

**Caribbean forum facilitated Jointly by the CCS, ECLAC and UNDG:  
Shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the  
Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century  
Bogotá, Colombia , 5-6 March, 2013**

**Session 2: Critical issues for the Caribbean in  
preparation for the Third Global Conference on the  
Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing  
States**

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# Contents of Presentation

- 1. Outline of the Approach in Presentation**
- 2. The Post Rio+20 Development Agenda**
- 3. *The Global Development Agenda (Immediate to Short-term)***
- 4. *Caribbean Growth Prospects***
- 5. *An Overview of Caribbean Social Sector***
- 6. The Post Rio+20 and SIDS Agenda**
- 7. The Post Rio+ 20- SIDS Critical Issues in articulating a Caribbean Position**
- 8. Key Implementation Challenges and Related Issues**
- 9. Scenario # 1 in moving forward**
- 10. Scenario # 2 in moving forward.**



# Approach of the Presentation

- **For purely analytic convenience the global development agenda has been time-ordered and divided into *immediate to short-term* and *medium-term and beyond* to guide the discussions;**
- ***Secondly, the presentation is based on discussions with Caribbean policy makers at various fora along with exchanges with academics and civic society representatives in the region;***
- ***Thirdly, monitoring of the evolving literature on the subject matter;***
- ***Focus on issues that are integral to the development of a coherent approach to strengthen implementation of SD programmes at national and regional level;***
- ***Focus on areas within the UN GA resolution particularly those areas that call for further action to implement Agenda 21 and the BPOA;***
- ***Finally, the issues raise are to offer the broadest view possible but to highlight the issue of interlinkages among sectors, identifying gaps, challenges and action required.***

# Post Rio +20 Development Agenda

- The development of a set of key Earth System processes and associated boundary levels have been proposed under the heading 'planetary boundaries' that attempt to define the most important interferences of humans with environmental systems, based on the scientific assessment of the stability of ecosystems ;
- This has been extended with social development goals . Here, these social goals are seen as the social foundation include: access to sufficient food, water and modern energy, health security, social equity, gender equality, job security, access to sufficient income and job security, freedom of speech, access to education and sufficient levels of resilience;
- **By combining planetary boundaries and social goals we could define a 'the safe and just space for humanity';**
- **The key point been established is that environmental resources are limited and there is the need for a smarter - strategic approach to management of those resources in the context of the linkages of those resources**



## ***The Global Development Agenda (Immediate to Short-term)***

- Emerging issues for consideration by the Caribbean in going forward:
  - to continue the MDG structure of a limited number of goals with specific targets and indicators;
  - to address inequalities in various dimensions across selected thematic area;
  - to prioritise the achievement of universal (or 'zero') goals, from e.g. universal healthcare to the eradication of hunger and absolute income poverty;
  - to ensure sustainability of development progress is given much greater priority and an Enabling International Development Architecture
  - to radically improve accountability, including through prioritisation of domestic taxation as the source of finance, and with substantial investment in the availability of data

# ***The Global Development Agenda and the Caribbean(Immediate to Short-term)***

- **The Great Recession (economic, financial crisis and credit crunch, post-Q4. 2007)is still affecting many Caribbean countries though various transmission channels and impacts;**
- **This have had a significant downward impact on the economies of the region - decline in foreign direct investments, exports ,imports,trade credit,terms of trade,remittance flow,ODA (including technical assistance),tourism and other services flows **along with a rise in the irregular economy and organized crime;****
  - **These situations are compounded by slow economic growth rates and high levels of debts**



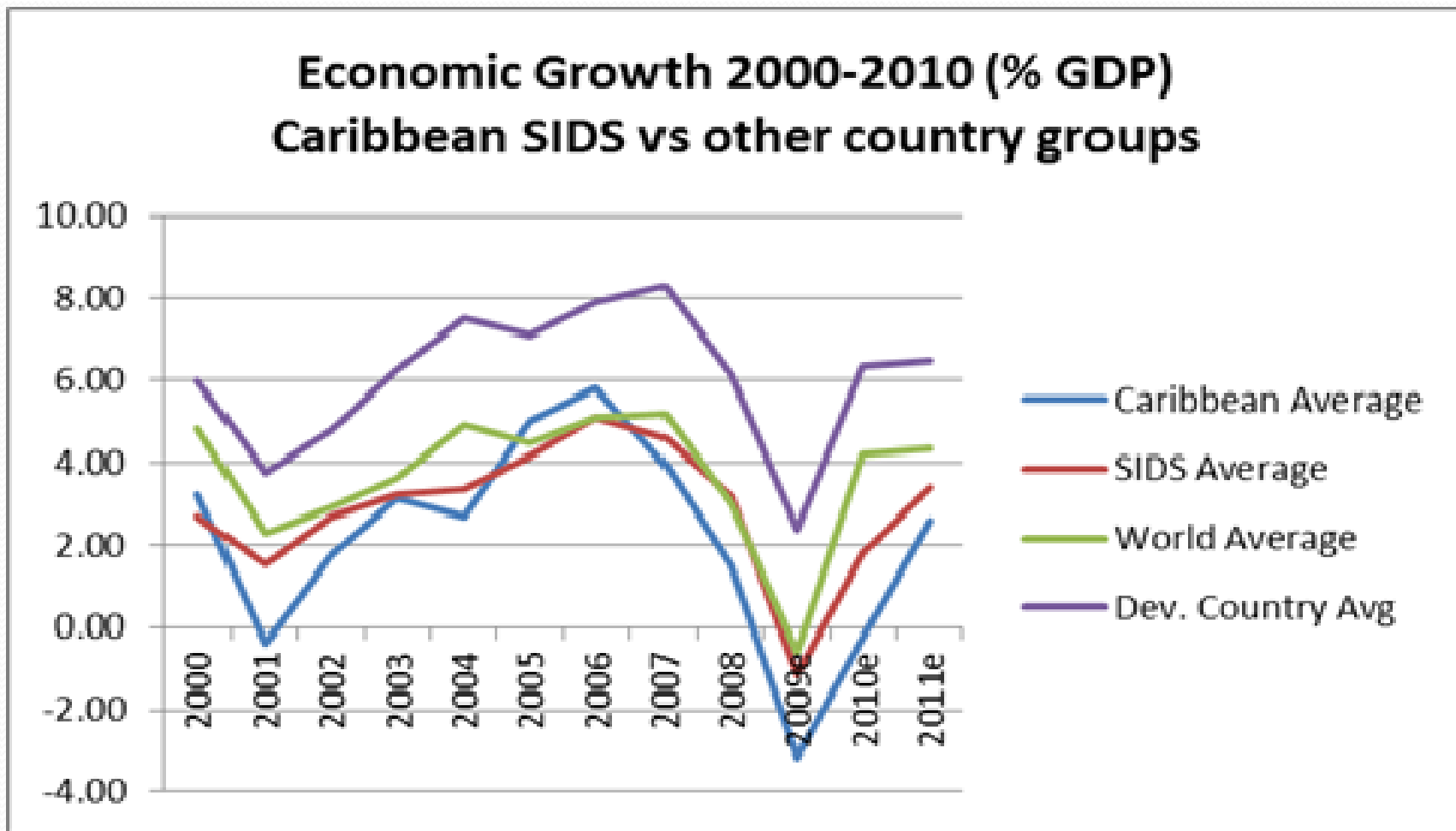


## ***Caribbean Growth Prospects***

- The Great Recession interrupted a period of firm regional growth, strong capital inflows, and the consolidation of the macro-financial and safety nets framework, especially for regional outliers like Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname;
- The growing independent influence of the BRICS on the region's import and export trade; capital investment in natural resources and infrastructure; technical assistance; skills training; education; technology transfers and, budgetary support (direct and indirect);
- As a result of above a growing de-coupling of the region's economy from the economic cycles were generated by the advanced economies.

## Figure I. Economic Growth Performance of Caribbean SIDS compared with World averages

Source: IMF WEO database





## ***An Overview of Caribbean Social Sector based on reports from the Caribbean Development Bank***

**1. In 2010 the CDB attempted in a single document to overview the Region's social sector focussing on:**

- **Population**
- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Poverty**
- **Millennium Development Goals**

**There was special consideration of education at all levels and skills enhancement**

**2. Crucially, the CDB identified: paucity of data, and inadequacies of social indicators [their dispersion, disparities, irregularity, and fragmentation] as the main drivers of failure behind its effort to provide a satisfactory social basis for its development funding.**



## **Other Key Findings of the CDB Report**

- **“Attainment of the Caribbean MDGs is slow and variable**
  - **Economic growth is given disproportionate emphasis**
  - **Striking changes in the Region’s demographic rates**
  - **Emergence of new health threats, with the continuing transition from communicable to chronic NCDs**
  - **Crime and violence as serious constraints to development**
  - **Serious housing challenges [including squatter settlements, land availability and affordability, living conditions and amenities; high prices and mortgage rates]**
  - **Issues of “education quality”**
  - **Persistent inequality**
  - **Insufficient data/information for “evidence-based strategies”.**



**Post Rio+20 and SIDS Agenda---Caribbean has undoubtedly been a major driver of the SIDS -POA {but faces severe constraints} .  
Would the Caribbean continue to be a major driver?**

**\*Six priority targets ( Follow-up the five year review):**

- **Adapting to climate change and rising sea levels**
- **Improving preparedness and recovery from natural and environmental disasters**
- **Protecting coastal ecosystems from pollution and overfishing**
- **Preventing worsening shortages of freshwater resources**
- **Developing solar and other forms of renewable energy**
- **Managing tourism while protecting the environment and cultural integrity**

**\*\*Mauritius Strategy focus {Follow-up the ten year review}:**

- **Natural resources and environmental threats**
- **Economic challenges and issues**
- **Social issues**
- **Governance issues**
- **Implementation issues**

**SIDS over the past twenty years seeks mainly to work through:**

- **National and regional SD strategies**
- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**
- **Convention on Biological Diversity**
- **Convention to Combat Desertification**

# Post Rio+ 20- SIDS Critical Issues for attention in articulating a Caribbean Position





### **WATER AND ENERGY**

- Hydropower potential
- Renewable energy for pumping and treatment

### **WATER AND HEALTH**

- Water-borne diseases
- Need for alternative sanitation systems

### **WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- More pressure on supplies
- Fragmented management
- Inefficient allocation systems

### **WATER AND BIODIVERSITY**

- Wetlands loss
- Assuring water for ecosystems

### **WATER AND AGRICULTURE**

- Low water productivity
- Agriculture practices degrading water sources

### **ENERGY AND WATER**

- Potential to provide safe drinking water
- Hydropower's environmental impact
- Acidification of water bodies

### **ENERGY AND HEALTH**

- Potential for improving health care facilities
- Traditional fuel use can harm women's health
- Health impacts of outdoor air pollution

### **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

- Meeting the Basic needs of poor
- Inequitable pattern of use
- High environmental impact including climate related issues

### **ENERGY AND BIODIVERSITY**

- Bioenergy production to revive degraded land
- Hydropower's impact on species and ecosystems

### **ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE**

- Increased productivity through modern energy sources
- Bioenergy as replacement for fossil fuels



### **AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY**

- Potential role in climate change mitigation
- Bioenergy for land rehabilitation
- Biomass for energy services

### **AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH**

- Contribution to proved maternal health
- Globalisation of animal diseases
- Impact of pesticides on humans and the environment

### **AGRICULTURE**

- Persistence hunger and malnutrition
- Slowing rates of yield increase
- Natural resource constraints
- Lack of rural infrastructure
- Lack of access to capital and markets
- Unfinished institutional reforms

### **AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY**

- Dependence on landraces and genetic variety for breeding programmes and subsistence farming
- Monocultural production contributes to biodiversity loss

### **AGRICULTURE AND WATER**

- Agriculture practices degrading water sources
- Agriculture productivity gains through irrigation threatened by increasing water scarcity

### **BIODIVERSITY AND ENERGY**

- Promotes sustainable sources of woodfuel, biomass
- As climate changes, need for biodiversity-rich, resilient ecosystems grows

### **BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH**

- Provides raw materials for new and traditional medicines
- Functioning ecosystems are essential for people's health

### **BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

- Genes, species and ecosystems under growing pressure

### **BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURE**

- Provides genetic input for new crop and livestock varieties
- Maintains soil structure and quality
- Ensures pollination of crops

### **BIODIVERSITY AND WATER**

- Provides clean and abundant water supplies
- Provides abundant goods for aquatic ecosystems (food, fibre, and so on)



### Health and Water

- Water related diseases impact on poverty
- Importance of reducing the impact of water availability and supply on gender relations

### Health and Energy

- Improve indoor air quality and impact on Health
- Climate change effects on health thru heath waves, flooding, patterns of infectious diseases

## HEALTH

- poverty increases vulnerability to poor health
- NCDs, HIV AIDS,
- Reduced productivity arising from poor health

### Health and Biodiversity

- Loss of potential new medicines and medical models using biodiversity
- Disturbed ecosystems can lead to new diseases
- Impact of invasive species thru new diseases

### Health and Agriculture

- Health and wellness of the work force for productivity
- Agriculture inputs negative impact on the work force

# Key Implementation Challenges and Related Issues

- Strengthen national and regional Institutions to address capacity issues;
- Development of International Partnerships;
- Development of Public-Private Partnerships at the national and regional levels;
- Development of the regional private sector



**Scenario # 1 in moving forward- do we kill the bird with the potential to lay the golden egg -Implementation is critical and should not be ignored in this process**



**Scenario # 2 in moving forward- do we strengthen the  
Implementation mechanisms adopting results base systems and  
may be focus like Swans through stronger coordination and  
collaboration  
Thanks for Listening**

