



**Developing a national position and strategy on green economy
and sustainable consumption and production
in Saint Lucia**

February 1st, 2012, Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia

Report on key conclusions of the national workshop

Prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

1. Background

Saint Lucia is committed to achieving sustainable development, and the country has expressed this commitment in a wide range of national sectoral policies and programmes, as well as in its full and active participation in all relevant regional and international institutions and processes. The achievement of sustainable development is however made extremely and increasingly difficult by a number of external factors, including economic volatility and the impacts of the global financial crisis on the local economy, new trade barriers and the loss of preferential access to traditional markets for local production (especially bananas), reductions in foreign direct investment, damages caused by natural disasters, and the slow pace of regional economic integration.

Issues, opportunities and policies have been identified in a number of policies, programmes and for a, including the second National Environment and Development Forum (NEDF2) held in June 2012 and the recent formulation of Saint Lucia's National Synthesis Report as part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) to be held in June 2012. These initiatives are consistent and can be supported by a number of regional international processes, included the work on Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the regional dialogue on green economy in the Caribbean facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the design of a project in the three Francophone countries of the Caribbean (Dominica, Haiti, and Saint Lucia) on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), supported by UNEP and the *Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie* (IEPF), a subsidiary body of the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF).

2. Objectives of the workshop

It is against this background that a national workshop was convened, in order to:

- review and validate the conclusions and recommendations of the second National Environment and Development Forum (NEDF2) and the Rio + 20 national synthesis report;
- identify the main strategic directions and opportunities for Saint Lucia to move towards sustainable development and a greener economy;
- define the key messages that Saint Lucia should convey to the Rio +20 process, and the main opportunities that this process offers for Saint Lucia;

- agree on a work plan for implementation of recommendations and follow-up action.

3. Key conclusions of the workshop

The meeting agreed that the current international and national contexts present unique opportunities to advance the sustainable development agenda. Green economy, which is the focus of international discussions, is a means to achieve sustainable development. It can be a useful concept, especially to mainstream environment in development, but it will be useful to Saint Lucia only if it allows for a radical questioning of and an alternative to the dominant, western economic model. Green economy must be based on local needs and realities, and be a way to fight poverty and inequity.

In order to advance towards sustainable development, the meeting identified a small number of critical policy initiatives that should be taken at this time.

1. Natural hazard risk management policy and implementation – post hurricane Tomas
2. Integrated development planning type policy
3. Targeted human capital development strategy
4. SCP food security, economic efficiency and sustainable livelihoods
5. Sustainable tendering and procurement policy
6. Sustainable approach to transportation / transportation policy
7. Effective mechanism for enforcement and implementation of green economy - related laws, policies and regulations, as well as compliance with international standards (with a priority given to the energy and water sectors)

The meeting noted that the process of transforming the economy and moving towards a green economy requires a number of critical elements, including:

1. a vision
2. leadership / a champion
3. engagement of all actors / participation
4. a national planning framework
5. strategic directions and programmes, with budget allocations
6. results
7. indicators
8. research, development and innovation / evidence-based decision-making

With specific respect to the Rio+20 process the meeting concluded that:

- Theme 1: Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
 - We remain committed to sustainable development and recognize the value of a green economy approach as a means of achieving sustainable development.
 - Saint Lucia has embarked on a number of initiatives which can facilitate the transition to green economy, there is a need to expand and mainstream.
- Theme 2: Institutional Framework
 - Saint Lucia has consolidated a number of institutions which focus on assistance to the poor and vulnerable groups (coordinating and technical) and has provided budgetary support to keep them operational;
 - new institutional arrangements in sustainable development, energy, science and technology.

- We need to document and promote examples of projects that Saint Lucia has implemented that make a significant contribution to green economy – progress has been made (and these can be example for other developing countries).
- We will endeavour to develop local, sustainable sources of funding for sustainable development
- We are the most vulnerable, vulnerability is increasing as a result of external factors, and developed countries have a responsibility to assist us
- Aid, loans, and private sector funding need to be made more effective – aid must be driven by needs of country, prioritised, and coordinated
- Aid needs to be aligned to the priority needs of Saint Lucia (and specify what these are)
- Saint Lucia needs specific and measurable targets to achieve sustainable development
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) need representation on aid institutions (e.g. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Global Environment Facility, etc.) to be able to express their needs
- Strategy: develop a common regional position – Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

9:00 – Welcome and introductions

9:10 – Address by Minister or representative

9:20 – The national, regional and international policy context: main issues and opportunities (SDED)

9:45 – Conceptual framework and update on regional initiatives, green economy and related themes (CANARI)

10:10 – Recent national processes, presentation and discussion of main conclusions and recommendations of:

- National Environment and Development Forum (SDED)
- Rio +20 national synthesis report (Consultant)

10:45 – Break

11:00 – A draft framework for policy reform and priority action (CANARI – Yves Renard)

12:30 – Lunch

1:30 – Small group work to flesh out the framework, followed by plenary for synthesis (CANARI – Yves Renard)

3:00 – Break

3:15 - Key messages to policy-makers and identification of next steps (CANARI – Yves Renard)

4:30 – Closure of workshop