



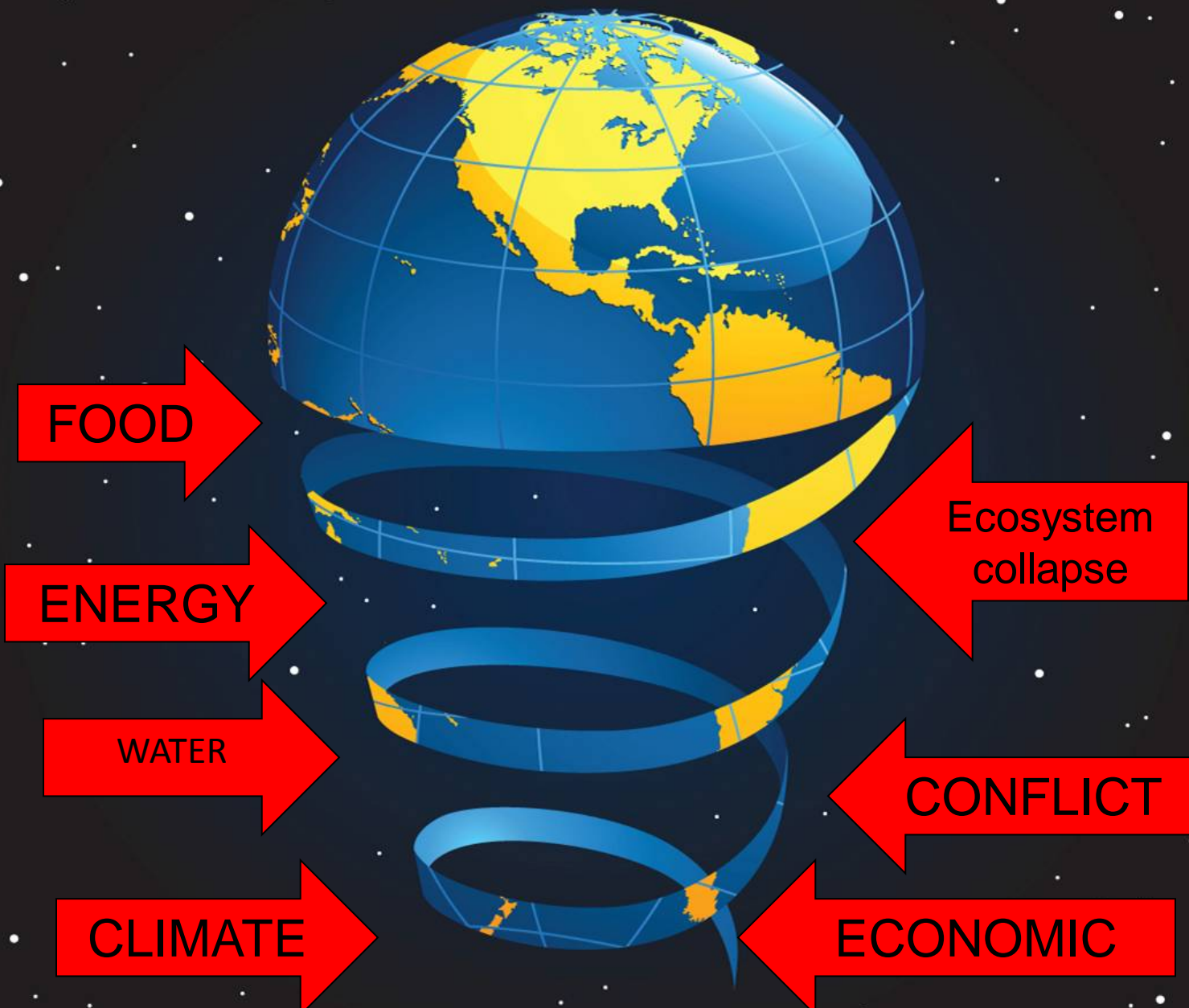
# “The Green Economy and the Caribbean: Issues, Ideas and Initiatives”

Nicole Leotaud

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

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# Risks with the “green economy” approach

- “Green” but what about people?
- Green jobs for who?
- Trade protection and exclusion from economic markets?
- One size fits all?
- Green Growth and green jobs is about big and northern business?

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"We're collecting carbon credits for the first world."

# What does “Green Economy” mean in the Caribbean context?



Caribbean regional dialogue





# How can we get our voice heard in international discussions?



**Green economy: developing country stakeholders have their say**

Green Economy is being hailed by governments, corporations and development agencies as the way forward for a world threatened by climate change, environmental degradation and economic instability. It has gained such prominence in international relations that it is now at the top major agenda item for the June 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called it a 'paradigm shift' in global development, and many developing countries have already agreed to incorporate it into their national development plans. 'Sustainable' now has a new meaning: it is the meeting of present and future needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

A series of national discussions are underway to explore whether the concept is relevant to developing countries, and what a green economy might mean in different regional contexts. These national dialogues have been initiated under the auspices of the Green Economy Initiative as part of the preparation for the Rio Conference and the global economy, with each country being undertaken and led by local-based organizations.

The dialogues offer a unique opportunity for stakeholders and social partners that developing countries can contribute and the opportunities available from a sustainable world. They also offer learning opportunities for other countries, both North and South.

Dialogues have also been held in Caribbean regional dialogues, India and Asia. Each dialogue takes a different form, but all aim to explore the relevance of the concept and identify a sustainable development strategy. The results of these national discussions are each of the four Green Economy Initiative national dialogues: Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

number of dialogues is small, the range of countries that the initiative will include is very broad, covering governments, local business, academia, and small and medium-sized enterprises. It is the hope of the initiative that dialogues will be held in all the relevant countries in the region, including those with no national consultation in place, business and academia.

Dialogues have also been held in the Caribbean region through a series of green economy dialogues. In all the dialogues, there has been a focus on the role of the private sector in a green economy, and the role of the public sector in providing a framework for a green economy. The dialogues have also been held in the Caribbean region, India and Asia.

While only a small number of dialogues in each region are planned for the initiative, the dialogues are continuing with the aim of engaging a wider range of stakeholders.

[www.green-economy-initiative.org](http://www.green-economy-initiative.org)

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# Characteristics of a green economy in the Caribbean



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

# Key principles for a green economy in the Caribbean

Common vision

Human security

Good governance

Well educated citizenry

Involved young people

Informed and mobilised civil society

Commitment to pan-Caribbean cooperation





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

## **EMERGING CARIBBEAN INITIATIVES:**





# Regional policy, institutions and initiatives



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

# National policy initiatives



Barbados

- 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




# Sectoral initiatives



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





# The Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group



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



# Objectives

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



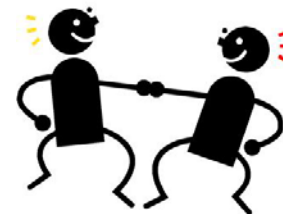
**2. *Promoting the vision:*** communication to influence policy and build commitment



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

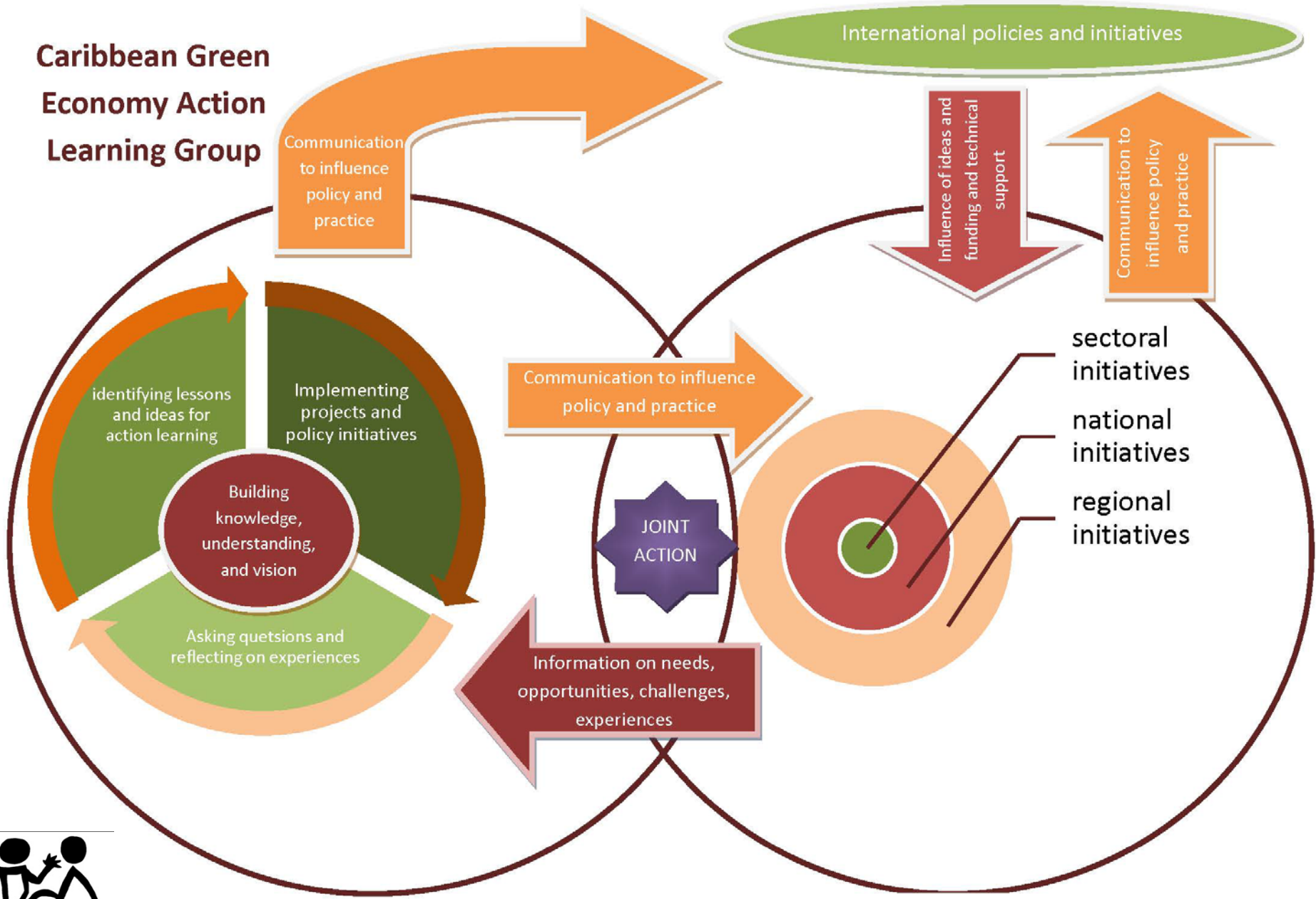


**4. *Creating capacity to achieve the vision:*** capacity building for ALG members

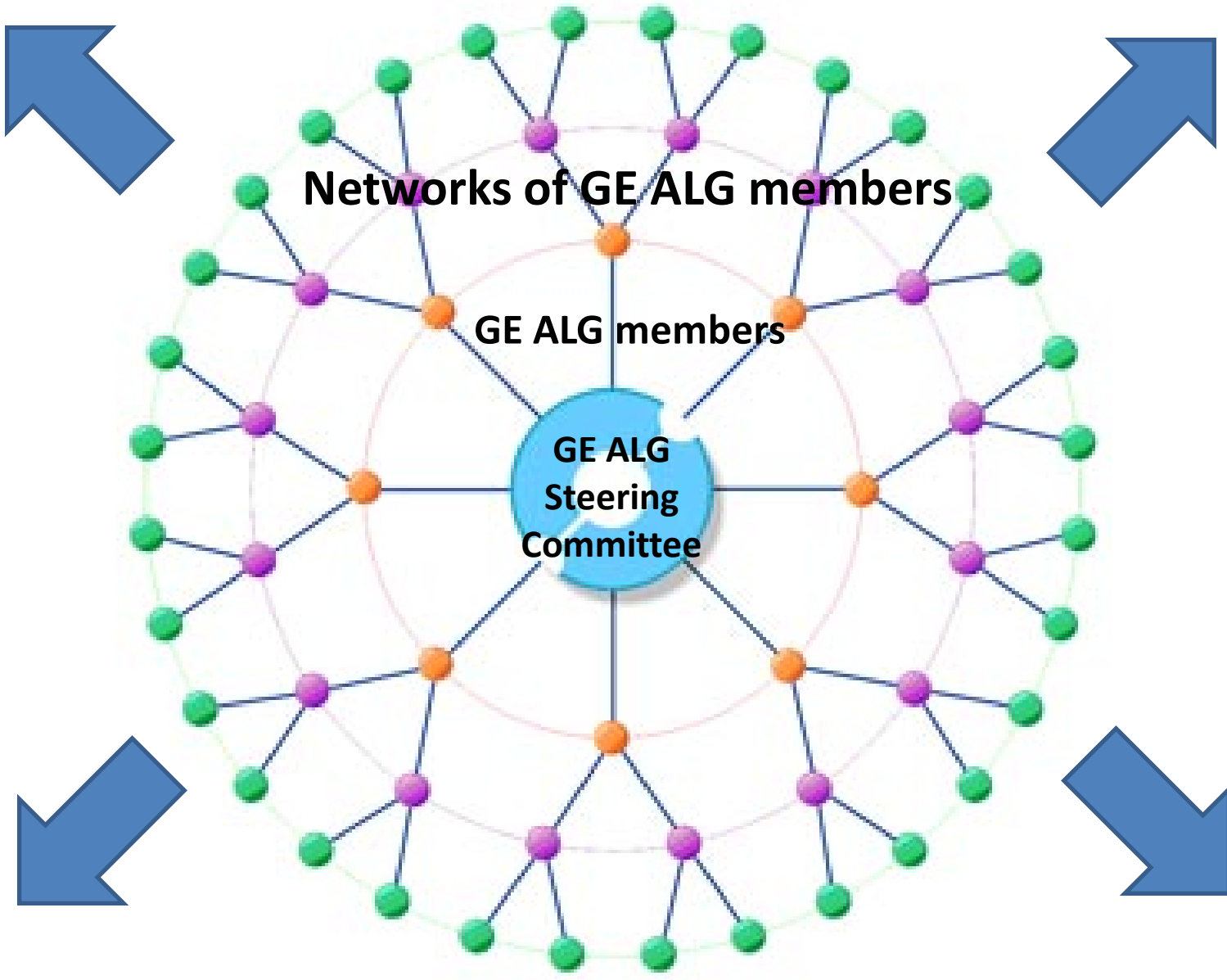




# Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group



**Other Caribbean stakeholders thinking and taking action**



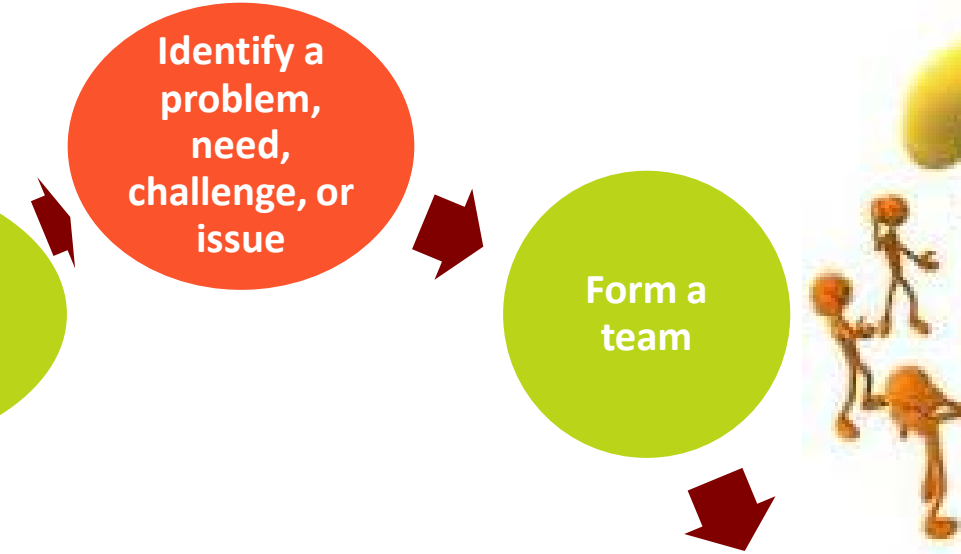
**Networks of GE ALG members**

**GE ALG members**

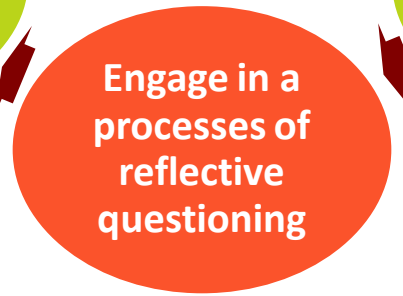
**GE ALG  
Steering  
Committee**



Illustration: www.reflectiongraphics.com



# Action learning cycle



# 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

## Energy:

- What are the constraints and obstacles countries face in switching to more sustainable and less import-dependent energy strategies?
- What is needed to stimulate renewable energy technology transfer in the region?
- What incentives should governments be offering consumers and producers to reduce dependency on unsustainable, imported energy sources?



# 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?

# Thank you

Nicole Leotaud

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

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

[nicole@canari.org](mailto:nicole@canari.org)

skype: nicole.leotaud

