

# Making the Transition to Inclusive Green Economies in the Caribbean



McHale ANDREW

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)/CEO Invest Saint  
Lucia

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# Global Background

- **Economic model based on debt-fuelled overconsumption co-exists with high levels of poverty, unemployment, inequity and inequality**
- **Corporate greed-influenced global recession**
- **Artificial dichotomy between environment and development**
- **Systemic problems require systemic solutions**

# Development

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

# Presentation Outline

- 1. A Caribbean dialogue process**
- 2. Emerging ideas towards a new model of economic development in the Caribbean**
- 3. Establishing a Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group (GE ALG) and a regional programme of work**

# 1. Caribbean Regional Dialogue

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

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

## Discussion at selected Caribbean meetings:

- 1. Saint Lucia National Development Forum “Walking the path towards a green economy” (June 2011 and Feb 2012)**
- 2. CARICOM Caribbean Rio +20 Sub Regional Preparatory Committee Meeting (Guyana, June 2011)**
- 3. CARICOM 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD (Guyana, Aug/Sept 2011)**
- 4. T&T Rio+20 National Consultation (Trinidad, Nov 2011)**
- 5. Caribbean Green Economy Forum (Barbados, March 2012)**
- 6. Caribbean Urban Forum (Jamaica, March 2012)**

## 2. CARIBBEAN IDEAS:

What is a  
“Green Economy”  
in the Caribbean context?



# Characteristics of a Green Economy in the Caribbean

- **Equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources**
- **Economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks**
- **Self-directed and self-reliant**
- **Pro-poor and generating decent jobs, working conditions and improved wellbeing for domestic population**

# Key principles for a green economy in the Caribbean

Common vision

Human security

Good governance

Well educated citizenry

Involved young people

Informed and mobilised civil society

Commitment to pan-Caribbean cooperation



# Key opportunities

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

# Regional policy, institutions and initiatives



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

# KEY CHALLENGE

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

# National policy initiatives



Barbados

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



# 3. A PROCESS FOR MOVING FORWARD:

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

# What is “Action Learning”?

- **Process of peer learning**
  - Learning =**
    - Programmed learning**  
**(knowledge in current use) +**
    - Questioning**  
**(questions to create insight) +**
    - Reflection**
- **Question set assumptions and ways of doing things**
- **Open to critical enquiry**
- **Reframe choices**

# Objectives

**1. *Fleshing out the vision:*** building and sharing evidence-based knowledge



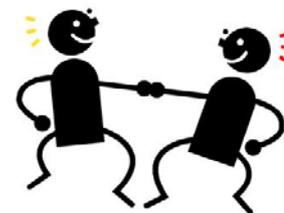
**2. *Promoting the vision:*** communication to influence policy and build commitment



**3. *Putting the vision into action:*** action research carried out by ALG members and their partners



**4. *Creating capacity to achieve the vision:*** capacity building for ALG members



# Who are the GE ALG members?

- **Experience in different sectors across the Caribbean – bring different perspectives and intimate knowledge**
- **Critical thinkers**
- **In a position to act as change agents and influence their sector / country**
- **From a range of countries**

# GE ALG overall purpose

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

# GE ALG Programme of Work

- 1. Building knowledge**
- 2. Sharing knowledge (awareness)**
- 3. Policy influence (advocacy)**
- 4. Action learning to “test” ideas and approaches**
- 5. Capacity-building**
- 6. Formal launch at Caribbean Environment Forum in St Kitts May 21-25**

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

1. Fundamental questions
2. The structure and character of the economy
3. The potential benefits of a green economy
4. Roles in moving towards a green economy
5. Measuring progress
6. The social dimension
7. Local economies
8. Trade
9. Energy

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

## **Fundamental questions:**

- Is it possible for a capitalist economy to be a green economy?
- How is the issue of dependency dealt with by green economies?

## **The structure and character of the economy:**

- Why is the current economy not green: what are the constraints in specific countries and sectors?
- What factors lock countries into current pathways?
- What are the drivers of and opportunities for change in different countries and sectors?

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

## **The potential benefits of a green economy:**

- In what ways and through what measures could a green economy overcome the problem of growing unemployment linked to the current economic paradigm?
- How can a green economy foster social inclusion? cultural resilience?

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

## Roles in moving towards a green economy:

- What is the role of the State? What kinds of leadership and incentives should it be offering?
- What policy process methods and skills (such as trade-off analysis and project cycle management) are needed to support a shift to a green economy? What are the opportunities for Caribbean countries to develop and refine these?
- Can **triple bottom line methods** be adapted for assessing public sector investment proposals (or business investments)? Where is there potential for uptake of such methods?
- **How can governments, the private sector and civil society collaborate** on building a green economy?

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

## **Measuring progress:**

- How can progress be best measured in a green economy? What alternatives to GDP would work for Caribbean countries?
- What sustainable development goals and indicators would support Caribbean progress towards green economies?

## **The social dimension:**

- What kind of social policy is required for a green economy?
- How does a green economy approach to social protection differ from approaches?

# Caribbean GE ALG research agenda

## Local economies:

- What kinds of policy measures, institutions and programmes are able **catalyse, support and scale up sustainable micro, small and medium enterprises?**
- What activities in the informal sector support the development of green economies and how can these activities be effectively supported to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits?

## Trade:

- What are the implications of a shift to a green economy on trade? What new barriers and opportunities will it create?

# Dangers

- Esotericism
- Short –term expediency vs. Long-term sustainability
- Malicious Compliance/Complacency
- Unrealistic/Unsustainable Approaches
- Excessive rhetoric vs. Action!

# Way Forward

- **International/Regional/National Coordination**
- **Build “coalition of change” with other sectors/players**
- **Obtain funding for key initiatives**
- **Replication of Best Practices**
- **Sharing of information & experiences**
- **Realistic Action Plan**



**THANK YOU CGGI 2012 !!!**

**[www.canari.org](http://www.canari.org)**

# Sustainable Investment

- Economic, social and environmental benefits and linkages with other sectors must be taken into account when offers are made during any investment negotiations
- All investments (local and FDI) must be assessed for effects on social policy, equity, inclusiveness and the generation of social benefits
- Triple bottom line approach to both investment approval assessment and performance evaluation

# Invest Saint Lucia Value Proposition

- **“Saint Lucia’s two most important resources are its natural beauty and the warmth, friendliness and enterprise of its people. Those two attributes create a magical allure that underpins the offerings and promise of this island State. We therefore welcome investments and business development opportunities that serve to burnish the image of Brand Saint Lucia, while promoting the best attributes of the island and supporting the country’s sustainable development objectives, through overall wealth creation, social equity and environmental sustainability .**
- **It is expected that all new investments in Saint Lucia would henceforth promote the economic, technological, social and environmental pillars that are critical to the island’s growth as a nation. Businesses that are facilitated by Invest Saint Lucia are encouraged to invest in new and existing green technologies and must strive to conduct operations that are beneficial not only to their bottom line but that also contribute to the sustainable development of the country and the socio-economic advancement of all Saint Lucians.”**