

United Nations Conference on
Sustainable Development (Rio +20)
National Preparatory Process
NATIONAL SYNTHESIS REPORT



JANUARY 2012



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
List of Acronyms	ii
1.0 Introduction	
1.1. About Saint Lucia.....	10
1.2 Background	11
1.3 Context of the National Report	11
1.4 Report Preparation Methodology	12
1.5 Limitations of the Report.....	13
2.0 Summary of Multi-stakeholder Consultative Meeting	14
2.1 Overview of Rio+20	16
2.2 Findings of the Stocktaking Report.....	16
2.3 Thematic Areas and Emerging Issues.....	19
2.4 Working Groups Presentations.....	21
3.0 Assessment of Progress towards Sustainable Development	25
3.1 Renewing Political Support for Sustainable Development	26
3.1.1 National Experiences.....	26
3.1.2 Success Factors.....	27
3.1.3 Main Challenges.....	30
3.1.4. Related Risk.....	31
3.2 Implementing the Outcomes of Major Sustainable Development Summits	31
3.2.1 National Experiences.....	31
3.2.2 Success Factors.....	32
3.2.3 Challenges.....	34

3.3 Addressing New and Emerging Challenges	36
3.3.1 Experiences.....	36
3.3.2 Success Factors.....	37
3.3.3 Overcoming the Challenges.....	38
3.3.4 Risks.....	38
3.4 The Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication	38
3.4.1 Success Factors.....	39
3.4.2 Challenges.....	40
3.4.3 Risks.....	40
3.5 The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development	41
3.5.1 Experiences.....	41
3.5.2 Success Factors.....	42
3.5.3 Challenges.....	43
3.5.4 Risks.....	43
4.0 Strengthening the National Sustainable Development Agenda.....	43
4.1 Summary of Conclusions Reached.....	44
4.2 Recommendations for the way forward.....	44
4.2.1 Renewing Political Commitment for Sustainable Development	45
4.2.2 Implementing Outcomes of Major Summits on Sustainable Development.....	46
4.2.3 New and Emerging Challenges.....	46
4.2.4 The Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication.....	46
Appendices.....	47

Appendices

A-1 List of Persons Interviewed

A-2 List of Documents Reviewed

A-3 List of Participants Attending the Multi-stakeholder Consultation

A-4 List of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ratified

A-5 Sector Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACTA	Association for Conservation for Threatened Parrots
BPOA	Barbados Plan of Action
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CAWASA	Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association Inc
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CITES	Convention International Trade in Endangered Species
CSD	Conference on Sustainable Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DCA	Development Control Authority
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
EDF	European Development Fund
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FADS	Fishing Aggregate Devises
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GE	Green Economy
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF-IWCAM	Global Environmental Facility-Integrated Watershed & Coastal Area Management
GIS	Government Information Service
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GTZ	German Agency for Development Corporation
HCFCs	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons

IBAP	Integrated Biodiversity and Action Plan
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IWCAM	Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management
IDP	Integrated Development Planning
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LUCELEC	St Lucia Electricity Company
MCWT&PU	Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOSSAIC	Management of Slope Stability in Communities
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for Implementation
MTESP	Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper
NAPSAP	National Action Plan and Sustainable Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NCC	National Consultative Council
NEMO	National Emergency Management Organization
NEC	National Environmental Commission
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-SGD	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States-St George's Declaration
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States – Environment Sustainable Development Unit
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PMA	Piton Management Authority
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SEC	Social and Economic Council
SD	Sustainable Development

SDD	Sustainable Development Division
SDED	Sustainable Development and Environment Division
SDES	Sustainable Development and Environment Section
SIDS	Small Island Development States
SLASPA	Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority
SLDB	Saint Lucia Development Bank
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SLNT	Saint Lucia National Trust
SMMA	Soufriere Marine Management Association
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SSDF	Saint Lucia Social Development Fund
SWMA	Solid Waste Management Authority
TOR	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHE	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forest
WASCO	Water and Sewerage Company
WB	World Bank
WRMA	Water Resource Management Agency
WSP	Water Safety Plan
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Executive Summary

The Saint Lucia National Synthesis Report was prepared by Saint Lucia as part of its contribution to the preparatory process for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

The report captured the salient points of the three presentations made at the multi-stakeholders consultative meeting and the conclusions of the working groups. The first presentation provided an overview of the international context of sustainable development from the United Nations Conference on Health and the Environment to what is currently happening with Rio +20. The second presentation gave an overview of the stocktaking report which addressed issues such as the MEAs ratified, the National Focal Points established to implement the MEAs, and the impact of MEAs on national policies and planning. The third presentation examined new and emerging challenges likely to affect the prospects for sustainable development. Some of the more critical challenges identified were: invasive species management; increasing incidence of natural disasters and the price of oil on world market.

The report identifies some of the relevant indicators of political commitment are the provision of budgetary and institutional support; the enactment of legislative, regulatory and policy instruments;; and the participation of officials from Saint Lucia in international meetings and capacity building opportunities.

However, one of the main challenges for Saint Lucia to date has been the application of IDP principles in policies and planning. The international community demonstrates a high level of political commitment to sustainable development by continuing to pledge and/or providing technical assistance and financial support to assist Saint Lucia with the implementation of its plans, programmes and projects related to sustainable development.

Much of the success achieved to date has been due to inter-agency cooperation and effective coordination at the national level. Collaboration at the sub-regional and regional level as well as

international support from United Nation institutions and other organizations has also played a major part.

Saint Lucia has identified a number of new and emerging challenges that are likely to affect prospects for sustainable development in the coming decade. Several national mechanisms have also been proposed to address the various challenges identified. However, the ability of the country to address these challenges will depend on availability of adequate resources, public education, technical capacity, national programmes and ongoing cooperation at the regional and international levels.

With respect to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, despite the common understanding of the concept among stakeholders , Saint Lucia is yet to reach a consensus on a how to define the green economy concept to cater for its national circumstances. While Saint Lucia does not have a coherent set of green economic policies at the moment, it is anticipated that work will soon commence on developing a national green growth strategy.

From all indications, Saint Lucia has created a reasonably effective institutional framework for sustainable development by strengthening existing institutions and where necessary creating new ones to improve coordination and implementation of sustainable development activities.

The institutional framework in place allows for effective coordination and implementation of sustainable development activities. Nevertheless, there is still need to *inter alia* enhance the legal and policy environment, and making adequate annual budgetary allocations to support line and coordinating institutions.

1.0 Introduction

As a member state of the United Nations, Saint Lucia was invited to participate in the national preparatory process in advance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The country is expected to make a contribution and provide information on its experiences, success factors, risks and challenges with regards to objectives and themes of the conference.

This Synthesis Report was prepared by Saint Lucia as part of its contribution to the preparatory process for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. The report is prepared in four sections.

Section 1 provides brief information about Saint Lucia and background to the report. It also outlines the context of the report, the methodology used to collect information for producing the report and the limitations.

Section 2 summarizes the outcome of the multi-stakeholder consultative meeting held on 6th December 2011. The summary includes four presentations giving an overview of Rio + 20, finding of the stocktaking exercise and the thematic areas and emerging issues identified.

Section 3 assesses progress made by Saint Lucia towards achievement of the goals of sustainable development. Specific attention is paid to the political commitment for sustainable development, the status of implementation of the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development, new and emerging challenges, the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Section 4 highlights Saint Lucia's main achievements to date and the conclusions reached. It goes on to make specific recommendations to strengthen the national sustainable development agenda.

Further details on the introductory section of the report are provided in the sub-sections that follow immediately. Details of the other three sections of the report are discussed subsequently.

1.1 About Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) located at latitude 13° 59' N, and 61° W within the Lesser Antillean Arc of the Caribbean Archipelago. The land area is approximately 616 km² and it is situated on a volcanic ridge connecting to Martinique and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, towards the north and south respectively.

The island is 42 km long and 22 km wide at its widest point, and a coast line of approximately 158 km, The Island's coastal shelf has an area of 522 km², is relatively narrow and drops off sharply along the west coast. Saint Lucia's Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 4700 km². This is illustrated in Figure 1.1, Map of Saint Lucia.

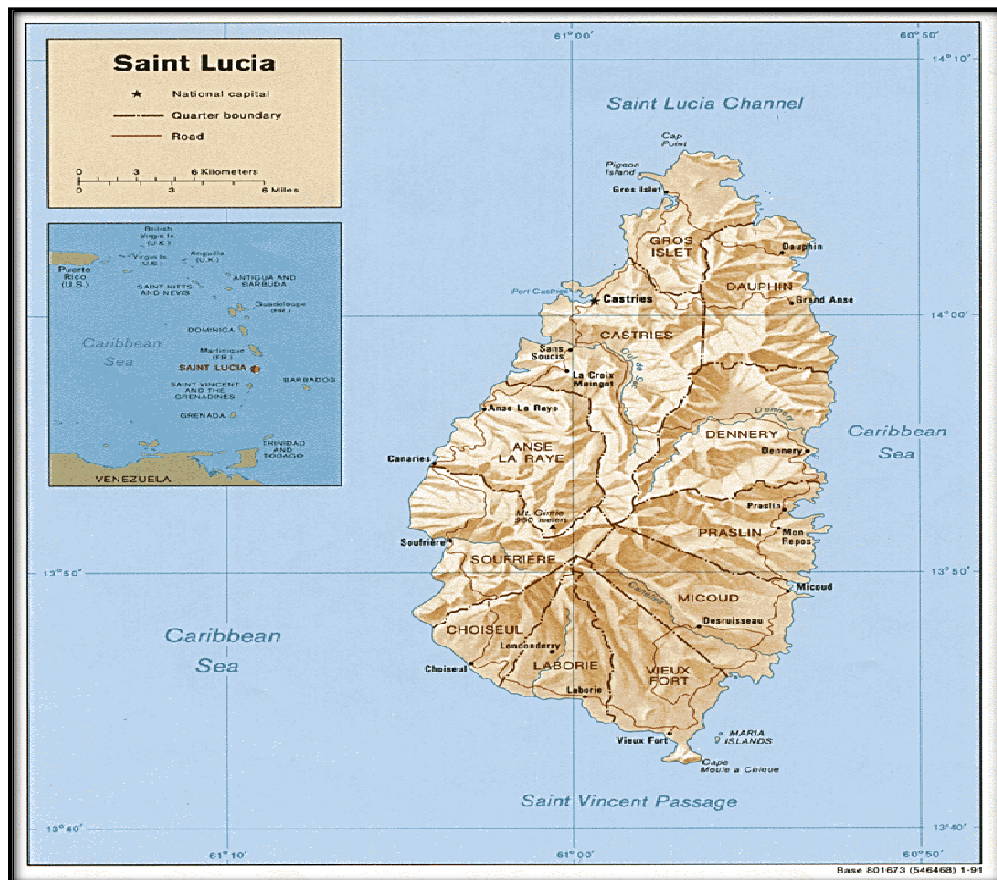


Figure 1.1 - Map of Saint Lucia

1.2 Background

Saint Lucia is participating in preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The objective of the conference is to secure renewed political commitment for Sustainable Development, assessing progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on Sustainable Development, and addressing new and emerging challenges. To this end, the conference will focus on two themes: (i) a green economy in the context of Sustainable Development and poverty eradication; and (ii) the institutional framework for Sustainable Development.

The preparatory activities were undertaken in a three-phased national consultation process that contributed to the preparation of the National Synthesis Report. It is also expected that these activities will build the capacity of the Saint Lucia delegation to engage more fully in the conference on Sustainable Development and to ensure continuing efforts to implement the outcomes of the conference.

1.3 National Context of the Report

The National Synthesis Report was prepared against the background of efforts by Saint Lucia to implement Agenda 21 adopted at a 1992 UNCED meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and to promote national dialogue and build partnerships for sustainable development at the national level. At the sub-region level Saint Lucia has been collaborating with countries in the OECS to implement the St. Georges Declaration while at the regional level Saint Lucia has been collaborating with other CARICOM countries to implement the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA). This plan provides the basis for assessing strategies developed by Saint Lucia to mitigate the economic, environmental, and social developmental vulnerabilities facing the country.

From an international perspective, the National Synthesis Report which takes into account the special case of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) as recognised internationally in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21. The report was informed by decisions taken at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa which took stock of achievements, challenges and new issues arising since the 1992 Earth Summit. Also informing the contents of the report are the specific recommendations made at the 2005 Mauritius conference for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

Finally, the report takes into consideration the main objectives of Rio + 20 which are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and to address new and emerging challenges. Additionally, the report by the two themes of the conference which are to address issues relating to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

1.4 Report Preparation Methodology

Saint Lucia received support from UNDESA and UNDP to assist with the national preparatory process for the conference. Among the activities undertaken by the Project Team as part of the national preparatory process are as follows:

- Engaged a consultant to conduct a desk review and synthesized relevant documentation of national strategies, plans, policies, capacity needs assessments and practical experiences; to interview national stakeholder representatives and prepare a Stocktaking Report based on the findings;
- Convened a national multi-stakeholder consultation to discuss and move towards consensus on a national assessment of progress, remaining gaps, experiences and opportunities pertaining to the themes of the UNCSA address issues relating to the UNCSA with; and

- Worked with the consultant to prepare the National Synthesis Report which captures the outcomes of the Stocktaking Report and the multi-stakeholder consultation.

Participants for the national consultative meeting were drawn from Government, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and donor agencies. A list of participants is provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

1.5 Limitations of the Report

There are several limitations to the preparation of the National Synthesis Report and they are as follows:

- First, desk review was dependent on key stakeholders making available relevant documents on national policies, strategies, plans; capacity needs assessments and practical experiences on a timely basis.
- Second, the number of stakeholder interviews conducted and the timing of these interviews depended largely on the availability of national stakeholder representatives;
- Third, one activity planned as part of the preparatory process was the circulation of the Draft National Synthesis Report among the government National Focal Points for review and comments. However, given the tight deadline set by UNDESA for submitting the report there was little time available to circulate it, obtain feedback and incorporate the changes suggested into the Draft National Synthesis Report.

2.0 Summary of the Multi-stakeholder Consultative Meeting

The Saint Lucia Project Team convened a national multi-stakeholder consultation on 6th December 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and move towards consensus on a national assessment of progress, remaining gaps, experiences and opportunities pertaining to the themes of the UNCSD and to address issues relating to the UNCSD.

This section provides a summary of proceedings of the multi-stakeholder consultative meeting. It includes three presentations giving an overview of Rio + 20, the findings of the stocktaking

exercise and the thematic areas and emerging issues identified. It also covers the conclusions and recommendations of the four working groups. Further details of the presentations made and group inputs follow.

2.1 Overview of Rio + 20

This presentation provided a brief background of efforts by the United Nations to address issues relating to sustainable development through its established institutions such as the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (UNCHE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). It defined sustainable development as: **“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

The presentation gave a synopsis of developments from the establishment of UNCHE in 1972 to the UNCSD in 2012. One of the issues discussed was the recommendations of the 1992 UNCED meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at which the [“Agenda 21”](#) was adopted. In Agenda 21, governments outlined a detailed blueprint for action that could move the world away from its present unsustainable model of economic growth towards activities that will protect and renew the environmental resources on which growth and development depend.

Another issue discussed during the presentation was the role of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) established in 1992. Its main functions are to review progress of implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to promote dialogue and build partnerships for sustainable development with *inter alia* governments, the international community and other major groups who have major roles to play in achieving sustainable development.

Text Box 2: Agenda 21 Areas for Action

- ✓ **Protecting the atmosphere;**
- ✓ **Combating deforestation;**
- ✓ **Soil loss and desertification;**
- ✓ **Preventing air and water pollution;**
- ✓ **Halting the depletion of fish stocks and**
- ✓ **Promoting the safe management of toxic wastes.**

The next part of the presentation focused on the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) which is specific to SIDS. This programme outlines policies and strategies to mitigate the economic, environmental, and social developmental vulnerabilities facing Caribbean SIDS.

The discussion moved on to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Its main purpose was to take stock of achievements, challenges and new issues and to come up with a set of concrete actions to further the implementation of Agenda 21.

Next, the discussion focused on the ten-year review of the BPOA conducted at the 2005 Conference held in Mauritius. The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) re-affirmed the priority areas under the BPOA that SIDS recommitted to address.

The presentation then outlined the objectives and the two themes of Rio + 20. It ended with discussion on the green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

2.2 Findings of the Stocking Taking Report

The Stocktaking Report found that to date, Saint Lucia has ratified over thirty (30) regional and international Conventions, Protocols and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The government of Saint Lucia has also developed fifteen (15) national policies and has implemented many of the activities required to fulfill its obligations under the various multi-lateral agreements.

Saint Lucia has designated at least four (4) ministries as Focal Points for the implementation of provisions of the conventions, protocols and the multi-lateral agreements. These ministries are as follows:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- The Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment;(Renamed in January 2012 as the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Science and Technology)*

- The Ministry of Education; and
- The Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities.

Each Focal Point has lead responsibility for the implementation of specific conventions, protocols and multi-lateral agreements. In some cases the Ministry also participates in the implementation of provisions of the conventions, protocols and the multi-lateral agreements directly related to its work. In addition to those conventions, protocols and multi-lateral agreements that have already been ratified, the Attorney General's Office is currently reviewing a number of others to determine whether Saint Lucia should ratify them.

Regionally, Saint Lucia through its membership in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS), has been working to implement a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening political support for Sustainable Development. At the wider CARICOM level Saint Lucia has worked with the Secretariat to implement the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) and has also participated in regional preparatory meetings convened by the Secretariat to adopt a common position on the major issues affecting SIDS.

At the level of the OECS, Saint Lucia signed the St. Georges Declaration, a protocol declaring the commitment of OECS Member States to manage resources in a sustainable manner. Saint Lucia has been working with the OECS Secretariat to implement provisions of the accord signed in 2001 and revised in 2006.

Nationally, Saint Lucia has demonstrated political support for sustainable development by taking deliberate action to ratify the regional and international conventions, protocols and agreements. One action taken by the Government of Saint Lucia was to adopt a National Environment Policy (NEP) aimed at strengthening the capacity of local institutions to develop national policies. NEP has provided line ministries with a broad framework for the preparation of policies to govern the sector activities.

Other actions taken by the Government included the adoption of a National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) and strengthening the capacity of local institutions to engage in

strategic planning. The NEMS provides a broad framework to guide local institutions when developing sector plans to fulfill their environment management responsibilities.

With funding from UNDESA and support from the OECS, the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment spearheaded implementation of a project aimed at promoting an Integrated Development Planning (IDP) approach in Saint Lucia. The project encouraged collaboration among various public agencies involved in implementing plans, programs and projects for sustainable development. It also sought to integrate environmental, social, cultural and economic factors in national development policies and plans.

Implementation of the IDP project raised a number of critical issues and posed a number of challenges for Saint Lucia. Principal among them were the inadequacy of the human and financial resources allocated, delays in introducing supporting regulations, lack of coordination of the IDP process among key stakeholders and an overly ambitious timeframe set for completing the project.

When the IDP project ended it had not achieved all of the four (4) main goals that were initially set. Nevertheless, Saint Lucia learnt a number of lessons from the exercise including the need for government to designate a lead agency coordinate the IDP process, to provide the agency with the resources necessary to efficiently and effectively carry out its mandate, to establish a forum for ongoing stakeholder consultation and to disseminate relevant information on a timely basis.

Saint Lucia has taken actions at the national, regional levels in order to demonstrate its political commitment to the attainment of sustainable development goals. At the national level, Saint Lucia introduced policy frameworks, adopted national strategic plans and approved various sector policies and plans.

The government continues to provide strong support for institutions in sectors where visionary leadership was evident, engaged in strategic planning and built their internal capacity to implement sustainable development activities. Institutions operating within these sectors were also to tap resources from external agencies in the form of funding and technical assistance.

Under Agenda 21, Saint Lucia implemented a series of activities aimed at addressing the social, economic, cultural and environmental problems in an integrated manner. The Government's approach to the implementation of Agenda 21 activities was to convene national consultations with key stakeholders to identify critical problems, to reach consensus on measures to solve them and then encourage participation in tackling the problems.

However, many stakeholder representatives are still unclear about the concept of Agenda 21. They were also unsure whether Saint Lucia is actively implementing a national Agenda 21 program.

2.3 Thematic Areas and Emerging Issues

The presentation examined the concept and objectives of the Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication as well as actions taken by Saint Lucia to achieve the stated objectives. It also focused on institutional support in place for sustainable development.

With regards to the transition towards a green economy, the Stocktaking Report found that there is no consensus on definition of a green economy. In June 2011, Saint Lucia held a Second National Environment Forum on the theme "Walking the Path towards a Green Economy." The goal of the forum was to discuss and define the green economy within the context of Saint Lucia. However, owing to a number of factors, the forum did not reach any conclusion on the matter there is a need to tailor the global definition to suit Saint Lucia.

It is noted that certain aspects of the definition e.g. low carbon issues, are already being addressed under the Montreal Protocol, the energy portfolio and climate change mitigation. As well, Saint Lucia has taken action towards achieving many of the objectives associated with the green economy such as sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and biodiversity conservation.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas in October 2010, the Development control Authority (DCA) adopted a policy requiring all developers submitting proposals for new buildings to include provisions for rain waster catchment and storage.

While there is a common understanding of the green economy in Saint Lucia, the country has not reached consensus on a policy. There is no evidence of any formal studies having been conducted on the topic. However, there have been a number of actions taken that promote the adoption of this policy; these include the adoption and promotion of renewable energy technologies and low carbon emissions.

With respect to the second conference theme: institutional support for sustainable development Saint Lucia has established a National Environment Commission (NEC) to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders and a Social and Economic Council (SEC) to advise government on socio-economic issues. Saint Lucia has also established National Committees or Technical Working Groups to guide the implementation of activities relating to specific conventions.

Saint Lucia also strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Physical Development to carry out sustainable development activities by adding the Environment function to the portfolio. The government also approved the upgrading of the Sustainable Development and Environment Section of the Ministry to the Sustainable Development and Environment Division (SDED) and made provision for additional staff.

Most stakeholder representatives agree that the Sustainable Development and Environment Division (SDED) continue to play a major role in planning and coordinating the implementation of sustainable development activities. They however, feel that the Ministry of Finance does not make adequate annual budgetary allocations for the work to be carried out by the line ministries.

Lack of funding also affected the operations of the two national coordinating mechanisms. Both the NEC and the SEC were defunct for some time but have since been reactivated. In the case of the National Committees or Technical Working Groups many of them have not been formally set up.

The Stocktaking Report also found that while key stakeholders in Saint Lucia have a common understanding of the concept they are yet to reach consensus on a definition of a green economy. Saint Lucia has not initiated studies on the green economy and current activities taking place in the agriculture, tourism, construction and energy sectors are by and large uncoordinated.



Sustainable management of the oceans and marine resources (the Blue Economy), is a relatively new area of focus for Saint Lucia. Also, while the country has made some progress towards increasing the sustainable development of marine resources there is still a wide gap in meeting the goals of the conventions, protocols and multi-lateral agreements that have been ratified and are being implemented.

2.4 Working Group Presentations

For the purposes of small group discussions, participants were divided into four groups with each group being assigned two of the guiding questions for the Synthesis Report to consider. A summary of the group feedback follows.

On the question of Saint Lucia's efforts to introduce or promote integrated development planning and decision making for sustainable development it was generally accepted that Saint Lucia has promoted integrated development planning and decision making for sustainable development as part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan. However, the main lessons learnt from this experience are that there is need for greater integration and collaboration among relevant agencies and that there has been insufficient integration of SD principles and ideas.

On the question of technical assistance from the UN system entities that are key factors in explaining success; the meeting confirmed that Saint Lucia has been receiving funding and

Text Box 3: SD Success Factors

- **Technical capacity**
- **Institutional efforts**
- **Credible leadership**
- **Private Sector Partnerships**
- **Development of Standards**
- **More coordination mechanisms**
- **Strengthening capacity of various ministries and agencies**
- **Studies reveal that the public is more aware of environmental issues and potential impacts of climate change**
- **Strengthening of legislation and policy**
- **Paradigm shift of SD**
- **International Assistance**

technical assistance support from the UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank to implement approved national plans, programmes and projects in areas such as fisheries, climate change and water. A list of the success factors identified is shown in Text Box 3.

On the question of specific industry sectors or resource areas where national political commitment is especially strong, the meeting identified support given to the water sector through the Division of Public Utilities, the establishment of a Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA) and the

upgrading of the Sustainable Development and Environment Section (SDES) to the SDED.

On the question of the Government's active involvement in implementing local agendas 21 there have been a number of achievements so far such as the move in the energy sector the penetration of renewable energy in areas such as photo voltaic and wind (LUCELEC exploring the possibility of a wind farm).

In the area of biodiversity it was noted that the 4th National report speaks to conservation of biodiversity and that the Forestry Department has been working to establish protocol for use of the forest. Also, the Ministry of Agriculture is placing emphasis on flora and fauna, and deforestation while in the transportation sector there is a move to introduce a more efficient bus and taxi system.

On the question of the role of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning or important line ministries in public policy and planning for Sustainable Development the meeting acknowledged that while there is no strategic plan/ direction derived from IDP to create the national budget, line ministries could align their budgetary proposals with IDP in mind.

The meeting also concluded that at the moment there is limited coordination across the planning, health, environment, transportation and energy sectors. To address this shortcoming, participants emphasized the need to review the mechanisms for financing and developing the national budget for Saint Lucia.

On the question of the new and emerging challenges likely to affect the prospects for sustainable development the meeting identified a number of issues which are listed in Text Box 4.

Text Box 4: New and emerging issues

- **The need for invasive species management is critical to improving protection of the environment;**
- **The continuing destruction of protected areas such as mangroves and animal species such as the Iguana and the lion fish;**
- **The global financial crisis;**
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation;**
- **Increasing incidence of natural disasters**
- **Change in lifestyle (sustainable products/consumption)**
- **Price of oil on World Market**
- **Climate Change, climate variability and climate adaptation**
- **Need a statutory instrument for land use planning**
- **Fewer contribution from donor agencies for project implementation**
- **Inadequate annual budgetary allocation for counterpart contributions**
- **The fragile nature of the tourism-based economy**
- **Public education and awareness on climate change**
- **Creating an enabling environment for sustainable development with updated legislation and regulations**
- **Waste management in towns and villages in absence of national system-deposits in the Castries harbor daily;**
- **Frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, storms, flooding , land slippage, earthquakes, tsunami; and**
- **Use of the forest by households and business places for waste disposal;**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction;**
- **Energy Supply and access of energy;**
- **Investment in efficient energy and renewable energy technologies;**
- **Incentives for renewable energy efficient equipment and/or technologies;**
- **Absence of a National System for the management of Protected Areas;**
- **Water and Food security;**
- **Absence of a National Land Use Policy;**
- **A National Vision Plan.**

The following are a number of national mechanisms proposed for addressing sustainable development challenges which are outlined in Text Box 5:


1. Implement a public education and awareness program on climate change;
2. Develop and implement a national invasive species management program;
3. Retrofit relevant buildings, the efficient management of natural resources and building resilience;
4. Implement an aggressive public education program to help change attitudes towards conservation;
5. Implement a sustainable land management program for areas of unprotected private forest such as the La Parades Hotel site;
6. Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) to address issues of solid waste management more effectively;
7. Tighten regulations for environmental and solid waste management;
8. Increase public awareness and enter into local and/or regional partnerships;
9. Move towards forest and watershed management;
10. Establish a National Foundation to further the goals of a green economy;

Text Box 5: Sustainable Development Challenges in Saint Lucia

- ⇒ **Invasive species management ;**
- ⇒ **Destruction of protected areas such as mangroves and animal species such as the Iguana and the lion fish;**
- ⇒ **The global challenges & crisis such as financial, oil prices & food;**
- ⇒ **Climate change adaptation and mitigation;**
- ⇒ **Increasing incidence of natural disasters;**
- ⇒ **Promoting sustainable consumption & production challenges;**
- ⇒ **Climate Change adaptation & mitigation;**
- ⇒ **Lack of a statutory instrument for land use planning;**
- ⇒ **Fewer contribution from donor agencies for project implementation;**
- ⇒ **Inadequate annual budgetary allocation for counterpart contributions;**
- ⇒ **The fragile nature of the tourism-based economy;**
- ⇒ **Creating an enabling legislative and regulatory environment for sustainable development;**
- ⇒ **Solid & Liquid waste management in towns and villages;**
- ⇒ **Frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, storms, flooding , land slippage, earthquakes, tsunami; and disaster risk reduction;**
- ⇒ **Energy Security;**
- ⇒ **Investment in efficient energy and renewable energy technologies;**
- ⇒ **Absence of a National System for the management of Protected Areas;**
- ⇒ **Water and Food security;**
- ⇒ **Absence of a National Land Use Policy;**
- ⇒ **A National Vision Plan**

11. Establish development zones for sectors such as tourism, agriculture etc.;
12. Investment in more renewable energy technologies;
13. Grant concessions to facilitate adoption of sustainable development measures;
14. Adopt a national policy on food consumption and production;

On the question of whether the millennium development goals and sustainable development themes going back to RIO+20 are adequately addressing National needs the meeting concluded that Saint Lucia has met some of the goals particularly with respect to poverty reduction. However, it is felt that much more can be done.

On the question of whether there is consensus among policy makers on the meaning of the term GE in the context of SD and poverty reduction the responses suggest that there is no consensus on definition of a green economy and that efforts should be made to tailor the global definition to suit Saint Lucia. It was noted that some aspects of the definition e.g. low carbon issues are already being addressed under the  Montreal Protocol and that on 9th June 2011 Saint Lucia held a national consultation highlighting the green economy. To date, the term green economy has been applied to mean the use of alternative energy, a healthier and safer environment and green jobs.

3.0 Assessment of Progress Made towards Sustainable Development

This Section of the report gives an update of progress made by Saint Lucia towards achieving the objectives and themes of the UNCSD. It focuses on the political commitment for sustainable development, the status of implementation of the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development, new and emerging challenges, the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Saint Lucia's update will be based on national experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to the specific UNCSD objective. Further details of the findings relating to each objective are provided in the sub-sections that follow.

3.1 Renewing Political Commitment for Sustainable Development

3.1.1 National Experiences

Saint Lucia is able to measure political commitment to sustainable development based on the extent to which integration is encouraged and financially supported. Some of the relevant indicators of political commitment include:

- (i) The provision of adequate annual budgetary allocation and institutional support to appropriate line ministries and public agencies;
- (ii) The enactment of new legislation or the amendment of existing legislative instruments as required;
- (iii) The introduction of accompanying regulations and sector policies on a timely basis;
- (iv) The reflection of the thematic areas in the work programme of critical line ministries; and
- (v) The participation of officials from Saint Lucia in the international meetings and capacity building opportunities.

The level of political commitment demonstrated by the present government of Saint Lucia can be described as high in the sense that it has established a Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology. Although past governments were committed, other national priorities sometimes took precedence and inhibited their ability to make adequate annual budgetary allocation or provide other forms of institutional support to appropriate line ministries and public agencies.

The international community demonstrates a high level of political commitment to sustainable development by continuing technical assistance and Saint Lucia with the programmes and projects development. While the appreciates all the assistance



to pledge and/or providing financial support to assist implementation of its plans, related to sustainable government of Saint Lucia and funding received over

the years, the adequacy and timing of the support is still a matter of concern.

3.1.2 Success Factors

At the regional level, Saint Lucia has joined regional governments in taking a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening political support for Sustainable Development. For example, as a member of the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) Saint Lucia is a signatory to the St. Georges Declaration, a protocol declaring the commitment of OECS Member States to manage resources in a sustainable manner. The St. Georges Declaration on Principles for Environmental Sustainability which was originally signed in 2001 and revised in 2006 outlines twenty (20) Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS.

At the national level, Saint Lucia has made some progress in addressing vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) according to a 2009 review. Although Saint Lucia does not have a documented national sustainable development strategy (NSDS), the development agenda is guided by various instruments such as the Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper (MTESP), the annual Budget Speeches, the annual Estimates of Expenditure (Budget) and the Corporate Plans of individual ministries. The review questioned whether the NSDS was necessary given Saint Lucia's limited human and financial resource capacity and suggested instead that NSDS should be replaced by a process that allows for a coordinated set of participatory and continuously evolving process of analysis, debate, decision making, capacity development, planning, investment, monitoring and evaluation.

According to the report, Saint Lucia needed to take steps to cope with the global crisis and improve its development prospects by adopting resilience building strategies and diversifying into new economic activities. However, if Saint Lucia continues with policies that focus mainly on attracting investment in the tourism sector then her vulnerability will increase.

The report also pointed out that to achieve sustainable development Saint Lucia would need to establish certain priorities. Areas identified include: increasing FDI flows, removing existing

tariff and non-tariff barriers, providing support to overcome supply-side constraints, expanding level of technical expertise and providing greater support for social sector development.

Finding adequate resources to undertake all that is required was seen as the main shortcoming of past efforts and a critical challenge to sustainable development for Saint Lucia. Nevertheless, the report acknowledged that Saint Lucia demonstrated her commitment to sustainable development by utilizing principally its own resources in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, while at the same time addressing increasing obligations under international agreements. Also, while the international community has provided some financing and technical assistance in some sectors, for the most part, Saint Lucia's efforts have been pursued within the constraints of limited financial resources.



Much of the work undertaken by Saint Lucia in the various sectors has been in the form of projects funded external agencies. However, most of these sector activities have not been sustained beyond the life of the projects. This trend seemed to have continued to the present period as there is no evidence of a change in approach to date.

The observation that past interventions have focused mainly on activities such as assessments and reviews, drafting of policies and legislation and designing of institutional frameworks remains valid today. In fact, there is evidence of some preparatory work (e.g. field research, testing and land acquisition), being done to promote renewable energy technology, and to date, Saint Lucia has made some progress with small PV projects, net metering, while energy service companies are emerging.

Saint Lucia is one of the Caribbean countries that have already experience the impact of extreme weather conditions. Between December 2009 and January 2010 Saint Lucia suffered from a severe drought that lasted nearly six (6) weeks. Then in October 2010, Hurricane Tomas dealt a

severe blow to the country's agriculture, water supply system, road infrastructure and housing stock.

There are specific sectors or areas where national political commitment to achieve sustainable development goals has been especially strong. Sectors and/or areas in which this commitment is especially strong are discussed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Political Support for Sustainable Development by Sector/Area

	Sector	Action Taken
1	Energy	Adopted a National Sustainable Energy Plan Introduced incentives for renewable energy Approved hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase Out Management Plan that promotes energy efficient technology
2	Forestry	-Developed a Forest Management Plan in 2002 Conducted a comprehensive Forest Inventory 2009-Listed as a Referral Agency of the Development Control Authority (DCA)
3	Fisheries	Ratified the UN Fish Stock Agreement -Established the Soufriere Marine Management Authority (SMMA) -Established a National Fish Marketing Corporation and a number of Fish Facilities island-wide Enact the Fisheries Management Act Endorsed the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Ratified the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy
4	Tourism	Introduced a new tourism investment policy
5	Transport	Introduced a new levy to control importation of used vehicles
6	Water	Enacted new water sector legislation that provides for: -A Water Resource Management Agency to manage the resource -An independent National Water & Sewerage Commission to regulate water operators and set water tariff
7	Biodiversity	Approved a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
8	Climate Change	Established a multi-sectoral National Climate Change Committee Appointed dedicated staff to handle climate change issues Adopted a National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Plan

		Approved hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase Out Management Plan that promotes the transition to low GWP alternatives to ozone depleting substances
9	Coastal Zone Management	Adopted a National Coastal Zone Management Policy
10	Development Planning	Initiated the IDP process
11	Environment	Adopted a National Environmental Policy (NEP) Adopted a National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)
12	Socio-Economic	Established a National Economic & Social Council Prepared a five-year Draft Medium-Term Strategy Paper

Some of the main factors contributing to the level of commitment include:

1. Proactive and visionary leadership at the sector and agency levels;
2. Evidence of sound action planning at the agency level;
3. A history of significant achievements at the sector and agency levels;
4. Timely attention given to putting institutional support mechanisms in place;
5. Readiness of external agencies to provide project funding or technical assistance;
6. The capacity of public agencies to manage and account for donor funds; and
7. Government's approval of annual budgetary allocations for counterpart contributions.

3.1.3 Main Challenges

Some priorities proposed for accelerating progress towards sustainable development include:

- ✓ Revamping the Integrated Development Planning approach;
- ✓ Developing actions for the implementation of the National Vision Plan;
- ✓ Establishing clear national goals for sustainable development;
- ✓ Introducing policies to foster attitudinal and behavioural change to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

International cooperation can strengthen support for sustainable development in Saint Lucia by continuing to provide much-needed technical and financial assistance to implement approved national plans, programmes and projects. It is anticipated that the UNCSA will assist with the provision of policy guidelines on sustainable development; the identification of opportunities for capacity building; the sharing of information on best practices and lessons learnt in formulating and implementing sustainable development plans, strategies; the development of models for defining national priorities;

3.1.4 Related Risks

With regard to the three pillars of sustainable development the predominant view of senior policy makers is that Saint Lucia faces the challenge of striking a balance for economic development whilst ensuring environmental integrity. The lack of national funding also means reliance on external investors whose goals may not be exactly the priorities of government. Issues of limited funding, limited size and limited technology also make the goal of sustainable development more of a challenge.

3.2 Implementing the Outcomes of Major Sustainable Development Summits

3.2.1 National Experiences

Among the indicators on sustainable development the economic, comprehensive, poverty, and environmental indicators have proven to be most useful for assessing gaps and progress towards sustainable development and all these indicators are considered important.



Although Saint Lucia has adopted a several national plans and strategies the country is not in a position to determine which indicators of integrated goals and strategies have been useful because very little attention was given to them in past years. However, a over the past eighteen (18) years Saint Lucia has made some progress in addressing vulnerabilities of Small Island

Developing States (SIDS) Through Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) according to a 2009 review.

3.2.2 Success Factors

With funding from UNDESA and support from the OECS, the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment spearheaded implementation of a project aimed at promoting an Integrated Development Planning approach in Saint Lucia. The project encouraged collaboration among various public agencies involved in implementing plans, programs and projects for sustainable development. It also sought to integrate environmental, social, cultural and economic factors in national development policies and plans.

Implementation of the IDP project raised a number of critical issues and posed a number of challenges for Saint Lucia. Principal among them were the inadequacy of the human and financial resources allocated, delays in introducing supporting regulations, lack of coordination of the IDP process among key stakeholders and an overly ambitious timeframe set for completing the project.

Activities carried out by the ministry under each of the *four main goals* of the project are as follows:

Goal 1-Public Awareness Raising and Baseline Study

Under this goal the ministry published weekly articles in the local newspapers; held press briefings, circulated press releases; produced a poster; prepared public service announcements and a short documentary for the local media. It also convened meetings, organized conferences and seminars; and kept all key stakeholders informed about on the IDP process. Additionally, the ministry established a multi-sectoral core group to guide the IDP process and hired a consultant to conduct a country assessment baseline study.

Goal 2-Capacity Building and National Visioning

In November 2003, the ministry convened a national visioning consultation to develop elements of a vision for national development. The multi-sectoral core group held several meetings and used the IDP approach in preparing the Medium Term Development Strategy.

In June 2004, the Ministry supported by the Ministry of Social Transformation convened a National Stakeholder's Workshop to sensitize community groups about their role in national development and to promote the IDP process. About one hundred and three (103) participants from across the island attended the workshop.

Goal 3-National Indicators for Sustainable Development

Staff of the Ministry in collaboration with a consultant compiled a set of possible indicators. The Ministry then convened a two-day consultation to review the draft indicators. Using the feedback obtained at the national consultation and information gathered from a regional assessment of best practices, the ministry adopted a manageable and relevant list of national indicators for sustainable development.

Goal 4-Framework for a National Sustainable Development Strategy

To achieve this goal, the Ministry in consultation with key stakeholders organized, coordinated and facilitated discussions leading to the narrowing of the development imperatives. In June 2004, the Ministry held a Civil Society Forum and at the end of this exercise produced an Outline Sustainable Development Strategy for Saint Lucia.

In order to fulfill the objectives of Agenda 21, the government agencies in Saint Lucia was expected to enter into dialogue with citizens, local organizations and private enterprises and adopt a local Agenda 21. Among the approaches used by the relevant government agencies was the organization of stakeholder consultations to identify problems and to build consensus on measures required to solve them.

Key stakeholders representatives of civil society, community-based organizations, the private sector and trade unions across the country have participated in a series of sustainable development activities. Information gathered from these sessions will be used to formulate an Agenda 21 strategy for Saint Lucia that will reflect an integrated approach to sustainable development.

There have been at least two recent initiatives to establish public-private partnerships for sustainable development in Saint Lucia particularly in the energy sector. One is a proposal involving the national electricity company and government to establish a wind farm and the other is between a private company and the national electricity company.

Technical assistance from the UN system entities is a key factor in explaining progress with sustainable development in Saint Lucia. All major sectors and areas such as water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity, forests, climate change, tourism and transport have benefited from technical assistance.

3.2.3 Challenges

The major barriers to implementation considered most important include inadequate coordination between ministries, low political priority for integrated decision making and lack of empirical data. Of secondary importance is the inadequate or unpredictable international support and inadequate public awareness or engagement.

In order to address these barriers and in an effort to bridge the implementation gaps government need to allocate adequate human and financial resources to implement initiatives. There is also the need for policy makers to approve on a timely basis, policy proposals, projects and plans submitted for consideration and approval.

One of the main difficulties experienced in promoting integrated planning and decision making is a lack of a comprehensive understanding of the role of I integrated planning and the process.

There are also gaps and conflicts in existing legislation and policies as well as a business as usual approach to planning adopted by the various sectors.

It is proposed that government grant incentives to promote effective voluntary actions and partnerships. Government should also implement an education and awareness programme and introduce measures to create a sense of public ownership and involvement.

3.2.4 Risks

The main risk to sustained progress towards convergence among the three pillars of sustainable development is the possibility that resources and political support will not be sustained.

3.3 Addressing New and Emerging Challenges

3.3.1 Experiences

New and emerging challenges identified as likely to affect most significantly Saint Lucia's prospects for sustainable development in the coming decade are as follows:

1. The continuous fluctuation of oil prices on the world market;
2. The need for invasive species management is critical to improving protection of the environment;
3. The frequency of extreme weather events and the increasing incidence of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and storms resulting in flooding, land slippages and sea level rise;
4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation;
5. The continuing destruction of protected areas such as mangroves and animal species such as the Iguana and the lion fish;
6. The fragile nature of the tourism-based economy, the opening of new tourism destination such as Cuba and surviving in the face of new competition as well as the impact of policies introduced by other countries such as carbon tax in the UK and the possibility that these measures will be extended to cover trade;
7. Unemployment and upsurge in crime;
8. Increased air, water and land pollution, the use of the forest by households and business places for waste disposal and the absence of national system for waste management;
9. A reduction in funding and technical assistance from donor agencies for the implementation of plans, programmes and projects;
10. Inadequate annual budgetary allocation for counterpart contributions.

Some of the national mechanisms proposed to address the challenges identified are already stated in Text Box 3.

- However, one additional mechanism is the need for increased national research and appropriate application of Science, Technology and Innovation to support Sustainable Development.

In the past, the international community has provided support in areas relating to climate change but additional support is still needed in all areas. Five areas of priority which the UNCSA should act are renewable energy, green economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, invasive species management and solid waste management.

3.3.2 Success Factors

Several factors would explain the ability of Saint Lucia to address new and emerging challenges. Some notable ones include:

- Literacy and awareness among the population;
- Availability of data and technical capacity;
- Dedicated national sustainable development programmes
- Cooperation at the level of the OECS sub-region and the CARICOM region.

Steps already taken or under consideration to enhance these success factors are:

- Mobilizing additional resources from international agencies to implement plans, programmes and projects;
- Implementing public education and national skills training programmes;
- Building a research capacity and establishing appropriate databases;

3.3.3 Overcoming the Challenges

It is possible to strengthen the link between science, education and policy so as to address the new and emerging challenges by building the research capacity and enhancing the ability of officials to formulate sustainable development policies.

Over the years, Saint Lucia established a number National Focal Points through which efforts were made to harness international support to address some of the new and emerging challenges. There is therefore a need to continue working through these existing mechanisms to mobilize additional resources.

3.3.4 Risks

The new and emerging challenges may not be effectively addressed and could pose a risk to the prospect of economic growth and development in Saint Lucia if the designated National Focal Points are no longer active. However, in 1998, the government of Saint Lucia established the Poverty Reduction Fund to implement projects aimed specifically at addressing the risks to the poor and other vulnerable groups in the population. A few years later the capacity of this institution was further enhanced when it was merged with the Basic Needs Trust Fund to create the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund. The SSDF can be a useful vehicle to address the risks to the poor and other vulnerable groups in the population as long as it is given the resources and allowed to effectively carry out its mandate.

3.4 The Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

One focus of the Conference is on the theme: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. A green economy is regarded as an economy that results in **improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities**. A green economy can also be thought of as one which is **low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive**.

At the moment, policy makers in Saint Lucia have a common understanding of the green economy but no consensus on a definition. In June 2011, Saint Lucia held a Second National Environment Forum on the theme “Walking the Path towards a Green Economy.” However, since the forum did not reach any conclusion on the matter there is a need to tailor the global definition to suit Saint Lucia. It is noted that certain aspects of the definition e.g. low carbon issues, are already being addressed under the Montreal Protocol.

With regard to green economic policies Saint Lucia held a national consultation in June 2011 which is called for by the NEP/NEMs. This exercise did not lead to any immediate policy changes. While Saint Lucia is yet to introduce a set of policies that form part of a coherent green growth strategy work is shortly to commence on enunciation of a national green economy strategy. A major benefit to be derived from such a strategy is a more integrated and environmentally sustainable approach to the attainment of national development goals.

Economic sectors considered to be most important to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication are forestry, fisheries, agriculture, energy, transport, water, finance, tourism, construction and manufacturing.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas in October 2010, the Development Control Authority (DCA) adopted a policy requiring all developers submitting proposals for new buildings to include provisions for rain water catchment and storage. Another policy measure introduced by Saint Lucia is to allow eligible companies duty-free concessions for the importation of renewable energy technologies.

3.4.1 Success Factors

One of the green economy policies considered to be the most effective is the environmental levy which is intended to control the importation of new and used vehicles over five (5) years into the country. Since its introduction, there has been a marked reduction in the number of used vehicles over five (5) years imported into the country and related to that the number of derelict vehicles seen parked along roadsides and occupying much needed vehicular space all over the country.

The various green economy policies introduced by the government of Saint Lucia have contributed in many ways to poverty eradication and to the attainment of other sustainable development goals. For instance, these policies have influenced government and organizations to take actions in different sectors that have led to employment generation, energy conservation and biodiversity conservation.

There are many important reasons why the various green economy policies introduced by the government of Saint Lucia have been successful. One is that the policies were formulated in consultation with the major stakeholders and therefore responded to their felt needs and reflected their concerns. Another reason is that the government of Saint Lucia has provided the political support to the relevant ministries and/or public agencies to ensure they have the institutional and technical capacity to implement the policies.

Specific actions taken by the government of Saint Lucia that have proven effective in building political and popular ownership for green economy measures reflected unique features. For instance, these measures were developed after thorough research, key stakeholders were fully involved in the formulation of the policy proposals and recommendations provided options that were politically, legally, socially, economically, administratively and technically feasible.

3.4.2 Challenges

To date, there is no evidence of Saint Lucia having conducted any formal studies on the green economy that identify success factors, challenges or risks associated with green economy policies. However, it is anticipated that the 2012 UNCSD will review the term green economy and qualify the definition thereby enabling Saint Lucia to develop an appropriate national definition.

3.4.3 Risks

Green economy policies depend to a large extent on components of other policies and modalities for implementation. In some cases other policy measures have to be amended to be consistent with provisions of green economy policies and to that extent they can be regarded as providing support for each other.

3.5 The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

Another focus of the Conference will be on the theme: the institutional framework for sustainable development.

3.5.1 Experiences

In the case of Saint Lucia, the creation of an appropriate institutional framework for sustainable development involved the application of a combination of reform approaches. The approaches used were to strengthen existing institutions, establish new institutions and improve coordination among institutions involved in carrying out sustainable development activities.

The Government of Saint Lucia approved changes to existing Institutions such as expanding the portfolio to the Ministry of Physical Development and Housing by adding the Environment function. Government also approved the upgrading of the SDES of the Ministry to the SDED and the creation of three (3) additional staff positions to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Division.

In order to ensure adequate coordination between public agencies and key stakeholders participating in the environmental management process the Government of Saint Lucia approved the reactivation of the NEC which was dormant for some time. This institutional framework facilitates collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders, promotes IDP and coordinates environmental management activities and initiatives at the national level.

A number of National Committees and Technical Working Groups have been established to guide the implementation of activities in specific areas covered by the various conventions. Although these Committees are considered useful they are generally underutilized.

Saint Lucia also has a National Economic Social Council that could provide technical advice and support with respect to national socio-economic policies and plans. However, the Council was defunct for some time but although reactivated it does not meet regularly.

Local government institutions by their mandate can only play a limited role in the implementation of sustainable development activities. These institutions focus more on providing and maintaining essential services at the community, village, town and city levels.

Since Rio 1992, the participation of key stakeholders in national decision-making processes sustainable development have significantly increased. Participation has taken the form of input in policy development, inclusion in national delegations, partnerships and in multi-stakeholder consultations.

Government ministries, public agencies, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations collaborate on issues of sustainable development. They participate in multi-stakeholder consultations, take joint initiatives and are included in national delegations to attend regional and international meetings on sustainable development.

3.5.2 Success Factors

The establishment of a National Ozone Unit (NOU) has led to Saint Lucia phasing out CFCs in 2008, ahead of the 2010 target. Saint Lucia also has an approved HCFC phase out Management plan (HPMP) which it is currently implementing. The establishment of a National Climate Change Committee has supported the effective implementation of a number of climate change initiatives. One of the lessons learnt is that the government needs to provide support for the establishment and functioning national sustainable development Units if they are to be effective.

The lessons learnt can be used to enhance the effectiveness of international environmental governance/policy guidance by establishing appropriate platforms and for sharing information on best practices. In the case of Saint Lucia, one of the most effective means of strengthening the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in national sustainable development efforts is to involve them through the consultative process and make resources available to implementations agreed upon.

3.5.3 Challenges

On the one hand, international institutions charged with responsibility for promoting sustainable development are faced with the challenge of determining areas of priority to channel the limited human, technical and financial resources available to them. They are also faced with the challenge of identifying and justifying the regions and/or countries to focus their resources in support of sustainable development initiatives.

On the other hand, national institutions charged with responsibility for promoting sustainable development are faced with the challenge of building the requisite capacity needed to implement work programmes aimed at addressing the pillars of sustainable development. They are also faced with the challenge of securing adequate annual budgetary allocation to implement plans, programmes and projects relating to sustainable development; enacting legislation and promulgating policies to facilitate sustainable development; collaborating with each other to successfully adopt integrated development planning and ensuring the sensitization and dedication of policy makers.

3.5.4 Risks

Saint Lucia looks forward to the UNCSO establishing mechanisms to facilitate the accomplishment of sustainable development goals at the national level. It is assumed that like other countries sustainable development will remain a priority and will be reflected in the policy pronouncements, decisions on institutional frameworks annual budgetary allocations of the government.

4.0 Strengthening the National Sustainable Development Agenda

This Section highlights the main conclusions reached and goes on to make specific recommendations to strengthen the national sustainable development agenda.

4.1 Summary of Conclusions

Based on the assessment of the progress made by Saint Lucia towards achieving the goals of sustainable development the following conclusions were arrived at:

- (a) Saint Lucia has and continues to demonstrate a high level of political commitment to the goals of sustainable development by enacting legislation and approving policies on a timely basis;
- (b) Saint Lucia has taken steps to implement the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development. However, it has had difficulty in applying the IDP principles in planning and implementing activities;
- (c) Saint Lucia has identified a number of new and emerging challenges and has taken steps or proposed measures to address them. However, the level of resources allocated to address them is inadequate and international assistance is required to address them;
- (d) Saint Lucia has held a national consultation on the green economy. However, stakeholders are yet to reach national consensus on a definition; there is a lack of a coherent set of policies to facilitate the growth of a green economy, Saint Lucia has not initiated studies on the green economy and current activities are by and large uncoordinated;
- (e) Saint Lucia has an established national institutional framework for the implementation and coordination of sustainable development activities but inadequate resource to support them remains a major challenge;
- (f) Saint Lucia has established National Committees or Technical Working Groups to guide the implementation of activities relating to specific conventions. However, many of the National Committees or Technical Working Groups are inactive or underutilized.

4.2 Recommendations for the way forward

In light of the foregoing the following are recommended:

4.2.1 Renewing Political Commitment for Sustainable Development

- (i) Continue to provide political support to achieve the goals of sustainable development by enacting legislation and approving policies on a timely basis;

- (ii) Make adequate annual budgetary allocations for the work to be carried out by the line ministries, the National Environment Commission and the Social and Economic Council;

4.2.2 Implementing Outcomes of Major Summits on Sustainable Development

- (i) Consider developing a new project to consolidate application of the IDP principles in national development policy and planning;

4.2.3 New and Emerging Challenges

- (i) Establish priorities from the new and emerging challenges identified, make budgetary allocations and seek international assistance to address them

4.2.4 Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

- (i) Hold a follow-up national consultation on the green economy with key stakeholders to reach national consensus on a definition, develop appropriate policies to facilitate the growth of a green economy, initiate a study on the green economy and establish mechanisms to ensure effective coordination of activities;
- (ii) Undertake policy reform to stimulate green investment and enable green economic transition;

Appendix 1 - LIST OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED FOR STOCKTAKING REPORT (RIO +20 REPORT)

No	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
1	Mr. John Joseph	Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO)	General Manager
2	Mr. Michel Andrew	Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA)	Officer in Charge
3	Mr. Michael Bobb	Forestry Department	Officer in Charge
4	Mr. Lyndon John	Forestry Department	Deputy Chief Forestry Officer
5	Mrs. Sarah George	Fisheries Department	Chief Fisheries Officer
6	Mrs. Patricia Aquing	Caribbean Environment Health Institute (CEHI)	Executive Director
7	Ms. Esther Lucien	Sustainable Land Management Unit	Project Coordinator
8	Mr. Ivor Daniel	Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities	Deputy Permanent Secretary
9	Mr. John Calixte	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Deputy Permanent secretary/ Deputy NAO
10	Ms. Anita James	Biodiversity Unit, Min of Agriculture	Biodiversity Coordinator
11	Mr. George James	Ministry of Physical Development	Permanent Secretary
12	Ms. Joanna Charles	Bank of St Lucia	Representative Bankers Association
13	Ms. Delia Charlemagne	Scotia Bank	Representative Bankers Association
14	Ms. Ann-Margaret Xavier	Ministry of Tourism	Director of Product Development
15	Mr. Urban Preville	Power Engineering Services	Executive Director
16	Mrs. Venetia Salton	Caribbean Microfinance (St Lucia) Ltd	Managing Director

Appendix 2 - List of Documents Reviewed

No	Document Title	Date Published
1	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Saint Lucia	2000
2	Review of Progress made in Addressing Vulnerabilities of SIDS Through Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA)	November 2009
3	National Water Policy	2004
4	Identification and Prioritization of Capacity Needs and Elaboration of a National Capacity Building Action Plan	October 2007
5	St. Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS	April 2001 & November 2006
6	The Integrated Development Planning for Sustainable Development Project in Saint Lucia	December 2004
7	UNEP Secretariat Input to the Compilation Document for UNCSD	
8	Report of Saint Lucia's Second National Environment Development Forum (NEDF2)	9 th June 2011
9	UNCSD Secretariat RIO 2012 Issues Briefs No 4	
10	UNCSD Secretariat RIO + 20, Volume 2, Issue 21	16 th November 2011
11	The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Submission to UNCSD	Undated
12	Chairman's Draft Report of Caribbean RIO + 20 Preparatory Meeting, Georgetown, Guyana	20 th June 2011
13	Second National Communication on Climate Change for Saint Lucia	December 2011

Appendix 3 – National Consultation Participants

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Appendix 4 – List of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ratified

Title	Focal Point	Aim/Objective (s)	Current Status	Issues
1. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ratified in 1996	Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 4 th & 5 th Floor, Stanislaus James Building Waterfront, Castries Tel: 4684134/4135 Fax: 45823853 Email: deptfish@slumaff.org	-To safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and also creates an innovative legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction, through International Seabed Authority.	-Active involvement in negotiations. -Many obligations under Convention met under Fisheries Act and Regulations which were revised recently. -Legislation also attempts to address the Conservation for Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on High Seas (Compliance Agreement) as well as that referring to Highly Migratory Species.	-Human resources constraints. -Ability of Convention to meet the specific needs of SIDS.
2. International Convention for Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on High Seas				
3. International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946 Ratified in 1981	Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 4 th & 5 th Floor, Stanislaus James Building Waterfront, Castries Tel: 4684134/4135 Fax: 45823853 Email: deptfish@slumaff.org	Protection of all whale species from overhunting, establishment of a system of international regulation for the whale fisheries to ensure proper conservation and development of whale stocks, and safeguarding for future generations the great natural resources represented by whale stocks.	-Active involvement in International Whaling Commission meetings. -Cetacean Sighting Surveys conducted annually	Saint Lucia targets smaller cetaceans which are not the main focus of the IWC. However, important to keep involved due to national “sustainable use” policy.
4. Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN				

5. Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Ministry of Education			
6. Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO)				
7. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Ratified in 1991	Department of Fisheries, Forestry & Land Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 4 th & 5 th Floor, Stanilaus James Building Waterfront, Castries Tel: 4684134/4135 Fax: 45823853 Email: deptfish@slumaff.org	To encourage the identification, protection, and preservation of earth's cultural and natural heritage. It recognizes that nature and culture are complementary and that cultural identity is strongly related to the natural environment in which it develops.		
8. Convention of the World Meteorological Organization		-Provide mandatory targets on greenhouse-gas emissions for the world's leading economies all of whom accepted it at the time; -Provide flexibility in how countries meet their targets; -Further recognize that commitments under the Protocol would vary from country to country.		

<p>9. Convention on International Civil Aviation Annex 16 Aircraft Noise</p>		<p>To establish international standards, recommended practices and procedures covering the technical, economic and legal fields of international civil aviation operations. In short, it is responsible for promoting the safety, regularity and efficiency of international civil aviation.</p>		
<p>10. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Ratified in 1983</p>	<p>(Dept. Forestry, Land/Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture (Forestry/Fisheries)</p>	<p>To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival and accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants.</p>	<p>-Active involvement in meetings and negotiations -International Trade in Endangered Species Act completed and to go before Cabinet shortly. -International Trade in Endangered Species Act completed and to go before Cabinet shortly. -A 2-year project submitted for funding.</p>	
<p>11. Convention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)</p>		<p>Promotes the regulation of international commercial shipping, encouraging cooperation among governments in a wide variety of technical matters. In addition, the agency supports high standards in maritime safety, promotes efficient navigation, and encourages the control and prevention of marine pollution.</p>		
<p>12. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter Ratified in 1985</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture Department of Fisheries</p>	<p>Preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations.</p>		

<p>13. Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques</p> <p>Ratified in 1993</p>	<p>Ministry of Physical Development (Sustainable Development & Environment Section</p>	<p>To prohibit military or other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to further world peace and trust among nations.</p>		
<p>14. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling of Biological and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction</p> <p>Ratified in 1986</p>	<p>Ministry of Physical Development Sustainable Development & Environment Section</p>	<p>To exclude completely the possibility of bacteriological agents and toxins being used as weapons.</p>		
<p>15. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 1971(RAMSAR)</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p>	<p>To stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now in the future, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value</p>		
<p>16. Convention to Combat Desertification</p> <p>Ratified in 1997</p>	<p>Dept. Forestry and Lands Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p>	<p>To combat desertification and mitigate the effect of drought in countries experiencing serious drought land/desertification.</p>		

17. International Convention relating to the Limitation of the Liability of Owners of Sea going Ships				
18. International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa				
19. International Labour Standards, International Labour Conventions and ILO Recommendations, notably Convention 13				
20. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) Ratified in 1993	<p>1. Sustainable Development and Environment Section</p> <p>Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing</p>	<p>"To achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a low enough level to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."</p>	<p>Active participation in negotiations. Implementation of numerous assessment and adaptation projects.</p> <p>Preparation of 1st National Communication Preparation of National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Strategy Training in Vulnerability Assessment, Greenhouse gas inventory and other areas. Improvement of meteorological data collection for long-term trend analysis</p>	

<p>21. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and Protocol on Co-operation in Combating Oils Spills (Cartagena Convention)</p> <p>Ratified in 1985</p>	<p>2. Sustainable Development and Environment Section Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing Graheam Louisy Administrative Building P.O.Box 709 Waterfront, Castries Tel:1758-4518746/468-4459 Fax:4530781</p>	<p>To provide a framework for regional cooperation and assistance in the event of an oil spill incident in the Caribbean region.</p>		
<p>22. Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Ratified in 1990</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (Dept. of Fisheries/Forest and Lands)</p>	<p>To significantly increase the number of and improve the management of national protected areas and species in the region, including the development of biosphere reserves, where appropriate</p>		
<p>23. Protocol concerning pollution from land-based sources of Marine Pollution in the Wider Caribbean, 1999 (LSBMP)</p>	<p>3. Sustainable Development and Environment Section Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing Graham Louisy Administrative Building P.O.Box 709 Waterfront, Castries Tel:1758-4518746/468-4459 Fax:4530781 Email:sde@planning.gov.lc</p>	<p>To prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources.</p>		

<p>Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol)</p> <p>Ratified in 1993</p>	<p>4. Sustainable Development and Environment Section Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing Graheam Louisy Administrative Building P.O.Box 709 Waterfront, Castries Tel:1758-4518746/468-4459 Fax:4530781 Email:sde@planning.gov.lc</p>	<p>To take appropriate measures to protect the ozone layer and to regulate the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of Customs Officers ▪ Training of Refrigeration Technicians ▪ Implementation of import/export licences. ▪ Has reduce consumption of CFs by over 80% 	
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Appendix 5 – Saint Lucia’s Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals by Sector

1.0 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

No	Institutional Mechanism	Sector Policy, Legislation and Regulations	Sector Plan
1.1	<i>Agricultural Sector</i>		
	The Department of Agriculture was established to implement government’s policy on Agricultural management	-Enacted the Agricultural Small Tenancies Act (1983) -Enacted a Land Conservation & Improvement Act (1992) -Enacted a Pesticides Control Act (1975) -Introduced Pesticides Control Regulations (1987)	
1.2	<i>Forestry Sector</i>		
	The Forestry Department was established to implement government’s policy on forest management	Completed a Draft legislation “International Trade in Endangered Species Act” to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration. The Act provides for a scientific authority to undertake studies on habitat management and collect base line data and for the establishment of a Management Authority to issue permits for the import/export of the Saint Lucia Parrot, the Boa Constrictor etc. -Enacted the Wildlife Protection Act in 1980	
1.3	<i>Fisheries Sector</i>		
	The Fisheries Department was established to implement government’s policy on fisheries management	Ratified the UN Fish Stock Agreement Established the Soufriere Marine Management Agreement Established a National Fish Marketing Corporation and supporting Fish Facilities island-wide Enacted the Fisheries Management Act which makes provision for an inter-agency Advisory Committee Endorsed the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Ratified the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy	
1.4	<i>Water Sector</i>		

	<p>The Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA) was established to implement government's policy on water resource management.</p> <p>-WRMA prepared a National Water Policy which was endorsed by Cabinet in 2004</p>	<p>The Water and Sewerage Act enacted in 2005 was revised in 2008</p>	<p>Developed a Water Master Plan, a Strategic Action Plan and issued seven (7) abstraction licenses to water operators. Intends to develop a Watershed Management Plan.</p> <p>Government amended the Planning Act to promote rainwater harvesting and is currently implementing two pilot projects in Babonneau and the Mabouya Valley. Since the drought of 2009/10 the Ministry has embarked on a water sector reform project.</p>
1.5	<i>Biodiversity Sector</i>		
	<p>The Biodiversity Unit was established to implement the government's policy on national biodiversity management</p>		<p>Developed a National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2000. The NBSAP provides clear guidelines for biodiversity management, promotes an ecosystem approach and integrated watershed management.</p>

2.0 Ministry of Physical Development & Environment

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
2.1	<i>Land Management</i>		
	<p>The Ministry prepared a National Land Policy which was endorsed by Cabinet</p>	<p>-Enacted the Physical Planning and Development Control Act (2001)</p> <p>-Enacted the Land Management and Improvement Act (1992)</p>	<p>-Government amended the Planning Act to promote rainwater harvesting and is currently implementing two pilot projects in Babonneau and the Mabouya Valley. Since the drought of 2009/10 the Ministry has embarked on a water sector reform project.</p>
2.2	<i>Energy/Renewable Sector</i>		

	Prepared a national energy policy endorsed by Government	Reviewed the Electricity Supply Act so as to make provision that would allow for renewable energy	-Government signed an agreement with a company (UNDEC) to commence geothermal exploration and to revive geothermal energy -Government has acquired lands to support efforts by LUCELEC to develop a wind farm and to pilot a project to utilize solar energy. -In an island green initiative government signed an agreement with a company to generate energy from waste.
2.3	<i>Coastal Zone Management</i>		
	The Coastal Zone Management Unit was established to implement government's policy on coastal zone management		A draft Coastal Zone Management Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared for submission to Cabinet
2.4	<i>Solid Waste Management</i>		
	The Solid Waste Management Authority was established to implement government policy on solid waste disposal	The Solid Waste Management Act of 1996	Prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan
2.5	<i>National Development</i>		
	A National Environment Policy (NEP) was approved by GOSL in 2005		Adopted a National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) and strengthening the capacity of local institutions to engage in strategic planning. NEMS provides a broad framework to guide local institutions when developing sector plans to fulfill their environment management responsibilities

3.0 Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
3.1	<i>Transport Sector</i>		
	Introduced an Environmental Levy to limit the importation of used vehicles that are over five (5)		

	years old into the country		
3.2	<i>Energy Sector</i>		

4.0 The Ministry of Education

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
4.1	Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)		

5.0 The Ministry of Economic Affairs

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
5.1	<i>Economic Sector</i>		The Ministry has developed a Medium Term Strategy and Action Plan.

6.0 Ministry of Finance

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
6.1	<i>Financial Sector</i>		The Ministry has developed a Medium Term Strategy and Action Plan.
6.2	<i>Banking Sector</i>		
6.3	<i>Micro-Finance</i>		

7.0 Ministry of Tourism

No	Sector Policy	Legislation	Sector Plan
7.1	<i>Tourism Sector</i>		The Ministry has developed a Medium Term Strategy and Action Plan.