with comments and iterations from the multi-stakeholder preparatory process that culminated with a consultation on 12 June 2013.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013–2025 has been elaborated around a specific set of strategic goals, objectives and targets so as to facilitate and guide the optimal improvement of the quality of life for all Vincentians. The development plan is premised on the workings of an economy in which the private sector, the cooperative sector and the State have efficacious, complementary roles as part of a “mixed economy”. There is no formal sustainable development agenda in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines but most of the elements spelt out in the BPoA have been addressed to some measure in the country’s development thrust in a sectoral manner as reflected by the Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper (MESTP) and the National Economic and Social Development Plan.

The 2012 draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Action Plan takes on board all relevant obligations set by the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Saint Vincent and the Grenadines partners with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Management (CRFM) to manage regional fish stocks. Further protection and management of coastal and marine resources is provided under the 2012 National Parks, and Protected Area system Plan (2010–2014).

Working with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) the government has accessed resources from the GEF under the Special Project on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) to install a reverse osmosis plant in Bequia. The plant is driven by solar energy in keeping the islands green agenda. It is the intention to reproduce this success on other Grenadine Islands in order to expand the provision of potable water to the Grenadines.

In its NAR Suriname undertakes a review of the 14 thematic areas of the BPoA. The following national key priority areas were identified for Suriname: Agriculture and food security; natural resources management, including fisheries management and oceans governance; water resources management; energy, including renewable energy and energy efficiency; climate change and sea level rise; biodiversity conservation; waste management and chemicals management; and sustainable tourism. Other cross-cutting themes that have been identified include poverty eradication; gender equality (through gender mainstreaming); health equity (the strengthening of health systems); education and awareness (to strengthen and maintain human capital base); and finance, technology transfer and capacity building. The NAR then provides a review of status of implementation of these priority areas.

The agricultural sector was identified as a priority in the Government Policy Statement 2010-2015. In 2011 the Ministry of Agriculture presented its policy document 2010-2015 (Beleidsnota 2010-2015) as a roadmap for the agricultural sector. A white paper on the Suriname fishing industry was prepared for 2010 to 2016. Suriname has produced a Draft National Energy Policy for 2013-2033.²⁷ It provides the framework to achieve the country’s energy goals and will consolidate Surinamese energy

²⁷ Information from: Suriname’s Energy Policy (Draft), 2013 - 2033.

policy, which has been outlined in various documents, including the ‘2000 Energy Master Plan’ and the report ‘Renewable energy potential and business opportunities in Suriname’.

There is no climate change policy document, but Suriname has chosen to submit a readiness project proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and to use the REDD+ structures described in that document for the planning process for sustainable development in Suriname. The final readiness project proposal was submitted in June 2013. The country formulated a National Biodiversity Action Plan for the period 2012–2016.

After the 1.6 million ha Central Suriname Nature Reserve and the city of Paramaribo became United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites, a number of studies and reports on the tourism sector were produced, new tourism products were identified and developed, and new sites, especially in the hinterland of Suriname, were developed. Most attention was given to the development of nature tourism and ecotourism.

A national assessment report on waste management was drawn up in 2013. This report gives recommendations to improve waste management, and establishes a monitoring and evaluation mechanism with identified indicators.

Trinidad and Tobago states in its NAR that it is committed to playing its part as a responsible member of the global community, by continuing efforts geared towards pursuing policy and development of initiatives to increase the use of new and innovative technologies that have lower levels of emissions; encouraging the use of clean energy technology such as natural gas technology and clean production technology; promoting the use of renewable energies that have zero emissions; and, adopting more energy-efficient technologies and practices. To this end, and consistent with the provisions of the National Environment Policy 2006, the Government is pursuing a policy framework towards the development of a programme of work to address greenhouse gas emissions and towards the development of a low-carbon economy and developmental path.

"I commit my Government to working assiduously with the Social Partnership to ensure that the measures identified in Barbados' Green Economy Scoping Study, which can contribute to a more prosperous and environmentally sensitive Barbados, will be implemented expeditiously" said Freundel J. Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados.

"We see a green economy not only as the area of renewable energy, but we see the green economy as a means of providing new opportunities for our people in Saint Kitts," said Earl Asim Martin, Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

We are also showing that it is possible to create a better, environmentally sustainable national economy without compromising our citizens' legitimate aspirations for increased prosperity," said Bharrat Jagdeo, Former Prime Minister of Guyana.

Source: UNEP, Caribbean Green Economy Project

The Trinidad and Tobago report provides some of the key initiatives undertaken to address climate change management issues since the 10-year assessment report on the SIDS plan of action. Most of the initiatives revolve around reduction of carbon emissions, including the creation of the necessary enabling environment and institutional strengthening. The country has also established a green fund to provide financial assistance to community groups and organizations for activities related to reforestation, remediation, environmental education and public awareness of environmental issues and conservation of the environment. Mention is also made that the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America have commenced discussions to establish a regional renewable energy centre in Trinidad and Tobago to foster green initiatives.

In addition to the review of the ten NARs, a review of other documents also indicates that to a great extent, national policies including macroeconomic policies are supportive of national sustainable development goals and priorities. Many strategies reflect the importance of addressing critical elements of sustainable development such as macro-economic stability, poverty reduction, social development, environmental management, disaster management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

One striking feature in the NARs that were reviewed is the consistent emphasis on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency as important elements in the development agenda of each of the countries. About 60 per cent of the NARs also spoke to some element of the Green economy or variations thereof. This concept was operationalised usually within the context of reduction in the use of fossil fuels and sustainable production and consumption.

In a survey that was undertaken in 2010 by ECLAC for the preparation of the Caribbean regional MSI+5 Report, more than 60 per cent of the respondents claimed that 10 MSI issues were included in their national development plans. These included:

- Climate change and sea level rise;
- Natural and environmental disasters;
- Management of wastes;
- Coastal and marine resources;
- Freshwater resources;
- Land resources;
- Energy resources;
- Tourism resources;
- Biodiversity resources;
- Transport and communication;

Reports also indicated that climate change and sea level rise, together with natural and environmental disasters, are addressed in all national development plans and programmes. Energy sources, especially the need for renewable energy sources are also receiving urgent attention by all Caribbean SIDS in their future development plans and programmes. All countries also identified the management of wastes as being important to national development efforts.

Since 2010, more initiatives are underway to integrate the BPoA and MSI thematic areas and issues into the national development process. Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Guyana have already begun re-positioning their development priorities to accommodate green economic policies. Suriname has formulated a green development plan that will create an organizing framework for policy reform, government capacity investment, and economic plans on a sectoral basis that will aim to achieve environmental sustainability and create a low-carbon, nature-based economy.²⁸

UNEP, in cooperation with the CARICOM Secretariat, and with financial support from the European Union, is supporting the subregion through a Caribbean Green Economy Initiative. This initiative aims to enable countries in the Caribbean to advance sustainable development through the following activities:

- Assessing the potential for green economy investment options, using a quantitative model, in three pilot countries;
- Establishing a regional multi-stakeholder green economy knowledge and networking platform;
- Establishing/strengthening of a regional centre of excellence on green economy in the region; and;
- Developing a region-specific green economy capacity building portfolio.

The Dominican Republic Climate Compatible Development Plan (Sep-2011) outlines policies the country can implement to achieve improved economic growth as well as substantive reductions in

²⁸ See [on line] http://wild9.org/ADMIN/archivos/SurinameGV_Brochure_C1_R3.pdf.

greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030. The Climate-Compatible Development Plan is a clear signal from the Government of the Dominican Republic that sustainability will not be an afterthought but a significant principle of the country's future planning. The Climate-Compatible Development Plan follows the lead set by the Dominican Republic new constitution which is considered the first constitution to clearly state that adaptation and mitigation, with respect to climate change, are the responsibility of both government and the citizenry.

Aruba has formulated a National Integrated Strategic Plan 2010-2025 based on twelve developmental priorities. These twelve priorities form the conceptual framework for social, economic, and environmental development with education and governance as the two areas that are cross cutting and are preconditions for a successful achievement of the aspirations stated in this national integrated strategic plan. Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow, equipping individuals and societies with the skills, perspectives, knowledge and values to live and work in a sustainable manner while good governance will lead to political commitment from government, institutions and civil society for the implementation of sustainable development.²⁹

There are a number of other national programmes on the implementation of the BPoA and MSI that are worthy of mention. A sample of these is presented here to indicate the breath of actions taken across the Caribbean:

- Guyana has signed and ratified the UNFCCC and acceded to the Kyoto Protocol. The country has taken proactive steps to ensure implementation of the Convention. Guyana prepared its initial and second national communication to the UNFCCC in 2001 and 2012, and is currently preparing the third national communication. In addition, some of the following measures will be implemented through the upcoming 'Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Water Management Initiatives':
 - Upgrading infrastructure and assets to protect against flooding;
 - The development, reproduction and distribution of plant varieties and crop management techniques that are suitable for hinterland communities, thereby ensuring the sustainability and further development of their livelihoods. In addition, all-weather roads and bridges and new drainage and irrigation systems will be constructed, with a focus on particularly vulnerable areas;
 - Revamping early warning system in Guyana and improving the timely and accurate collection and dissemination of data and information on weather-related events and their impacts on the ground.
- Trinidad and Tobago has begun the elaboration of a strategy for the reduction of carbon emissions in the power generation, transportation and industrial sectors. It is envisaged that this strategy will result in the strengthening of the institutional framework for carbon reduction and identification of clear strategic elements and policies for reducing carbon emissions from target sectors.
- The Dominican Republic has formulated a National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resources and Skills to Advance Green, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development. The overall goal of the Strategy is to create a national framework for coordinated and enhanced action to strengthen learning relevant for green, low emission and climate resilient development in the Dominican Republic. It sets out a vision for 2030 that "the Dominican society has an education system and implements public policies that generate institutional capacities and human resources to address the challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation." The National Strategy is directly linked to the National Development Strategy (2030) of the Dominican Republic and other policy instruments which promote a new model of low emission and climate resilient development.

²⁹ Nos Aruba 2025 National Integrated Strategic Plan.

- Jamaica is presently implementing an European Union financed climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction project which aims at increasing resilience and reducing risks associated with natural hazards in vulnerable areas due to climate change threats, including rising sea levels, warmer global temperatures, and more severe weather events such as hurricanes and droughts. This will be achieved through rehabilitating watersheds, improving coastal ecosystems management and building climate change capacity and awareness as articulated in Vision 2030, Jamaica National Development Plan.³⁰
- Wigton Windfarm Limited is a company owned by the Jamaican State. It operates a 20.7 MW wind farm in Manchester, Jamaica. Wigton Windfarm is the first and only Jamaican entity to sell Certified Emission Reductions through the Clean Development Mechanism facility (Nwaogwugwu, n.d.). Ground was broken on 17 March 2010 for the US\$ 50 million project expansion. Part 2 is being financed by the Petro Caribe Fund and will increase the total production to 38.7 MW by adding nine 2 MW V80 wind turbines to the existing complement. The carbon emissions from this addition will also be sold through the Clean Development Mechanism.
- In Cuba, the setting up of wind farms, solar energy facilities, biomass and biogas plants as well as a large number of windmills are part of the Cuban renewable energy strategy. The Ministry of Sugar and the National Electricity Board have a strategy to increase power generation in all its operating sugar mills to decentralize the grid and provide power generation in areas which have weaker supply. The Government is also investigating biofuels from a shrub called Marabu that has invaded more than 1 million hectares.
- Suriname has launched the Coastal Protected Area Management Project in Nickerie. This three year initiative will promote the sustainable development of the coastal protected area and the promotion of biodiversity through effective management and sustainable income generation.
- During the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Prime Minister Mike Eman of Aruba announced his country's goal to transition the island to 100 per cent renewable energy and the world's first sustainable economy. The government has an ambitious agenda to increase renewable energy. Currently, 20 per cent of its energy comes from wind and several solar projects are under development
- The Government of Barbados has very recently initiated a coastal risk assessment and management programme which seeks to enhance and protect 1.5 kilometres of shoreline on the west coast. Expected components of the programme are: 1) Coastal risk assessment and monitoring including strengthening and expansion of monitoring networks (slope stability, water quality, natural hazards), oceanographic studies and risk assessments; 2) coastal infrastructure including construction and pre-investment studies for beach stabilization works; and 3) institutional strengthening for coastal risk management and climate change adaptation.
- The rapid degradation of Caribbean marine and terrestrial ecosystems as a result of anthropogenic and natural causes will continue to remain a challenge. Nevertheless, numerous national and regional interventions have been designed to control such degradation. The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) through the Ya'axche Conservancy Trust is supporting an ecotourism project that is part of the Belize sustainable land management strategy. The primary objective of this project is to introduce agricultural and land-use techniques that will sustain traditional livelihood practices and reverse the substantial land degradation caused by the slash and burn subsistence farming techniques used by the communities in the Village of Indian Creek (Scope and others, 2011).
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the Jamaican Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has pointed to a number of disaster mitigation

³⁰ http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/environment/Multi-agency-climate-change-adaptation-project-meetingtargets_13277192#ixzz2LuXIBBT6. Accessed on June 23 2013.

projects which may have prevented the loss of millions of dollars in property and may even have saved lives. With financing provided by the Canadian International Development Agency, 28 communities had benefitted from micro-disaster risk reduction projects, including mangrove replanting, shelter retrofitting, and the building of foot bridges.³¹ A similar programme is also ongoing in Guyana.

- The Government of Suriname has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for improving integrated disaster risk management for climate resilient development”, and for mainstreaming of disaster risk management into development planning.³²
- Social housing and related projects to improve living circumstances, while at the same time reducing the impact on nature and environment, are being developed by some countries and being mainstreamed into national development plans. The Ministry of Housing and Environment in Trinidad and Tobago launched the Neighborhood Upgrade Programme in 2011. The goal of the Programme is to enhance the quality of life of low and middle income groups, and thus promote the equitable development of wholesome and sustainable communities. It is an approach that “promotes self-reliance, builds capacity, ensures affordability and equity, and preserves the environment for current and future generations.”³³ Another example is the Saint Lucia Housing Assistance Programme. Funded by the Government of Saint Lucia and the European Union this programme provides assistance to needy and indigent individuals who live in deplorable housing conditions. Special consideration is given to the elderly, persons with disability and households with young children, as well as households affected by natural disasters and fires.
- In recent years, there has been a growing level of cultural activities spanning the wide diversity of cultures in Guyana. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is the lead agency in coordination and promotion of cultural activities in Guyana. However, the Ministry works in collaboration with other organisations to promote culture. For example, the scope of the education curriculum will be broadened to include areas such as arts, sports and physical education and culture-specific skills (e.g. weaving, basketry) in Amerindian communities (Government of Guyana, 2011).

Barbados formulated a cultural policy in 2011.

- Caribbean governments implemented a number of policies to counter the effects of the global financial crisis. These were wide-ranging in focus and included: expenditure programmes, tax waivers and reliefs and selective credit availability. In general, fiscal expenditure programmes implemented by the various governments tended to be medium term strategies and were aimed at lifting the growth prospects of the countries by directing funds primarily towards investments in economic and social infrastructure (ECLAC, 2009; Commonwealth Secretariat, 2009). Examples of these programmes included; a capital programme for residential housing, roads and the international airport in The Bahamas; continued work on roads, schools, and air and seaports in Barbados; increased capital expenditures on water control facilities, education, health, roads and bridges, and a technology park in Guyana; road and drainage works in Jamaica; expenditures on rural roads in Grenada; road rehabilitation, agricultural feeder roads, residential construction, and hospital construction in Saint Lucia.
- Governments also offered tax waivers and other reliefs on payment obligations by business and households. For businesses, such waivers and reliefs were to assist with cash flow constraints and to reduce the severity of declining profitability brought on by the crisis. From the household

³¹ See [online] <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/environment/Mitigation-projects-may-have-helped-saved-millions-in-Hurricane-Sandy---ODPEM#ixzz2Lud8jddU>. Accessed on June 23 2013.

³² See [On line] <https://www.devex.com/en/projects/275696/print> Accessed on June 23 2013.

³³ Excerpt from the speech delivered by Dr. the Honourable, Roodal Moonilal, Minister of Housing and the Environment at the launch of the Ministry’s Neighbourhood Upgrade Programme on Friday October 28th, 2011.

perspective, tax reliefs and waivers provided an implicit income cushion through more disposable income and thus moderate reductions in households' standard of living.

- For the people of the region, crime, violence and insecurity are profoundly linked to key development issues such as freedom of choice, equality of opportunity, increased life chances, especially for the most vulnerable, and the greater responsiveness of state institutions to the needs of people. Governments have led in establishing crime and violence prevention plans and programmes, but NGOs and community groups have also contributed: many citizen groups have established themselves to secure their own communities. The Pride of Gonzales initiative,³⁴ for example, was begun in 2003 in a violence-ravaged Port of Spain suburban community of approximately 1,000 households. It was the brainchild of the community's parish priest after there had been six murders in a five-week period. In another example, one component of the Jamaica Inner Cities Basic Services for the Poor Project financed by the World Bank focused specifically on the reduction of the very high levels of homicide, youth violence, and associated risk factors in the participating inner cities. Integrated citizen security approaches have seen success in Capotillo in the Dominican Republic. These programs combine modern methods of policing with prevention interventions undertaken by both government and non-governmental organizations.³⁵
- In order to counter the serious issues of border security CARICOM established the regional crime and security framework in 2005. In recognition of the inter-linked nature of growing levels of crime and violence in the region fueled by the illicit movement of drugs, guns and ammunition, CARICOM leaders, in 2007, established crime and security as the fourth pillar of the region's integration. In 2009, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative was established bringing all members of the CARICOM and the Dominican Republic together to jointly collaborate on regional security with the United States of America as a partner.³⁶ Programmes under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative have produced tangible results says Secretary General of the CARICOM Ambassador Irwin LaRocque. Speaking at the Third Meeting of the Caribbean-United States Security Cooperation Dialogue in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in December 2012, Ambassador LaRocque cited the fact that CARICOM States were reporting illicit drug and small arms and light weapons seizures at record levels.³⁷
- CARICOM member States, both collectively, through the conclusion of the 2011 CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms, and individually have been undertaking a number of measures to secure their borders against illicit flows; border management and security have thus become one of CARICOM's major security priorities. In addition, working through the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, (CARICOM IMPACS), in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, efforts have been undertaken in various CARICOM member States to harmonise and standardize policies, practices and procedures utilized by border security agencies throughout the region.³⁸
- Social housing and related projects to improve living circumstances, while at the same time reducing the impact on nature and environment, are being developed by some countries and being mainstreamed into national development plans. The Ministry of Housing and Environment in Trinidad and Tobago launched the Neighborhood Upgrade Programme in 2011. The goal of the programme is to enhance the quality of life of low and middle income groups, and thus promote the equitable development of wholesome and sustainable

³⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank (2007). *Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean*.

³⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank (2007) *ibid*.

³⁶ <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/2012/201417.htm> Accessed on February 25 2013.

³⁷ <http://www.thestkittsnevisobserver.com/2012/11/30/cbsi-results.html> Accessed on February 25 2013.

³⁸ H.E. Ambassador Raymond Wolfe, Permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, On behalf of The Caribbean Community (CARICOM). At the open debate of the United Nations Security Council – “Threats to international peace and security: Securing borders against illicit flows”. Wednesday, 25th April 2012.

communities. It is an approach that “promotes self-reliance, builds capacity, ensures affordability and equity, and preserves the environment for current and future generations.”³⁹ Another example is the Saint Lucia Housing Assistance Programme. Funded by the Government of Saint Lucia and the European Union this programme provides assistance to needy and indigent individuals who live in deplorable housing conditions. Special consideration is given to the elderly, persons with disability and households with young children, as well as households affected by natural disasters and fires.

- In order to address the increase in non-communicable diseases, which are mainly life style related a declaration committing the CARICOM Heads of Government to collective action to stop the epidemic of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases was adopted. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is giving its support to the monitoring and evaluation of the Declaration. There is a general shift in the region towards preventive programmes and health style-related education.
- The Sport for Life! uses the power of sport to inspire children and young people who need personal development support outside school to make a success of their lives. It combines sport, education and healthy lifestyle training in a structured programme delivered by qualified teachers and coaches. The programme is based at the principal sports stadiums in the countries where it operates, with outreach to local schools and communities. It targets children from poorer backgrounds who are underperforming at school. Sport for Life! is active in Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.⁴⁰

In terms of the thematic areas of the MSI, some of the ongoing work at the regional level includes:

- An on-going collaborative climate modelling effort by the Institute of Meteorology of Cuba, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and Mona and Cave Hill Campuses of UWI has modelled precipitation and temperature for the Caribbean. This initiative has resulted in the publication of projected temperature and precipitation estimates thereby enabling Caribbean SIDS to plan for adaptation to, and mitigation against, climate change. The activities of the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean have complemented this work for the Dominican Republic (and Mesoamerica) by assessing the vulnerability of ecosystems and their constituent species to climate change. There are also new opportunities for climate research in the subregion through the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX), which was initiated in 2010 and is expected to generate new and more abundant information for climate change projections and planning. Building climate modelling capacity across the subregion will help raise awareness and enhance the ability of States to consider adaptation and mitigation options with a view to effective policy development and strategic action aligned with the Climate Change Convention and Caribbean challenges.

In Guyana, our track record in fulfilling the 19 priority areas as outlined in the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), as well as the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) I am quite sure that all of us will be comforted in the fact that we have made substantial advancement in nearly all the areas, and whilst not blowing our own trumpet, I think if we compare even some of the better off states, notwithstanding the fact that we may all be vulnerable, we would have exceeded expectations and perhaps our own capacities,” Robert Persaud, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Guyana.

Source: Guyana Government Information Agency, 2013

- As part of their climate change mitigation efforts, Caribbean SIDS have focused on increased efficiency in the energy and transport sectors and have worked on national awareness-building and incorporated several new initiatives utilizing renewable energy technologies. In addition, Caribbean SIDS have targeted both supply- and demand-side measures for energy mitigation,

³⁹ Excerpt from the speech delivered by Dr. the Honourable, Roodal Moonilal, Minister of Housing and the Environment at the launch of the Ministry’s Neighbourhood Upgrade Programme on Friday October 28th, 2011.

⁴⁰ <http://www.sport-for-life.org/caribbean/> Accessed on February 28 2013

such as energy conservation and efficiency, cogeneration, modernization of thermoelectric utilities, improvement of transport infrastructure, enhancement of energy efficiency in lighting and air conditioning and implementation of demand-side management programmes. In the transport sector, Caribbean SIDS have attempted mitigation through the introduction of electric or compressed natural gas vehicles, encouragement for early adoption of hybrid vehicles and the introduction of vehicle emissions standards. These efforts will not only improve transport sector efficiency but will also create positive spillovers for other policy goals, such as reducing local pollution, energy costs and traffic congestion. Despite their low contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions and the efforts they are making to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Caribbean SIDS face challenges in adopting clean energy technologies. An increase in energy consumption resulted in carbon dioxide emissions increasing by an annual average of 3.0 per cent between 1990 and 2008.⁴¹

- The Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) for the Caribbean which has been designed to promote water security and climate resilience in Caribbean states as a key part of sustainable regional and national development for economic growth and human security. The programme will span 42 months from October 2012 to March 2015. The overall objective of the programme is to support adaptation of Caribbean states to climate variability and change through the implementation of better water policies, strategies, programmes and water related adaptation actions defined in the CARICOM Implementation Plan for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.
- The IADB has established the Climate Change Strategy to serve as a guiding instrument for scaling up IADB support for actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change within the Caribbean. Leveraging the IADB's institutional strengths and its unique advantages, the CCS will promote the development and use of a range of public and private sector financial and nonfinancial instruments for strengthening the institutional, technical, and financial capacity to address climate change challenges.
- In 2008, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative was launched by a set of governments, as an effort to provide greater leadership, and to chart a new course for protecting and sustainably managing the marine and coastal environment across the Caribbean. The Caribbean Challenge Initiative so far involves eight island nations, namely the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis. Five countries have made formal commitments to protect at least 20 per cent of the near-shore marine and coastal habitats by 2020. All eight countries are participating in the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund that will provide sustainable financing for their national protected areas. Since its launch in 2007, there has been significant progress on advancing biodiversity conservation in all eight countries. Recent highlights include advancements in sustainable financing, with US\$ 32 million already pledged to date to capitalize the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund that will was recently launched.
- The member States of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) now have a model flood risk reduction system which can contribute to protecting the lives and property of people at the community level. The system has been developed under the Caribbean Disaster Management Project Phase 2 (CADM2). The CADM2 was implemented from January 2009 to June 2012 by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit, in collaboration with the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), UWI, the University of Guyana and the respective governments of Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana and Saint Lucia in which pilot projects were undertaken.

⁴¹ ECLAC calculation based on carbon dioxide emissions data from the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database,[online] <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx> [date of reference: December 2011].

- CDEMA has done much work in instituting model comprehensive disaster management policies and strategies. Countries now have to adapt these model policies, legislation and strategies into national instruments. The British Virgin Islands has very successfully formulated and continues to implement these national frameworks, including sourcing funds. Nevertheless, as is common throughout the Caribbean the emphasis still continues to be on post disaster activities; it is only recently that countries have begun embarking on pre-disaster activities based on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. Examples are the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). CCRIF now has 3 programmes: Scholarships; regional ‘strategic’ knowledge-building; and support to small disaster risk management projects and programmes being implemented at the community level. The Caribbean Development Bank has also established a facility for providing grants to communities for disaster mitigation and climate change adaptation.
- CDEMA is implementing phase II of the project on “Mainstreaming Climate Change in Disaster Management in the Caribbean” (CCDM). The CCDM-II project continues the work of phase I in proactively addressing the threat climate change poses to the sustainable development of CARICOM States. It seeks to strengthen the capacity at the national level for integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as well as develop and promote climate smarting of community disaster management programmes.

The examples provided above and other available data show substantial achievements in policy formulation in the Caribbean, with an impressive range of documents created in response to the international environmental agenda, as well as the social dimensions covered in the MDGs, such as poverty reduction, education, health and labour matters. Further, over the BPoA implementation period there have been significant changes in the perception of countries about the role of the environment in sustainable development. Many countries have developed a comprehensive set of plans and strategies in which issues related to the Mauritius Strategy, namely economic, social and environmental dimensions are typically well integrated.

Policy changes have been further demonstrated in the integration of emerging issues related to climate change and sea level rise, renewable energy, food security, health (HIV/AIDS), sustainable tourism into national development strategies. Belize for example, has also taken a holistic approach to sustainable development through a National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan. Fiscal and monetary policies have also been adjusted in recent times to respond to the global economic crisis.

Some Caribbean SIDS have also embraced major policy shifts, adopting various approaches to transform their economies into green economies. For example, Dominica is using the concept of transformation into an environmentally sound organic island; while in Guyana, the emphasis is on implementing a Low Carbon Development Strategy, and in Barbados focus is being placed on the transformation into a green economy.

The knowledge management process in the Caribbean is evolving and systems built on a modern information and communications technology infrastructure, continue to be pursued for mitigating the effects of limited capacity, isolation and remoteness of Caribbean SIDS. E-governance initiatives were reported from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Another noteworthy regional information and communications technology (ICT) initiative is the establishment of a Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network whose main objective is to enhance the competitiveness of Caribbean countries by upgrading and diversifying skills and knowledge through increased regional collaboration and use of ICT to connect citizens. However, there is still a paucity of good quality data and limited documentation of adequate metadata to facilitate the empirical analyses in the planning and systematic monitoring of government initiatives and programmes.

Efforts to address these data and information gaps include various regional initiatives, such as the multi-donor initiative, ‘Support to poverty assessment and reduction in the Caribbean’ , and an ECLAC subregional project that provides technical assistance to the subregion to enhance monitoring and reporting capacities on MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. The various reviews

also indicate that the technical capabilities to monitor environmental change at scales appropriate for small islands have improved greatly. However, effective knowledge-sharing is still hampered by cultural and social barriers, including the multicultural and multilingual diversity in some Caribbean SIDS.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) assisted Caribbean member States in developing a harmonized framework for the protection of traditional knowledge, folklore, genetic resources, indigenous culture and national heritage. This was executed as part of policy action recommendations reflected in Article 66 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.⁴²

All countries continue to participate actively and to report on the Rio Conventions. Countries are involved in preparing the second or third national communications; national biodiversity strategies and action plans and various iterations of the national biodiversity reports. The Partnership Initiative in Sustainable Land Management implemented by the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development is implementing sustainable land management projects in 2 countries: integrated agro-forestry and sustainable land-use management in a Mayan community in Belize; and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines rural women's agri-practitioner's project.

Five of the OECS countries are implementing the GEF/World Bank/ The Nature Conservancy financed Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystem Project. The objective of the Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystem Project is to contribute to enhancing the long-term sustainability of protected areas networks in the OECS countries, by:

- Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Strengthening marine protected area networks; and
- Deploying a regional monitoring and information system for protected area networks.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund has been established with financing provided by GEF and KfW, a German development bank. Participating countries are also establishing National Conservation Trust Funds for financing parks and protected areas in their jurisdictions. Many other projects supported by Convention Secretariats and the GEF that were reported in the MSI+5 Regional Synthesis continue to be implemented.

The infrastructure for the governance and management of sustainable development in the Caribbean subregion has been largely embedded in environmental law. Caribbean countries have made significant progress in establishing comprehensive policy, institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable development, although these vary widely across countries. As active participants in the main environmental treaties and conventions, these international instruments dealing with the environment, represent a form of "soft" law, and play a vital role not only in supranational governance, but also in the development of domestic environmental policy and law. It must be noted though that the provisions of many of these international agreements have not been incorporated in many of the local laws and therefore have no legal applicability in Caribbean jurisdictions.

New legislation in support of the sustainable development agenda has been proposed in some countries ranging from a Climate Change Act, an Environmental Management Act, a Disaster Management Act, Physical Planning and Development Act, and the general inclusion of the precautionary principle in local legislation. The implementation of these new pieces of legislation will go a long way in addressing the issue of outdated laws.

From a regional standpoint, the legal context in which some of the Caribbean SIDS that are also member States of the Caribbean Community operate, is also changing, as a result of the incorporation of the key tenets of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing The Caribbean Community inclusive of the CSME into their national legislation and the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

⁴² WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), "Regional Expert Meeting on the Establishment of a Caribbean Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Folklore/Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources" (2008), Jamaica.

The United States Agency for International Development has assisted the OECS Secretariat with interventions in disaster risk management, biodiversity management, and to facilitate the transition of selected Member States to open trade, and to enable the countries to compete more successfully and be more sustainable in the global economy. Similarly, the Canadian International Development Agency has, among other things, provided assistance for capacity development for environmental management in the OECS subregion. The CARICOM Secretariat continues to receive assistance from the European Commission and a number of governments (such as Spain, France, Brazil and Mexico), to undertake a number of regional sustainable development initiatives.

Much of the funding for sustainable development initiatives in the subregion often takes place in the context of United Nations programmes, especially GEF programmes. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ) is actively supporting initiatives in renewable energy. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has focused efforts in programmes for the promotion of tools for self-empowerment by civil society partners in the governance process.

III. Challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS in implementing the BPoA and MSI

Further to the eight NARs that have been received to date, the most recent review of the implementation of the BPoA and the MSI in the Caribbean was undertaken in 2010. The report from this review documents that the rate of implementation of the MSI has been slow, and that Caribbean SIDS in general, continue to face a number of constraints such as limited technical, financial and human resources, as well as the impact of exogenous factors, particularly the global financial crisis. However, despite this the Caribbean countries continue to show progress at both the national and regional levels where there has been increased institutional capacity for carrying out policy reforms and in formulating and implementing appropriate strategies and action plans. It should be recognized that this progress was achieved primarily through the efforts of the Caribbean SIDS themselves, with support from international development partners and intergovernmental regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, and the international financial institutions.⁴³ Barbados, for instance has browed quite substantially from IADB to finance a project in coastal resources management, water and sanitation upgrade, and for sustainable energy. Similarly Guyana has borrowed from IADB and the China Development Bank for the construction of a new 165MW hydroelectric facility at the Amaila Falls. Capital is also available in Trinidad and Tobago to invest in renewable energy projects in other Caribbean territories.

In the aforementioned survey that was undertaken by ECLAC in 2010 to determine the status of implementation of the MSI about 50 per cent of the countries that responded indicated they are fairly well poised to do so and approximately 37 per cent sated that they could do this with minimum success.⁴⁴ Given existing trends, there is no reason to believe that there have been any major changes in the intervening three years. It is also fair to say that all countries in the Caribbean subregion are facing difficulties in sourcing the necessary financial and technical resources to implement the MSI or their national sustainable development strategies. Additionally, as Jamaica states in its NAR the pursuit of the MDGs has been an additional burden on the public sector and has served to shift the focus away from

⁴³ Five Year Review of the MSI in the Caribbean (MSI+5), ECLAC. LC/CAR/L258.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

the implementation of the BPoA and the MSI. This burden has increased substantially as a result of the present poor fiscal and economic environment in the subregion.

In 2010 countries also identified other challenges that were being encountered and all indications are that they are still proving to be challenges in implementing the MSI. These include: unemployment (Antigua and Barbuda), poverty (Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and crime (Trinidad and Tobago) as the main social challenges, with crime (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), youth unemployment (Dominica), education for employment (Grenada) and high food prices (Trinidad and Tobago), as being the secondary causes of concern.

Compounding the challenges identified above, it is apparent that every Caribbean nation will continue to see:

- Falling remittances from nationals overseas;
- Graduation to middle-income status;
- A significant decline in tourism/visitor arrivals;
- A fall off in overseas investment;
- Increasing levels of unemployment in key sectors including construction and tourism;
- Falling tax revenues;
- Difficulties in raising money on international markets to cover the day to day operations of Government; and
- Budgetary pressure related to the cost of delivering policies intended to mitigate the worst effects of the recession and/or stimulate future economic growth.

Furthermore, an ECLAC Report states that according to the Caribbean Human Development Report, significant strides have been made in human development in the Caribbean particularly in health and education (Chase and others, 2013). There have been marked increases in life expectancy and a marked decline in infant mortality across most of the countries of the subregion since the 1960s. However, according to the World Bank, the Caribbean has undergone demographic and epidemiological transitions, whereby life expectancy has increased and as a result is creating new demands on health systems. Creating additional demands on these health systems is the increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Addressing the pressing problems identified above is made more difficult by:

- The continuing longer-term challenges being experienced in almost every single sector of the Caribbean economy;
- Slow progress towards the creation of a viable Caribbean Single Market and Economy;
- A decline in international interest in the subregion by its traditional partners in development;
- Growth across the subregion in crime, violence and narcotics trafficking; and
- Citizen insecurity resulting from predatory crimes, drug crimes or gender based violence. Crime, violence and conflict instill fear and anxiety about personal security and hinder economic development by making the subregion unattractive for investment.

A. Some specifics of the challenges of the BPoA and MSI implementation in the Caribbean

Moving to the specifics of the BPoA and MSI implementation in the Caribbean, it is noted that the comparison of the BPoA and MSI thematic areas by CARICOM countries is very revealing. All countries reported implementation of the first 8 thematic areas. All of these areas have been traditionally classified as environmental issues. The high success rate in implementation of projects covering these issues is a result of the availability of funds through the Convention Secretariats and other external funds. Nevertheless there are still some gaps; the excerpt below⁴⁵ presents a synopsis of the key gaps that exist in the implementation of the MSI.

1. Climate change and sea level rise

In general, countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Some of the challenges in so doing include lack of political will, lack of awareness of the benefits of the Protocol, technical constraints in preparation of annual reports to the Protocol Secretariat and financial constraints in meeting commitments. The necessary national legislation still needs to be enacted to ensure execution of the requirements of the Protocol. Additional concerns are the sustainability of actions within the context of climate change since funding is usually obtained from external sources.

Adaptation has been taking place in the Caribbean subregion on a local scale through ad hoc individual action. There needs to be a coordinated approach to adaptation if the subregion is to better prepare itself for the vagaries of climate change. The need for technology transfer and environmentally sound technologies has been recognized as critical in averting the threat of climate change throughout the UNFCCC process.

2. Natural and environmental disasters

Environmental vulnerability is also a fundamental variable when planning the sustainable development of the subregion. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policy is needed and increased awareness of the value of disaster risk reduction through mitigation and adaptation.

3. Management of wastes

The factors that have driven solid waste management in the Caribbean are: social factors (health and aesthetics); environmental factors (air and water quality); and economic factors (minimize losses from flooding, health care costs, land degradation etc.; improve marketability of countries for tourism) (Clauzel, 2012). Despite the progress in solid waste collection by some countries, other countries in the region are still struggling with the collection and disposal of solid waste especially from rural communities. In addition liquid waste management still remains problematic throughout the Caribbean with the exception of Barbados which is presently embarked on a project, with financing obtained from the IADB, elements of which will include improvement of waste water services; modernizing the institutional settings for the sanitation sector; and the preparation of a waste water treatment action plan.⁴⁶

The need to formulate an agreement on a regional approach to waste management has been articulated by Caribbean SIDS as one of the challenges to waste management in the region. Of particular importance is the naming of a lead agency to co-ordinate activities. Other constraints are, inter alia: identifying cost-effective and environmentally sound waste management systems; exploring and engaging in innovative forms of financing of waste management infrastructure; and promoting reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and waste management initiatives.

⁴⁵ Five Year Review of the MSI in the Caribbean (MSI+5), ECLAC. LC/CAR/L258.

⁴⁶ Barbados National Assessment Report, 1st Edition.

4. Coastal and marine resources

All countries are cognizant of the degradation of their coastal and marine resources and marine resources and are keenly aware of the impact of climate change and sea level rise on these resources. To this end, each country is undertaking a number of activities to mitigate further degradation of the coastal and marine resources. The Commonwealth of Dominica, have over the past few years constructed sea walls with funding made available from the Caribbean Development Bank and other bilateral sources.

The entire coastal zone in Guyana lies below sea level and is protected by 370 km of sea defences, 80km of which are defensive structures that range from earthen banks to concrete walls. Guyana has developed a Sea and River Defence Policy, which calls for alternative solutions to the traditional 'hard structures'. This includes the restoration of mangroves for effective flood defence, and to protect environmental resources.

Despite activities taking place in a number of the countries there are still a number of outstanding actions, which include, inter alia: Completion of the delimitation of maritime boundaries; assessment of living and non-living seabed resources within national jurisdictions; analysis and assessment of the status of fish stocks; and establishment of effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement and control of fishing vessels especially as flag States to address unreported and unregulated fishing.

Also, monitoring of coastal waters and use of marine resources especially in support of tourism is needed. Furthermore, attention needs to be paid to the application of preventative, precautionary and anticipatory approaches to avoid degradation of the marine environment.

5. Freshwater resources

The Caribbean region experiences distinct rainfall (wet and dry) seasons where the dry season generally occurs from January to March during the northern hemisphere winter. Drought in the Caribbean is one of the most frequently occurring natural hazards with both economic and social effects which were felt and documented in the drought of 2009-2010. For the latter part of 2012, the region received below normal rainfall which meant that going into the dry season in January 2013 there was already a deficit in the stored water content compared to other years.

Since the start of 2013, drought has been declared in Saint Lucia and Jamaica with warnings being issued in other territories. There are moves to formalize drought policies throughout the region and measures such as rainwater harvesting are being encouraged as well as being considered for legislation to assist in alleviating the pressures on water suppliers and to reduce the effects of droughts in the medium to long term.

Demand for water in the tourism and agriculture sectors as well as flooding, salt water intrusion and poor drainage as a result of changes in climate have resulted in significant competition for allocation of scarce water supplies. Thus major challenges and barriers to fresh water resources management in the Caribbean are access to financial resources for infrastructural development; access to technologies and technical expertise; and changing cultural perceptions of water as a free public good.

6. Land resources

Land degradation, in the Caribbean, caused by poor land management practices such as slash and burn agriculture, uncontrolled livestock grazing on fragile lands, poor road construction and unplanned or poorly planned settlements in landslide-prone areas is of great concern. This presents challenges in maintaining food security, in servicing the tourism industry and in preserving the health of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems that on small islands are particularly vulnerable.

Among the problems identified for the slow progress in developing National Action Plans as required under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, is the lack of dedicated financial and technical resources; multiple responsibilities of the national technical focal points; dispersed information; and lack of specialised equipment for data handling. Countries have also expressed concern about the national action plans being a central and integral part of a broader process

of formulating national policies. Caribbean SIDS consider that the development and implementation of an integrated financial strategy must necessarily be part of the alignment process.

7. Energy resources

An assessment of the evolving energy context in the Caribbean identifies a reliance on fossil fuels and limited capacity within governments, the private sector or civil society to fully assess the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of different energy policies, options and mixes affecting the subregion's ability to move to a more sustainable energy future. Nevertheless, as already described in section II, there are a growing number of countries in the region who are involved in renewable energy initiatives. The remaining challenges then concern access to new technologies and financing for implementing new strategies and technologies aimed at reducing the region's dependence on fossil fuels and managing the inherent risks as a result of that dependency.

8. Tourism resources

The Caribbean is one of the premier tourist destinations in the world. Tourism is a key industry in the Caribbean with around 35 million visitors per year (including cruise passengers) and its linkages with other services and sectors increase its importance for the regional economy. However, tourism faces serious constraints that could affect the real benefits of tourism development in the region. The Caribbean has a low competitive ability on the international tourism markets as showed by the WTTC's competitive index analysis; moreover it has developed a mass-tourism industry extremely focused on its sea attractions (sea-sand-sun tourism) and based on the all-inclusive supply system that, in general, does not involve local communities and has limited benefits for national economies. From an institutional point of view, the Caribbean region has developed important policy frameworks as well as national and regional tourism organizations (Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, etc.) that influence the tourism development of the area. These public-private institutions are committed to promoting sustainable tourism development, but because of the low levels of understanding among policy makers about tourism mechanisms, and especially its role in community-development and poverty reduction, their effort seems limited compared to the real tourism potentialities of the region. This situation is also affecting the ability of policy makers to promote sustainable tourism development in the present trade negotiations (General Agreement on Trade in Services, Economic Partnership Agreements, etc.).

In addition, changes in the travel patterns, markets, and traveler motivations have brought considerable growth and dramatic change to the subregion's tourism sector. Over the last decade, cruise ship tourism has shown high and steady rates of growth although growth rates in cruise ship visitor arrivals in individual ports can and have been much more erratic. Also, preliminary results of economic assessments of the tourism sector in the Bahamas, Barbados, Montserrat and Saint Lucia have shown that revenue from this industry is declining. There is therefore need to diversify the tourism product perhaps through investment in the creative and cultural industries sector. Nevertheless other important tourism destinations such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic have increased their tourist arrivals.

9. Biodiversity resources

Caribbean ecosystems are characterized by high rates of species endemism which is being threatened by alien invasive species that are at times, accidentally introduced and which proliferate and in turn, compete with and threaten native species. Strategies need to be developed to address the introduction and spread of such species. Some countries have developed their national invasive species strategies but do not have the funds to implement the actions contained in the strategies.

10. Social vulnerabilities

Additional challenges that continue to stifle the progress of implementation of the BPoA and the MSI are the social vulnerabilities faced by the region. Caribbean nations are amongst those most at risk from natural disasters and global climate change. They have also experienced far-reaching social change in the last decade that has reshaped patterns of vulnerability. Recent moves towards democratization,

privatization, and participatory development may have freed social capital and allowed civil society to reduce grassroots vulnerability. On the other hand, urban growth, modernisation, and the decline of group leisure activities may have contributed to social fragmentation.⁴⁷

Since 1992, significant progress has been observed in the Caribbean with regard to access to drinking water, sanitation and energy, in mortality rates and in nutrition and limited food security, although some of those gains have been cancelled out by the recent global crises. Increasingly large numbers of people live in slums, and health systems remain fragmented and are challenged in keeping up with epidemiological and demographic trends. The causes of these social vulnerabilities in the Caribbean can be summarised, *inter alia*, as follows:

- The negative fallouts of the global financial crisis⁴⁸ have resulted in increased unemployment, decline in real wages⁴⁹ and an increase in the number of vulnerable persons and communities with a resultant increase in poverty and a decline in consumption⁵⁰ in poor households.
- Involvement in crime and violence among Caribbean youth is linked with high levels of youth unemployment, poor educational opportunities, and feelings of voicelessness and exclusion from national and regional governance processes. Overall, youth crime is costing CARICOM countries between 2.8 per cent and 4 per cent of GDP annually, in terms of direct expenditure on fighting crime and in lost revenues due to youth incarceration and declines in tourism revenues (UNDP, 2012a).
- At the same time, increased youth involvement in violence has contributed to popular perceptions of growing insecurity in the Caribbean. The feelings of insecurity among Caribbean citizens on account of youth violence have stemmed from inadequate attention to youth development and youth empowerment, which has increased the risk of youth offences and victimization (UNDP, 2012b).
- Impact of degraded ecosystems⁵¹ continues to undermine food production and the availability of clean water, hence threatening human health, and livelihoods. In the Caribbean, land degradation caused by poor land management practices such as slash and burn agriculture, uncontrolled livestock grazing on fragile lands, poor road construction and unplanned or poorly planned settlements in landslide-prone areas is of great concern. Evidence also shows that the use of pesticides during the era of intensive monocrop agriculture has contributed to land degradation in the Caribbean. Every year untold amounts of valuable top-soil is eroded away and washed into rivers and out to sea during heavy rains. Over time, the productivity of land for agriculture is lost, as is the productivity of coral reefs as they become blanketed by silt. In both cases this presents challenges in maintaining food security. Siltation of rivers (caused by build-up of eroded soil in the river channels) increases the flood-risk in low-lying areas with potential for loss to life and property.
- Due in part to its geography the Caribbean is faced with the daily challenge of securing large, porous and remote sea and land borders against the illicit flows of guns and ammunition, illegal drugs, the trafficking of persons and the illicit flows of money and equipment that could also be used to commit acts of terror, in the region or elsewhere. These illegal activities weaken the rule of law and deprive the State of vital revenue. In some of the Caribbean jurisdictions, overcrowded urban slums, plagued by deep poverty, limited economic

⁴⁷ <http://www.eldis.org/id21ext/5amp1.html> Accessed on February 28 2013.

⁴⁸ Given the strong linkages of the region with the United States and Europe, the effects of the crisis through a reduction in the demand for Caribbean exports, the deceleration of the inflow of remittances and the slowdown in FDI generated a growth contraction of approximately 0.2 percent for the entire Caribbean region.

⁴⁹ The crisis has threatened the positive trend in employment of recent years for men and women in the service sector (tourism, finance, telecommunications) and has further exacerbated the declining employment in industry and agriculture.

⁵⁰ Based on a model of household consumption sensitivity with respect to GDP growth, it was estimated that household consumption contracted by 6.2 percent in 2009 in the English Speaking Caribbean countries as a result of the global financial crisis.

⁵¹ Caused by climate change, environmental degradation, increasing human population and demand for finite resources, especially within limited land masses of Caribbean SIDS.

opportunities and the weakness of government institutions breed armed groups and remain a source of broader instability.

- Rapid urbanisation, decline in rural livelihoods, and the growth of unplanned human settlements⁵² have increased the exposure of more persons, especially in vulnerable groups and communities to hazard events. Poverty is also forcing people in the Caribbean to live on dangerous, marginal sites and in poorly built houses. Overcrowding, subdivision and other conversions of dwellings, lack of amenities and deterioration of buildings are common characteristics of such settlements.
- The Caribbean has the highest prevalence of chronic NCDs in the Americas, with heart disease and cancer being the leading causes of death among males and females. Diabetes ranks number five among males and number three among females.⁵³ These diseases⁵⁴ cause premature loss of life, productivity loss and spiralling health care costs. In addition, lagging health care infrastructure,⁵⁵ inadequate training and prevention practices, coupled with a lack of equipment leave many non-communicable diseases undiagnosed and untreated. High costs of health care and lack of easy access in rural areas (due in some cases to poor infrastructure and lack of transportation) also exacerbates the health problems in the Caribbean. In addition, although the research task of assessing the actual and potential health impacts of climate change is still lagging in the Caribbean, note is made of an increased incidence of dengue fever and malaria. Some countries have also reported an increase in leptospirosis as a result of flooding and heavy rainfall.⁵⁶
- Regional and international migration is having an effect on human development in the Caribbean. Caribbean peoples have migrated both internally and externally for decades in search of better economic opportunities leading to the formation and structure of triangular family links. Recent literature on Caribbean kinship has reversed the image of the Caribbean family unit as one of fragmentation, breakdown and dysfunction by highlighting functioning and supportive extended family networks despite residential and geographical separation,⁵⁷ “viewed from the perspective of interdependent linkages the Caribbean family emerges as a transnational institution, powerful and resilient.” The Caribbean transnational family has been described as one of the most effective functioning family units brought about as a result of migration.⁵⁸ Migrant parents in the host countries perform the breadwinner role, while the nurturing of children is carried out by extended family members such as grandmothers or other relatives with whom children reside, until they are reunited with their parent(s). These features are deemed the positive elements of migration; there are, however, also some negative outcomes, which serve as a threat to sustainable development. All of these changing aspects of human development impact on the security of citizens and this is particularly pertinent to the Caribbean.
- Citizen security in the Caribbean is also impacted by social violence, defined as the violence of citizens against other citizens.⁵⁹ Jamaica, for example is considered among the top three most violent countries in the world, a situation that is replicated through the Caribbean. “This violence may be associated with predatory crimes, drug crimes or with conflicts such as gang

⁵² Bad location, lack of regulations in land use, hillside and coastal settlements, no risk management, unavailability of low cost insurance mechanisms, and poor housing stock, lack of compliance with building codes and standards, lack of capacity in the informal construction sector, and dearth of ingenuity among architects and engineers to offer low cost, aesthetically pleasing and safe housing designs suitable for Caribbean SIDS.

⁵³ <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Uniting-to-stop-chronic-non-communicable-diseases---CARICOM-leads-the-charge-7862.html> Accessed on February 22 2013.

⁵⁴ Many of which are linked to poor diet and nutrition e.g obesity amongst young children

⁵⁵ Nevertheless mention must be made of the Cuban exception. Cuba's health system, which implements several programs to improve the quality of life of the people, is based on state-of-the-art technology and methods created by local institutions

⁵⁶ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20813388> Accessed on February 28 2013.

⁵⁷ See UNICEF 2003.

⁵⁸ Rosina Wiltshire-Brodber. 1986. *The Caribbean Transnational Family*.

⁵⁹ Harriot Anthony 2010. *Citizen Security and Human Development in the Caribbean - some Thoughts: Charting the Way Forward for the Preparation of the Caribbean Regional Human Development Report on Citizen' security*. Kingston.

violence in communities. “The state is also a source of insecurity, but this is due mainly to the use of perverse methods to manage criminal violence”⁶⁰ which often borders on the violation of human rights.

11. Other challenges

Other pertinent challenges stem from differences in sustainable development objectives as they relate to linking environment to the traditional economic and social development paradigm. Sustainable development is indeed a cross cutting issue that should consider all economic, environmental and social dimensions before making development decisions. These different rationales tend to create obstacles for achieving convergent development objectives and targets, often resulting in weakened political will for participatory decision-making.

When considered in the context of international or global governance institutions as a whole, including the United Nations system and international financial institutions, the environmental pillar is generally weak in authority, priority and profile and capacity relative to the economic pillar (although some governments and stakeholders dispute this contention). Competition between economic development and environment is well evidenced in disparities in government priorities, for example, with tourism tending to be given a higher priority than environment. Also the social agenda has traditionally been less of a priority although that is now changing.

Substantial engagement of all state actors in the participatory decision-making process will be required in order to facilitate the alignment of objectives and assist in the clearer definition of development objectives and targets.

The policy gap stems largely from the fragmentation of sustainable development roles and functions across sectors (Ministries and Agencies) and communities. Fragmentation of treaties, financing, and overall authority for environmental and sustainable development governance has resulted in a lack of policy coherence. Further, uncoordinated approaches to policy development result in incoherence between sub national policy needs and national policy direction. In addition, the integration of sustainable development into decision making at all levels needs to be addressed, especially in the wider macro-economic policy domains of finance and trade.

The three dimensions of sustainable development need to be more effectively integrated at the global, regional, and national levels, hence environmental and sustainable development policy content, may have the tendency to be externally skewed in Caribbean SIDS. Moreover, the science-policy interface remains inadequate and suffers from a limited capacity, especially at the national level. Furthermore, the social aspect of sustainable development seems to be given the least prominent on the policy agenda.

Instruments for revealing and sharing information to enhance decision making are largely inadequate. Where data are available they exist in differing formats and in different locations, which makes it problematic for decision-makers to obtain information on a sustained basis and at opportune moments. This scenario also has an added impact on the effectiveness of regulation and enforcement practices. There are also cultural issues related to hoarding knowledge as a source of power, different values, and perceptions on the use of knowledge.

The integration of scientific knowledge into intergovernmental decision-making also needs to be improved. Most existing scientific assessment institutions, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are issue-specific and tied to governmental mandates. In addition, many areas of concern are not covered by such assessment institutions nor are interlinkages between issue areas.

Communicating sustainable development to the general population is also a challenge. This involves maintaining the balance between generating information for environmental and social awareness and ensuring

⁶⁰ Ibid.

a substantive focus on the “grey” issues of local and personal importance, notwithstanding the “green” issues that usually frame the language of global environmental management.

In addition, monitoring the impact of public awareness is a rare activity in the Caribbean, and it is a weakness that needs to be remedied. Without such analysis, any policy initiative based on assumptions about changes in public behaviour may have uncertain effects. Addressing information challenges in governance for sustainable development will require the rebuilding of existing systems and knowledge management processes with particular focus on infrastructure, a coherent analytical framework and specialised expertise to create regional, national and subnational networks for information sharing and dissemination, and opportunities to support lesson learning through shared knowledge.

Finally it is noted that while programmed monitoring and evaluation are critical to assessing progress in the implementation of the BPoA and the MSI by Caribbean SIDS, monitoring and evaluation in the subregion remains a challenge. These challenges were identified in the Caribbean Report for MSI+5 and are reproduced here because these challenges are yet to be mitigated.

- Inadequate data gathering and benchmarking indicators to assess performance;
- An ingrained culture that is not favourable to assessment;
- Asymmetries in power between the subregion and donor countries and agencies that leads to the monitoring and evaluation framework being driven from outside;
- A shortage of financial, technical and institutional capacity which limits the ability of countries to respond to new issues as they arise;
- Lack of clear strategies for moving from monitoring and evaluation to implementation of changes proposed by evaluations. This leads to inertia in conducting future evaluations, which are often deemed pointless since they might not be acted upon;
- With respect to data gathering and indicators, the subregion needs to complete the development of sustainable development indicators to measure and monitor performance.

Although the development of aggregate indices presents difficulties of weighting of indicators and aggregation, individual indicators for key areas relating to socio-economic and environmental sustainability remain vital. On the institutional side, the challenge is to provide adequate technical and financial resources to undertake the periodic monitoring and evaluation of progress. To date, monitoring and evaluation of activities are project oriented and are linked to donor funding.

To lessen the impact of asymmetries in power, donor agencies need to agree to partner with Caribbean SIDS in the monitoring and evaluation process. The costs of implementation need to be properly addressed, as without a clearly defined funding mechanism some countries may be unable to implement agreed actions under the BPoA and the MSI. A re-energized international commitment to funding and capacity-building for implementation is required. Nevertheless, Caribbean SIDS need to allocate their own resources, particularly to fund activities that are vital to their development.

The Regional Implementation Matrix is a critical component for monitoring and evaluating the BPoA and MSI. This matrix has targeted four main areas for action: climate change, disaster management, freshwater resources and trade, environment and development policy.

In terms of specific progress in the area of climate change, CCCCC was established in 2005. To date, a draft regional climate change strategy has been developed and the Centre is presently working on a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework built on climate change indicators and targets already existing at the national level.

With respect to disaster management, CDEMA has been tasked to take the lead the process and has developed a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation reporting framework with the assembling of baseline data for each of the participating States in 2010.

IV. Gaps in implementing the BPoA and MSI

Paragraph 85 of the MSI states that in order to assist SIDS in implementation of the thematic areas the following are required:

- Substantially increasing the flow of financial and other relevant resources, both public and private and ensuring their effective use;
- Improved trade opportunities;
- Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis as mutually agreed;
- Education and awareness realising;
- Capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities;
- National country-driven and country-owned strategies for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and resilience-building.

For many Caribbean SIDS, gaps still exist in these means of implementation. These include:

- Institutions and systems to achieve the implementation of BPoA objectives that are partially effective;
- The establishment of a multi-stakeholder ocean governance and policy framework;
- Enabling legislation and regulations to support implementation of the BPoA and MSI;
- Systems for monitoring and evaluation of progress made in implementation of the BPoA and MSI. Precluding this is the need for strengthening of systems of data collection, collation and analysis and sharing of data;
- The knowledge base and capacities of trade and climate change negotiators, diplomatic officials and other sectoral specialists;
- An operational and appropriately-resourced Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) that includes major groups to support implementation of the BPoA and MSI. The current RCM is

providing some support but needs to be strengthened. Also the Sustainable Development Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat is under-resourced and thereby challenged in many instances to support the implementation of the COTED (environment) decisions;

- Support for the utilisation of environmentally sound technologies remains limited. These include strengthening of research institutions to promote science and technology;
- Finance and investment in support of implementation of the BPoA and MSI have not been forthcoming;
- Support for the development of national sustainable development mechanisms in Caribbean SIDS requires review in terms of re-establishment of sustainable development councils;
- Lack of fiscal policy to support sustainable development including greening economy and promoting sustainable consumption and production;
- Although SIDS-SIDS cooperation has been successfully to some extent there are many lessons to be learnt from strengthening alliances among SIDS and also in promoting south-south cooperation;
- The social dimension of sustainable development has been an area of less focus than the economic and environmental dimensions. The impact of social programmes on citizen security cannot be underscored.

V. New and emerging issues for the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS

The NARs provided some information on what they considered to be new and emerging issues. Additional information was sought from various other documents, including the summary of conclusions from the Caribbean Forum that was held in Bogota, 5–6 March 2013. In addition, speaking on behalf of the fourteen member States of CARICOM represented at the United Nations during the High Level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 24 September 2010, the Honourable Dr. Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, pointed out six areas where action will be required to empower SIDS to bridge the existing gaps and thereby increase their social and economic resilience, namely: development financing; debt sustainability; expansion and access to export markets; sustainable development; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and strengthening of institutional support.

A. Non-communicable diseases

The Caribbean has the highest prevalence of chronic NCDs in the Americas, with heart disease and cancer being the leading causes of death among males and females. Diabetes ranks number five among males and number three among females.⁶¹ These diseases⁶² cause premature loss of life, productivity loss and spiralling health care costs. In addition, lagging health care infrastructure,⁶³ inadequate e training and prevention practices, coupled with a lack of equipment leave many non-communicable diseases undiagnosed and untreated. High costs of health care and lack of easy access in rural areas (due in some cases to poor infrastructure and lack of transportation) also exacerbates the health problems in the Caribbean. In addition, although the research task of assessing the actual and potential health impacts of

⁶¹ <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Uniting-to-stop-chronic-non-communicable-diseases---CARICOM-leads-the-charge-7862.html> Accessed on February 22 2013.

⁶² Many of which are linked to poor diet and nutrition e.g obesity amongst young children.

⁶³ Nevertheless mention must be made of the Cuban exception. Cuba's health system, which implements several programs to improve the quality of life of the people, is based on state-of-the-art technology and methods created by local institutions.

climate change is still lagging in the Caribbean, note is made of an increased incidence of dengue fever and malaria. Some countries have also reported an increase in leptospirosis as a result of flooding and heavy rainfall (Lau and others, 2010).

The economic burdens of NCDs on Caribbean countries are increasing exponentially with spiralling mortality and morbidity rates. There is need to place emphasis on the support for NCD prevention, care and treatment with special reference to behaviour change throughout the population.

B. Sustainable exploitation and management of the economic exclusive zone (blue economy) and the need for national oceans governance mechanisms

On the subject of oceans, Caribbean countries have traditionally championed matters particular to SIDS and the Caribbean Sea within the wider United Nations System. Nevertheless, during the Rio+20 preparatory meetings, the Prime Minister of Barbados articulated special circumstances with respect to the management of coastal ecosystems and fisheries in SIDS. The case for an integrated approach to oceans management and governance as a means of capitalizing on resources within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) was also presented by Barbados during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Given the outcomes of the Rio+20 pertaining to oceans Caribbean SIDS may wish to establish national and regional coordinating mechanisms to pursue the development of an integrated oceans governance policy framework.

The programme on oceans governance should also include:

- Developing an integrated approach to addressing the interlinked issues of oceans, climate change, and security that includes provisions for ecosystem-based adaptation strategies through integrated coastal and ocean management; sufficient funding to support adaptation for coastal and island communities that are at the frontline of climate change; conservation of coastal ecosystems as major carbon sinks; and moving towards a low-carbon economy through, inter alia, emissions reductions from marine industries and the development of offshore renewable energy.
- Enhance the capability of Caribbean SIDS) Conserve and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems as major carbon sinks ("blue carbon"), and integrate blue carbon into the policy and financing processes of the UNFCCC as a major tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes in the Caribbean.

C. Impact of global economic crisis on resource mobilization and financial flows to Caribbean SIDS

Openness to financial flows is significantly important for Caribbean SIDS. These flows include investment flows (foreign direct investment (FDI) and portfolio), trade credits and flows of remittances. All of these have been affected negatively during the current economic crisis. Caribbean SIDS are faced with the fact that private investment flows will decline as more risk averse investors move their funds to perceived 'safer' havens. Reduced portfolio flows will affect government borrowing. The costs of sovereign bonds and commercial debt as important sources of finance have risen sharply. Similarly FDI is declining, adding to their balance-of-payments constraints.

With respect to remittances there are already indications that remittance flows are declining and the important economic sectors are being severely impacted.

The emergence, over the past decade or so, of an international political order based on unilateralism and the use of war has resulted in an international climate of uncertainty and a scenario where the international development agenda is being overshadowed by the international security agenda focused on terrorism.

To address the challenges facing Caribbean SIDS access to adequate financial resources at all levels remain crucial to the continued implementation of the BPoA and the MSI as well as availability of, and access to, appropriate current technology and improved baseline and other technical information.

Caribbean SIDS are finding it increasingly difficult to access concessional development finance due to the application of criteria based solely on GDP with reference to their actual level of development, vulnerabilities or standard of living in real terms. Financial requirements and technical support remain as critical as ever if the implementation of the BPoA, MSI and MDGs are to progress further. Implementation of the commitments related to these development frameworks will depend ultimately on the resources that can be mobilized from both internal and external sources to meet the great challenges of sustainable development in general, and capacity building in particular.

Overall access to and responsiveness from the multilateral financing institutions, including the GEF, need much improvement through, inter alia, improving effectiveness of bilateral and multilateral development assistance, streamlining and harmonizing procedures, indicators and reporting methods, and by promoting coordination among donors.

D. Impact of globalization, trade liberalization and international tax regulations on the competitiveness of Caribbean SIDS

In addressing this challenge there is need for:

- Appropriate restructuring and diversification of Caribbean economies with possible international support in order to strengthen productive capacities, including the development of industrial policies to enhance the viability of the Caribbean's export sector;
- Diversification into alternative goods and services with possible international support; and
- Collaboration with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to undertake comprehensive examination of the impact of trade liberalization, improvement of trade efficiency, the use of economic instruments for sustainable development; building the capacity of Caribbean SIDS to facilitate coherence at the national level between trade, industrial policies and sustainable development.

E. Impact of cyber crime on information driven economic and social sectors

Given the complexity and importance of ICT and particularly the Internet to conduct business and communicate rapidly globalised environment, there is a great growing potential for cyber crime and terrorism. Caribbean SIDS need to take serious note of this emerging threat and begin to develop a cyber security framework for action and to support efforts at the regional level to reduce the risks of cyber crime.

F. Impact of global cultural penetration on national social capital

The inculcation of undesirable social behaviours including rising consumerism, crime and reduction in healthy lifestyles is weakening social identity and undermining national and Caribbean identity.

G. A new paradigm for building social resilience in the Caribbean

There is now an urgent need for a new paradigm to mitigate the vulnerabilities that plague the Caribbean. Building resilience, which involves increasing the ability of a system (social and ecological) to withstand shocks and surprises and to revitalize itself, if damaged, offers the prospect of a sustainable

response. Thus the new paradigm for building resilience in the Caribbean should focus on creating social capital at the community level; developing capacities at the community and individual household levels; and building social resilience and cohesion by creating redundancies⁶⁴ through community networks, social safety nets, civil society organizations.

At the present time, social capital at the community level in the Caribbean is somewhat weak and most communities, in the main, are poorly organized.⁶⁵ In addition, typically, there is an expectation and an assumption that government (central and local) takes charge and responds to the people's needs following a natural or man-made hazard. Following recent natural disaster and climate variability events⁶⁶ that assumption has proven false resulting in devastation to entire communities.

Experience from the Caribbean and elsewhere shows that social resilience has to be developed community by community. Assistance from centralized or local government is of secondary importance.

The model of social resilience that is proposed uses a “human preparedness” lens which focuses directly on people and community needs and moves away from the doctrine of independence to embracing a culture of *interdependence*. Organizations and networks at the local level can help their various stakeholders to prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of vulnerabilities. Thus enhancing social resilience requires cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders: private sector, government (public sector), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other community organizations (such as faith based organizations). It also requires the promotion of community based responses by increasing access to relevant information.

H. Using culture and cultural industries to build Caribbean social resilience

At the heart of Caribbean social fabric is culture. Culture shapes the Caribbean peoples identities, aspirations and relations; it also shapes the places and landscapes they live in, and the lifestyles they develop. Heritage, visual and performing arts, cinema, music, publishing, fashion or design manifest themselves strongly in daily life but the contribution that cultural and creative sectors can bring to building social resilience in the Caribbean is still not fully recognized. Cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure all lend themselves as strategic tools for revenue generation, and harnessing greater social inclusiveness and rootedness, resilience, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for individuals and communities, and the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge.

Respecting and supporting cultural expressions contribute to strengthening the social capital of a community and fosters trust in public institutions. Cultural factors also influence lifestyles, individual behaviour, consumption patterns, values related to environmental stewardship, and our interaction with the natural environment. Local and indigenous knowledge systems and environmental management practices provide valuable insight and tools for tackling ecological challenges, preventing biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

I. Crime and citizen security

Despite the democratization process experienced in the region in the last 20 years, citizen security levels, as well as the justice and security institutions in Caribbean SIDS are in crisis. Furthermore, despite the

⁶⁴ There is more than one system of coping -- when one system is impacted the other systems help with continued functioning; the greater the redundancy, the more resilient the system.

⁶⁵ This being said, it is also noted that there are some good examples of community organisations linked to the fight against crime e.g neighbourhood watch schemes in Barbados, which are organised with the assistance of the Royal Barbados Police Force. It has been an avenue for building solidarity within the community. There are also community level District Emergency organizations (which operate as the volunteer arm of the Department of Emergency Management) and assist with mobilization of community resources to respond to recovery efforts following a natural disaster – which is another avenue of building community networks.

⁶⁶ Hurricanes Tomas and Sandy in 2010 and 2012 respectively and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

structural and institutional reforms promoted by countries in the region in order to construct governance mechanisms which are more transparent, horizontal and democratic, the justice and security institutions are overwhelmed and confidence in them is shattered.

All Caribbean SIDS are beset by high rates of drug trafficking, violent crime, youth gang violence, use of small arms, and troubling levels of non-criminalized forms of social violence that are typically directed at the members of vulnerable groups. Caribbean SIDS have to transition to citizen security not only through institutional reform, but also through social crime prevention. Social crime prevention means ending marginalization and more effectively integrating excluded sections of the population. The focus on social crime prevention means paying attention to the social conditions that are most associated with crime and creating greater opportunities and choices for people.

All Caribbean SIDS have young populations. There are large populations of youth at risk, some of whom may drift into self-destructive anti-social behaviour. It follows that investments in youth and more specifically, investments in youth at risk or detached youth are likely to yield significant returns in terms of reductions in violence and crime and greater citizen security. Because violent crime is a drag on development, investments in the prevention of youth violence may, in turn, yield good results in human development.

J. Employment creation and poverty reduction

Poverty remains a major obstacle to the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS. There needs to be a regional approach to poverty surveys and the development of participatory mechanisms that offer more effective guidance in addressing poverty; the establishment of policies and frameworks to foster innovative partnerships for micro, small and medium enterprises, including the need to revitalize regional productive capacity and stimulate employment opportunities; communicating information and technologies to vulnerable groups and the poor as a means of enhancing their earning capacities and empowerment.

K. Other new and emerging issues for Caribbean SIDS

These other issues are listed as follows:

- Increasing costs of food and agri-inputs;
- Constantly increasing fuel costs;
- Long-term debt sustainability;
- Impact of carbon tax and border tax adjustments of Caribbean trade in goods and services;
- Antimicrobial resistance;
- Rising unemployment, especially among the youth, women and other vulnerable groups;
- Alien invasive species.

VI. Priorities of Caribbean SIDS for the Third International Conference for SIDS

When the SIDS + 20 is convened in 2014, the international economy will be much more challenging for SIDS. Food and energy prices are expected to continue their upward trends, export and tourism markets will become more competitive, and debt levels are unlikely to come down significantly barring some wide-ranging programme of forgiveness. At the same time, the demands will increase from growing populations, especially if emigration outlets become more restrictive and selective. Certainly, the risks of natural hazards and other impacts from climate change will be greater. On the other side, there may be greater opportunities in expanding global markets that can be tapped by more productive and more efficient export enterprises.

Nevertheless, Caribbean SIDS need to reaffirm the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, ‘including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters.

There has been a tendency to graduate as many SIDS as possible, so as to move them out of the realm of international donor support. There was a lack of urgency in addressing these issues at Rio+20, and therefore, they must be taken up at the Third International Conference in 2014.

The region has made progress primarily with its own efforts and some support from the “international development partners, inter-government regional organizations, non government organizations, international financial institutions” (ECLAC, 2010). But like the rest of the SIDS, the Caribbean has not benefitted from the commitments of finance made by the developed countries in Barbados, and reiterated in Monterrey and Mauritius.

The reform of the global financial architecture to facilitate and encourage investment in the resilience of SIDS is the number one economic priority. Caribbean SIDS therefore need to continue to push for differentiated treatment and access to concessionary financing.

Caribbean SIDS together with their counterparts in other SIDS regions have to develop an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework for systematically monitoring the outcomes of the

BPoA and MSI. The framework should ensure (i) relevant targets and indicators specific to country conditions and goals; (ii) sound methodological and/or statistical systems for deriving indicators; (iii) data, is accessible, affordable, and reliable; and (iv) SIDS have the financial and technical capacity to monitor and collect data.

Other priorities gleaned from a review of the NARs and the recommendations from the Caribbean Forum in Bogota in March 2013 include:

- Opportunity to proactively ensure that in the evolving global discourse, the unique challenges faced by small, vulnerable highly indebted middle-income island and coastal States in the Caribbean are acknowledged and accommodated;
- Consideration of a new paradigm for building resilience in the Caribbean by focussing on creating social capital at the community level; developing capacities at the community and individual household levels; and building social resilience and cohesion by creating redundancies through community networks, social safety nets, civil society organizations;
- While the global debate on whether or not small States and SIDS have unique features as a result of their fragility and vulnerability still rages on the Caribbean has enough evidence and experience to know that economic, social and ecological vulnerabilities will always remain permanent in the landscape. Hence vulnerability analysis, inclusive of all its dimensions, economic, environmental and social, should become an integral part of the national development planning framework of Caribbean States. Such inclusion could result in more realistic national goal setting particularly where the achievement of growth targets, the meeting of the MDGs and other sustainable development goals are concerned;
- More reliable data on migration flows and other phenomena are needed to make the case for SIDS more persuasively in international development forums;
- Efforts are needed to widen and deepen open regionalism and leverage meaningfully the scope for expansion and cooperation with trading blocks of the wider Latin America region;
- Strategies to align the BPoA and MSI with the key dimensions for the new post-2015 agenda: inclusive social development; inclusive economic development; environmental sustainability; and peace and security. The post-2015 operational framework should be sufficiently flexible and sustainable in order to reverse the vulnerabilities of SIDS;
- An improved focus on a new development thrust to advance the green economy and use of the Caribbean Sea as a carbon sink and the achievement of a land-degradation-neutral world;
- The SIDS agenda should be the platform on which the Caribbean subregion articulates its approach to all the other elements of the Rio+20 agenda. Sustainable growth, which encompasses inclusive growth, shared growth, green growth and knowledge based growth, are vital elements in that regard;
- The application of Principle 10 in the Rio Declaration provides for the participation of all concerned citizens in handling environmental issues and for access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy;
- The adoption of evidence-based policies in the Caribbean; the compilation and frequent updating of robust data to provide an integrated view of the issues; and the development of visioning scenarios and assessments to enhance the subregion's planning capability;
- Increase investment in research and development and further the patenting of inventions originating in the region;
- Improve the availability and efficiency of regional air and sea transport and develop strategies to improve maritime security and safety including through regional cooperation;
- Strategies to promote energy security inclusive of in the transport sector;

- Agriculture and food security with emphasis on increasing local food production and reduction of food imports, deployment of appropriate technologies, praedial larceny, crop insurance and sugar industry restructuring;
- Upgrading education systems from early childhood through tertiary to ensure relevance to twenty-first century realities, paying particular attention to addressing appropriate teacher training and continuing professional development;
- Ensure the availability of education and employment opportunities for young people to contribute effectively to the creative, intellectual and economic development of their communities, countries and the subregion. This should include access to education for all (including at risk populations) that promote enterprise, entrepreneur and competitiveness;
- Prioritise policies and actions to address citizen security, focusing on youth and gender-based violence;
- Promote gender equality including the continued empowerment of women and supporting men at risk. This should include a policy on decent work;
- Strengthen capacity for preparation of cost-benefit analyses, environmental impact assessments and feasibility studies that convey the full externalities of investment and other economic decisions;
- Explore innovative ways to increase engagement of the diaspora in sub regional development, including through diaspora direct investment in line with national policies and priorities;
- Resolve to ensure that the implementation of green economy policies is supported by finance and that innovative sources of finance meet the needs of the countries and that such policies be implemented on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national priorities;
- Quality and delivery of primary healthcare including preventative health care, focus on NCDs, and the promotion of health lifestyles;
- Sustainable management and exploitation of the EEZ including delimitation of maritime boundaries, agreements on fishing rights, energy infrastructure and Intra-regional maritime transport;
- Promote legal reform and legislative development with respect to prevention of corruption, freedom of information and management of public expenditure.

VII. Proposals for practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies for the further implementation of the BPoA and MSI in the Caribbean

Having explored the breadth of the challenges confronting the Caribbean in earlier chapters, the difficulties ahead will be here framed as a single issue. Caribbean SIDS are faced with a number of social, economic, and environmental challenges arising from prevailing global conditions, as well as innate difficulties which together constitute a potentially devastating development mix. It therefore falls to the Member States to formulate a long term development policy and strategy for poverty reduction, building capacity, resilience, and sustainable development across all three pillars, develop appropriate national and regional structures for implementing these development objectives and then act collaboratively to achieve them. In this regard it will be important to formulate the Caribbean approach to sustainability within the current frameworks being employed by the multilateral process but nuanced to reflect the development realities and strategic policy priorities of Caribbean SIDS.

This final section looks to the future, locating the Caribbean in the context of a multilateral post-2015 development agenda and closes with a list of implications of current development events that should be considered by the subregion. The list is indicative, not comprehensive.

A. Sources of financial support for Caribbean SIDS

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, governments agreed “that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis”. Although there was no particular focus on the special situation of small, vulnerable states, at a follow-up United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) conference, there were some useful proposals. Panelists noted opportunities from the effective use of remittances, public-private partnerships, pooling demand and creating a critical mass to facilitate lower prices in drugs and an international financial transaction tax or a marginal currency transaction tax which, with special drawing rights, could collect

billions of dollars annually. Most of these are relevant to the development financing challenges faced by the Caribbean. Some of these are explored below:

1. Public private partnerships (PPPs)

PPPs can be a cost-efficient method for attracting new private resources to implement needed infrastructure projects, especially for the cash-strapped countries of the Caribbean. It works when certain systems are in place such as the regulatory framework and the planning and oversight capacity to ensure that outcomes meet agreed objectives. Governments choose projects appropriate to the model, attract investors, negotiate long-term contracts and oversee implementation in line with key objectives. This can strengthen capacity building in infrastructure project monitoring and delivery as well as transfer new technologies. A few Caribbean governments are looking at PPPs for the development of new sources of energy.

In health services related to the achievement of the MDGs, the Gates Foundation has largely funded the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and the Medicines for Malaria Venture are also funded through PPPs.

The IADB/ Multilateral Investment Fund sees itself as a catalyst for private investment involving PPPs, but, until recently, its experience in this regard has been mostly with the larger countries of Latin America. In July 2012, the MIF launched the Building PPPs for Development Programme, which aims to strengthen government capacities in the design, execution and management of PPPs through advisory services in institutional strengthening and projects selection, and with a focus on smaller countries. In February 2013 it organized a conference in Colombia on new frontiers in PPP including for sub national projects. In the Caribbean there is need for more knowledge and information/experience sharing on these “new frontiers”.

2. Remittances as a development tool

In the case of Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica among others, remittances amount to about 10 per cent of GDP and as such make an important contribution to the balance of payments. The recipients usually use these funds mostly for basic needs including food, education and health expenses and sometimes to finance small businesses.

While cash-to cash transactions have been the most popular modes for transfers, new developments as others enter the market have been account to account, cash to account and, in development, cash to card transfers. Most of these other methods are undertaken by commercial banks, building societies and other institutions which ordinarily offer savings or investment services and could offer these to remittance recipients.

The challenge is to shift the remittance conversation from poverty reduction and beyond balance of payments to investments, savings and wealth creation. The IADB is beginning to promote this shift by interesting financial institutions in providing savings products that suit the receivers, and give them more opportunities to access the services of the formal finance sector and efficiently use these funds for uses such as mortgages and business development. In addition, Caribbean countries with highly migrant populations have been reaching out to the diaspora in the United Kingdom and North America to garner additional resources for development. Ideas of diaspora bonds and crowd funding are being floated.

3. Pooling of resources

This has worked well to finance targeted challenges, especially in an environment of declining Official development assistance (ODA). The Global Fund for Aids Tuberculosis and Malaria which comprises donor governments, foundations, other NGOs and international agencies has raised billions of dollars since its establishment.

The same concept could be used in efforts to promote access to quality education. International agencies with responsibility for education could partner with CARICOM and NGOs to lobby for financial and technical support around common challenges such as gender inclusion in primary and secondary education as throughout the subregion boys seem to have a difficulty relating to, and staying

in the system. Programmes to increase the use of information technology tools in the delivery of education and to develop a life-long learning mindset could be considered here.

4. Financing small infrastructure projects at the sub-national level

In a recent UNDESA working paper it was noted that development banks and other agencies tend to finance large national infrastructure projects, but little attention is paid to smaller infrastructure projects at the local or sub national level. The weakened fiscal situation of many governments has left citizens, especially in the rural areas, demanding better services such as community roads and water as well as cheaper sources of energy. One response might be the de- centralization of the management of water (community wells, irrigation systems) and other services, including waste water management with the support of donor programmes. International agencies, working with local financial institutions such as credit unions could foster the development of small infrastructure investment funds, possibly using a system of matching grants combined with the right government incentives for community participation through various ways.

This would mean capacity building in project management at the local/sub national level, and risk mitigation for participating local financial institutions but as the fiscal difficulties globally and in the subregion are prolonged, Caribbean governments may have to reconsider their “paternal” role and give space to civil society, local private sector and subregional government structures to play a more significant role in local development. After all, communities best understand their environment and are most impacted by challenges. This has been well understood by disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes in the subregion.

5. Financing climate change resilience

Mainstreaming environmental sustainability into development planning is still a challenge for Caribbean small states and will continue to be after 2015. This encompasses a range of interrelated issues and challenges. The small island States with high dependence on the economic use of their marine and coastal areas are already seeing their beaches and fish stock declining and as a result, livelihoods compromised due to pollution.

Following the Cancun Agreements of December 2010 to commit about US\$ 30 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation, developed countries have pledged about US\$ 39 billion. Delivery modalities include grants, concessionary loans, equity and private investment. Countries have signalled their modes: Norway for example has indicated that its contribution will be all grants, while the United States of America has contributed US\$ 4.7 billion in grants and US\$ 2.7 billion in concessionary loans. Some of these funds are being channelled through multilateral institutions.

Caribbean governments should focus on strategic measures to carve out and make full use of these resources to address targeted sustainable development problems such as land and coastal erosion, marine pollution and degradation of reefs, clean energy solutions, including at the micro level and integrate environment sustainability into sectors such as tourism, agriculture and industry.

6. More targeted, productive foreign direct investment

FDI has played a key role in Caribbean government’s strategies for creating productive employment and attracting new technologies and financing for development. Tourism, ICT and non-oil mining and for Trinidad and Tobago oil and natural gas have been the main sectors attracting FDI on the Caribbean in the last decade.

A key tool used by many Caribbean governments for attracting FDI has been tax incentives to potential investors to set up businesses. The value of this policy tool to promote sustained growth and development has been placed into question several times. A research paper by ECLAC in 2012 noted that FDI should be viewed as a part of a country’s overall development vision and strategy and not used to create enclave industries which have little link to the rest of the economy and are not/cannot be leveraged to facilitate growth and competitive advantage in other areas of the economy. This is critical

for small Caribbean countries with limited market-size and little room for manoeuvre on the difficult path to rapid development.

B. Post-2015 development agenda

Next year the United Nations 20 year follow-up to the Conference for Small Island Developing States will take place in Samoa. In the lead up to and preparation for this conference, Caribbean governments must take a decision as to whether or not the Conference will be used merely to create an addendum to the original SIDS agenda, the Barbados Programme of Action, or whether they will use the opportunity to secure a set of tangible deliverables, funding for development activities, technology transfer, support for mechanisms which will facilitate transition to a regional low carbon economy and the establishment of partnerships and programmes which are potentially transformative. To be relevant, the SIDS outcome must be anchored in the broader 2015 development agenda which is very much a work in progress with Member States in the embryonic stages of discussion on critical issues such as the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), oceans, seas and water and an evolving multilateral framework on sustainable development in the context of post-Rio+20, post-BPoA, and post-2015.

C. The Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development

The Rio+20 Outcome Document – ‘The Future We Want’^{67 68} contains elements that are of significance to the Caribbean for two reasons. First, they are currently included in a number of initiatives being worked on as part of a new and evolving multilateral agenda and second, the Rio+20 Outcome Document contains thematic issues of specific relevance to SIDS, in addition to agreeing to a 2014 follow-up conference to the United Nations Conference on SIDS of 1994 in Barbados

In addition, at the Rio+20 business forum there was acceptance of a Natural Capital Declaration to incorporate natural capital considerations into financial instruments, agreed by 37 financial institutions. In addition, the World Bank piloted an initiative to establish natural capital accounting projects in 50 countries.

D. The green economy in the Caribbean

The islands of the Caribbean have an abundance of renewable energy resources that afford them the base for a green economy. Moreover, the impacts of climate change and the very high costs of energy (amongst the highest in the world) are also powerful incentives for such a transition. A broader policy approach would be required however, to make the shift a reality, to prepare the regional private sector as well as to assess what potential impacts the transition will have on the Caribbean labour force, especially having regard to the sectors in which jobs will be both lost and created and what that will mean for the large numbers of female breadwinners in Caribbean SIDS. UNEP has identified 10 sectors that are central to the shift to a green economy.

UNEP also produced a synthesis report on green economy issues with emphasis on SIDS⁶⁹ that focused on 5 thematic areas.

E. The natural accounting workstreams and initiatives

In the lead-up to and following Rio+20 a number of workstreams and initiatives have emerged which are impacting the global agenda and which in consequence will impact the Caribbean. The redrawing of the

⁶⁷ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>.

⁶⁸ http://www.un.org/gsp/sites/default/files/attachments/GSP_Report_web_final.pdf.

⁶⁹ http://www.unep.org/pdf/Green_Economy_in_SIDS.pdf.

global landscape from brown to green will mean the use of a number of new metrics which draw more heavily on natural resources accounting processes. In this regard attention should be paid to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA),⁷⁰ The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB),⁷¹ Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystems Services (Waves).⁷²

F. The sustainable development goals (SDGs)

At Rio, member-states agreed on the establishment of an open working group⁷³ to work on and articulate a set of SDGs, which amongst other things would span all three pillars of sustainable development, be “action-oriented” and “aspirational.” Subsequent to Rio, an open working group of 30 countries, serving on a rotational basis, was established. The Caribbean members of the open working group are Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to the start of the open working group’s meetings, there was much discussion and articles on how the list would be constituted.

A summary of emerging issues, priorities and concrete actions to address gaps and challenges and meet the priorities of the Caribbean subregion is presented in table 5.

⁷⁰ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seea.asp>.

⁷¹ <http://www.teebweb.org/about/>.

⁷² <http://www.wavespartnership.org/waves/>.

⁷³ <http://www.wavespartnership.org/waves/>.

TABLE 5
CARIBBEAN SIDS: EMERGING ISSUES, NEW PRIORITIES AND PRACTICAL ACTIONS

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
A. Governance	Re-Affirming and renewing international commitments for catalyzing actions towards the sustainable development of small island developing States	<p>Caribbean SIDS call for a re-affirmation and upscaling of financial, technical and capacity support to the following previously agreed commitments, programmes and actions, and moreover for specific focussed attention on Small Island Developing States.</p> <p>Caribbean SIDS also reaffirm their commitment to: The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production; The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change including the Cancun Adaptation Framework; the Nairobi Work programme; and the Buenos Aires Accord; The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Island Biodiversity Work programme; The Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, and the United Nations GA Resolution "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"; Implementation of (Rio) Principle 10 The Small Island Developing States and Marine programme within the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); The United Nations Secretary General Sustainable Energy For All Initiative</p>
A reenergized international commitment to funding and capacity-building for implementation is required	Education, training and capacity enhancement	<p>There is need for a dedicated SIDS Intensive Training for a Sustainable Development Programme. That training programme should be located in the Consortium of Universities in SIDS. More substantively, it should be tailored to address common-priority thematic capacity constraints identified in the preparatory process to the 3rd International Conference on SIDS. In addition, there is need at the regional level for an Annual Training Course on the United Nations Systems with emphasis on SIDS issues. The Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) should be approached in that regard.</p> <p>Urgent attention and support is needed to design a Caribbean SIDS specific Cost-Benefit Analysis Model to evaluate the projected implementation impact of MEAs over the short, medium and long-term. That tool should inform policy makers of the technical and financial requirements related to the implementation MEAs (and related instruments) prior to accession/ratification. It should also be able to evaluate social, economic, environmental and governance requirements and impacts.</p>
Lack of appropriate mechanisms for coordinating sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels.	Establishment of appropriate major groups forum at the	<p>National</p> <p>Strengthen National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSD) where they exist and the creation of such Councils where they do not exist. The NCSD is a multi-stakeholder mechanism that brings together</p>

Table 5 (continued)

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
<p>This issue stems largely from the fragmentation of sustainable development roles and functions across sectors (ministries and agencies) and communities. Fragmentation of treaties, financing, and overall authority for environmental and sustainable development governance has resulted in a lack of policy coherence. Further, uncoordinated approaches to policy development result in incoherence between sub national policy needs and national policy direction. In addition, the integration of sustainable development into decision making at all levels needs to be addressed, especially in the wider macro-economic policy domains of finance and trade.</p>	<p>national, regional and international levels to ensure inputs from all relevant stakeholders into the planning process.</p>	<p>representatives of civil society, private enterprise and governments to ensure mass-based participation in planning and policymaking, and in integrating the social, cultural, economic, environmental and other dimensions of sustainable development into national action plans.</p> <p>Alternatively, a country can use the UNEP national Committees Model, especially if one has already been set up in the country. National Committees are multi-stakeholder support organizations set up under practices and norms existing in different countries on the operation of NGOs. They may include in their constituent members and representatives of environmental and development NGOs, the media, industry and labour, the scientific community, academia, women, youth, indigenous peoples, community groups as well as prominent individuals. Observers and supporters from relevant government agencies can take part as ex-officio members.</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>An action-oriented Caribbean SIDS Intra-Regional Cooperation Platform is required. This Platform should include Regional Inter-governmental Organisations and Regional Major Group Focal Points in the Caribbean. These agencies should meet on a biannual basis and report annually to a Caribbean SIDS Political Forum.</p> <p>The Sustainable Development Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with UNECLAC/POS should provide secretarial services to this Caribbean SIDS Intra- Regional Cooperation Platform. To this end, the Sustainable Development Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat should be sufficiently resourced. In addition, sufficient resources, against an Annual Work Programme should be provided by the donor community to the Platform. One of the major functions of the Platform will be to undertake regular monitoring of the progress of implementation of the BPoA/MSI in the Caribbean</p> <p>International</p> <p>A Cooperation Platform should be established in other SIDS regions to facilitate Inter-regional Cooperation. The rationale of this initiative is to enable the exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices between SIDS in the AIMS, the Caribbean and the PACIFIC SIDS regions, in order to find suitable solutions and replicate best practices. South-south cooperation between the Caribbean and Pacific SIDS already exists for climate change and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>One model is Sandwatch which is an inter-regional SIDS-focused activity involving a number of SIDS from each of the 3 regions. Sandwatch is now coordinated by the non-profit Sandwatch Foundation, with support from UNESCO's education and science sectors, and has received contributions from national governments as well as from many national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.</p> <p>Another model is The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is a global entity working to help islands around the world conserve and sustainably utilize natural resources. The partnership brings together island nations and nations with islands to mobilize leadership, increase resources and share skills, knowledge, technologies and innovations in a cost-effective and sustainable way that will catalyze action for conservation and sustainable livelihoods on islands.</p>

Table 5 (continued)

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
<p>The challenges in addressing trade, climate change and environmental issues and the inter-linkages with other sectors are complex and pose enormous problems for Caribbean SIDS and they need to establish institutional arrangements to address those challenges</p>	<p>Trade Policy and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Acknowledged the support of the UNDP Barbados in offering assistance in capacity building on trade and environmental issues. Urge UNDP to further mobilise the required resources to assist Caribbean SIDS in building their knowledge base and capacities (trade and climate change negotiators, diplomatic officials and other sectoral specialists) to address these challenges</p> <p>Recommend that ECLAC, UNEP and UNDP collaborate with Regional Organisations and academic institutions towards establishing and Caribbean SIDS Trade, Sustainable Development and Environment Programme that incorporates integrated research and capacity building. While the programme should focus on climate change as a core element, all trade related MEA issues should be included. The OAS and Commonwealth Secretariat also have expertise in this regard and should be consulted in the design of such a programme.</p>
<p>Financial flows have been affected negatively during the current economic crisis. Caribbean SIDS are faced with the fact that private investment flows will decline as more risk averse investors move their funds to perceived 'safer' havens. Reduced portfolio flows will affect government borrowing. The costs of sovereign bonds and commercial debt as important sources of finance have risen sharply. Similarly FDI is declining, adding to their balance-of-payments constraints.</p>	<p>Finance and investment for Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Development Priorities</p>	<p>Conduct of feasibility studies for establishing regional financial mechanisms in support for Green Economy initiatives.</p> <p>The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global financial sector. As part of this Initiative Ministry of the Environment and UNEP FI have been mainstreaming environment and social risks in private banking lending policies since 2008. This effort should be scaled up to a sub-regional programme and be opened to private financial institutions in Caribbean SIDS. Other regional development finance institutions should also be integrated.</p> <p>Climate Finance should continue to be prioritised at the highest level by Caribbean SIDS particularly in relation to mobilisation, institutionalisation, governance and access to financial resources to support national adaptation efforts in relation the continued and growing threat of climate change and sea level rise. The CCCCC, CARISEC Sustainable Development Unit and the Caribbean Development Bank should also play a more integral role in supporting the establishment of an Electronic Caribbean Climate Finance Clearing House.</p> <p>Access procedures to existing multilateral grant mechanisms such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF should be further streamlined and simplified for SIDS.</p> <p>New criteria need to be designed for SIDS to access to grant and concessional financing including from bilateral and private sources.</p> <p>The GEF Small Grants Programme is now being offered as a national programme in a number of Caribbean SIDS. There is need to increase the funding allocations to support administrative functions towards project delivery by the participating Community Based Organizations, NGOs.</p> <p>Finance and investment for Sustainable Tourism is a major priority for the region. The UNEP facilitated Sustainable Investment and Finance in Tourism (SIFT) network provides for sharing of best practices in tourism investments by developing guidelines, benchmarking mechanisms and voluntary initiatives (including a voluntary standard) to mainstream sustainability in tourism investments and financing.</p>

Table 5 (continued)

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
<p>Instruments for revealing and sharing information to enhance decision making for sustainable development are largely inadequate. Where data are available they exist in differing formats and in different locations, which makes it problematic for decision-makers to obtain information on a sustained basis and at opportune moments. This scenario also has an added impact on the effectiveness of regulation and enforcement practices. There are also cultural issues related to hoarding knowledge as a source of power, different values, and perceptions on the use of knowledge.</p>	<p>Integrated and evidenced-based approaches to governance and decision making for sustainable development</p>	<p>Caribbean SIDS need to actively participate in this network.</p> <p>Urge UNEP to expedite the establishment of the trust fund to support implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production Initiatives at the national and regional levels</p> <p>Strengthen Central Statistical Offices to use the new System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to improve and standardize reporting on the interrelationships among the economy, the environment, and society. This system is being facilitated by the United Nations Statistics Division. It establishes a standardized set of definitions and concepts that SIDS can use to guide their data collection, compilation and analysis. Caribbean SIDS already collect most of the data required for the SEEA to work.</p> <p>Utilise the GOB-UNEP-UWI sustainable development indicators (ILAC Report) initiative to inform the development of a national environmental statistical system in the context of the National Statistical System;</p> <p>Establish a Caribbean SIDS Environmental Statistics and Information Programme with emphasis on Upgrading National Statistical Systems and Mainstreaming Environment Data Collection and Analysis;</p> <p>Strengthen Caribbean SIDS participation in the Environmental Indicators Working Group (under the Forum of Ministers of Environment in LAC) with a view to incorporate Caribbean development priorities in designing new metrics in the context of the ILAC. Those metrics should be based on SIDS priorities in the SDGs and Post 2015 Development Framework;</p> <p>Call for dedicated support by UNEP to produce a dedicated Caribbean SIDS GEO Report within the context of future GEO Reports; and</p> <p>Establish and enable regional and national technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in the context of further operationalising SIDSNET</p>
<p>SIDS need to assess their progress in addressing their vulnerabilities in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and its implementation through the MSI. The United Nations General Assembly in its decision A/65/2 – the outcome of the MSI+5 review - highlighted the importance of data and information systems and called on the international community “to assist the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen national disaggregated data and</p>	<p>SIDS-SIDS and SIDS-South Cooperation)</p> <p>Vulnerability-resilience profiles that would enable SIDS to regularly monitor their progress towards addressing their vulnerabilities and to use the information and</p>	<p>The SIDS-SIDS Technical Assistance Programme should be SIDS driven and will require an ICT platform to identify, document and disseminate best practices on the BPoA and MSI thematic areas and issues specific to the sustainable development of SIDS, and transfer and exchange of technologies currently being used by SIDS. The Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on SIDS should be requested to support this initiative in collaboration with the Regional Commissions.</p> <p>The SIDS Unit/DSD of UNDESA has formulated a draft methodology/tool known as the Country Vulnerability Resilience Profile (VRP) which is being piloted in 2 countries in each of the SIDS region. The priority areas in the BPoA and the MSI provide a framework for the profile.</p> <p>UNDESA should expedite the piloting process and budget adequate resources so that the manual/tool for the VRP can be finalized and rolled out to all SIDS by 2015. The Major Groups Form recommended should facilitate the process at the national level. SIDS should be required to report biannually on the VRP to Their appropriate SIDS Intra- Regional Cooperation Platform</p>

Table 5 (continued)

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
<p>information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles; the efforts of small island developing States in developing databases and in institutionalizing national indicators for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development should also be supported" (UNGA, 2010).</p>	<p>analysis for evidence-based policy formulation, decision-making and implementation so as to strengthen their resilience.</p>	
<p>B. Social The Caribbean has the highest prevalence of chronic Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Americas, with heart disease and cancer being the leading causes of death among males and females.</p> <p>Progress in implementing comprehensive NCDs strategies and policies has been hampered by fragmented, scarce and lack of resources. Scarce resources and lack of policies and strategies for controlling NCDs are key challenges in the Caribbean.</p>	<p>Non Communicable Diseases</p>	<p>Assistance is needed from the international community for SIDS to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated policies and strategies for the management of the main chronic non communicable diseases: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, oral health, chronic respiratory diseases and sickle cell diseases.</p> <p>SIDS need to commit to the following key elements in the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs: Global partnership for monitoring implementation of the Declaration Ensuring NCDs are among the development priorities of Member States. Solidarity in addressing the trade barriers to enabling more healthy affordable foods for the population</p> <p>Develop a mechanism for enabling south- south cooperation for NCDs including optimal use of the Unite Nations South -South Gateway Platform</p> <p>Commitment by all SIDS to introduce an annual Wellness Day/Week. Caribbean countries have benefitted significantly from having an annual flagship, health promotion initiative(s) towards improving the prevalence of NCDs and their risk factors.</p>
<p>C. Environmental The case for an integrated approach to oceans management and governance as a means of capitalizing on resources within the EEZ is becoming a priority for Caribbean SIDS</p>	<p>Sustainable exploitation and management of the EEZ (blue economy) and the need for national oceans governance mechanisms</p>	<p>Establishment of national and regional coordinating mechanisms to pursue the development of an Integrated Oceans Governance Policy Framework.</p> <p>International technical assistance and South-South Cooperation for the development of an integrated approach to addressing the interlinked issues of oceans, climate change, and security that includes provisions for ecosystem-based adaptation strategies through integrated coastal and ocean management.</p> <p>Provision of international financing to support adaptation for coastal and island communities that are at the frontline of climate change (GEFSGP may be a good source); conservation of coastal ecosystems as major carbon sinks; and the development of offshore renewable energy.</p> <p>Through overseas training details the capability of Caribbean SIDS to conserve and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems as major carbon sinks ("blue carbon") could be enhanced.</p> <p>Integrate Blue Carbon into the policy and financing processes of the UNFCCC as a major tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes in the Caribbean.</p>

Table 5 (concluded)

Emerging issues	New priorities	Practical actions
<p>Rapid decline of the agricultural sector in most Caribbean SIDS as a result of changes in trading regimes. This situation has been exacerbated by the rise in food prices and increasing signs of desertification and loss of biodiversity. Efforts are necessary, to ensure food security, improve economic productivity, and reduce poverty.</p> <p>Other issues identified by Caribbean SIDS include high costs of energy, sustainable infrastructure need to create new marketing opportunities and to improve employment, sustainable housing, renewable energy, sustainable transport and tourism.</p>	<p>Greening the economy and promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)</p>	<p>Reiterate the commitment of Caribbean SIDS to support the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) and to maintain a leading role in its promotion.</p> <p>Strengthening Caribbean representation and participation on the UNEP Ministerial Council so that the UNEP 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) responds to national, regional needs, priorities and circumstances of Caribbean SIDS. These SIDS recognise 1) policies and national action plans on SCP, 2) SCP implementation in Small and Medium Enterprises, 3) sustainable public procurement, 4) sustainable lifestyles as their priority areas for SCP.</p> <p>A SIDS support platform similar to SWITCH-Asia should be established in the context of the UNEP supported Programme of Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.</p>

Source: Author's compilation.

VIII. Implications for the Caribbean

As Caribbean SIDS look forward to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing Stated in Samoa in 2014, it is recommended that the following be considered:

- SIDS Conference 2014 – Are Caribbean governments preparing themselves to ensure that this conference is more than a talk shop?
- Green economy – Are SIDS governments and private sector entities ready for a transition? How will this impact on women who constitute a large part of the Caribbean labour force, especially given the 10 critical transition sectors identified by UNEP?
- Natural capital and green accounting – Have Caribbean countries conducted national environmental audits? Has consideration been given to the valuation of ecosystem services within the context of the Caribbean? If development funding was linked to natural capital/green criteria, would the subregion be in a position to negotiate favourable terms?
- Sustainable development goals - Ensuring a SIDS-sensitive list of SDGs is critical
- Limits to GDP and a sustainable development index – What would an sustainable development index for the Caribbean look like and what elements would it contain?
- Sustainable consumption and production – could there be scope for competitive advantage in the market place and how would Caribbean countries incorporate this into national policy?
- SE4All⁷⁴ – Having committed to this initiative in May 2012, have Caribbean countries positioned themselves to access funding, projects and programmes under the initiative?
- Financing for development – Is the Caribbean attempting to maximise and harmonise approaches under the CSME and find new ways of financing regional development?

⁷⁴ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2012/05/08/small-island-developing-states-agree-to-reduce-dependence-on-fossil-fuels/> See also <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Climate%20Change/Barbados-Declaration-2012.pdf>

- Technology transfer – How can the subregion increase technological innovation, use technology for improved data collection, informed decision making, governance, business and greater efficiency? How can markets and commercial opportunities be found for Caribbean technologies?
- Oceans, seas and water – Does the SIDS+20 Conference present an opportunity to try to press for a seas initiative analogous to reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and for special protection for the Caribbean Sea?
- Higher education sustainability initiative - attracted over 300 commitments at Rio+20, does this present an opportunity for greater collaboration between SIDS universities as was anticipated at Mauritius and in the context of heightened South-South and triangular partnership?
- Land degradation neutral – With water scarcity, water stress and land degradation issues becoming a serious issue for the Caribbean, across all three pillars of sustainable development what new policy directions and efforts are needed?
- Health was one of the issues addressed in TFWW and the chronic NCDs were specifically mentioned. NCDs are the greatest cost of death and disability in the Caribbean. In the subregion some countries have as much of 25 per cent of their population affected by one of more NCD. The incidence of the NCDs in the Caribbean is now amongst the highest in the world.
- Considering that SIDS specific issues and approaches were identified in the BPoA, in the MSI and MSI+5 and tangentially in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the The Future We Want, how does the Caribbean best build on these to embed or mainstream sustainable development and advance its cause in the multilateral system, while developing pragmatic approaches to current and emerging realities.

This list is not exhaustive but is meant to indicate some of the critical thematic areas on which the subregion will have to focus in a strategic way as the negotiation process for the SDGs, other post-Rio and post-2015 work streams unfold and as the preparations for SIDS+20 move closer to the point at which crucial decisions have to be taken.

Caribbean SIDS, separately and collectively will get the future for which they prepare, plan and fight in the emerging multilateral dialogues and workstreams, and the future they construct through policy formulation, implementation and financing.

Bibliography

- Clauzel, Shermaine (2012), Solid Waste Management in the Region: Challenges and Lessons. Presented at the 6th Biannual Environmental Forum and Exhibition. Saint. Kitts and Nevis.
- Chase and others (2013), “Caribbean Forum: shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century” Studies and Perspectives 16 (LC/CAR/L.400), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, ECLAC, December.
- Clegg, P. (2009), “The Caribbean and the Global Financial Crisis: Implications for Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy, May.
- Commonwealth Secretariat (2009). Sustaining Development in Small States in a Turbulent Global Economy. Summary Report of July 2009 International Conference.
- ECLAC (2010), Caribbean regional report for the five-year review of the Mauritius strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing states (MSI+5), (LC/CAR/L.258), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Nations publication.
- ECLAC (2009), The Reactions of the Governments of the Americas to the International Crisis: An Overview of Policy Measures up to 31 July 2009. ECLAC Occasional Paper.
- Government of Guyana (2011), “Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: 2011 – 2015”, Ministry of Finance, Guyana
- Guyana Government Information Agency (2013), “Multi-stakeholder consultation held to prepare Guyana’s SIDS report”[online][date of reference 13 January 2013]<<http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?p=11131>>
- Lau CL., Smythe LD., Craig SB and P. Weinstein (2010), “Climate change, flooding, urbanisation and leptospirosis: fuelling the fire?” *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.*, 2010 Oct. 104(10) 631-8 [online] [date of reference 28 February 2013] <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20813388>>
- Mendoza, Patricia and Sheila Stuart (2011), “Caribbean Millennium Development Goals Report 2010”, Studies and Perspectives 16 (LC/CAR/L.371), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, ECLAC, December.
- Nwaogwugwu C (n.d.), “Carbon Emission Trading for the Caribbean: Trading Carbon Offsets- A Caribbean Tale”, [online][date of reference 26 June 2013]< <http://www.cehi.org.lc/cef5/documents/CEF%20papers%20and%20presentations/PAPERS/Parallel%20Session%204%20Caribbean%20Sustainable%20Energy%20Forum/Chinyere%20Nwaogwugwu%20Trading%20Carbon%20Offsets-%20A%20Caribbean%20Tale.pdf>>
- Scope, ACP, and the Global Mechanism (2011). Opportunities of ecotourism in promoting sustainable land management in the Caribbean. April

- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) (2012b), Ibid Chapter 2, “Youth Violence: Reducing Risk and Enhancing Resilience”.
- UNDP (2012a) Caribbean Human Development Report 2012 Human development and the Shift to Better Citizen. New York, USA. United Nations publication.
- UNEP, (n.d.) Green Economy. Caribbean Green Economy Project. [online] [date of reference 13 January 2013] <<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AdvisoryServices/CaribbeanGreenEconomy/tabid/105702/Default.aspx>>



UNITED NATIONS

Series:**E C L A C****Studies and Perspectives - The Caribbean****Issues published****A complete list as well as pdf files are available at****www.eclac.org/publicaciones**

33. Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy: Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report, LC/L.3762, LC/CAR/L.431, 2014.
32. Information and communication technologies for disaster risk management in the Caribbean, LC/L.3759, LC/CAR/L.430, 2014.
31. Towards diversification of the tourism sector: A recreational demand study of yachting and marina services in the Caribbean, LC/L.3758, LC/CAR/L.421, 2014.
30. Development of a modelling framework in support of an assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change in the Caribbean, LC/L.3754, LC/CAR/L.418, 2014.
29. Review and evaluation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean, LC/L.3757, LC/CAR/L.407, 2014.
28. Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2013 – Improved economic performance with reduced downside risks, LC/L.3753, LC/CAR/L.420, 2014.
27. An assessment of fiscal and regulatory barriers to deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in Guyana, LC/L.3755, LC/CAR/L.406, 2014.
26. Caribbean forum: Shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century, LC/L.3756, LC/CAR/L.400 Rev.1, 2014.
25. The use of census data for national development planning – Focus on the 2010 Population and Housing Census, LC/L.3726, LC/CAR/L.414, 2014.
24. Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2012-2013, LC/L.3680, LC/CAR/L.410, 2013.
23. Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2011-2012: Positive growth amidst lingering downside risks, LC/L.3623, LC/CAR/L.402, 2013.
22. Municipal solid waste management in the Caribbean – A benefit cost analysis, LC/L.3543, LC/CAR/L.349, 2011.
21. Threshold effects in the relationship between inward foreign direct investment and import productivity growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, LC/L.3542, LC/CAR/L.287, 2011.
20. Knowledge management in the public sector: An online presence as a tool for capture and sharing, LC/CAR/L.351, 2011.
19. Creative industries in the Caribbean: A new road for diversification and export growth? LC/CAR/L.348, 2011.
18. Regional environmental policy and sustainable tourism development in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.353, 2011.
17. Social health protection for the elderly in the English-speaking Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.350, 2011.
16. Caribbean Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, LC/CAR/L.371, 2011.
15. An analysis of the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/L.280/Rev.1, 2011.
14. Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean: 2010-2011, LC/CAR/L.295, 2011.
13. Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2010-2011: Improving economic prospects amid global recovery, LC/CAR/L.308, 2011.
12. Innovation in the tourism sector: a case study from the Commonwealth of Dominica, LC/L.3509, LC/CAR/L.296, 2011.
11. Availability, collection and use of data on disability in the Caribbean subregion, LC/L.3334-P, LC/CAR/L.283/Rev.1, 2011.

STUDIES

AND

PE

SPEC

TIVES

33

STUDIES

AND

PE

SPEC

TIVES

STUDIES AND PERSPECTIVES

E C L A C

Series

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA PARA AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

www.eclac.org