

2010

# BARBADOS NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

of Progress made in addressing Vulnerabilities of SIDS through  
Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further  
Implementation(MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action



The Ministry of the Environment, Water  
Resources and Drainage  
Government of Barbados

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## Acronyms

ACCC	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean Project
APTO	Association of Private Transport Operators
BADMC	Barbados Agricultural Development Management Corporation
BNSI	Barbados National Standards Institute
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
BSDP	Barbados Sustainable Development Policy
BSS	Barbados Statistical Service
CAIPO	Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARDI	Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CIP	Coastal Infrastructure Programme
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment & Management Program CFCs Chlorofluorocarbons
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CITES	Convention on International Trade of endangered Species of Flora and Fauna
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to climate Change Project
CPD	Central Purchasing Department
CPDC	Caribbean Policy Development Centre
CRFM	Caribbean Regional fisheries Mechanism
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CXC	Caribbean Examination Council
CZMU	Coastal Zone Management Unit
DEMA	Department of Emergency Management
DHUB®	De Heart uh Barbados®
EEC	Environmental Education Committee
EEP	Environmental Education Programme
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EGS	environmental Goods and Services
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EMLUP	Environmental Management and Land –use Planning for Sustainable Development Project
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPD	Environmental Protection Department
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan

GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Government Information Service
GNP	Gross National Product
GOB	Government of Barbados
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like Species
ICT	Information and Telecommunications Technology
IADB	Inter American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for cooperation on Agriculture
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ISWMP	Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme
LBS	Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution
MACC	Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change Project
MARPOL	International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
METIC	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce
MEWD	Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage
MH	Ministry of Health
MMA	Marine Management Authority
MPCA	Marine Pollution control Act 1998
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
MTW	Ministry of Transport and Works
NBF	National Biosafety Framework
NCC	National Conservation Commission
NCF	National Cultural Foundation
NCSD	National Commission on Sustainable Development
NHD	Natural Heritage Department
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIFCA	National Independence Festival for the Creative Arts
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOSCP	National Oil Spill contingency Plan
NSCTE	National Sub-Committee on Trade and Environment
OAS	Organisation of American States
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OSR	Oil spill Response
PCB	Pesticide Control Board
PDP	Physical Development Plan
PIF	Project Identification Form

POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PTAs	Parents Teachers Associations
PSV	Public Service Vehicles
RAF	Resource Allocation Fund
RAMCID	Risk Analysis and Monitoring Committee on Industrial Development
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organisations
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SIDS/NET	An information-sharing network for Small Island Developing State
SIDS/TAP	A technical assistance programme for Small Island Developing State in order to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SSA	Sanitation Services Authority
SWPU	Solid Waste Project Unit
TCDPO	Town and Country Development Planning Office
TOR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Department
UWI	University of the West Indies
VCA	Vulnerability Country Assessment and Tourism Strategy
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
ZSEC	Zone of Special Environmental Control

## Preamble

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In 1994 the Government of Barbados hosted the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which gave birth to the Barbados Programme of Action-the internationally recognized blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. As we commence preparations for the review of progress made with implementing this Programme it is useful to look back and re-focus on some of the reasons for seeking a special voice for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the international negotiating arena.

It is a well known fact that islands and their surrounding waters cover one-sixth of the world's surface and provide habitat for more than half of the Earth's diversity of marine plants and animals. Islands support a high ratio of endemic species which are plants and animals found no place else on Earth. Islands and their coastal areas are also the critical source of food, jobs and income for more than 500 million people who live on more than 100,000 islands around the globe. Many traditional and unique island cultures have flourished in much the same way as the endemic species. Protecting islands' natural resources and culture is therefore as vital as is finding economic stability. For an island, conservation goes hand-in hand with sustainable economic development, a delicate balance where both humans and habitats can prosper.

Islands though small in size have had a tremendous impact on the world's development- be it economically, scientifically, artistically, and culturally and their role in development should be acknowledged and lauded.

For centuries islands have been associated with heroic journeys and sojourns resulting in renewal and transformation, if one thinks of Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, the journey of Odysseus and Shakespeare's Tempest as examples. Islands have been viewed as sites of rites of passage-a role they continue to play today which many islands in this region capitalize on in the form of tourism.

If we examine our history, many islands and associated mainlands form interdependent parts of a larger world. Historically, mainlands have shaped islands while islands have affected the course of continental history as is evidenced by the region's history with Europe and current evolving relationship with North America. Gillis in 2004 remarked that Islands and islanders rarely had the power or the influence of continents, but they have had a considerable, and generally underappreciated, impact on the destiny of larger landmasses.

With respect to the evolution of modern conservation biology, arguably, the main history of western conservationist responses to environmental degradation developed much further "south", in the complex and destructive relationship between colonial expansion and tropical environments. This relationship brought together European imagination and indigenous environmental knowledge to form the institutional basis of environmentalism during the late eighteenth century. The components of this budding environmentalism took the form of:

- Professionalization of science and particularly natural history;
- Emergence of global networks of botanical and other specialist information flow; and
- The development of detailed perceptions and experiences of the environmental degradation of oceanic islands.

By the beginning of the 1790s a theory referred to as "**desiccationism**" emerged connecting forest destruction to rainfall change and regional aridification and to a very specific kind of interest in tree-planting and afforestation. Some historians argue however that in 1483, Columbus, who had witnessed the desiccation that had resulted from deforestation on the Canary Islands, feared that the same might take place in the Caribbean

In the eighteenth century it was strongly felt by colonial powers that if the immediate environmental problems caused by "**desiccationism**" were not addressed; social and economic disaster might ensue. Therefore by the end of the eighteenth century in St. Vincent, Tobago, St. Helena and Mauritius environmental conservation measures in the form of limited forest reservation, timber licensing and tree planting programmes were in place. In the four island colonies environmental regulation was based on systematically-formulated and theory-based fears of climate or precipitational change.

Added to this, between 1600 and 1800 soil erosion became particularly acute on the Caribbean plantation islands. These phenomena were so serious that local conservationist responses soon developed in the form of limited legislative attempts to irrigate land, prevent deforestation and carry out planting programmes. The body of knowledge around soil erosion was not as extensive as it was for "desiccationism" and until the end of the seventeenth century the colonies were considered to possess limitless resources. Today the region is still dealing with the legacy of the environmental effects of plantation agriculture.

Finally it is fitting to mention Charles Darwin whose theory of evolution by natural selection, now the unifying theory of the life sciences, was formulated from his observations of natural history of the Cape de Verde and other islands of the Atlantic, the South American coasts and adjacent islands (including the Galapagos), as well as Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Tasmania and Azores.

Given the role islands play in the physical and economic arena, it is critical that the special vulnerabilities of islands whether economic, environmental or social continue to be highlighted at the international level. It is therefore appropriate at this time to recall the following key points made by His Excellency Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford former Prime Minister of Barbados at the opening of the SIDS Conference in 1994 which remain relevant today, sixteen years after the hosting of that historic summit.

*"As we prepare to embark on our substantive discussions, I would urge all of us to be guided by the following simple but fundamental guidelines:*

- 1. Sustainable development will best be achieved under conditions of peace, not war.*

2. *Sustainable development connotes change: change from the way we abuse renewable and non-renewable resources, but above all change in our attitudes to people, who must be at the centre of our concerns. Where is the conscience of the world? Where is the centre of justice? How can a caring world permit the wide disparities among States that would not be permitted within States?*
3. *We will not even begin to solve the problems of sustainable development in small developing States or other developing states unless there is a greater flow of resources in the form of foreign-direct investment, official development assistance, flows from the international institutions and other flows from the industrialized to the developing world. It is a worrying fact that the gap between rich and poor countries is growing, but should rather be closing.*
4. *There is a need for a new partnership and new efforts at genuine cooperation between small developing States and industrialized countries to effect sustainable development. Now that the resource wasteful East-West ideological conflicts are at an end, a more economically beneficial encounter and a more morally uplifting one between North and South should be seriously embarked upon. The conclusions and decisions arrived at during the dialogue should not be left to languish, but there should be discrete and dedicated mechanisms for implementation.*
5. *Small Island Developing States should collaborate in a deeper manner with one another in a spirit of self-reliance and for mutual support and assistance in dealing with problems of sustainable development.*
6. *Sustainable development in small countries should aim at the full participation in the socio-economic thrust of all social elements, including the poor, disabled and the disadvantaged, as well as women, youth and indigenous people. This is advanced on the grounds not only of social equity but also of the need for small island States to utilize their human resources to the fullest possible extent.*

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