SYNTHESIS OF
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS
ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CARIBBEAN
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF THE
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ACRONYMS

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
CARICOM	Caribbean Community of Nations
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiology Centre
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
CAST	Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERMES	Centre for Resources Management and Environmental Studies
CHA	Caribbean Hotels Association
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CDMP	Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CDMP	Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
CREDP	Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project
CRPM	Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of SIDS + 10 Review Meeting
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMA	Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
ESDU	Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the OECS
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IDP	Integrated Development Plan/Planning
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel (of Experts) on Climate Change
NEA	National Enabling Activities
NICUs	National Implementation Coordinating Units
NIHERST	National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of Trinidad and Tobago
NRCA	Natural Resources Conservation Authority
OAS	Organisation of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
POA	Programme of Action
RPIU	Regional Project Implementing Unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIDSNET	Small Island Developing States Network
SLR	Sea Level Rise
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/ROLAC	UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNGCSIDS	United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing states
USDE	Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment of the OAS
UWI	University of the West Indies
UWICED	University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By Resolution A/C.2/57/L64, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) agreed that an International Meeting should be convened in Mauritius in August 2004 to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Small Islands Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS/POA). This Review Meeting, which will have been held ten years after the adoption of the SIDS POA, provides an opportunity for Caribbean SIDS to examine and analyze its experiences with the implementation of international sustainable development agreements. It will also facilitate the identification of consolidated positions on priority areas.

A major stage in the Caribbean's preparation for the SIDS + 10 Review was the convening of a Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting (CRPM) in Trinidad and Tobago (6-10 October 2003). This was preceded by a Civil Society Consultation (October 3-5, 2003). In preparation for the CRPM, Caribbean SIDSs were requested to provide National Assessments on their implementation of the Barbados SIDS/POA in a standard format using a specified template format (see Appendix 1). The template also includes a section on implementing the Millennium Development Goals that were agreed at the Millennium Summit held in September 2000. The United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC) assisted 8 Caribbean SIDS in preparing their National Reports. Assistance was also provided to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to undertake this Regional synthesis of the National Reports prepared by Caribbean SIDS.

This Report does not describe in detail, conditions at the national level (e.g. projects and problems). The primary focus is on extracting the major findings and recommendations, especially those that have strong regional significance. Attention has also being given to identifying gaps that may be addressed through regional and/or international initiatives.

Structure of the Report

The report is structured in eight (8) Chapters. *Chapter 1* establishes key elements of the social and economic conditions which confront Caribbean SIDS on the eve of the International Meeting. This Chapter confirms that Caribbean SIDS are being severely challenged by changes in global markets and in the global trade regime. Income volatility is creating hardship, especially for those marginalized groups such as the poor who are less able to weather negative shocks. Critically, Caribbean SIDS do not have sufficient capacity to participate fully in international finance and trade negotiations—the outcomes of which can profoundly affect their economies.

Chapter 2 reviews the national policy and institutional framework for Sustainable development.

Chapter 3 assesses the impact of International Sustainable Development Agreements (ISDAs) in general and the SIDS/POA in particular in Caribbean SIDS. This Chapter reveals that Caribbean SIDS have benefited in several ways from implementation of ISDAs, especially Agenda 21 and the SIDS/POA.

The first benefit has been a growing awareness within national governments and regional inter-governmental institutions alike, that it is impossible to separate economic development issues from environmental issues. Also, there is now a clear recognition that many forms of development erode the environmental resources upon which they must be based and that economic degradation can undermine economic development (WCED, 1987). This recognition is captured in speeches and statements by the political and business leadership and in the policies, programmes and projects of Governments, the Private Sector and civil society organisations. Virtually every regional bank requires that decisions on any major investment project must be informed by the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

This increased awareness has spawned major investments by Caribbean Governments in sustainable development initiatives. Several countries have modernised their waste management infrastructure - replacing what were crude dumpsites with sanitary landfills - and have privatized the collection and disposal of waste. Waste recycling is well established in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago, and is emerging in others. The management of coastal zones and freshwater resources has also been strengthened. Coastal

Zone Management Units have been established in nearly every country, as have Water Resources Management Units or agencies. Science and Technology Councils are now in place in several CARICOM countries. The institutional landscape has not been neglected, with Ministries of Environment, and/or Sustainable Development Units established in many countries.

The second benefit has been a heightened understanding of the many complex sustainable development issues and concepts. This has been facilitated in part by sustained research and development activities undertaken by national, regional and international agencies on the vulnerability of small states.

The third important positive impact of ISDAs is reflected in the steady increase in the quantity and quality of trained Caribbean nationals in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development areas. Further, the Caribbean region now boasts a number of institutions dedicated to education and training in Resources Management including, the Centre for Environmental Resources Management (CERMES); the UWI Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED) based at the Mona Campus in Jamaica, which is financed largely by the private sector; and more recently, the Sustainable Economic Development Unit, based at the St. Augustine Campus of the UWI. A Master of Science Degree Programme in Climate Change is being offered at the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI. The results of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project (CPACC) is also deserving of special mention.

Despite these accomplishments, some major shortcomings are evident in current HRD arrangements. There is no formalized technical cooperation programme at the broader CARICOM level, through which governments and the private sector can share scarce expertise, in critical areas such as: EIA, Environmental Law, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Diplomacy, Community- based Resource Management, Marine law, Environmental Economics, Natural Resource Accounting, Remote Sensing and Climatology. Secondly, there is no policy at the national or regional level to retain scarce expertise.

The fifth benefit is manifested in enhanced cooperation especially among inter-governmental agencies at the regional and broader Inter-SIDS level, on issues such as water and climate; capacity development; trade policy and human resource development. Some agencies (CEHI, UWI, OECS, CDERA, ECLAC, CARICOM, RCU/UNEP and CCST) have designed programmes and projects and have mobilised funding for their implementation. Some of these agencies have formed strategic alliances with their counterparts in the Atlantic and Pacific regions. For example, CEHI and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) have formed a partnership to implement a Joint Programme of Action on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Further, the OECS Development Strategy; the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability; and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) are emerging as key policy tools that could provide greater impetus and clarity of purpose to the work of our regional institutions. The UN System agencies such as UNDP, UNECLAC, UNEP and the World Bank have played pivotal roles in bringing about improved cooperation and collaboration among the Development Partners, as well as among the indigenous regional institutions.

Chapter 4 examines key Cross-Sectoral Issues relating to Financing for Sustainable Development, Capacity Building and Coordination and Trade and Investment. The chapter indicates that Caribbean SIDs, especially from those countries that are Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are manifesting a stronger reliance on regional integration mechanisms, particularly the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), as one of the major planks of their individual and collective resilience-building strategies.

The region's progress towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is addressed in *Chapter 5*. This Chapter reveals that the MDGs are increasingly being internalized within the formal policy and institutional frameworks of Caribbean Governments. All Governments are consciously seeking to address major long-standing social concerns such as Poverty Reduction, HIV/AIDS and the empowerment of marginalized groups within their societies. However the capacity of regional Governments to deal with these issues in a sustainable manner is being compromised by unfavourable changes within the international environment.

Chapter 6 identifies some emerging concerns particularly as those relating to debt servicing and economic, social and environmental vulnerability. *Chapter 7* summarises those areas that require national level action both as the substantive and sectoral level.

Chapter 8 identifies those areas that lend themselves to regional and international intervention.

Overall the Reports indicate that notwithstanding these successes on the environment front, Caribbean SIDS continue be gravely affected by internal and external shocks. Natural disasters (hurricanes, cyclones, droughts, floods) pose a perennial threat. Notably, a series of volcanic eruptions over the past five years has significantly disrupted the society and economy of Montserrat. Inevitably, these disasters have caused insurance premiums to increase. The region is yet to recover from the effects of 9/11 and the 2003 War in Iraq which have significantly affected its travel and tourism industry.

Because the Synthesis Report follows the same structure as the National Reports, which are in turn influenced by the template provided by the UN/DESA, some repetition of the points and arguments is inevitable.

CHAPTER 1:   THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Generally, Caribbean Governments are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve adequate levels of economic growth to support the implementation of their sustainable human development programmes. Their attempts at doing so continue to be challenged by several internalities and externalities. Generally, many of the internalities are a consequence of the characteristics of smallness. These include:

(a)   a narrow range of resources which forces undue specialisation;
(b)   excessive dependence on international trade and hence vulnerability to global developments;
(c)   overuse, and hence premature depletion of resources;
(d)   the relatively small lenses of watersheds and threatened supplies of fresh water;
(e)   costly administration and infrastructure, including transportation and communication and;
(f)   limited institutional capacities and domestic market which are too small to provide significant economies of scale, while their limited export volumes, often from remote locations, lead to high freight costs and reduced competitiveness.

Despite their best efforts, Caribbean economies are still not sufficiently diversified and self sustaining. Many of the countries are locked in a cycle of unbalanced import-export orientation. Exports are usually limited to one major crop and diversification of the export base is restricted by a dependence on foreign capital and technology and by the prohibitive costs involved in penetrating existing and new overseas markets. Indigenous firms are often under-capitalised and constrained by obsolescent technology and thus are unable to meet the increasingly stringent importation standards set by the developed countries.

An expanding range of externalities is also constraining the efforts of Caribbean SIDS at stimulating and sustaining adequate rates of economic growth. Many countries are yet to recover from a spate of NAFTA-related factory closures which occurred in the early 1990s; the terrorist attack of 9/11/2001 and the continuing War in Iraq of (2003). Further, the emergence of trade liberalisation policies especially since the establishment of the WTO, while promising to strengthen the integration of Caribbean economies into the global economy, has shifted production to areas in which Caribbean countries have little or no comparative advantage. At the same time, low growth rates as well as a low savings rate over the past decade, especially in the aftermath of 9/11 are also limiting the flow of FDI required for environmentally-sound development.

1.1   Key Challenges and Responses

In their National Assessments, Caribbean SIDS highlighted the need to find solutions to the significant challenges facing them. One of the main challenges is how these States may pursue sustainable human development within a context of high poverty levels; poor resource endowment; harsh internalities and externalities; low rates of economic growth; weak institutional capacity and the rising expectations of burgeoning populations.

1.1.1   Poverty Reduction

All National reports cite Poverty Reduction as a major challenge[1]. Poverty is regarded as the root of a spectrum of other socio-economic problems facing both individuals and societies. It has many socio-cultural dimensions including family life, health and has been linked to scourges such as crime and violence. Generally, throughout the Caribbean, poverty is accentuated by a large disparity between the income and the quality of life of the rich and the poor. Poverty is linked to high levels of unemployment – a preoccupation of all Governments.

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[1] Various dimensions of poverty are dealt with in more detail later in this Report under Section 5 on the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS nine years ago, a number of national poverty reduction surveys have been conducted and poverty related policies, programmes and plans have been developed. In addition, coordinating mechanisms have also been established by several countries. Education is seen as vital in the fight against poverty and steps are being taken to upgrade educational standards and facilities. Cuba and Barbados are emphasizing computer literacy as a key element of their respective education strategies and are seeking to equip all schools with computers. The promotion of a wide diversity of avenues for cultural expression is also seen as a means of attenuating poverty and crime.

1.1.2   Globalisation and Trade Liberalisation

Globalization – the process of integration of Governments, markets, corporations, technologies and individuals - may be defined as a movement toward a situation where the obstacles to trade flows between countries are no greater than the obstacles within countries. This process is driving Caribbean Governments and corporations alike, to restructure themselves to take advantage of the democratization of technology, finance and investment. Accordingly, many Governments are pursuing a range of economic adjustments, including:

- making the private sector the primary engine of growth;
- maintaining a low rate of inflation and price stability;
- shrinking the size of its state bureaucracy;
- maintaining as close to a balanced budget as possible, if not a surplus;
- eliminating and lowering tariffs on imported goods;
- removing restrictions on foreign investment;
- getting rid of quotas and domestic monopolies;
- increasing exports;
- privatizing state-owned industries and utilities;
- liberalizing financial markets and the economy to promote as much domestic competition as possible.

While globalization promises some benefits, the National Reports indicate that it has already begun to have a negative impact on Caribbean economies, in part because of rapid erosion of their access to preferential markets. The agricultural sector in particular, has been seriously affected, especially the major revenue/foreign exchange-generating crops such as sugar, bananas and citrus.

Loss of other revenue-generating opportunities is also creating great strain, especially for countries like St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda with no income tax regimes. In these countries import-related duties are vital to national income. The challenges caused by globalization are further exacerbated by the extreme problems being experienced by countries in servicing their national debt. A massive foreign debt has forced the Government of Dominica to reduce salaries and increase taxes. This situation has accelerated and intensified the country's already critical "brain drain" problem.

In response to globalization, new trade policies, plans and institutional structures have been introduced by some Governments. Jamaica has designed a Trade Policy that provides a crucial framework for international negotiations and for adjustment to the global trading environment. A Jamaica Trade and Adjustment Team comprising a wide cross section of the society has also been established. In addition, there are plans to implement a Trade Adjustment Project.

At the regional level, the CARICOM Single market and Economy (CSME) is being established. This mechanism is aimed at creating a Single Market where goods, services, capital and people can move freely; and a Single Economy where economic and trade policies will be coordinated regionally.

National and regional trade initiatives need to be strengthened and enhanced so as to ensure that trade can be sustained and expanded at both the individual country level as well as at the collective level. This will require teams that are specialized in negotiating trade agreements as well as innovation and determination.

1.1.3   National Security

Most National Assessment Reports highlight concerns over escalating crime rates and inadequate national security as significant challenges for Caribbean SIDS. Of particular concern to nearly all countries is the rapidly growing incidence of violent crime (murder, kidnapping, large-scale robberies) and the cultivation, use and trafficking of illegal drugs. This phenomenon is believed to be linked to the deportation of accomplished criminals by the USA and Canada. Some countries (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have cited cultural intrusion through foreign music and television as additional factors behind the increase in crime and social deviance, especially among the youth, while others (e.g. Guyana) have highlighted additional illegal activities such as poaching of wildlife and unregulated mining and chain-saw logging.

Caribbean SIDS are also faced with several other national security challenges. These include policing large Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs); stemming the flow of illegal migrants and the theft of genetic resources; and meeting food and energy security targets. Threats presented by SARS, international terrorism and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are also of great concern.

Countries are responding to these challenges through a variety of anti-crime initiatives and increased surveillance. However, the limited capacity of law enforcement agencies and outdated legal framework are additional limiting factors

1.1.4   Natural Resources Depletion

The Caribbean is endowed with a rich diversity of ecologically vital ecosystems (e.g. forests, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds). The mainland countries (Belize and Guyana) are especially rich in biodiversity and have a relatively high level of forest cover. Since the design of the SIDS/POA in 1994, considerable progress has been made in upgrading policies, legislation and plans aimed at managing the Region's natural resources. National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans formulated within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Fisheries Plans and Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management Plans are examples of some of the major initiatives in this area.

Despite this progress, natural resource depletion is continuing at an alarming rate throughout the Region. This is reflected inter alia in the loss of forest cover, top soil and species; beach erosion; coral reef degradation; and pollution of water and land. The small size of many Caribbean SIDS, has meant that conflicts due to the multiple-use of resources can be very intense. Growing populations, with their strong aspirations for material development, have forced the conversion of large tracts of agricultural land into residential, touristic, manufacturing, institutional and infrastructure uses. Economic losses due to natural resource depletion are generally not reflected in System of National Accounts. Hence, sound resource management is not generally seen as a means of sustaining the economy.

The Reports indicate that Caribbean SIDS need to intensify their efforts ensuring that development does not weaken the very resource base on which it depends. Decisions about the best and most sustainable use of resources must be derived through proper planning to include mitigation measures combined with the necessary legal support. The inclusion of environmental and natural resources considerations into national accounting and project costing is absolutely essential.

CHAPTER 2: NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Some countries have responded to the call in the SIDS/POA to build national capacity for sustainable development by establishing clearly delineated agencies to initiate and/or coordinate national policies and programmes in this area. These take the form of National Commissions/Councils on Sustainable Development which are, invariably, Cabinet-appointed entities. In some cases Sustainable Development Advisors has been appointed. Several countries have also enacted or drafted comprehensive environmental legislation, and adopted National Environmental Action Plans that aid the achievement of sustainable development objectives. Others have sought to use existing institutions as the agents for infusing the goals of sustainable development in national development policy and planning. Examples of such institutions or agencies include Cabinet committees or sub-committees on natural resources and environment, Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, or specialized entities such as National Human Development Advisory Councils, Economic Advisory Councils or National Task Forces for Sustainable Development.

Where no specific institution or body has been assigned responsibility for sustainable development matters, a common response has been to use Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs, e.g. the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification) and associated strategies (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, National Environmental Action Plans), as the means of channeling sustainable development goals through associated policies and programmes. Several countries also indicate the use of National Strategic Plans as a mechanism for integrating sustainable development considerations into the national policy process.

A wide range of policies and plans has also been included under the rubric of national sustainable development activities. These include: National Protected Area Systems Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Land Management Programmes, National Poverty Elimination Strategies and Plans, among others.

Notwithstanding the differences in approach, progress is reported as having been achieved through the increased attention to sustainable development at the international level, triggering increased national awareness reflected increasingly in projects and sub-sector policies. Examples include the integration of sustainable development objectives into Public Sector Reform and National Strategic Plans.

2.1   Constraints and the Recommended Responses.

- *Appropriate Public Education and Awareness Strategies*: There is generally the lack of a clear definition and/or national interpretation of sustainable development. This has led to the perception of sustainable development as an impediment to national development, or as a goal that is unattainable without significant inputs of financial resources. An opposing view is that sustainable development is a new name for old development strategies. It is felt that to overcome these 'misperceptions,' it is necessary for countries to develop and implement broad-based public education and awareness programmes that establish a national understanding of the objective of sustainability, and the actions that are required by all citizens to attain it.

- *Implementing an Integrated and Coordinated Development Framework*: A common observation has been that the absence of a national strategy for sustainable development, and the fragmentation of activities among various implementing agencies are major constraints to attainment of the goals of the SIDS/POA. To move forward, countries need to articulate an overall programme for sustainable development, complete with appropriate policies and strategies for implementation. It is also necessary to establish appropriate mechanisms for inter-agency and sectoral coordination, and integration of sustainable development objectives into planning, policy formulation and programme development. This mechanism also needs to span the divide between agencies at state Capitals and overseas Missions.

- *Strengthening Mechanisms for Public Participation*: This includes strengthening the capacity of local authorities and increasing their access to decision-making. Inadequate sensitization of the

public to sustainable development issues contributes to a reluctance to participate in national consultations and express opinions on Government policies. It is therefore important to find ways of overcoming the socio-cultural dynamics that contribute to a weak NGO community and low civil society participation. A mechanism for institutionalizing stakeholder involvement in decision-making, and for facilitating the exchange of information among civil society, stakeholders and government, is essential.

- *Access to Financial, Human, Institutional and Technological Resources*: Lack of resources is a major obstacle to the effective functioning of institutional mechanisms for sustainable development, including policy and programme planning and implementation. This includes capacity for monitoring, evaluation and review of policy, as well as mechanisms for transparency and accountability in implementation.

- *Provision of a Legal Framework and Mandate for Sustainable Development*: To effect change, legislation is needed to empower the relevant agencies in executing plans and implementing policies. In some cases this requires the creation of comprehensive legislation. In others, it is a question of identifying and filling existing gaps. A clear, long-term mandate is also needed for any entity charged with responsibility for sustainable development.

- *Integrating Environmental and Social Considerations into Macroeconomic and Trade Policies*: This requires training in the use of economic instruments (economic valuation of tradable environmental resources), and strengthening and enforcement of environmental and social legislation.

CHAPTER 3:   REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS/POA

3.1   Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise (SLR) are well documented as major issues facing the Caribbean due to the small size of the islands and the extensive, low lying, vulnerable coastlines of the mainland countries (Belize and Guyana). Many examples have been documented of sites in the Caribbean that are extremely vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. To illustrate, in the Netherlands Antilles Curacao's historical Willemstad and half of Bonaire are at sea level.

Most of the countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Several have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and many have also developed their first National Communication to the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. Some countries have established climate change coordinating mechanisms such as National Climate Committees or Task Forces. Several countries have prepared National Climate Change Adaptation Policies.

Since the design of the SIDS/POA, Caribbean countries have implemented a range of national projects and participated in several key regional programmes aimed at reducing the impacts of Climate Change and SLR. Major regional initiatives include the:

- National Enabling Activities (NEAs): The completion of First National Communications, Green House Gas Inventories and Vulnerability Assessments were included in this Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded initiative supported by the UNDP's National Communications Support Programme.

- Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC). This GEF Stage I project was implemented by the World Bank and executed by the Organization of American States. It responded to mandates in the SIDS/POA at the national, regional and international levels. It has assisted CARICOM states to develop national programs to address Climate Change. The design of a Regional Sea Level/Climate Monitoring Network and Regional Database and Information Systems (to help regional and national institutions acquire, analyze, store and disseminate data) were key project components. In addition, National Climate Committees were established in all CPACC participating countries.

- Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC) Project: This is a CIDA- funded initiative that aims to build on the work begun under the CPACC.

- Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Programme: This has been recently approved by the GEF as a Stage II adaptation project. It is a CARICOM initiative that aims to facilitate adaptation to Climate Change. In addition, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), based in Belize, will assist CARICOM Member States in building their capacity to adapt to Climate Change. It is envisaged that this Centre will play an enabling role helping other institutions to consolidate action.

3.1.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

The National Assessment Reports highlight a number of critical problems being encountered by countries as well as factors constraining implementation. They also identify some of the strategic actions that are considered essential to overcoming these obstacles. Key points raised include:

- *Policy Review*: Climate change issues are not adequately integrated into broader national sustainable development planning.

- *Planning*: Presently, there is a short term, project approach to Climate Change. It is important to expand planning initiatives and to adopt a long-term, programmatic approach.

- *Legal Reform*: Legal frameworks are seen as not being adequate and in need of strengthening and updating.

- *Resource Mobilisation*: The Reports highlight the need for funding to:

  - complete and continuously update the required vulnerability assessments;
  - develop, design and implement effective adaptation measures;
  - train personnel to develop and implement effective policies and measures; and
  - conduct research

Unclear mechanisms to access funding internationally was also highlighted as a problem.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: Improved organizational and management systems as well as stronger collaboration agreements between national and regional institutions are essential.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: There is limited national capacity to undertake relevant studies and research as well as implement initiatives. One country (Belize) expressed concern over the lack of resources to prepare the Second National Communication to the COP of the UNFCCC and suggested the need to assess the possibility of completing the document through regional efforts.

- *Conducting Integrated Research*: There are deficiencies in current monitoring systems and in information on GHG abatement. More work on the analysis of issues pertaining to vulnerability, adaptation and climate change is also suggested.

- *Information Management*: There is inadequate capacity to compile, store and analyze data. Some countries have cited the need for: more data is needed for the inventory of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; detailed contour maps to monitor the effect of climate change; data on elevation, bathymetry and on ground water resources.

- *Ensuring Stakeholder Participation*: More cross-sectoral consultation on Climate Change issues is needed.

- *Increasing Public Awareness*: Action to ensure that the public better understand the issues challenges and opportunities that could arise from Global Climate Change is essential.

- *Improving Technology*: There is a need for new and efficient technology. Action is also needed to reverse an aversion to risk involved in adopting new technologies.

3.2 Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness

Over the last nine years, there has been a shift in emphasis in the Caribbean from a focus on traditional hurricane preparedness to the management of a wide spectrum of natural and man-made hazards. This has been in response to an evolution in the types of events facing the Caribbean.

All of the countries have established disaster management agencies that play a key role in coordinating the inputs of other relevant agencies in disaster management initiatives. Several states are being assisted through the Caribbean Disaster Management Project (CDMP) with the preparation of national disaster management policies and strategies.

Countries have pressed ahead with a range of national projects and processes such as hurricane preparedness and the promotion of safer building practices including through the use of comprehensive building codes. Major highlights include the:

(a) *Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency*: CDERA was mandated by its Governing Council to advance implementation of Chapter 2 of the SIDS/POA. It uses a programmatic approach and is engaged in resource mobilization and capacity building. It provides comprehensive training in all aspects of disaster management, including information sharing and

technical assistance and provides aid in times of crisis. It also has designed Model Disaster Legislation, a Regional Response Plan and a Community Disaster Preparedness manual as well as other critical plans and policies. The agency has catalyzed the development of comprehensive disaster management strategies.

(b) *Central American Center for Disaster Coordination*: Belize has received valuable assistance from this agency.

(c) *CPACC Project*: Vulnerability studies have been conducted in some countries through this regional project.

3.2.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

The problems and constraints as well the recommended solutions highlighted in the National Assessment Reports are summarised as follows:

- *Policy Review*: It is important to enforce existing policies and develop enhanced mitigating policies for land use and the management and physical development (including coastal and urban planning).
- *Planning*: There is a need to operationalize the Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) and other indicators to help measure and assess SIDS vulnerability to hazards.
- *Legal Reform*: Legislation and regulations are inadequate. Hence there is need for legal reform and the enforcement of existing legislation in order to provide the required legal authority, accountability for emergency actions, consultative processes, institutional co-ordination, zoning and land use. Building codes should be enacted and enforced.
- *Fundraising*: There are inadequate funds for critical activities such as comprehensive disaster management programmes, educational materials to aid in public awareness, training, sea defence projects and weather radio systems. It is important to make disaster mitigation attractive to the private sector.
- *Institutional Strengthening*: There is a need to establish mechanisms for long term, inter-agency co-ordination.
- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: The lack of skilled, trained personnel is seen as a major constraint that must be overcome.
- *Information Management*: Improvements in the free flow of information between agencies is seen as vital in some countries.
- *Increasing Public Awareness*: Some of the Reports highlight the need for education on the importance of securing properties and on the role of the private sector in disaster management.
- *Improving Technology*: Equipment is needed to facilitate responses to crises that may occur away from the main headquarters; dealing with hazardous materials and chemical spills; and for reliable and timely forecasting and fire fighting.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation*: Mechanisms to monitor progress should be integrated into the planning process. Indicators to measure success are essential.

3.3   Coastal and Marine Resources Management

Ratification of major regional and international marine-related Conventions has progressed significantly since the SIDS/ POA emerged. Most countries are Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention); and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). However, all countries are unable to effectively manage their EEZs. Some states (Antigua and Barbuda) are party to the Cartagena Protocol (to the CBD) on Bio-safety. Some have not yet joined but participate in the relevant meetings and are developing National Bio-safety Frameworks.

Planning capabilities have improved over the past decade. Most states have National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; Fisheries Management Plans; and Integrated Coastal and Marine Management strategies, all of which are based on the ecosystem approach. Several national projects are in train, including:

- The "Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Belize Barrier Reef Project" which strengthened a network of six marine reserves through infrastructure development and capacity building. The initiative is UNDP/GEF/EU-funded and is being executed nationally by the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.
- The Government of Barbados has been developing its capacity to manage its vulnerable coastal zone since the 1960s. Over the years a Coastal Zone Conservation Project Unit has been established and coastal management plans have been prepared. Scientific research, institutional strengthening and pilot engineering schemes were also addressed under the project.
- The IDB-funded Shore Zone Management Programme in Guyana.
- Bonaire has gained international recognition as having best management practice for coral reef management. Saba and Belize have also received this recognition.

Some key regional initiatives are the:

- CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism: This is a regional initiative funded by CARICOM to sustainably manage fisheries resources especially straddling stocks of pelagic fish.
- The proposed Integrated Coastal Area and Watershed Management Project - a GEF-funded project to be implemented by UNEP and executed jointly by UNEP/RCU and CEHI. The project will include several smaller Demonstration Projects in various Caribbean countries.
- Common fishing zone provisions are being pursued at the sub-regional level through the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the OECS.
- Caribbean Fisheries Unit: Fisheries data collection on resource exploitation is ongoing and analysis is being undertaken in reference to resources of the Wider Caribbean.
- The Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) is managing a Coastal Resources Co-Management Project which seeks to develop guidelines for successful co-management. It addresses the natural resource and human institutional aspects of co-management. A Coral Reef Education Project and a Caribbean Blue Flag (a voluntary certification scheme for beaches and marinas) is also being implemented.
- Caribbean Sea Ecological Assessment (CARSEA): This is a study led by the Cropper Foundation and co-sponsored by the UWI, CCA and other agencies. It is also being undertaken as a sub-global activity within the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

3.3.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Policy Review*: Clearly-articulated, national policies on coastal and marine issues are required.
- *Legal Reform*: Gaps and overlaps in the legislative framework for coastal and marine management must be addressed. Also a lack of legislative instruments to empower the relevant enforcement agencies. There is a need to develop legislation, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent over-fishing, poaching and accidental entanglement in gill nets.
- *Integrated Planning*: Integrated resource planning mechanisms that address the terrestrial and marine interface and interactions are required.

- *Fundraising*: Lack of financial support to meet commitments such as financing of ICZM programmes and protected areas management is stressed in all National Reports.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: There is a low level of coordination among the various agencies with responsibility for coastal and marine management.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: Gaps in human resources must be filled.

- *Conducting Research*: Difficulties with resource assessment capability are being experienced. There is a need to fill gaps in knowledge of the ecology, taxonomy and status of species as well as ecosystem management.

- *Public Awareness*: There is a low level of public perception of coastal and marine issues. Understanding by resource users, tourists and developers must be increased as part of a conscious effort to conserve marine resources.

- *Information Management*: Gaps in the data, information and knowledge required to manage coastal and marine resources must be filled.

- *Technology*: the inadequacy and/or inappropriateness of technology must be overcome.

3.4   Land Resources

There is a wide variation in the quality and availability of land resources in the Caribbean, relative to population dynamics and economic use. For example, Barbados is ranked as the 16th most densely populated country in the world. At the other extreme Guyana is under-populated. Curacao and Antigua and Barbuda and Haiti face a challenging food security situation because of the poor quality of their soils permits very little farming activity.

Key areas under the sustainable use, management and conservation of land resources, include land use planning, protected areas management, sustainable agriculture, forestry, watershed management, environmental protection and mining (Belize, Guyana and Jamaica). These areas are being addressed by a variety of programmes and projects with major outputs being the production of National Action Plans to Combat Desertification; National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and a plethora of country - specific policy documents. Jamaica and Belize have recognized the need for integrating economic, social and physical planning activities related to these areas and along with Dominica have provided mechanisms for a participatory community input for natural resource management.

Many countries are addressing institutional strengthening and capacity building for sustainable land use management and some territories have either set up Committees or Secretariats to address critical land use issues or have revised their institutional framework for more effective land use management. Of note is the creation of the Ministry of Lands and Environment in Jamaica in 2000. In addition, most territories are in the process of reforming land use policies and are updating their legislative policies. Some countries, such as the Bahamas, Jamaica and Saint Lucia require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for large developments.

Several key regional initiatives are ongoing or have been identified for future implementation. They include:

- A wide spectrum of creative initiatives being coordinated by IICA aimed at both broadening opportunities for sustainable rural livelihoods and diversifying agricultural products. These include promoting organic farming; the use of ethno-botanical products for the herbal and cosmetic markets; the strengthening of linkages between agriculture and tourism including through food festivals. Some of these initiatives also aim to empower women and the disabled.

- Protecting Biodiversity by Preventing Land Degradation in the Small Island States of the Caribbean. This is a GEF-funded initiative aimed at creating an appropriate enabling environment and institutional capacity to support sustainable land use management. It also develops pilot demonstration activities to address land degradation and biodiversity loss at the community level in the project sites identified.

- Conserving Biodiversity in Small Island Ecosystems of the Caribbean.

- The St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability (adopted in 2002) aims at fostering commitment by OECS Member States to work towards sustainable management of natural resources whilst improving the quality of life of the people in the region.
- Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme: This is funded by the EU, administered by CARIFORUM and implemented by the CCA. It seeks to promote socially and ecologically-sound development in the region.

Key international initiatives include:

- The Fair Trade System established within the Banana Industry which is intended to have positive effect on the environment (e.g. protection of ecosystems of high ecological value and the protection of water sources from chemical pollution).
- Good Agriculture Practices (GAP). This project aims at increasing the economic competitiveness of the OECS through "trade in consistently healthy, hazard free, safe and wholesome crops selected for export development." The project is supported by the Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Programme for Economic Competitiveness, OECS governments and IICA.

3.4.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Legal Reform*: Countries are at various stages of preparing National Action Plans etc. Urgent attention must be paid to legislating and adopting policies and regulations at the national level, if the goals and objectives of the various land use policies and strategies are to be achieved.
- *Planning*: In some cases, sectoral development (e.g. agricultural development) is continuing with little or no guidance from land use policies. In addition, problems are sometimes experienced in cases where private landowners own land within protected areas etc. Problems may be mitigated by legislating and adopting comprehensive land use policies and regulations at the national level.
- *Fundraising*: Funding of land use planning/land management projects continues to be a constraint. Financial resources must be secured if realistic results are to be obtained.
- *Institutional Strengthening*: There is a general lack of capacity at the national level to implement action plans to combat land degradation and drought. Cooperation and collaboration between government departments, resource users and other stakeholders must be improved. Some countries have identified the need for an institutional framework to address land degradation and desertification as well as resources for continuous training of staff.
- *Conducting Integrated Research*: In some cases, National Assessments have noted the need to incorporate indigenous knowledge into land use planning. Provision of the appropriate mechanisms for participatory community input for natural resource management will help to mitigate the problem.
- *Information Management*: Despite the fact that countries have been forging ahead to collect the necessary data, information gaps continue to hinder effective decision-making for land use management. The continued collection of key data is critical for national and regional implementation of ongoing and future programmes and projects pertaining to land degradation and desertification.
- *Stakeholder Participation*: There is a lack of access to pertinent information by stakeholders relating to land degradation and drought. Information networks must be created to ensure that such persons have the information they require to participate effectively in the process. It is essential that civil society be fully integrated decision-making and problem solving .processes.

- *Public Awareness*: Public indifference to unsustainable land use policies and forest conservation continues to hamper national efforts to address land degradation issues. Strategies must be implemented to improve public attitude and behaviour.

3.5   Energy Resources

There is a wide variation in the sources of energy across the Region. At one end of the spectrum are countries like the Bahamas, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Grenada that are totally dependent on imported fuel. At the other end of the spectrum are countries like Trinidad and Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles which export energy. Local availability and production of energy have major impacts on the cost of energy. Cost is a key factor which influences the nature of responses to calls for increased development of renewable energy (RE).

The energy sector continues to be one of the more challenging areas of the SIDS/POA, especially in relation to the development of RE. In many cases, the lack of technical knowledge with respect to renewable energy technologies (especially amongst decision-makers) has meant that States had to start addressing their commitments to the process from a position of information discovery before they could commence further investigations into which technologies would be feasible for their situations. Only a few countries (Barbados, Saint Lucia, Curacao, Cuba) have adopted (or are in the process of adopting) National Energy Policies and Action Plans.

Despite the above, many countries have been forging ahead with renewable energy programmes and projects. These include wind farms; hydroelectric power generating plants; geothermal energy; Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC); wave power, solar power, bagasse burning turbines and biomass digestors. Some Countries have also adopted energy saving targets and some have introduced cleaner energy technologies and demand side management programmes. Some specific examples of national initiatives are:

- The planned Amaila Falls hydo-power and Turtuba hydo-power projects in Guyana.
- The phasing out of leaded gasoline by most countries.
- Wind and solar energy regimes in Curacao and Bonaire
- Barbados is in the process of setting up a Renewable Energy Centre that will address training needs. Also a Renewable Energy Park that will provide hands-on demonstration initiatives.
- Cuba has developed a number of specific initiatives for sustainable energy development. These are the:
    - Front of Renewable Energy: A national group aimed at coordinating the efforts of the country for the development of renewable energy;
    - Programme of Saving Electricity in Cuba: This is directed at promoting electricity savings in the domestic sector;
    - Programme for Saving of Fuel: This involves promoting measures to increase energy efficiencies by applying new and advanced technologies as well as promoting the increase use of renewable energies.

Key regional initiatives include:

- The Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project CREDP): This project tracks the UNFCCC and other related activities and catalyses renewable energy projects.
- Development of Energy Efficiency in the Caribbean Project: Aimed at overcoming barriers to implementation and dissemination of least-cost energy efficient technologies amongst other activities.
- The Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS): Disseminates information and produces a quarterly magazine.
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM): A GEF initiative encouraging trade in carbon credits on a global level between developed and developing countries.

3.5.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Policy Review*: Some countries still do not have national energy policies in place. Also, appropriate incentives for encouraging energy efficiencies at the household and commercial levels should be introduced

- *Fundraising*: Financing of projects remains a key constraint partly due to the high capital cost of some renewable energy technologies. In addition, some countries noted that financial institutions do not appear to be interested in funding renewable energy projects. To overcome this, some States have been approaching the private sector to become involved.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: Human resources capacities continue to be insufficient to identify and implement projects. Opportunities to address this deficiency should be explored through the proposed Barbados Renewable Energy Centre.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: Decision-makers still lack the will to pursue renewable energy resources in some States mainly due to a lack of understanding of the developmental potential of renewable energy. In addition, there is not a critical mass of trained people who appreciate the benefits of such technologies.

- *Conducting Integrated Research*: The wind and solar energy examples presented by Curacao and Bonaire should be used as "best practice" models.

- *Ensuring Stakeholder Participation*: There continues to be a lack of involvement by some national utility companies in the promotion of energy efficient programmes, products and equipment. National energy policies (developed with input from all stakeholders) will help to secure commitment to overcome these problems.

- *Increasing Public Awareness*: There is a lack of awareness amongst the general public as to the potential of renewable energy technologies. Public awareness programmes are essential to the success of many ventures in this field.

3.6   Freshwater and Waste Water Management

All Caribbean countries have ratified the various International Conventions that address the sustainable development of water. Further, many of the national targets set during the UN's International Decade for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in the 1980s have been achieved and even exceeded in some cases. Rapid urbanisation, improved sanitation and health practices in rural areas, and persistent growth in tourism and in industrialization, have significantly increased the demand on freshwater resources. Deforestation and the encroachment on protected areas of watersheds have resulted in significant changes in the water-retention capacity of the soil. Climate variability has been associated with serious droughts and water shortages, sometimes over extended periods. Deterioration and malfunction of the municipal water supply, poor maintenance and weak attempts at rehabilitation of irrigation distribution systems have created added problems in water resources management.

Over the past decade, several countries have sought to improve the legal, policy and institutional framework for water resources management. Barbados, Jamaica Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia have designed national water policies and are seeking to streamline water laws and institutions. However, the efforts being made by these and other countries in the region are still some distance away from the Integrated Water Resources Management ideal.

In nearly all countries, there are multiple institutions and agencies involved in water resources management, but there is no effective institutional mechanism in place to coordinate the inputs of these entities. Jamaica (through its National Environmental and Planning Agency) and Trinidad and Tobago (through its Environmental Management Authority) are examples of two countries where some degree of coordination takes place, not only within the water sector, but between the water sector and other areas of the environment and the economy.

Decision Support Systems[2] (DSS') within the water sector are grossly inadequate, as reflected in the paucity of data on water resources generally and on water and climate in particular. Generally, regular water resources assessments are not being undertaken. Where these are done, they do not include:

- Demand Assessment (which examines the competing uses of water with the physical resource base and assesses demand for water);
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) - which examine how social and institutional structures affect water use and management) and risk and vulnerability assessment - which examines the likelihood of extreme events, such as floods and droughts as well as the vulnerability of the society to them and the appropriate mitigation strategies to deal with these events.

Presently, there is no comprehensive training programme in water resources management being implemented in any of the countries. Very few countries have an adequate stock of skills across the spectrum of water management needs. However, most countries have adequately trained personnel in water and forest conservation and management. From time to time, regional agencies such as the OECS Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU), the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), CEHI and CWWA deliver workshops on various aspects of water resources management. CEHI routinely conducts short-term training in areas of water quality testing and in the management of sewerage treatment plants. A number of policy makers have also been trained in converting data to information for decision making.

3.6.1 Wastewater Management

National Assessment Reports emphasise the concerns of Caribbean countries about the health risks associated with poor waste water treatment and disposal. The majority of countries do not have adequate water treatment facilities. Untreated wastewater carries elevated bacteria and viruses, which pose a risk to human health. Improper solid-waste disposal, in particular indiscriminate waste disposal and unlined landfills and improperly constructed pit latrines can allow hazardous leachate to contaminate groundwater supplies.

Many of these threats to human health are a direct result of inadequate sanitation treatment. This is compounded by insufficient drainage which allows standing pools of contaminated water which engender the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Over the past nine years, there has been a shift in the technologies used in the management of wastes and the provision of water and this has necessitated the complete review of some national programmes in order for countries to meet their commitments under the Basel Convention. As a result, many countries have reviewed (or are in the process of reviewing or formulating) national policies and frameworks with the appropriate development or reformulation of national plans and Acts. There has also been the need to restructure Solid Waste Management and Water Resources Authorities, Units or Councils.

Key regional initiatives include:

- *The Waste Lead-acid Battery Disposal Project and the Waste Oil Project*: This project is being coordinated and supported by the Caribbean Research Institute (the Basel Convention sub-regional center).
- *The Caribbean Water Partnership* formulated to foster regional cooperation in integrated water resources management.

- *Cooperation on Saline Intrusion into Coastal Karstic Aquifers*: This is a joint project between Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Jamaica to develop operational strategies and management models for groundwater extraction without inducing saline intrusion into aquifers.

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[2] A Decision Support System is a means of collecting data from many sources, whether experimental or survey data, output from models and expert or local knowledge, to inform a decision.

- The Development and Implementation of Water Monitoring Programmes between Caribbean SIDS.
- *The OECS Solid and Ship Generated Waste Project*: This project was funded by the World Bank and CDB and was designed to upgrade solid and liquid waste management capacity and infrastructure.

3.6.2   Constraints and Recommended Responses

Policy Review: Some countries lack national policies for freshwater and waste management and the provision of water resources. This deficiency has hampered the access to loan funds by at least one country. Therefore, national policies and management frameworks must be formulated urgently if these countries are to successfully address the complex task of achieving the targets laid down in the SIDS/POA.

- *Legal Reform*: Outdated and conflicting legislation and the inadequate enforcement of laws in several countries retard effective implementation of management measures. The issues must be addressed urgently in order ensure sustainable management of waste and the provision of an optimal water supply and equitable and cost-effective services, in a timely manner. Improved legislation will also enable the private sector and the public to participate in freshwater and wastewater management

- *Planning*: competition among economic and social sectors for water resources needs to be addressed in most countries. Progress on this aspect may be facilitated by the implementation of national policies and frameworks in countries where these are still lacking.

- *Financing:* Financing for the various programmes and projects continues to be a major factor hampering the implementation of the SIDS/POA. In one country, funding was withheld as a result of the lack of a clear policy and long term plan for water provision.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: The implementation of national policies, frameworks, legislation etc is often constrained by the lack of the necessary capacity and expertise within agencies and the lack of financial resources to generate such capacity.

- *Conducting Integrated Research*: comprehensive data needs to be collected and analysed in order to inform national policies and legislative reviews.

- *Increasing Public Awareness*: Public indifference to waste management issues and the role that individuals may play in improving the national situation needs to be addressed.

- *Improving Technology*: Constantly changing technology often results in implementation delays. Training of an adequate cadre of personnel is critical to sound decision-making and effective use of scarce resources.

3.7   Tourism Resources

The relative stage of development and priority given to tourism in the Caribbean varies substantially. There are also marked differences in the basic tourism attractions in the levels of investment capital and in the technical capabilities of the local and private sectors. At one extreme are the Dominican Republic, Barbados, The Bahamas, Barbados and Jamaica with well- established tourism industries built around diversified activities, strong reputations, high levels of repeat business in the major source markets (North America, Europe and the Caribbean) and a solid infrastructure base that includes roads, telecommunications utilities and airport and seaport facilities. At the middle point of the spectrum are Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize, while Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica are at the lower end of the spectrum.

The majority Caribbean SIDS have embarked on initiatives aimed at building a wider base of support for the tourism industry among the local population. There is wide acknowledgement that this support will not be achieved if the local populace does not perceive that the benefits of tourism are reaching them. Generally there is recognition that:

- Mutual and permanent cooperation and consensus between actors in the tourism industry at the national and regional level, must constitute the framework for joint action;
- While there is a continuing need for foreign investment and technology transfer to expand and modernize tourism infrastructure, the industry must allow for the fullest participation in its planning and development by all segments of the society and its benefits must be distributed as widely as possible;
- True long-term sustainability will come from the development of an indigenous, entrepreneurial class;
- Opportunities for linkages between tourism and in particular agriculture, manufacturing and services must be fully exploited;
- The right of the populace to the enjoyment of the scenic and other natural resources must be preserved in the development of the sector;
- In the planning and development of tourism, the sustainability and the conservation of natural resources must be ensured.

There is a growing awareness that to make tourism sustainable, concerted and sustained action is needed simultaneously, on a number of fronts and at varying levels, including the national, regional and international level. This growing recognition of the imperative of sustainable tourism has come in the wake of the 1992 Rio Summit on Sustainable Development.

Important steps are being taken at national and regional levels to strengthen tourism planning and management to include environmental concerns and maximise social and economic benefits. A wide range of laws have been enacted to strengthen environmental management, including the establishment of standards for land use in tourism development, adopting integrated watershed and coastal area management systems and approaches and strengthening environmental frameworks. Some countries such as Jamaica and Barbados have formulated Tourism Master Plans with links to national Development Plans. Others, such as Grenada and Barbados have established National Sustainable Development Councils.

Presently, few countries have in place Sustainable Tourism Master Plans to ensure that the economic and social benefits of tourism are distributed as equitably as possible and that the environmental impacts of tourism are addressed. Also lacking are integrated plans or approaches to planning of tourism that address issues such as: tourism infrastructure and transportation; carrying capacity; current tourism supply and demand, resource utilisation and trends; and economic, and socio-cultural and environmental impacts. The absence of such plans has affected not only the decisions of investors but also the orderly development of the sector, as sound decision making regarding shifts in policy and/or resource allocations is compromised. Such plans are needed to help focus and promote the optimum use of the resources of the many institutions and agencies with a mandate in tourism planning and management.

Most countries place tourism initiatives high on the agenda since the sector is viewed as the solution to other sector economies that are on the decline (e.g. agriculture). For example in Belize, tourism is reported to account for 1 in every 4 jobs and 18% of the GDP. In St. Lucia, tourism contributes $139.2 million to the local economy compared to agriculture that contributes $65.07m. Some countries note that tourism has been going through revolutionary changes that have placed it high on the priority lists of various Governments. In addition, some countries have been challenged to look at new avenues for tourism apart from the traditional sun, sea and sand (e.g. ecotourism, nature-based tourism and community based tourism) all of which have necessitated revised national policies and frameworks and in some cases legislation. Training within the tourism sector has also been recognized as crucial.

Some key regional initiatives are:

- The Caribbean Programme for Economic Competitiveness Project designed to deliver training directly to the tourism industry.
- The establishment of protected areas to both manage the resources that attract tourists as well as to develop recreational and educational facilities.

3.7.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

Very few constraints were addressed in the country in the National Assessment Reports. However, the following were noted:

- *Planning*: Regulations, operational plans and other institutional arrangements need to be improved and/or revised in cases where Tourism Acts (e.g. National Park Acts) are newly established.

- *Fundraising*: Cost recovery systems are not in place even though visitors have indicated that they are willing to pay resource rents. This issue must be addressed in order to generate much-needed funds for site maintenance and sustainability.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: In some instances, nature sites have been developed but there are no management structures in place to manage the areas. Also, limited monitoring of national parks and protected areas due to a lack of staff means that visitors are free to access and use sites unguided. Institutional arrangements must be improved and established for national park systems and nature sites in the interest of environmental protection and site sustainability.

CHAPTER 4:   CROSS-SECTORAL AREAS

4.1   Financing and Investment for Sustainable Development

Financing for projects and programmes that contribute to sustainable development has been accessed from international and regional lending agencies (e.g. the World Bank, IDB, CDB), multilateral (e.g. the EU, the Commonwealth Debt Initiative,) and bilateral sources (USA, UK, Cuba), and the GEF through the UNDP and UNEP. In the vast majority of cases however, sustainable development projects have also been financed by national governments either through local revenue, or loans. Funding has been directed into a variety of projects including:

- Coastal zone management

- Community-based NGO environmental projects

- Protection and management of biodiversity, including national parks and protected areas

- Bio-safety

- Ozone monitoring

- Climate change

- Sea defense mitigation

- Land administration and land management

- Micro-credit for sustainable technology enterprises

- Sewage treatment facilities

- Solid waste management

Nationally-funded initiatives have also been undertaken in forestry management; community-based sustainable development councils; development projects in agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure; and community-based projects to deliver basic services to the poor. In addition, Governments have found creative ways of raising funds for local sustainable development initiatives. These include establishing environmental funds; debt-for-nature swaps; local application of the polluter-pays principle; imposition of "environmental levies" in the waste management sector; and the provision of incentives for the private sector to adopt environmentally - responsible actions.

Among the more urgent needs identified in the National Reports are the following:

- *Capacity building*: There is lack of capacity and human resources to access funds to finance development projects. Capacity is needed in the areas of project cycle management and in streamlining bureaucratic procedures for project approval. Capacity building activities must target the public and private sectors, as well as NGOs.

- *Prioritizing sustainable development*: Competition from other sectors for limited funds can hamper sustainable development activities

- *Assistance in making the transition to a more liberal economy in the context of globalization*: A smooth transition will enhance the chances for successful achievement of sustainable development goals.

4.2   Capacity Building and Coordination

Caribbean countries have taken the initiative to become actively involved in several regional and sub-regional organizations that facilitate coordination and capacity building within the region. These include membership in the Central American Integration System, CARICOM, ECLAC, and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Advantage has been taken of the assistance offered by these and other organizations in the areas of finance, contributions to national consultations, provision of information,

collaboration on various sustainable development projects, and Public Sector Reform---including strengthening capacity in the Public Service throughout the region

Environmental Action Programmes have been used to promote sustainable development through capacity building in the private and public sectors, and community education programmes on the sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources. Partnerships have been established between lead agencies in environment and sustainable development and line ministries responsible for distinct environmental functions. Several training programmes for specific target groups such as the disciplined services, local government bodies, NGOs, and communities, to enhance institutional capacity to perform environmental functions such as monitoring and enforcement.

Other national level achievements in capacity building include the recognition of the environment as an explicit ministerial portfolio responsibility (e.g. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia); the designation of distinctive agencies responsible for environmental planning and management; and the extension of programmes and curricula of education and training institutions to include courses in environment and sustainable development.

Several agencies that foster cooperation have also emerged. The objectives of these agencies include:

- Greater coherence of countries' international cooperation policies

- Internal coordination between recipients agencies of international cooperation resources

In addition, countries have taken advantage of:

- human resource training activities—both long-term graduate level and short term programmes—sponsored by development agencies such as the EU, the Fulbright Scholarship programme, and Graduate and post-graduate scholarships provided by the Governments of Cuba and Japan.

- opportunities to participate in national and regional consultations for the sustainable development process.

4.2.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

While there have been initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable development, a common criticism is that these efforts have been isolated or confined to particular sectors. The result is that the progress towards sustainable development is sporadic and scattered. This confirms the need for:

- *National coordinating mechanisms to guide development*: This is necessary not only to ensure consistency and even development across sectors, but also to identify areas to be addressed, resources that should be invested, and timeframes for achieving stated objectives.

- *The establishment a Central Government agency to guide the sustainable development process*. This particular response is seen as necessary to respond to the following needs:

  - identifying sustainable development priorities;

  - clarifying capacity needs to achieve these priorities;

  - ensuring implementation of a capacity development agenda;

  - steering demonstration sustainable development projects;

  - monitoring implementation of a sustainable development plans;

- Increased in the supply of trained human and technological resources.

  - Particular attention needs to be paid to strengthening capacity within line agencies and departments of Government in the areas of strategic planning, and capacity to manage and mobilize resources around strategic priorities.

  - An integrated plan or strategy for capacity building and human resource development is needed at the national level.

- Attention to the capacity needs of the NGO sector is vital, due to the critical role they play, or can play, in the areas of information management, implementation of sustainable development initiatives, monitoring and enforcement, and in financial resource mobilization.

- Capacity building to increase resilience to internal and external shocks: This needs to be complemented with policies for a stable macroeconomic environment, good governance, a strong legal framework, and incentives for appropriate investment.

- A more coordinated and streamlined approach to capacity building for sustainable development (at the regional and international levels).

- *Policy and Legislative Frameworks*: These are needed to create an enabling environment for sustainable development. In particular, institutional and legal frameworks in the region have not kept pace with international obligations with respect to the areas of trade and the environment. Attention to this shortcoming will assist the sustainable development process.

  Strengthening legislative frameworks must take account of enforcement, including not only the capacity for enforcement, but educating and building awareness among enforcement personnel regarding the importance of the environment and of environmental control. A re-evaluation of the environment by enforcement personnel, to a point where the value of the environment is recognised and appreciated, is fundamental to achieving sustainable development goals.

- *Public-Private Sector Partnerships*: These will facilitate the efficient use of scarce resources through jointly implemented activities, drawing on the strengths of each partner while reducing their weaknesses, minimizing duplication and redundancy, determining best practices through consultation, assisting in technology transfer, and leading to the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

- *Provision of Information Management Systems*: This is needed for sound decision making within central governments, as well as to enable local and regional level agencies to respond effectively to sustainable development programmes and activities.

- *Environmental Education for Sustainable Development*: This is needed at all levels and sectors of civil society, (including in the environmental consulting sector), in order to raise the profile of sustainable development on the national agenda. It is also needed to build the capacity to respond to the growing need for environmental services.

- *Financial Resources***:** for training of government personnel and for training of trainers.

- *Access to New Technologies***:** This includes training in the use of these technologies to overcome personnel resistance to new techniques.

4.3   Trade and Investment.

The concern in these areas reported by Caribbean countries derive primarily from their peculiar structural circumstances of small size, geographical remoteness and isolation, openness, limited capacity for diversification, poverty and susceptibility to natural disasters. These circumstances collectively have constrained the development of trade, because of difficulties in importing production inputs and transporting finished or intermediate products. This is also identified as a problem even within the region, as inter-island transportation cost can be disproportionate to the market value of products.

Internal constraints associated with smallness have been identified by Caribbean Governments as: the existence of limited resources that can be transformed into economic gains; general market rigidities; and few instruments for policy and investment purposes. There are also several external constraints that are beyond the explicit control of countries in the region. Most important among these are the seemingly inevitable movement of the developed world towards greater liberalisation of trade and finance, and the globalisation of international transactions under terms that are not mindful of the plight of SIDS. This is manifested in the various international trade agreements to which Caribbean countries are Party. The combination of inherent vulnerabilities, internal and external constraints, contributes to an overall lack of

international competitiveness among Caribbean SIDS. Against this background, countries have highlighted a number of key concerns and vulnerabilities, including the following:

- External developments in trade and finance liberalization challenge firms in the region to be competitive in an environment characterized by relatively higher operating costs and declining subsidies;

- Challenges to preferential markets enjoyed by Caribbean countries in the past, could set off serious repercussions throughout the region in the event of WTO rulings similar to that handed down in the banana dispute;

- An increasingly hostile environment for international trade;

- The onset of international financial crises;

- The pre-mature graduation of some SIDS from concessional funding from international financial institutions such as the World Bank;

- Small production capacity translates into lack of economies of scale, making it difficult for productive sectors to compete in the liberalized trading system; this is compounded by limited domestic markets and high cost of inputs such as transportation, energy, insurance and labour, which together further impede productivity;

- Small domestic markets are unable to accommodate the competition brought about by large numbers of firms operating in the economy;

- Small, open economies reliant on a narrow range of exports of goods and services are highly vulnerable to external shocks, such as that experienced in the tourism sector in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York. A similar shock, manifested in declining foreign exchange earnings, was experienced after the WTO ruling on bananas.

- Open economies like those of the Caribbean depend on import taxes as a source of revenue. The reduction in tariffs due to trade liberalization could negatively impact on economies in the region.

- Vulnerability is compounded by the threat and incidence of natural disasters, e.g. hurricanes and volcanoes.

- At the sectoral level, the manufacturing sector faces difficulties in moving from production for a protected market to a competitive export-focussed environment. Transformation has been hampered by a failure to retool and restructure production processes to attain higher levels of efficiency.

- The contribution of the agricultural sector has declined due largely to a failure to utilize more effective technology/machinery to achieve higher levels of efficiency.

- In some territories the tourism sector has suffered from lack of product diversification and failure to explore new markets. High cost destinations also face loss of market share due to competition.

Notwithstanding these constraints, some countries have reported some progress in the areas of agricultural diversification, particularly in developing new varieties of food crops (e.g. yams); and rural development initiatives to educate farmers in order to enhance their productivity and their capacity to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

In the tourism sector greater emphasis is being placed on hospitality training; diversification into areas such as community-based tourism, heritage tourism and eco-tourism; and in forging stronger linkages with other sectors of the economy. Some countries also report development of Sustainable Tourism Plans and Strategies.

In the Manufacturing sector attention has been paid to micro-enterprise development, and the provision of export credit facilities. Progress has also been reported in efforts of some countries (especially in the OECS and Jamaica) to enhance competitiveness through the liberalisation of telecommunications. The

provision of innovative financing in the form of small-scale grants and micro-enterprise loans is helping to buttress community development activities. Programmes are also in train to build capacity through human resource development, with emphasis on the training of technicians, scientists and decision makers; increasing public participation through extending consultations; and strategic planning that focuses on institutional development to facilitate the integration of environmental, population and development strategies.

4.3.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

The following is a summary of constraints identified and responses needed:

- *Administrative and technical capacity*: The rapid pace of trade liberalization makes it difficult for the already limited capacity in these areas to deal with emerging issues, such as the resources to attend and effectively participate in international trade negotiations. Institutional strengthening of relevant agencies is vital.

- *Access to financial resources to acquire new technologies*: This is critical to transform agriculture and manufacturing into more efficient and productive sectors that can compete in the global economy, by reducing costs, enhancing output, and improving productive capacity.

- *Encouraging investment in economic diversification*: This is necessary within the traditional sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism, in diversifying into new areas of economic production, and in establishing niche markets for products and services. With respect to traditional sectors, examples of success stories exist in the areas of heritage and eco-tourism. With respect to non-traditional areas, some countries have already shown success in international business and financial services.

- *Human resource development*: greater investment in enhancing the skills base of the labour force to make it more competitive and flexible. This is particularly needed in the informatics sector, where there is a demand for programmers and other skilled personnel. Additional training is also needed in market research, product development and management for micro-enterprises. With respect to international trade, training in external trade negotiations is critical if the region is to be effective in talks within the WTO, FTAA and other such entities.

- *Information*: Establish and strengthen networks for disseminating information to enable effective participation in planning and implementing sustainable development activities.

CHAPTER 5:   PROGRESS TOWARDS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

The United Nations' Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) commit the international community to "vigorously promote human development as the key to sustainable social and economic progress in all countries, and recognize the importance of creating a global partnership for sustainable development." Caribbean countries have embraced the MDGs within the framework of the SIDS/POA, and have taken account of this in their national reports on progress in implementing the SIDS/POA. This section examines some of the major initiatives taken by countries towards meeting these targets, nationally, regionally and internationally. Constraints to positive change are also highlighted and ways of overcoming them are outlined.

5.1   Poverty Reduction

Poverty is a major problem facing all of the Caribbean countries. It was identified as a significant challenge at the beginning of this Report dealing with the socio-economic context. Poverty is being regarded by all Caribbean SIDS as an extremely critical social problem and as the root cause of a wide spectrum of other socio-economic problems facing countries. Poverty has many socio-cultural , family life, health and community manifestations. Crime and violence can also be linked to it. The following factors generally characterize poverty in the Caribbean:

- A large disparity between the income and the quality of life of the rich and the poor.

- Children constitute a large proportion of the poor and are most adversely affected by poverty.

- Poverty is linked to high levels of unemployment.

Some of the major initiatives that have been undertaken since the 1994 Barbados SIDS Conference include:

- Participation in regional and international processes. Several countries have reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the decisions agreed at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 and the 1996 Directional Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication held in Trinidad and Tobago.

- A number of national poverty reduction surveys have been conducted.

- Policies, programmes and plans have been developed and coordinating mechanisms have also been created. For example in St. Vincent and the Grenadines the following initiatives have been undertaken:

  - The National Economic Social Development Council established the Poverty Reduction Task Force;
  - A Poverty Reduction Strategy has been approved which includes developing effective policies to stimulate growth, trade and investment, and employment opportunities; greater and better investment in human capital; improving social and physical infrastructure; strengthening civil society participation and good governance; and enhancing the business environment.

- Unified and integrated approaches to poverty reduction are increasingly being favoured.

- Vital traditional welfare types of interventions continue.

- Social Investment Funds to meet the basic needs of the poor are either established or being established in several states.

- Activities often include governmental institutions and private sector and non-governmental and community groupings, academia, churches, regional and international organizations.

- There is a continuing focus on empowering groups and individuals who are poor.

- The education sector is seen as vital element in the fight against poverty and steps are being taken to upgrade educational standards and facilities.

- The cultural industry is being used by some agencies to reduce poverty and crime through job and wealth creation and diversifying SIDS economies. CARIFORUM is playing a leadership role here through its work with Caribbean cultural industries.

5.1.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

The National Assessments Reports highlight a number of critical problems being encountered by countries as well as factors constraining implementation. They also recommend the kind of strategic actions essential to overcoming these obstacles. Key points raised include:

- *Political Impacts*: The divisive nature of politics and a socio-economic climate that is not ideal for investment was listed as a constraint by some countries.

- *Policy Review*: Policies aimed at diversifying the economic base, improving the quality of jobs, stemming the brain drain, reforming economic and political structures are needed.

- *Planning:* As indicated in earlier sections, Caribbean countries need to enhance their mechanisms to use economic and social development as a major tool against poverty. Attention also needs to be placed on ensuring the sustainability of action.

- *Resource Mobilisation*: The lack of financial resources has been cited by all countries. In addition, problems are sometimes experienced in channeling funds to those most in need.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: There is a lack of coordination between agencies and an absence of an enabling environment for private sector-led growth. There is a need to strengthen community groups and non-governmental organizations to enhance partnerships with Government.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: The lack of human capital is a problem. Training and technical assistance are needed to facilitate new approaches.

- *Conducting Research*: Some countries (e.g. Barbados) need updated poverty profiles so as to provide adequate baseline information.

- *Ensuring Stakeholder Participation*: Several countries note a decline in the willingness of people to volunteer and donate labour even when incentives are being offered. Community spirit is dwindling. There is a need to foster an atmosphere of self-help, community enterprise and entrepreneurship. Poor people themselves much have access to the decision making process that affects them. There is a need to empower people and also strengthen mechanisms for local government.

- *Increasing Public Awareness*: Attitudinal problems still exist. Often the poor prioritize their wants as opposed to their needs. Further, the breakdown in family and community structures is leading to social problems.

5.2 Education

Governments see education as central to overall socio-economic development. Thus, high priority is given to ensuring that citizens are provided with quality education. Some countries (e.g. Jamaica) report having already met the MDG for education.

Over the years, some countries have established education policies - e.g. "2001 The Way Upward - A Path for Jamaica's Education at the Start of the New Millennium") - plans and programmes aimed at giving overall direction for the development of education and focusing on pre-primary education (Early Childhood Learning) primary and secondary education. Examples are the Government of Jamaica/IADB Primary Education Support Programme; Dominica's Basic Education Reform Project and Secondary Education Development Project and Barbados' EDUCTECH Project. Some states have also introduced specialized education programmes in areas such as the environment. Social support programmes include book loan schemes, school feeding programmes, counseling in schools and radio programmes. Education Trust Funds have been established in some countries (e.g. Dominica).

5.2.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Policy and Legal Reform*: In some countries concerns exist over the low performance of students, low levels of attendance (child labour and truancy during school hours) and achievement among certain vulnerable groups (children of single parents, child guardians and rural students). High non-completion and repetition rates; poor examination performance; gender disparities in performance in school (girls outperforming boys); unequal access to educational opportunities; insufficient access to early childhood education and secondary education; as well as issues related to special education also pose problems. Adequate policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to address these concerns.

- *Planning*: Some countries stressed a need for curricula reform to keep pace with the rapid rate of change (e.g. the impact of globalization).

- *Fundraising*: Financial constraints exist at many levels. In many countries, there are inadequate funds for maintenance of schools and for paying staff adequately and promptly. Further, many poor families experience difficulties in meet the cost of schools fees and books.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: There is a need to upgrade Education Ministries and to develop a more integrated vision of human resource development to replace traditional views of education. Further, the need to improve institutional linkages between education and education related services, such as transportation, nutrition and health, has been identified.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: There is limited staff in the schools as well as in the education ministries in most countries. High staff turnover, outflow of skilled/trained educators and insufficient teacher training are also taking their toll.

- *Information*: There is a shortage of reliable data to inform sound decision making.

5.3   Child Mortality

In keeping with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of a Child, several countries have established National Committees on the Rights of a Child. Infant mortality rates have declined over the past couple of decades in many countries. Plans and programmes have been developed to reduce child mortality. Examples include health initiatives (e.g. immunization, drugs and HIV/AIDS education) and environmental health programmes such as sanitation and solid waste management, vector control and food hygiene. There have also been special initiatives such as St. Vincent and the Grenadine's Global Movement for Children which was launched in April 2002.

There has also been increased collaboration between Governmental and non-Governmental agencies as well as between agencies at the national level and specialised UN and Hemispheric agencies on children's issues. For example, the Christian Children's Fund in Dominica works with the Public Health Office to improve sanitation and waste disposal and provide safe water. Ministries of Health recognize that education is a key factor in reducing infant mortality rates and continue to focus attention on this element. As the very poor are identified as being unable to satisfy basic nutritional requirements, attention is placed on reducing the impact of poverty on infant survival.

5.3.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Institutional Strengthening*: Improvements to health centres and district hospitals are needed.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: There is a lack of expertise/staff (e.g. health financing, data analysis, research, systems analysis, data entry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and health care workers in Guyana). Difficulties in retaining staff have also been highlighted in all countries.

- *Information Management*: Some countries report a lack of computer networking and efficient links between clinics and epidemiology centres. The reliability and timely release of data is viewed by some countries as the biggest constraint to obtaining accurate statistics.

5.4   Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Gender disparities are recognized as a significant problem in the Caribbean. In some countries, girls and women continue to have difficulties receiving equal wages and equal employment opportunities. They also tend to have higher rates of unemployment and have a low level of control over their sexual and reproductive lives.

Some countries have designed gender policies (e.g. Belize's National Gender Policy) and have made changes in national legislation (e.g. to address domestic violence, recognize rape in marriages and ensure a fair and equitable minimum wage). Women's Departments/ Desks undertake activities intended to deal with gender issues and more specifically the empowerment of women. Some countries have established special commissions to deal with gender issues. For example, Guyana has a National Commission on Women and an Inter-Ministry Committee whose primary objective is to eradicate inequities in gender relations.

Various plans and programmes have been developed to generate awareness of the issues and address specific topics. Gender sensitization training has been conducted to encourage the inclusion of gender considerations in planning. Schemes have been set up to make loans available to women. Investment has been made in educating women in areas such as skills training and business development aimed at providing real choices for women with respect to family, social and economic issues. Regional agencies such as the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) have contributed especially in the area of training.

5.4.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Policy Review*: There is a need for the further integration of gender issues into national development planning.
- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources:* The need for more skilled personnel was noted by some countries.
- *Resource Mobilisation*: Difficulties in ensuring extensive and sustained programmes are being experienced due to financial constraints. This often results in pilot projects that lack continuity. It also limits the development of programmes which target males.
- *Information Management*: There is a paucity of reliable data on gender issues that can inform the planning and decision making process.
- *Public Awareness*: Attitudes of male dominance are entrenched and need to be attentuated.

Plans and programmes to address the above problems and constraints need to the designed and implemented.

5.5   Major Health Concerns

Countries expressed concerns over several health matters facing their populations. Changing lifestyles are forcing a transition from communicable diseases as a major cause of death to chronic diseases (e.g. hypertension, diabetes, cancer, heart conditions). Considerable concern exists over the high incidence of HIV/AIDS. Vector borne diseases continue to be a challenge for many countries.

Over the years, Governments have designed and implemented policies and action plans to manage these diseases. For example, Dominica reported a very substantive HIV/AIDS education programme. Cuba has developed dozens of bio-technical products including vaccines for the treatment of cancer.

The National Reports recognized that health prevention is the best policy. Hence it is recognized that emphasis needs to be placed on helping people to use knowledge to develop life-saving behaviour patterns.

5.5.1   HIV/AIDS Management

The incidence of HIV/AIDS is a major concern in the Caribbean. One country is ranked as having the fifth highest ratio of HIV/AIDS cases in the Central American Region, with an infection rate of one new case per day. Generally, the region ranks second only to Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of those regions that re hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, with a 2.3% adult HIV prevalence. Some individual Caribbean countries report higher prevalence levels.

Many countries have responded to the HIV/AIDS pandemic by establishing high level Councils or Commissions charged with the responsibility of facilitating, coordinating and monitoring the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS. In Barbados, responsibility for HIV/AIDS management is located in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Regional Conference on HIV/AIDS held in Barbados in September 2000 is widely considered as the defining moment in regional awareness and commitment to respond aggressively to this pandemic in the Caribbean.

Practical measures introduced by countries include: the introduction of anti-retroviral treatment; implementation of nationwide AIDS awareness campaigns and HIV/AIDS education programmes; and national AIDS Prevention and Control Programmes. While responsibility for fighting the AIDS epidemic lies primarily with Ministries of Health, increasingly NGOs and service organizations are becoming involved, particularly in providing support groups, counseling, and home care for infected persons. Other services include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable populations, and peer education for the youth.

Statistics confirm that the AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean has shifted to younger populations, especially females, and is affecting a growing number of persons in the workplace, along with their families. The problem is compounded by the mass movements of people involved in tourism, a major Caribbean industry, particularly the fact of sex-related tourism, which involves specific groups in the local and tourist populations.

Given these factors, the epidemic has already begun to impact on Caribbean societies and economies, through the loss of human potential and productivity and in terms of economic costs. Caribbean SIDS face a "worse case scenario" of losing a large proportion of their labour force over the next five years due to HIV/AIDS. Some countries have already observed severe consequences in the form of an increasing dependency ratio as they move through the demographic transition. Most HIV/AIDS cases have occurred among persons aged 15-39, the prime productive and reproductive age group. This signals a severe and disproportionate impact on the economically active population.

The opportunity costs of unavailable labour and loss of productivity associated with the disease will impact heavily on human resources, the main vehicle for sustainable economic development in the region. The potential for triggering a downward spiral into underdevelopment, wiping out the gains of the past, is daunting.

5.5.1.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Financial Resources*: The direct costs of responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic when linked to additional costs associated with testing, medication, hospitalisation and associated care, constitute a significant proportion of regional health care costs. Response to the epidemic is consuming a growing proportion of national budgets.

- *Information, Education and Communication (IEC)*: A vigorous programme of IEC is needed to maintain regional awareness of HIV/AIDS risks and protection measures, promote safe sex

practices and risk reduction, eliminate discriminatory practices and teach populations how to live with Persons Living with HIV/AIDS.

- *Advocacy and Partnership*: To overcome stigmatization of infected persons, greater advocacy is needed, involving all partners, through community NGOs, faith-based organisations and other civil society groups. A particular focus on vulnerable groups such as commercial sex workers, prisoners, young women etc, is necessary.

- *Researched-Based Evaluation of Current National Programmes*: Many international intenrventions and initiatives are untested in the socio-cultural context of the region. Programme evaluation is important to ensure that interventions are properly targeted and methodologically-appropriate.

- *Legislative Review*: Given the risk of stigmatization and discrimination, and the range of socio-legal issues uncovered by the disease, there is need to strengthen existing legislation to protect the rights of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS.

- *Programmes in Bahavioural Change*: One of the greatest challenges in stemming the spread of the epidemic is to effect bahavioural change in "at risk" populations. Expert assistance is needed to develop and implement behavioural change strategies, drawing on existing international examples.

- *Expansion and Intensification of Existing Programmes*: Target areas for this intervention include voluntary counseling and testing programmes, as well as programmes on HIV/AIDS education in schools to sensitize and embrace teachers, students and parents in the fight against the epidemic.

5.5.2 Malaria and Other Diseases

Vector-borne disease such as Dengue Fever and malaria are a common cause of morbidity. Added to these are lifestyle-related illnesses, including chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, strokes, cancer, diabetes mellitus and hypertension, which constitute a major drain on national and individual resources for their treatment, care and prevention. Other common diseases include Tuberculosis, which is shifting increasingly from the elderly and the very young to the urban young.

Dengue is a major cause for concern among several Caribbean SIDS, evoking intensive nationwide responses, particularly since there is yet no vaccine against either of the four strains of the disease that exist. Responses include education and awareness, regular property inspections by departments of Public Health, and periodic "fogging." Most governments also maintain fixed recurrent budgets and supplementary budgets for the prevention and control of dengue and other vector-borne diseases.

General Responses to vector-borne diseases include expansion of the health care sectors, particularly extension health care services; establishment and development of health insurance schemes; measures to address inequalities in access to health care and for the provision of delivery services to vulnerable groups. Several countries also have ongoing formal education programmes via the schools curricula, as well as public education activities. In addition, bilateral funding assistance and technical assistance through PAHO, have been obtained for integrated vector control, including rodent control, and other programme areas. Technical support from the Caribbean Research and Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) has also been accessed.

Some countries note marked successes from immunization programmes, achieving persistent low levels of communicable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, yellow fever, pulmonary tuberculosis, and influenza infections. Strides are also being made in coping with chronic, non-communicable diseases. Some governments have taken the policy position that access to good health care is a fundamental right.

5.5.2.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Capacity Building*: There is inadequate manpower for sustained efforts to combat diseases, especially for public health inspections and monitoring activities.

- *Legislative Enforcement and Compliance*: There is an apparent inability to use existing legislation to ensure compliance with regulations designed to maintain healthy living environments (e.g.

waste disposal regulations). This is considered to have stemmed from a history of non-enforcement.

- *Intensified Education for Behavioural Change*: This is needed to change current practices of dumping and other inadequate disposal of solid and liquid waste. Target audiences must include business operators and farmers as well as households. More generally, a comprehensive programme of behavioural change guided by a health education approach, and with an emphasis on community partnerships and supportive environments is strongly recommended.

- *Public Participation in Health Policy Formulation*: The multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary nature of health care demands the participation of wider publics in defining, developing and implementing health policy, and in efforts to promote good health. This includes partnerships with traditional and non-traditional sectors that impact on health, as well as the creative involvement of the media as an ally in formulating and promoting programmes that affect health.

- *Research*: This is needed to provide a framework for strengthening the delivery of health care. Such a programme should inter alia, address the increased demands on health systems; evolving needs including growing demands for new technologies; and the allocation of resources.

- *Financial Resources*: Financial resources to respond in an effective and timely manner to expanding health care needs.

5.6   Environmental Sustainability

The Millenium Development Goals on environmental sustainability seek to integrate the principles of sustainable development into national policies and programmes and to reverse the loss of environmental resources, by 2015. These goals are closely aligned to the environmental goals of the SISD/POA and as such, the progress, constraints and responses needed correspond to those of the SIDS/POA. Included in the MDGs are issues such as forest cover, biodiversity protection, GDP per unit of energy use, carbon dioxide emissions, access to safe drinking water, and other issues that call attention to the environmental conditions of the populace and the living conditions of the poor.

Most governments state that they place environmental considerations high on the national agenda, and have instituted measures to ensure the incorporation of environmental concerns in national policy, including in National Strategic Plans, Economic Development Plans, and Poverty Elimination Strategies. Other specific environmental sustainability strategies include: the enactment or drafting of comprehensive Environmental Legislation; the formulation and implementation of national Environmental Action Plans; National Protected Area Systems Plans, as well as regular State of the Environment Reporting; ratification of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and participation in their related global, regional and national programmes.

National environmental sustainability objectives are also extended through support for, and participation in, a wide range of regional level and international environmental programmes.

5.6.1   Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Stakeholder Participation*: The lack of stakeholder participation in key environmental and environment related projects and programmes is seen as a major constraint to environmental sustainability. A wide consultative process is necessary to achieve the desired objectives.

- *Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation*: Skills need to be developed to ensure continuous monitoring of programmes and projects from their inception and throughout implementation, rather than only at the mid-term and final stages, as is currently the norm. This will allow for timely corrective measures that would improve the overall output.

- *Capacity Building*: Lack of financial and human resources is reflected in a lack of qualified personnel in key areas, and in the inability of countries to participate in crucial international initiatives.

- *Overarching Visions and Policies on Sustainability*: Absence of such vision in some countries in the region, translates into absence of national strategies towards sustainability. The result is that initiatives tend to be driven more by external forces such as the requirements of donor organizations and the activities of international organisations rather than by identified national needs.

5.7 Global Partnership for Development

This report item required countries to describe current, national, sub-regional, and regional efforts aimed at fostering partnerships for sustainable development in their countries, and to provide a list of key existing national constraints related to the planning, development and implementation of partnerships for sustainable development. Those countries which responded noted the following:

National Level Responses:

- Building inter and intra sectoral liaisons with governmental and non-governmental agencies for the purpose of implementing sustainable development initiatives.

- Use of Debt for Nature Swap agreements to finance the conservation and management of areas of tropical forests

Sub-regional and Regional Responses

- Establishing national and regional authorities to focus on sustainable development issues with respect to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

- Participation in regional and sub-regional activities to share experiences and promote lateral technical co-operation.

- Use of bilateral and international grant funding in programmes aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, nurturing youth governance, and developing sports and other initiatives aimed at breaking the cycle of violence and providing positive pathways for the youth.

5.8.1 Constraints and Recommended Responses

- *Capacity Building*: Lack of financial and human resources is reflected in a lack of qualified personnel in key areas, and inability to participate in crucial international initiatives.

- *Partnerships for Coordination*: Partnerships are needed to facilitate coordination, channel international resources, and provide overall guidance for cooperation amongst relevant agencies.

- *The Challenge of Regionalization*: It is considered that Caribbean SIDS need to critically review the role of the OECS within CARICOM, and to move towards a more streamlined approach, at regional and international levels, to capacity building for sustainable development.

CHAPTER 6:   EMERGING CONCERNS

The key emerging concerns noted in national reports on implementation of the SIDS/POA include the increasing challenges of debt servicing; the unavoidability of economic, environmental and social vulnerability; problems of governance; resource issues; health and demographic change. The following is a summary of the main issues identified

6.1   Debt Servicing

The burden of servicing substantial debt places constraints on Governments' ability to achieve sustainable development objectives. Invariably, counteractive measures that include a reduction in public service personnel further reduces the capacity of Governments to meet their goals. Despite debt relief, continual borrowing and public sector liabilities to maintain investments has increased the stock of new debt.

6.2   Economic Vulnerability

Trade shocks due to the impacts of globalization are affecting overall economic growth and economic development, including production, distribution and consumption, particularly in Caribbean SIDS dependent on export of primary products. The openness of the economies make it difficult to maintain appropriate levels of debt servicing even under conditions of debt relief. Vulnerability is compounded by limited investment in economic diversification, reduced donor assistance, and slow incorporation of information and communications technologies in crucial economic operations.

6.2.1.   Recommended Responses:

- Aggressive government contestation of the conditionalities that serve to reduce opportunities for exports/imports substitution based on indigenous resources, including renewable energy resources;

- Strong, enlightened leadership from both policy makers and civil society.

6.3   Environmental Vulnerability

Environmental Degradation lessens the extent to which environmental resources can meet domestic needs and contribute to export earnings. Environmental vulnerability is compounded by countries' un-preparedness to deal with environmental pressures such as drought, prolonged heavy rainfall, or pressures on the use of natural resources.

6.3.1   Recommended Responses:

- Action to encourage the international community to recognize SIDS as small, island, coastal developing states and to respond to their peculiar circumstances, accordingly;

- Greater international support for regional programmes that target long-term sustainability;

- More pertinent environmental assessments of both natural and human-induced phenomena;

- Incorporation of University-level research into national policy development.

6.4   Social Vulnerability

This is a function of the following:
- (a)   high levels of unemployment and underemployment;
- (b)   large-scale emigration of skilled labour, and reduced levels of labour force participation;
- (c)   changing consumption patterns;
- (d)   high population growth rates and increasing poverty in some countries;
- (e)   an increasingly volatile economic environment;
- (f)   unplanned physical planning and development;

<blockquote>

(g)   slow progress in the use of science and technology to address common development challenges;

(g)   growing criminal activity (especially among young people), drug use, domestic violence, and political and social instability;

(h)   the declining participation of males in formal education, with a corresponding potential decline in their being adequately equipped for their overall role in society;

</blockquote>

The combination of these factors is creating an untenable social and economic environment with a growing potential for social unrest.

6.4.1   Recommended Responses

- Expanded provision of economic and educational activities

- Improved enforcement of legislation

- Scientific research into the nature and causes of crime

- An integrated approach to development planning

- Development and implementation of appropriate gender policies and youth development programmes

6.5   Good Governance

The following factors were cited as key impediments to good governance:

- Inadequate performance of democratic institutions

- Insecurity and lack of adequate access to justice

- Lack of accountability

- declining levels of social cohesion due to increasing social stresses

- The challenge of regionalization across varying cultures and economies

6.5.1   Recommended Responses:

- Political will across countries to put into practice all that is proposed under the SIDS/POA;

- Cooperation and interdependence among Caribbean SIDS, drawing upon their varied but collective strengths and resources, to reach the goals of sustainable development;

- Restore independence of constitutional bodies and establish Parliamentary Management and Sectoral Committees;

- Review of the role of the OECS within CARICOM;

- Place mankind at the centre of the solutions.

CHAPTER 7: AREAS REQUIRING NATIONAL LEVEL INTERVENTION[3]

Since the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, there have been many changes in the sustainable development landscape in the Caribbean. According to the National Assessments submitted, encouraging strides have been made with respect to the major socio-economic challenges facing the region, the POA Sectoral Areas, the SIDS POA Cross-Cutting Issues and the Millenium Development Goals.

However, despite this progress, the National Assessments and the discussions at the Regional Meeting listed a diversity of pressing problems which still exist. They also highlighted the actions required to overcome them. Specific recommendations have been given throughout this Regional Synthesis in the relevant sections. Major findings, in particular those which have strong regional significance and where regional initiatives facilitated by the international community could lead to solutions, are summarized as follows:

- *Policy review*: Existing sustainable development policies should be reviewed, upgraded and implemented. Policy gaps should be filled, especially in areas that will help SIDS to build resilience to internal and external shocks.

  The lack of integration between the various SIDS/POA sectors was stressed in the Assessments and in the Regional Meeting. The POA has not been implemented holistically. National and regional action to ensure integration and linkages between the POA Sectors and Cross Cutting Issues is recommended. Further There is a need to integrate POA activities at the national, regional and international levels.

- *Legal reform*: Outdated legislation should be modernized. Further, action needs to be taken to overcome enforcement problems.

- *Planning*: The Caribbean is faced with the significant challenge of balancing development needs with sound and sustainable resource use. The Region needs to move towards engaging in development while at the same time minimizing any negative environmental impacts. Hence, decisions about the best and most sustainable use of resources must be derived through proper planning to include mitigation measures combined with the necessary legal back-up.

  Economic losses due to natural resource depletion are generally not reflected in national accounts. Hence, resource management is not generally seen as a means of sustaining the economy. The inclusion of environmental and natural resources considerations into national accounting and project costing is absolutely essential. It must also be recognized that managing finite resources such as water requires mechanisms to determine their true economic value.

  A wide spectrum of plans have been developed but not yet implemented. An assessment should be conducted to identify the ones which are still valid and should still be implemented.

  The project approach to planning needs to be replaced with a programme approach. Hence instead of projects lasting for a couple of years and then ending, long term programmes which span 10-15 years need to be developed.

- *Fundraising*: The critical importance of improving mechanisms to mobilize financial resources was highlighted repeatedly throughout the process. Detailed recommendations are given in this Report in the Finance and Investment section.

- *Accessing and Training Technical Resources*: This is another area that is a major priority in the National Assessments and the Meeting discussions. Detailed recommendations are given in this Report in the Capacity Building and Coordination section.

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[3] This section of the Report is informed by presentation made by representatives of regional and international agencies at the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting.

- *Institutional Strengthening*: The problems associated with the Regional Coordinating Mechanism and the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group have been considered in the sections of this Report dealing with the National Framework for Sustainable Development and Capacity Building and Coordination.

- *Conducting Integrated Research and Information Management*: Much research has been conducted over the years. However, information is not adequately stored and analyzed or made accessible.

  There were several calls for the documentation of best practice approaches as well as case studies of lessons learned.

- *Ensuring Stakeholder Participation*: Some delegations at the Regional Meeting cited a need for the Caribbean to take more responsibility for SIDS/POA implementation and not rely too heavily on the international community. Further many countries and agencies stressed the need for increased co-operation and collaboration within the Caribbean as well as with the other SIDS regions. Mechanisms to ensure this are essential. Attention must be given to increasing the participation of certain countries which have not been as active as the others (e.g. Haiti) in terms of convention ratification, planning and institutional development.

  Mechanisms to enhance the contribution of civil society (moving away from top-down approaches and strengthening non-governmental and community-based organizations and private sector contributions) are vital. Involving vulnerable groups also should be stressed. Co-management approaches require widespread application.

- *Improving Technology*: There is a lack of new and efficient technology and in some cases an aversion to risk involved in adopting new technologies. This needs to be overcome.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation*: Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress should be integrated into the planning process. Indicators against which to measure success are essential. Where such indicators exist they need to be upgraded and gaps need to be filled.

7.1   Constraints and Recommended responses - Sectoral Level

- *Land Resources*: Some countries indicate that there is still a need for an institutional framework to address land degradation and desertification. This must be followed up. Resources must also be secured for further training of staff to carry out the required work.

- *Energy*: Many countries still need energy policies and strategies that promote energy efficiency, flexible options for generation/distribution of energy, effective regulation of the energy sector, application of renewable energy and efficient technologies.

  The widespread sharing of relevant information and lessons learned from demonstration projects is vital (e.g. renewable energy lessons from the Netherlands Antilles).

- *Poverty*: As indicated in earlier sections, Caribbean countries need to enhance their mechanisms to use economic and social development as a major tool against poverty. Attention also needs to be placed on ensuring the sustainability of action. This will require empowering the poor in designing and engaging in positive action.

  Serious consideration needs to be given to the opportunities presented by work being done to identify new and innovative sources of sustainable rural livelihoods.

- *Health*: The National Assessments recognize that prevention of health problems is the best policy. Hence it is recognized that emphasis needs to be placed on helping people to use knowledge to develop life saving behaviour patterns.

- *Crime and National Security*: Crime is often rooted in poverty, unemployment and lack of education and family values. Hence crime reduction initiatives need to be integrated into poverty alleviation measures. Therefore highly integrated approaches are necessary. Addressing national

security challenges will require a high level of coordination between the various national sectors as well as regional collaboration.

- *Trade and Investment*: These issues are considered in the appropriate sections of this Report.

CHAPTER 8:   POTENTIAL FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

The potential of the various initiatives for filling the gaps, or addressing the constraints countries face in implementing the SIDS/POA, is best assessed from the synthesis of common challenges identified in the national reports. These have been categorized as:

8.1   Capacity challenges

Several agencies have reported on initiatives in capacity building in many of the sectoral priority areas listed in the POA. Examples include capacity building for implementing of MEAs across the region (UNDP), the Caribbean Sea Ecological Assessment – CARSEA (ACS), assistance in preparing national and regional assessments through the Environmental Outlook series (UNEP), training in all aspects of the disaster management cycle through (CDERA) and others.

Apart from these initiatives, several agencies are responding to the capacity challenges itemized above. For example, assistance in national level planning and policy development is being provided through the preparation of national environmental policies and plans (UNDP); assistance in accessing and managing financial resources provided through the GEF (UNEP); the provision of training in international communications technology and information management (ITU/UNESCO); project cycle management (CDB); and several agencies offer programmes in various aspects of resource management including coastal and marine resources, forestry and biodiversity.

Areas where greater assistance appears to be needed are in training in international trade, environmental and financial negotiations, and energy planning and management.

Notable, however, are the major constraints in meeting the capacity challenges identified by several agencies. These include the limited absorption capacity for such initiatives within the region, varying levels of capacity across the region in responding to the assistance offered by various regional and international agencies, and difficulties in mobilizing resources at the national level to sustain projects after the input of the respective agencies has ended. These are significant gaps that require carefully-coordinated efforts between national governments and the international community.

8.2   Trade-related Challenges

The challenges identified in the synthesis of the national reports centre on managing accelerated globalization and include: internalizing opportunities while mitigating threats, effectively linking the region with the global economy, optimizing existing comparative/competitive advantage, building the capacity of firms to trade, understanding and internalizing international trade rules, and effectively influencing the formulation of international trade rules.

It was clear from the national presentations that Caribbean SIDS consider the phenomenon of accelerated globalization as a significant challenge to their effectively realizing the goals of the BPOA as embodied in sustainable development. While some agencies (ACS, CCA, CDERA) made reference to this emerging issue on the sustainable development agenda, it constitutes a gap that could benefit from the collaborative and cooperative efforts between national governments and international agencies.

8.3   The Challenge of International Competitiveness

This is integral to the trade-related challenges noted above, and would require Governments to create the facilitative conditions for firms to trade. This is an area that requires response largely on the part of national Governments, for example in facilitating access to credit on affordable terms and in fostering the growth of entrepreneurial capacity. The existence of this gap, however, offers an opportunity for collaboration between governments and relevant international agencies in an area that is stated as critical to realizing the goal of Caribbean sustainability.

8.4   The Challenge of Sustainable Energy Management

While noted as an area of concern in the national reports, this area was not elaborated in agency presentations. It is known, however, that regional activities are being implemented in this area (e.g. various GEF projects) and interest in the issue was expressed by some entities (e.g. CPACC).

Energy management as an issue for Caribbean SIDS hinges on the fact that their vulnerability is deepened by the heavy dependence on fossil fuels, particularly imported fuels which deplete foreign exchange reserves, and that volatile energy market prices serve to weaken the competitiveness of productive sectors. The need therefore exists for energy policies and strategies that promote energy efficiency, flexible options for energy generation and distribution, effective regulation of the energy sector, and the application of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Opportunities exist for international agencies to respond, based on an assessment of the existing regional initiatives in the energy sector.

The Fundamental Problem of Vulnerability—Social, Environmental and Economic—is a central emerging concern and constraint in the implementation of the SIDS/POA. While several regional initiatives exist that span all three aspects of vulnerability, gaps have been identified through constraints in implementing the BPOA, where further action is needed.

8.5   Social Vulnerability

Key agencies with initiatives in the area of social vulnerability include the UNDP (poverty reduction via capacity building); UNESCO (HIV/AIDS prevention and prevention of violence); CDB (poverty reduction and the development of targets and indicators for the MDGs); CARIFORUM (regional initiative in food security with linkages in nutrition and health), PAHO and others. National reports, however, have highlighted a number of constraints, and these might offer additional avenues for regional action with assistance from the international community. They include the enhancement/enforcement of legislation, scientific research programmes on the nature and causes of crime, and the expansion of economic and educational opportunities.

8.6   Environmental Vulnerability

Since environmental concerns have been the central focus of the SIDS/POA, most of the international response as it relates to vulnerability has been directed to building resilience in environmental areas. Both the national reports and statements by international agencies focus heavily on these areas. Nevertheless, some additional areas of need have been identified. While several among these are related to regional activities that have been, or are currently being implemented, the perception is that these might be expanded to address the specific constraints and gaps identified. They include:

- The development of Sustainable Development Indicators (expanding initiatives by the CDB, UNDESA etc.).

- Development and validation of vulnerability indices (UNDP and others)

- Development of integrated policies and strategies for land, water, coastal zone, marine space (expanding initiatives undertaken by FAO, UNEP/CEP, UNESCO, CEHI, CPACC/GEF, OAS, CDB)

- Design of disaster management strategies (CDERA, UNDP, CDB, ACS)

- Development of waste management policies (CDB, CEHI, CARIFORUM).

8.7   Economic Vulnerability

The problem of economic vulnerability is integral to every aspect of the SIDS/POA and has been repeatedly articulated as a significant constraint to sustainable development. Most regional initiatives seek to provide assistance in accessing funds for various activities under the POA, for example in coastal and

marine management, energy, and others. The inherent nature of the problem, however, as revealed in the research reported by Briguglio and others, demands sustained collective and cooperative effort among regional governments with assistance from international agencies, through such initiatives and the CSME and the pooling of regional capacity in international trade and financial negotiations.

**APPENDIX 1 - QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS OF THE
BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION+10 REVIEWS**

Background:

In 1994, the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS was convened in Barbados. The Conference adopted the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) that set forth specific actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.[4]

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 reaffirmed the special case of SIDS and highlighted a series of SIDS-specific issues and concerns in the Johannesburg Plan of Action,[5] adopted by the Summit. In a follow-up to WSSD, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution (A/57/262), which, among other things, called for a comprehensive review of the BPOA at an international meeting, to be held in Mauritius in 2004[6], some ten years after its adoption.

In order to achieve one of the key objectives of the UNGA resolution, namely, that the international meeting "seek[s] [to renew] political commitment by all countries to, [by focusing on] practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the mobilization of resources and
assistance for small island developing States," SIDS are being requested to provide information on their respective national circumstances for the review in a timely, effective, holistic and integrated manner, using the template format below. There should be a particular emphasis on the four main cross-sectoral issues (trade, investment, capacity building and cooperation) that have been endorsed by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at its plenary in January 2003.

The template which follows is thus intended to provide a common format for obtaining the necessary information, while focusing attention on developing linkages, promoting goals and fostering partnerships related to SIDS-specific needs/issues highlighted in the various preparatory processes leading-up to the international meeting in Mauritius. There will be opportunities for additional national review of the information provided, at the regional consultations in July/August 2003, and subsequently.

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[4] The BPOA is a blue print for action on sustainable development that should be undertaken by SIDS with the cooperation and assistance of the international community in the following 15 priority areas:
1. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise; 2. Natural and Environmental Disasters; 3.Management of Wastes; 4. Coastal and Marine Resources; 5.Freshwater Resources; 6. Land Resources; 7. Energy Resources; 8.Tourism Resources; 9.Biodiversity Resources; 10.National Institutions and Administrative Capacity; 11. Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation; 12.Transport and Communication; 13.Science and Technology; 14.Human Resource Development and, 15.Implementation, Monitoring and Review. See United Nations General Assembly, "Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994, (A/Conf.167/9), October 1994, p. 5-6. Available on the internet at http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf167/aconf167-9.html.
[5] UN Economic and Social Council, " Report of World Summit on Sustainable Development. (A/CONF.199/20) p. 41-43.
[6] UNGA, "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", A/57/262. December 22, 2002.

TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS OF BPOA+10

Name of Country:

1. SOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT: Key characteristics, challenges and responses.

- *Key Characteristics: Briefly outline the general socio-economic characteristics of your country including land area, geographic characteristics, population growth & density etc. It is recommended that suitable subsets of variables such as population densities and existing indices be utilized, with some latitude to include other indicators, to allow for appropriate comparisons.*

- *Key Challenges: What are the key socio-economic challenges facing your country and what are some of the constraints your country faces with respect to these challenges? (The list below identifies some areas for your consideration. You may add additional areas if necessary):*

  - *impacts of globalization, in particular on finance and investments for sustainable development:*

  - *impacts of globalization on trade and exports, in particular as a result of trade liberalization:*

  - *urbanization:*

  - *natural disasters:*

  - *natural resource depletion:*

  - *national security and crime, including issues pertaining to large EEZs (drugs, pollution, poaching etc.):*

  - *unemployment:*

  - *HIV/AIDS, malaria, other vector borne diseases:*

  - *Water and sanitation in rural and urban areas:*

  - *Any additional challenges.*

- *Key Responses: Identify areas/programmes where action has been taken to address any or all of the challenges that you have listed above*

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2. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SD)

*Give a brief description of any **comprehensive national SD policies and national SD mechanisms/frameworks** that have been put into place to address sustainable development issue since the inception of BPOA in 1994.*

- *For example, provide information on specific national legislation or sustainable development policies that have contributed to overall implementation of SD.*

- *This could include references to the creation of National Commissions on Sustainable Development and/or National Coordination Mechanisms/Committees for coordinating action on sustainable development conventions and treaties etc.*

*Focus on **specific lessons learned** in implementation or establishment of the national SD mechanism and/or SD policies, such as the effectiveness of the operation of the mechanism, or the influence of the policy in creating change.*

Please list any additional concerns relating to national frameworks.

3. NATIONAL PROGRESS MADE & PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BPOA: Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Areas

3.1 SECTORAL AREAS: Progress Made and Problems Encountered

3.1.1 Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise

- *Date of Ratification/Signature of Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Kyoto Protocol*

- *List relevant national or sub-regional projects related to the Convention on Climate Change & Kyoto Protocol. (Please indicate if there are linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example climate change and biodiversity)*

- *Please use the first national communications your country has submitted to the Climate Change Convention and/or any other relevant national reports, to provide a summary of key constraints related to the implementation of the Convention's objectives.*

- *Provide a brief summary of national progress made and problems encountered in the area of adaptation needs, such as capacity building, adaptation technology, education etc., relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability.*

3.1.2 Natural and Environmental Disasters

- *Describe the national framework for risk management and disaster preparedness, including a list of the relevant national and/or sub-regional projects, which your country has participated or is participating in.*

- *Provide information on any national work your country has undertaken on vulnerability assessments or indices and/or sustainable development indicators. If no work has been done at the national level, indicate key problems (technical capacity, investment etc) related to the development of vulnerability assessments, indices and SD indicators.*

- *Provide a summary of national progress and/or constraints associated with the implementation of early warning systems.*

- *Describe any subregional-regional mechanisms for Disaster Management that are currently in place or anticipated.*

- *Based on existing national or sub-regional reports and projects, provide a summary of key constraints (lack of capacity, investment, infrastructure etc.) related to effective planning and implementation of disaster management strategies and risk assessments.*

3.1.3 Coastal and Marine Resources, including coastal and marine biodiversity resources

- *Date of Ratification/Signature of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (and other related agreements), the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

- *Date of deposit of your country's EEZ charts[7], or list relevant projects relating to the delineation of your country's EEZ*

- *List relevant national, sub-regional and regional projects related to the sustainable use,*

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[7] Coastal States, under article 16, paragraph 2, article 47, paragraph 9, article 75, paragraph 2, and article 84, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, are required to deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations charts showing straight baselines and archipelagic baselines as well as the outer limits of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf; alternatively the lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, may be substituted.

management and conservation of coastal and marine resources. (Please indicate linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example coastal and marine resources and the impacts of climate change)

- *Based on the first national communications your country has submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or any other relevant national or regional reports prepared, such as to the GPA on land based sources of pollution and/or regional seas programmes, please provide a summary of key national constraints related to the implementation of the Convention's objectives in the areas of coastal and marine resources.*

- *Please discuss the extent to which the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas have occurred in your country.*

3.1.4 Land Resources, including terrestrial biodiversity

- *Date of Ratification/Signature of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*

- *List relevant national, sub-regional and regional projects related to the sustainable use, management and conservation of land resources including terrestrial biodiversity (Please indicate linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example land degradation and sea level rise/saltwater intrusion)*

- *Based on the first national report your country has submitted to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and any other relevant national or regional reports prepared, please provide a summary of key national constraints related sustainable management of land resources, forests and terrestrial biodiversity.*

3.1.5 Energy

- *List relevant national, sub-regional and regional projects related to development and provision of sustainable energy resources and systems, including energy efficiency and conservation and new and renewable energy sources. (Please indicate linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example energy and natural resource management)*

- *Based on all relevant national or regional reports prepared, please provide a summary of key national constraints (technical and institutional capacity, lack of financing, market distortions etc) related to the planning, production and distribution of sustainable energy resources and systems, including energy supply and access for rural areas and outer islands.*

3.1.6 Management of Wastes & Provision of Water and Sanitation Services

- *List relevant national, sub-regional and/or regional projects related to the management of wastes and the provision of sanitation services. (Please indicate linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example waste and energy)*

- *Based on all relevant national and regional reports prepared, please provide a summary of national constraints (technical and institutional capacity, lack of financing and infrastructure etc) related to the planning, development and implementation of waste management systems/services and sanitation services.*

- *Please describe the progress made and constraints encountered in developing integrated water resources management and/or water efficiency plans in your country.*

3.1.7 Tourism

- *List relevant national, sub-regional and/or regional projects related to development and implementation of sustainable tourism practices and services. (Please indicate linkages or cross-cutting projects/reports, for example tourism and ecosystem management)*

- *Please provide a brief summary of any community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism aimed at building capacity necessary to diversify tourism products, while protecting culture and traditions and effectively conserving and managing natural resources.*

3.2 CROSS-SECTORAL AREAS

3.2.1 Financing and Investment for SD

List national, subregional and regional initiatives in the areas of financing and investment for sustainable development that are related to your country.

Identify the key problems and constraints encountered in securing financing/investment for SD at the national level.

3.2.2 Capacity building and Coordination

List national, subregional and regional initiatives in the areas of institutional capacity and coordination for SD that are related to your country, such as membership in relevant regional organizations and mechanisms.

List national, subregional and regional initiatives in the area of human resource (capacity) development for SD that are related to your country, such as cooperation between national mechanisms and regional and inter-regional mechanisms.

Identify key problems and constraints encountered in the areas of institutional capacity and coordination, and in the area of human resource development for SD, at the national level, and describe any experiences in the exchange of information with other countries or regions.

4. TRADE, INVESTMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING AND COOPERATION AND THE STATUS OF SIDS VULNERABILITY

- *Please identify key trade related concerns and needs faced by your country, focus in particular on trade concerns/ vulnerabilities related to sustainable development:*

- *Please provide a brief summary of any national level or community-based initiatives related to trade practices and services, including those that aim to diversify exports, or for improving national competiveness.*

- *Please identify key investment related concerns and needs, focus in particular on investment concerns/vulnerabilities related to sustainable development:*

- *Please identify key concerns/needs related to capacity building for sustainable development in your country. Please specify how capacity development issues affect national socio-economic and environmental vulnerability concerns:*

Please identify/list specific sub-regional or regional cooperative mechanisms or programmes related to sustainable development and vulnerability concerns, in particular any national, sub-regional and   regional initiatives which are currently underway to consider trade-related constraints of SIDS (university studies, PACER/PICTA, FTAA, etc), or that ensure that due account is taken of SIDS in the World Trade

Organization work programme on trade in small economies and within the context of the Doha development agenda, including in the areas of capacity building and training.

- *Please identify principal vulnerability concerns that affect your country (eg, exchange rates, cost of hazard insurance, high cost of energy inputs to the economy, devaluation of national currency, level of external debt, etc), and also identify any actions/mechanisms that have been established, or are being established that will address any of these vulnerability concerns:*

- *Please identify any specific cooperation initiatives aimed at addressing its principal vulnerabilities that your country has either undertaken, plans to undertake, or wishes to have in place with other small island developing States:*

5. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG's) AND SD IN SIDS.

5.1 Poverty Eradication

Describe current national efforts and initiatives related to the eradication of poverty that could contribute to the internationally accepted target of reducing by half the number of people living in poverty by 2015.

Please include any information on existing national constraints (capacity, financial and institutional) related to achieving the goal of poverty eradication.

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of national poverty reduction strategies, including local and community development programmes that promote the needs of poor.

b. Support for local authorities in urban development and improve lives of slum dwellers.

c. Improved access to credit, housing and employment opportunities for the urban and rural poor.

d. Support for natural resource management with a view to creating sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

5.2 Education and reduction of child mortality

Describe current national efforts and initiatives related to provision of universal primary education and the reduction of child mortality in the country, bearing in mind the internationally agreed target date of 2015.

Please include information on existing national constraints (capacity, financial and institutional)

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of national strategies on education, such as Head Start

b. Support for campaigns by local authorities such as "No Child Left Behind"

5.3 Gender equality and empowerment of women

Describe current national efforts and initiatives related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, bearing in mind the internationally agreed target date of 2015.

Please include information on existing national constraints capacity, financial and institutional)

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of national gender empowerment strategies

b. Support for financial assistance and loans to women farmers and fishers

5.4 HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Describe current national, subregional and regional efforts and initiatives related to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other vector borne diseases, bearing in mind the internationally agreed target date of 2015.

Please include information on existing national constraints capacity, financial and institutional)

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of national health education strategies, including youth-to-youth mentoring programs

b. Support for local initiatives to stamp out mosquito breeding grounds

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5.5 Environmental Sustainability

Describe current national, subregional and regional efforts and initiatives related to ensuring environmental sustainability, bearing in mind the internationally agreed target date of 2015.

Please include information on existing national constraints capacity, financial and institutional)

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of national strategies to complement regional programs (such as the Pacific Oceans Policy, the Caribbean Sea Initiative, etc.)

b. Support for programmes for the "greening" of national and local authorities

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5.6 Global Partnership for Development

Describe current national, subregional and regional efforts aimed at fostering global partnerships for SD in your country.

Please provide a list of key existing national constraints related to the planning, development and implementation of partnerships for SD.

Example of national initiatives could include:

a. Development of successful partnership initiatives, for example in the context of the WSSD

b. Development of national experts database for implementation of partnership projects.

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6 EMERGING CONCERNS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Please provide information on any emerging concerns or special needs that have not been discussed above. This could include for example the impacts of the global drug trade, the role of exogenous fiscal shocks, etc. This section could also be used to summarize project partnership proposals/concepts that have not been able to secure financing. Special initiatives that could be discussed at the upcoming regional and inter-regional level could also be enumerated.