

Caribbean Civil Society Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism

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Caribbean Roundtable with Civil Society

Format for this Session

- ❖ Highlight critical features of Caribbean as it pertains to the Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Sectors
- ❖ Summarize the key recommendations on the table
- ❖ Open discussions on the way forward for the ministers meeting focussing on the role of civil society

Critical Facts About Caribbean

- Small resource base; high population densities; activities concentrated in coastal zones; competition for limited resources; low competitiveness of sectors (efficiency issues)
- Agriculture and tourism sectors are the backbone of most Caribbean economies
- Few countries are food secure
- Vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme climate events
- Unreliable land use planning/policy
- Major land tenure issues for small/rural-based service providers

Critical Facts About Caribbean

- Lack of effective enforcement of laws to protect these sectors emphasizes the need for civil society “buy-in” and involvement in implementation of identified sustainable practices
- Lack of integration among key economic sectors at the national level
- Poor understanding of the inter-relationships among those sectors
- Sometimes negative impact of environmental and social standards (eg. core labor) on mainstream activities in the sectors

Critical Facts About Caribbean

- Major transition influenced by WTO/EU developments
 - Vulnerabilities vary across Caribbean based on competitiveness
 - Management of infrastructure inherited from the sugarcane and banana industries is an issue (lands, technical resources, etc.)
- Small-scale producers with corresponding limitations with integrating technology to modernize the industry
- Lack of real Government commitment to these industries
- Lack of sustain and effective consultation by Governments with civil society
- Limited niche market exploitation – organic foods, services to the diaspora, cultural tourism, teak markets

Critical Facts About Caribbean

- Poor understanding of the impacts of industries/lifestyle/practices on environment.
- Poor and unimaginative product development programmes at all levels
- Limited understanding of market potential for services at the grass roots level

NEVERTHELESS

There are success stories from both public and private sector initiatives that should form a basis for development at a wider scale

Recommendations

✓ Building/strengthening links across sectors

- ✓ Revive the National Sustainable Development Reports
- ✓ Placing regulations on-line
 - ✓ Most Islands have an environmental act
- ✓ Governments role in
 - ✓ Supporting public participation e.g. "virtual forum"
 - ✓ Establishing access to information laws
 - ✓ Management of information
 - ✓ Land tenure
 - ✓ Protection laws for the sectors
 - ✓ Procurement

Recommendations

✓ Establishing Voluntary Initiatives

- ✓ How the environmental and social standards (eg. Labor standards) impact on sector performance
- ✓ Exploitation of niche markets
 - ✓ Fair trade labelling
 - ✓ Identifying actions by public and private entities that support the voluntary initiatives

Recommendations

✓Promoting Innovative financing

- ✓Payments for environmental services (PES)
- ✓Importance of an Integrated Watershed Management Approach
- ✓Reference to PES schemes related to international watersheds eg. Amazon River Basin Initiative under the OAS-GEF projects for river basins
 - ✓Carbon sequestration in forests

Major Issues for Consideration by Civil Society

- ✓Can we identify successful policies and practices within the Caribbean in Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Sectors
- ✓What are the major limitations to transfer of these successes
- ✓What mechanisms can be implemented to permit transfer of information. The role of network organizations and the state
- ✓Identify those that promote community participation and are sustainable
- ✓What roles should communities play in the development efforts and the reverse dynamic

Major Issues for Consideration by Civil Society

- ✓ Should these roles be standard across the three sectors
- ✓ Should community involvement compromise food security
- ✓ Is there conflict in how we define and measure sustainability and should this be standardized and what are the indicators
- ✓ Are there clear standards on measuring sustainability of the sectors and evaluating performance
- ✓ How critical is it for PES to be integrated into Caribbean
- ✓ How do we integrate civil society in policy formulation

Two key issues to resolve

✓The process issue

- ✓How to involve civil society
- ✓Identification and exchange of P&P
- ✓Details needed
- ✓Test and Implement

✓The governance issue

- ✓Responsibility and financing
- ✓Protection of the sector