

**Green
Economy**



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

**Technical Report
No. 404**



**Exploring opportunities for transformation to
inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies in the
Eastern Caribbean**



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Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Technical Report No. 404

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The study benefitted from a conceptual framework developed by the GEC. Review and input were received from representatives of OECS Member States and Associate Member territories, staff in the OECS Commission and representatives of the OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability participating in a webinar held 11 June 2018. Input was also received from regional green economy (GE) experts and practitioners including members of the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group (GE ALG). The study also benefitted from the wealth of available literature on related activities in the region and internationally.

The final report was presented to the Fifth Meeting of the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability held July 10-11, 2018 in Montserrat, with the recommendation that this be used as a foundation for development of a strategic definition, agenda and plan for work for an Inclusive Green Economy in the OECS sub-region.



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Acronyms

BMCs	Borrowing Member Countries
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CROP	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project
CRS	Climate Resilience Strategy
C-SERMS	Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy
DFID	Department for International Development
ECROP	Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE ALG	Green Economy Action Learning Group
GE	Green Economy
GEC	(Global) Green Economy Coalition
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GGKP	Green Growth Knowledge Platform
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
LEDs	Low Emission Development Strategies
NE	New economy
NSAP	Non-State Actors Advisory Panel
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Program
ROM	Results Oriented Monitoring
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDD	Sustainable Development Dimensions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGD	St. Georges Declaration of Principles on Environmental Sustainability
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TOR	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN Environment	United Nations Environment
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
USA	United States of America
UWI	University of the West Indies
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

The Challenge

Development within the Caribbean region, particularly among the smaller, resource-poor member states and territories of the Eastern Caribbean is at the crossroads. Economic performance since 2010 has been characterised by low and inconsistent growth, precarious national debt profiles, unsustainable fiscal positions, high unemployment, eroding economic competitiveness, declining national savings, falling inward investments, a widening poverty gap, disturbing levels of violent crime, and unpredictable weather patterns disrupting economic activities. Additionally, the islands in the sub-region share many challenges, including constricted sizes and population, narrow production possibilities, lack of economies of scale, acute vulnerability to external shocks including climate change, and underperforming economic and political governance structures. The resultant economic uncertainty has led to increasing social upheaval, marked environmental degradation and greater marginalisation of the more vulnerable populace.



Farms in Saint Lucia are vulnerable to heavy rainfall that washes away riverbanks. Credit: CANARI

Unfortunately, this coincides with rising expectations from the people who are now more globally connected and exposed to lifestyles in more advanced economies. The key challenge for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission now is to help its members mount a lucid strategy that would propel the sub-region onto a more secure sustainable development path and avert a further reversal in the development gains of previous decades. All the OECS independent Member States are signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and should, by dint of that commitment, be prepared to adopt the UNFCCC's Low Emission Development Strategies, which is a key component of a green economy (GE).

Encouragingly, the world has witnessed examples of relatively small countries such as Costa Rica, Malta, Mauritius, Singapore and Rwanda that have successfully marshalled their limited resources and reformed their administrative and economic governance structures in creative and innovative ways that have redounded to their economic advancement and major improvements in their people's welfare. If the Eastern Caribbean sub-region is to realise its tremendous potential for economic development and prosperity, the focus must turn to strategic reforms and sustainable development opportunities that promote the economic, infrastructural, technological, social, governance and environmental pillars that are critical to the growth of the OECS region.

GE Definitional Issues

There is a vast body of work from international and regional institutions, development agencies, academia, policy analysts and civil society groups on the GE, including related issues of blue economy, green growth, green investments, climate financing and climate resilient development. The definitions of GE, although nuanced across the various agencies and institutions, include many common attributes. Essentially, the definitions of a GE can be summarised as an economy that: (i) embraces a 'triple bottom line' approach, which is characterised by economic viability/ economic wellbeing, social inclusion/ equity and environmental sustainability; (ii) pursues a climate resilient, low carbon development; and (iii) is

Box 1 : Caribbean definition of GE

“In the context of the Caribbean, a Green Economy is one that aims for long-term prosperity, rather than solely for growth, through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources. It is economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks; self-directed and not driven by external agendas or funding opportunities, and self-reliant by being based predominantly on domestic production and investment. A Caribbean Green Economy is pro-poor and generates decent jobs and working conditions that offer opportunities for self-advancement for local people.”

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managed within a framework of good economic and political governance (see Box 1).

Although the GE concept has received general acceptance in the OECS sub region, the realities of the political economy of the region seem to have created an aversion to its full embrace as a mainstreamed development pathway due perhaps to the difficulty of transitioning to a very different development paradigm as well as a lingering perception of the GE concept as an externally generated construct.

This GE diagnostic review, which is based on the global Green Economy Coalition's (GEC) five-themed framing of green economy (see Appendix 1) was developed for 'baselining' the state of the GE in partner countries, as defined within the narrow objectives of the European Union (EU) GE dialogues project (DCI-ENV/2016/372-847). As used in this study, the GE assessment framework tool, has found that the idea of transitioning to a green or blue economy has not yet been mainstreamed into economic policy formulation and policy action in the OECS. This may be due to the lack of capacity to manage the restructuring process as well as an inherent inertia to reform the current political economy. Existing administrative and political structures are biased towards maintenance of the 'brown economy' particularly in respect of economic and financial management, fiscal policies and investment attraction.



Economic development must be environmentally sustainable and provide opportunities for Caribbean people. Credit: Natalie Boodram

Nevertheless, there are many ongoing sub-regional and national initiatives, albeit not always holistic and well-coordinated, that can be built upon in a more harmonised and purposeful manner to fully transition OECS member countries into green economies.

An OECS GE Philosophy

Adverse economic conditions and the recent devastation by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in late 2017 may present the ideal opportunity to craft a 'new economy' that is climate resilient, socially inclusive, pro-poor, vibrant, sustainable, self-directed, innovative, results in overall improved human wellbeing, reduces environmental risks and enhances natural capital, attracts green/ responsible investments, fosters economic growth and holistic development and in which production and consumption activities are low carbon, resource efficient within a structure of good governance. The sub-region may therefore wish to adopt the 'new economy' moniker as its own home-grown version of the green economy concept while ensuring that it remains true to the fundamental principles of GE.

A new economy based on the tenets and definitions of a GE presents many opportunities for meaningful, people-centered, sustainable transformation of the small economies of the OECS. Critical to a realisation of those opportunities is a winning mechanism for implementation of the many essential reforms and strategic investments for stimulating climate resilient, sustainable economic growth and development.



Small scale fisheries in St. Kitts and Nevis are important for food security and livelihoods. Credit: CANARI

GE Champions

CANARI has led the way thus far in promoting the green economy concept in the region through its Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group (GE ALG), targeted community-based and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) interventions, interfaces within international forums such as the GEC, United Nations Environment, and its pivotal public advocacy. However, the time has come for a broader approach rooted in a citizenry that is aware and committed as well as in institutions at the national and regional levels that are adequately resourced. CANARI has done a sterling job as the regional GE champion but is limited by a lack of the required financial, technical and administrative resources to influence a widespread, successful GE transition.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) through the *Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas* and the OECS Commission through the *Revised Treaty of Basseterre* have established adequate foundations within these Treaties to pursue GE/new economy type activities. The inclusion of the *St. George's Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability* (SGD) as a Protocol to the *Revised Treaty of Basseterre* and the inclusion of natural resource/environmental issues in several chapters of the Treaty is a good basis to underpin GE/new economy activities.

Additionally, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as the primary development agency of the region, has already proposed many critical reforms that are

consistent with a GE pathway. It seems logical then for the region's development bank to take the lead along with its OECS Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank in championing the implementation of a new economy in the OECS, serving as catalyst for change and marshalling the required resources for the new economy's success.

The Way Forward

While the required actions to transition to a new economy are many, varied and daunting, it may be prudent, once an appropriate and effective implementation structure is in place, to begin by selecting specific economic sectors for greening. This would nevertheless require policy consistency across the entire economic and political system. Sustainable investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), public sector investment in capacity building and targeted green domestic investment, are crucial to the transition and should be prioritised at the outset. The other sectors for 'greening', based on the taxonomy from the UNEP (2011) seminal study, which is referenced below, could be agriculture, fisheries, energy, tourism, transport, construction, housing, infrastructure, water supply, waste management and manufacturing.

The process requires: renewed visioning or creative thinking; rigorous evaluation of what has already been agreed to or done; analysis of the status and effectiveness of policy/ programme implementation; application of lessons learnt and research findings; ensuring common understanding, sharing and embracing of ideas and strategies including introduction of more creative and effective communication/ information sharing and community engagement modalities; and documentation/ institutionalising of seminal successes. It must also promote the best attributes of the sub-region and support its sustainable development objectives, through overall wealth creation, social equity and environmental sustainability. All this, however, must be embraced, internalised, mainstreamed and led by the respective OECS member governments and opposition parties, individually and collective, if the GE transition is to become a reality.

1. Background

1.1 Mandate

The OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability, at their Fourth meeting in April 2017, charged the OECS Commission with coordinating an action plan for development of an inclusive green economy in the sub-region. In pursuit of this mandate, the OECS Commission partnered with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) through CANARI's *#GE4U: Transformation Towards an Inclusive Green Economy in the Caribbean* project, which is supported by the EU (DCI-ENV/2016/372-847)¹.

Independent consultant McHale S C Andrew² was selected by CANARI to conduct this study. The primary objective of the consultancy was to develop recommendations for sub-regional economic policy, which could influence sustainable development planning processes, economic strategies, plans and institutions that are critical to the attainment of a sustainable, green and inclusive economy in the OECS. The project's main output was a diagnostic study on potential opportunities, hurdles, catalysts and institutional capacities for transitioning to a green economy in the OECS.

This study was developed to support the Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability and other government officials from the OECS Member States and Associate Member territories and the OECS Commission, as well as designated public-sector functionaries, sub-regional and regional entities, academia and civil society representing a diversity of interests and viewpoints on sustainable, inclusive development in the OECS.

1.2. Project Summary

CANARI was the contracting and implementing agency with responsibility for managing and coordinating the *#GE4U: Transformation Towards an Inclusive Green Economy in the Caribbean* project. The OECS Commission was the beneficiary and co-implementing agency and, in that role, had the responsibility to provide informational, revisional, coordinating and technical inputs into the work of this component.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) mandated that the consultant would conduct a desk study and interviews to produce a diagnostic study analysing the status of the transition to a green economy in the OECS, potential opportunities and institutional capacities needed. This would be presented to senior technical officers of OECS Member and Associate Member States before being presented to the OECS Economic Affairs Council or the Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability.

1.3. Geographic Coverage

The study encompassed the Member States and Associate Member territories of the OECS, namely Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

¹ <http://www.canari.org/ge4u>

² McHale S C Andrew is a development economist and member of the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group (GE ALG) who has participated in and written on GE initiatives in the Caribbean.

2. Overview

2.1 GE Definitions

The documentation on GE/ blue economy/ green growth is extensive and while a plethora of analyses, studies and reports deal with the issues at the international level, there have been many reports, policy briefs, academic papers, guidelines, action learning activities and presentations on the subjects pertinent to the Caribbean and the OECS sub-region. In the Caribbean context, GE and green growth are often seen as intimately linked with blue economy issues, which sets it apart and dictates its own self-directed interpretation.

The GE literature falls into four broad categories, namely: (1) international and regional policy/academic research and agreements; (2) diagnostic studies and GE scoping reports; (3) GE transitioning guidelines, presentations and policy proposals; (4) country strategies, reports/ national plans. These studies are not only done by regional and international organisations but universities, research institutions, national governments, corporations and civil society have added to the voluminous literature on the subject. Given the limited availability of resources for conducting this diagnostic review, the focus necessarily has been on those studies and reports that are of most relevance to the OECS and wider Caribbean region.

The United Nations Environment (UN Environment), previously the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which is recognised as the leading international institutional proponent of the GE concept, defines a GE as, *“one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is **low carbon, resource-use efficient and socially inclusive**. In a green economy, growth in income and employment should be driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource-use efficiency, prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and spread economic opportunities and economic benefits to the marginalised and vulnerable. These investments*

need to be catalysed and supported by targeted public expenditure, policy reforms and regulation changes. The development path should maintain, enhance and, where necessary, rebuild natural capital as a critical economic asset and as a source of public benefits, especially for poor people whose livelihoods and security depend on nature.” (UNEP 2011)

Perhaps the most comprehensive and pertinent document on a Caribbean GE is the CDB commissioned report entitled, *A new paradigm for Caribbean development: transitioning to a green economy* (CDB 2014)³. Much of what is required for an informed approach to GE implementation, particularly related to policy proposals, is captured in that seminal work and need not be repeated here. Nevertheless, it is worth noting the booklet’s categorisation of the GE concept into three broad branches as follows:

- (a) a transition towards an economic model based on the **sustainable generation of equitable social, environmental and economic benefits**. This framing is embraced by civil society and international agencies active in the field of sustainable development, including the Green Economy Coalition and UNEP’s Green Economy Initiative;
- (b) the potential of green sectors and industries as engines of growth. This framing, now commonly referred to as **‘green growth’**, is championed by many OECD countries, private sector interests and international financial institutions. Proponents include the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP); and
- (c) climate change mitigation and resilience potential. This framing is generally termed **‘low carbon development’** or **‘climate resilient development’** and is widespread in climate change policy circles. These represent two sides of a coin, as in response to climate change, ‘low carbon’ implies climate change mitigation, while ‘climate resilient’ indicates climate change adaptation.

³ The May 2014 booklet was prepared by a CANARI team, which comprised Tighe Geoghegan, David Ince, Michael Witter, Cletus Springer, Felix Finisterre and Nicole Leotaud. The CDB has since added to the literature by publishing a paper on financing the blue economy (CDB 2018).



Caribbean culture is intimately tied to the natural environment.

Credit: CANARI

The GE concept is further illuminated by an International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) global GE diagnostic study (Bass 2013) that posits three key objectives of a green economy as:

1. Human wellbeing: decent jobs, health, livelihoods, freedoms, culture and income.
2. Climate and other ecological limits not exceeded: reducing carbon levels and operating within the eight other planetary boundaries⁴
3. Equity: inclusion of stakeholders in process, economic activity, and benefit-sharing – especially those most dependent on natural resources and most vulnerable to environmental risks.

The three means to achieve these objectives are specified as:

1. Economic growth: in sectors and localities with the highest potential to support wellbeing;
2. Sustainable natural resource management: improving natural resource productivity per person, plus

sustainable utilisation of underexploited resources, to achieve the above; and

3. Resilience: adaptation to climate change, diversification, risk management, responsive institutions, creating competitive advantage from this, and attracting investment.

Adding to the informative literature on GE is the UNEP 2011 publication, which is considered the keystone of GE globally and details significant findings on the potential of a GE for meaningful economic transformation, enhancement of natural capital, efficient resource use and poverty alleviation. It goes on to propose detailed measures and policy approaches that could provide the enabling conditions for successful GE implementation and concludes with recommendations for GE transition financing. Overall, the report, which was prepared as part of UNEP's contribution to the Rio+20 process, *"makes a compelling economic and social case for investing two per cent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 'greening' ten⁵ central sectors of the economy to cause a major development shift and unleash public and private capital flows onto a low-carbon, resource-use efficient path. Such a transition can catalyse economic activity of at least a comparable size to business as usual, but with a reduced risk of the crises and shocks increasingly inherent in the existing model."* (UNEP 2011)

2.2. Related Concepts

There is additionally a vast body of work on the blue economy, climate financing, business environment reform and green growth (DCED 2017), sustainable financial systems, natural capital accounting, green investing, green infrastructure, alternative/renewable energy, water and waste water management and general sustainable development. For instance, a most enlightening treatment of green FDI is outlined in a 2017 UN Environment publication, in association with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment and Green Invest (UN Environment 2017). That study assesses the possibilities for FDI as a major financier of sustainable development; provides guidelines for minimising the adverse effects of FDI flows, particularly into developing countries; reviews the current state of green FDI; and

⁴ The eight other planetary boundaries are: climate change; stratospheric ozone layer; biodiversity; chemicals dispersion; ocean acidification; freshwater consumption and global hydrological cycle; land system change; nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to biosphere and oceans; and atmospheric aerosol loading.

⁵ Agriculture, construction, energy, fisheries, infrastructure, manufacturing, sanitation services, tourism, transport, and water.

outlines a policy framework for future green FDI flows. Interestingly, it makes a nuanced distinction between “green FDI” and “sustainable investment” and posits the view that green FDI should exclude projects that may compromise the other (non-GE) elements of sustainable development. It also calls for collaboration between home and host countries in regulating the behaviour of foreign investors in a manner that would promote socially just economic growth, transparency, responsible corporate practice, economic viability, conformity with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and would ultimately redound to the benefit of developing countries in their GE transition process.

International institutions such as the GEC, GGGI, the GGKP, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the IIED, the World Bank⁶ and UN Environment have lent their resources and expertise to the seemingly daunting albeit much desired process of transitioning to a more sustainable development path, as represented by an inclusive GE. Perhaps the most authoritative conclusion on the importance of transitioning to a GE is contained in UN Environment’s treatise on the subject. It asserts that,

“Moving towards a green economy has the potential to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication on a scale and at a speed not seen before. This potential derives, essentially, from a changed playing field: our world, and the risks we face, have materially changed, and require a fundamental rethinking of our approach to the economy. As this report has argued, a reallocation of public and private investments – spurred through appropriate policy reforms and enabling conditions – is needed to build up or enhance natural capital such as forests, water, soil and fish stocks, which are particularly important for the rural poor. These “green” investments will also enhance new sectors and technologies that will be the main sources of economic development and growth of the future: renewable energy technologies, resource and energy efficient buildings and equipment, low-carbon public transport systems, infrastructure for fuel efficient and clean energy vehicles, and waste management and recycling facilities. Complementary investments are

required in human capital, including greening-related knowledge, management, and technical skills to ensure a smooth transition to a more sustainable development pathway.

One of the major findings of this report is that a green economy supports growth, income and jobs, and that the so-called “trade-off” between economic progress and environmental sustainability is a myth, especially if one measures wealth inclusive of natural assets, and not just narrowly as produced output. The results of the report indicate that while in the short term economic growth under a “green” scenario may be less than under business as usual, in the longer term (2020 and beyond), moving towards a green economy would outperform business as usual by both traditional measures and more holistic measures.” (UNEP 2011)

That work is supported by a later more succinct guidebook to the GE by the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA) (Allen and Clouth 2012).

2.3. Regional Initiatives

CANARI has taken the lead in generating information and knowledge on the GE in the Caribbean, particularly through its action learning initiative, its own research and many scoping missions and conferences on the subject. A CANARI-organised regional Caribbean dialogue in 2011 and 2012 asserted that the vision and key characteristics of a Caribbean GE or a new model for sustainable economic development is one that seeks “long-term prosperity through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources and is economically viable and resilient, self-directed, self-reliant, and pro-poor. Important foundations are a sense of shared Caribbean identity and commitment to pan-Caribbean cooperation, human security, good governance, a strong information base for decision-making, and a well-educated and involved citizenry.” (CANARI 2012b)

For this study, and hopefully for the greening process in the Caribbean and the OECS especially, this would be the preferred working GE definition.

⁶ The World Bank has described ‘greening’ as, “A world in which natural resources ... are sustainably managed and conserved to improve livelihoods and ensure food security... In such a world “growth strategies are focused on overall wealth rather than gross domestic product ...” (World Bank Group Environmental Strategy 2012-2022).



Economic development in the small islands of the OECS is reliant on healthy natural ecosystems like the forests of St. Vincent (Credit: Fitzgerald Providence) and the coral reefs of the BVI (Credit: BVI National Trust).

Indeed, a GE is simply a novel, enlightened economic and social development pathway that is based on environmentally friendly values and strategies that support sustainable livelihood activities and socio-economic development at community, countrywide and regional levels.

The GE concept can thus be succinctly captured as an economy that: (i) **embraces a ‘triple bottom line’ approach, which is characterised by economic viability/economic wellbeing, social inclusion/equity and environmental sustainability;** (ii) **pursues a climate resilient, low carbon development;** and (iii) **is managed within a framework of good economic and political governance.** The focus on good governance is especially pertinent to the political economy of environment and resource use as well as to the inherent and understandable bias of existing political structures towards maintenance of the status quo.

2.4. The Way Forward for the OECS

There is an understandable reluctance by the region’s political directorate and its concerned citizenry to fully embrace yet another externally crafted development model. However, one must caution that while the above outlined key elements of a GE can be applied generally to the concept, GE implementation initiatives can and should vary depending on the country’s specific resource endowments and developmental needs. Hopefully, GE’s

strength is that it is an open and loose enough concept that it can achieve coherence and self-determination, while ensuring that a Caribbean regional approach links up with the global agenda on similar transitions around the world. Essentially, what it is called is not as important as the need to acknowledge that the region must urgently embark on a new, sustainable, people-centred and resource-use efficient development path, which is marked by reliable, effective and transparent governance structures. It is clear therefore that policies in support of the GE and green investments must be customised at both national and local levels (Bass 2013). Given the constricted sizes, populations and resource endowments of OECS countries, that customisation is even more crucial to the success of GE strategies in the sub-region.

Of special relevance, given the island nature of all OECS countries and territories, is the concept of the ‘blue economy’ which was developed by the Pacific Island States and has a distinct focus on coastal and marine resources within a GE. Some OECS stakeholders have proposed that in their context we should speak of an ‘aqua economy’ recognising the relevance of both marine and terrestrial resources⁷. It has been stated that, “*Caribbean countries have jurisdiction over significant ocean areas that, in many cases, far exceed the land area of the countries themselves. The Bahamas exclusive economic zone, for example, is estimated to be 242,970 square miles compared to its land area of 5,383 square miles, whereas St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ is estimated*

⁷ Proposal by David Robin, OECS Commission, at a webinar of the GE ALG on the blue economy.

to be about 13,900 square miles, over 90 times its land area. In the case of St. Kitts and Nevis, the ocean space is almost 7,900 square miles, with its land area being only 100 square miles.” (Roberts 2015)

Although not yet fully embraced as such, the blue economy is already in evidence in the Caribbean given the region’s heavy reliance on tourism, which links naturally to marine based activities (cruises, shipping, diving, swimming, fishing etc.). There are even more opportunities for sustainable economic growth in a structured blue economy strategy and those are detailed in Appendix 2. The CDB report on blue economy financing (CDB 2018) also adds to the wealth of information on embracing that aspect of GE.

2.5. OECS Sustainable Development Commitments

The OECS, at both the political and Commission levels, has committed to the pursuit of new strategic approaches that would meet the myriad of developmental challenges that confront micro states, such as those in the sub-region, while increasing prospects for economic growth, social upliftment and environmental sustainability. This commitment acknowledges the need for development in the region to adopt a “green economy” outlook as well as to capitalise on the opportunities that “green growth” can provide, whilst pursuing a low carbon model of development that maximises climate change mitigation and resilience. This approach to development is closely

aligned with the values espoused in the OECS SGD and the wider UN SDGs⁸. It is also very well-matched to the main GE principles.

Additionally, all six independent member states of the OECS have committed to and ratified the Agreement reached at the 21st Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris, France in December 2015. That Agreement, for the first time, binds all member nations to joint actions to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its adverse effects. Just as well, is the sub-region’s commitment to the UN’s 2030 Agenda, which includes the SDGs and is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. Similar commitments by the sub-region that are opportunities that can underpin the transition to GE include: the *Higher Education Sustainability Initiative*, which is a global partnership to support the role of higher education institutions in the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the SDGs; the previously mentioned OECS SGD; the *Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy* (C-SERMS); CARICOM’s Strategic Plan which covers economic, social and environmental issues; the CDB-financed *Sustainable Energy for a Competitive OECS* project; the partnership between the United States Agency for International Development and the OECS Commission on a climate change adaptation project; and sustainable strategic tourism master plans in OECS Member States supported by the Government of Mexico.

⁸ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

3. Assessment of GE related activities in the OECS

3.1 Overview

The TOR for this study include an assessment template or GE assessment framework, developed by the GEC, for assessing the state of GE activities and achievements (see Appendix 1). The questionnaire in Appendix 3 was therefore designed to obtain the pertinent information for doing the assessment. While the expected questionnaire responses were not as forthcoming⁹ as anticipated, consultations with relevant personnel at the OECS Commission and desk research as well as input of key stakeholders in two webinars provided sufficient information to allow a reasonable assessment of GE transition progress in the sub-region.

The assessment is focused on the following specific scoring elements:

- 1) **GE Overall** - To what extent is the GE recognised as a core national/sub-regional priority?
- 2) **Measurement and Governance** – Is a GE strategy under consideration or a GE National/ Sub-regional Plan being considered, proposed or implemented by governments?
- 3) **Sustainable Finance** – What is the scope of financial systems, public investments and fiscal policies to support GE implementation?
- 4) **Green and Inclusive Sectors** – Have policies in support of greening in priority GE sectors been proposed, developed and implemented?
- 5) **Is Green Fair?** – What is the level of understand of key public and private national/ sub-regional stakeholders on the importance of an inclusive and fair GE transition?
- 6) **Economics for Nature** – To what extent do key domestic/ sub-regional public and private sector stakeholders embrace the importance of natural capital approaches for the GE transition and represent this in their public positioning and some activities?

3.2. GE Overall – To What Extent is the Green Economy Recognised as a Core National/Sub-Regional Priority?

In accordance with the standards of the above cited GE assessment framework, the overall GE implementation status in the sub-region can be classified as below average. The transition to a GE is indeed acknowledged as an issue by almost all OECS member governments and a handful of public and private stakeholders. However, what obtains is a narrow GE strategy with almost no consideration of equity and inclusion albeit some environmental limits are being considered by governments for adoption as policy. There are still very few legislative proposals for policies in national GE priority sectors and the role of SMEs and informal actors is generally not factored into the official approaches. There is also a severely limited embrace of natural capital valuation by public and private actors, which has, of course, resulted in continuing poor protection for ecosystem health and biophysical assets.

The overall situation is nevertheless a work in progress and therefore still hopeful. For instance, at the sub-regional level, the OECS SGD was developed through extensive consultation with key stakeholders and signed/ratified by all nine OECS members states and territories in 2001. It was further revised in 2006 and lists twenty-one key principles that support the key tenets of GE transition including inclusion, legislative reforms and setting environmental limits. However, neither the SGD principles nor a GE development construct have yet been factored into national development policies.

The overall aim of the SGD is to, “... *foster equitable and sustainable improvement in the quality of life in the OECS region*”. The SGD goes to state, rather lucidly, that, “... *Member States of the OECS share a vision of development that is based on the principles of sustainability, stakeholder participation, equity and justice; that protects and enhances livelihoods; that reduces vulnerability to risks, stresses and shocks; that brings people out of poverty; and that results in improvement in the quality of life for all. Achieving such a*

⁹ Questionnaire responses were received from officials and civil society representatives in only Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

vision of sustainable development requires a concerted effort on the part of all the governments of the Member States, in partnership with individuals, civil society, the private sector, and regional and international institutions, to improve environmental management and protect the region's precious natural resource base."

Certainly, attainment of most of those objectives would be consonant with achievement of the UN SDGs and would set the OECS member states firmly along the GE implementation path. What is quite clear, however, is that those commendable principles and detailed sustainable development commitments, albeit captured in several national documents, plans and written strategies, have not yet been fully integrated into implemented policy and action at the national level.

At the country level the situation can be summarised as follows:

Anguilla: CANARI conducted a GE scoping study in Anguilla (CANARI 2013), which concluded that: "(a) *There is an extensive body of knowledge available on natural resource management in Anguilla. However, the data is strewn over multiple scientific studies, consultant reports, regional reports and approved and draft legislation, policies and plans. This makes it extremely difficult to use this information effectively for decision-making. (b) The framework for natural resource management is made up of a range of policy documents and laws and regulations that have been developed in the absence of an approved integrated approach to environmental management.*"



Anguilla's protected harbours are key to its economic development.

Credit: CANARI

Antigua & Barbuda: "A national sustainable land use framework was developed and approved by Cabinet in 2012, outlining a sustainable spatial development strategy for the country. This project will develop and implement a local area sustainable urban areas plan to transition Antigua and Barbuda's urban areas into low-carbon, resilient sustainable communities using sustainable procurement practices." (GOAB 2017) Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda in its Medium-Term Development Strategy (2016-2020) (GOAB 2015) committed to initiate actions towards "... a harmonious, prosperous and modern Antigua and Barbuda founded on the principles of sustainability and inclusive growth; where equality of opportunity, peace, and justice prevail for all citizens and residents." It goes on to state that, "The overarching goal (of the Strategy) will be attained on the basis of the following four Sustainable Development Dimensions (SDDs):

- 1) Optimal Generation of National Wealth;
- 2) Enhanced Social Cohesion;
- 3) Improved Health of the Natural Environment and Sustained Historical and Cultural Assets; and
- 4) Enhanced Citizen Security." (GOAB 2015)

British Virgin Islands (BVI): A similar GE scoping study to Anguilla's was undertaken by CANARI for the BVI (CANARI 2012a). The overall conclusion of that study was that, "The state of knowledge on biodiversity, management issues, management approaches and livelihood aspects seem to be fairly good among islanders. Residents of the BVI have been involved in a few research initiatives, such as the Island Resources Foundation's drafting of environmental profiles; participatory planning initiatives, such as the recent formulation of the Climate Change Policy; drafting of the Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill, 2006; and the dated National Integrated Development Plan 1999-2003. Additionally, the popularity of the Beef Island development and Cane Garden Bay issues have contributed to a general sound understanding of environmental issues and management approaches. There is also a "Green Pledge Program" started in 2011/2012 where organisations are invited to pledge to green their operations. In the first year more than 50 organisations, mostly the private sector, signed up. For example, in the tourism sector yachts are interested in using solar and reducing use of plastics. In



Most of the mangroves in the BVI were destroyed by 2017 hurricanes, leaving coastlines vulnerable. Credit: BVI National Trust

recovery efforts post-Irma, the BVI is considering how it can rebuild greener overall and not “just back to the same old same.”

Dominica: The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica in 2009 committed to a *Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy*, which was designed to support the country’s transition to a green economy and to mitigate its extreme vulnerability to natural disasters (Government of Dominica 2012). However, there wasn’t any other available documentation on GE in Dominica other than brief online media reports including a pledge to transform Dominica into the region’s first green economy. Interestingly, in the aftermath of the recent devastating effects of Hurricane Maria the Prime Minister made a similar pledge to transform Dominica into the world’s first climate resilient nation.

Grenada: Following a blue growth investment conference in 2016, the Government of Grenada issued a *Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan* (Government of Grenada 2016) that proposes to declare certain areas as marine protected areas and earmarks several major tourism developments. The plan, however, has not involved the expected wider public consultation, although it has been further updated in 2018 with an annotated, detailed implementation schematic (Ferguson 2017).

Martinique: Initiatives in waste management/ recycling, energy, biodiversity, and most critically vehicle emissions (based on EU standards) can provide models with



Development of Grande Anse beach is one element of Grenada’s Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan. Credit: CANARI

lessons for OECS member states and there is interest in collaboration with other states and territories in the OECS. The island is also working on a financial framework for cooperation between the Government and the private sector; this framework is needed to support greening of sectors and greening the economy in general.

Montserrat: Thus far, no specific documentation on GE in Montserrat has been identified.

St. Kitts & Nevis: Similarly, no applicable documentation on St. Kitts and Nevis was available although a 2012 online media report quotes the former Prime Minister to have stated at the Rio+20 conference in Brazil that, “we all agree that the development of a low carbon development pathway is essential for nations large and small, as we all strive to eradicate poverty, increase employment, enhance food security, manage freshwater resources, and increase energy efficiency on behalf of our respective peoples... the transition to a green economy will, however, produce its own challenges, and so appropriate allowances will also have to be made to small nations that do decide to venture down this path. St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, would be particularly vulnerable to the associated shocks, and so compensatory provisions would have to be put in place prior to our imposing the associated social hurdles on our population. A green economy is of critical importance to St. Kitts and Nevis, as it is to the CARICOM region, and so St. Kitts and Nevis stands ready to engage in the full

*sustainable development agenda.*¹⁰ It has not thus far been ascertained whether the current Government is committed to a GE agenda.

Saint Lucia: As far back as June 2011, Saint Lucia held a national consultation under the theme, *Walking the path towards a Green Economy*. Further, a GE UNEP scoping study (UNEP 2016) was done for Saint Lucia by three consultants (two local and one regional) with a heavy focus on transitioning to renewable energy sources. An “alternative energy road map” that projected the country’s energy needs over the next 30 years and identified that 35% of that need would come from various renewable energy sources and projects was one of the steps taken towards that venture. Additionally, Saint Lucia has both a draft National Development Plan and a draft Medium-Term Development Strategy that both commit to GE principles. However, none of those documents have been completed or formally adopted by the Government.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Other than a brief statement¹¹ by the Ambassador to the United States of America (USA) and Organization of American States (OAS) at the 2012 Rio+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, no documentation has yet been obtained from St. Vincent & the Grenadines although there is a suggestion that a clear commitment to GE is contained in the country’s latest national development plan.

The foregoing literature review points to the overwhelming availability of documentation on GE and related issues at the international and regional level. However, there seems to be a relative dearth of specific OECS Members state/territory studies on the GE. This does not necessarily signal a lack of commitment or interest but may be a good indication of the volume of work still to be undertaken in the sub-region’s GE implementation quest. Of course, given the limited administrative and technical capacity along with a paucity of financial resources, much of the process would entail attracting the required assistance to embark on this daunting but much-needed progression towards a GE. However, a key concern is whether countries would obtain the kind of support to allow them to embark on their own chosen pathways towards GE. As far as the role of Government in the sub-region, there seems to be a general sense of questioning Governments’ capacity, given current fiscal constraints.

While the private sector is driving some GE initiatives, the public sector needs to facilitate through, for instance, the provision of effective fiscal incentives. A conducive policy framework is critical to drive private sector initiatives if the transition to GE is to gather significant momentum.

3.3. Measurement and Governance – Is a GE Strategy Under Consideration or a Ge National/Sub-Regional Plan Being Considered, Proposed or Implemented By Governments?

While the situation varies across countries, this aspect is scored generally poor and average as best. GE national plans, albeit not always so termed, are being considered by only a few OECS member Governments and not generally with any ostensible links to national implementation of the SDGs and accompanying indicator frameworks. Although there is no evidence or outright opposition or resistance, there are not too many public and private national stakeholders across the broad spectrum of countries that are actively supportive of GE national plans, SDG implementation, and beyond GDP priorities or a ‘well-being agenda’. There is also an absence of clear proposals for new governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition. There is additionally a belief in some quarters of an inherent contradiction in the OECS promoting the “*beyond GDP*” classification (not middle income) for promoting its economic vulnerability in international donor/financial forums but not fully embracing GE. The GE concept inherently requires broadening economic metrics to show the true costs/benefits of greening.

A review of available documents from OECS member countries along with the few responses to the questionnaire developed specifically for this study reveals some expressed commitment to sustainable development if not a GE *per se*. Nevertheless, the existence of several GE scoping studies and GE related activity in the sub-region offers some reassurance and hope for the GE transition process in the sub-region.

Although some existing comprehensive development frameworks such as national development plans do recognise the need for sustainable development approaches, they are not widespread and all-embracing

¹⁰ <https://zonline.com/st-kitts-and-nevis-wants-rio20-to-focus-on-green-economy-poverty-eradication/>

¹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16706stvincent.pdf>

enough to be considered focused GE transitioning processes that would lead to the envisaged GE/ new economy with successful outcomes. Further, where such plans exist there is little evidence of references to equity, non-carbon ecological limits, and/or natural resources.

Still some GE scoping studies and other activities have been conducted at the sub-regional and national levels, including the following:

- GE scoping studies in Anguilla (CANARI 2013), the BVI (CANARI 2012a), and Saint Lucia (UNEP 2016). These identified some of the issues, challenges and main sectors for transitioning to a GE.
- Blue Economy Master Plan and a Blue Economy Investment Conference in Grenada (2016, Updated in January 2018).
- National Green Economy Committee consultation and meetings in Saint Lucia (2011 and 2014-2016).
- A Caribbean-wide (all CDB borrowing member countries inclusive of its OECS members) study to explore renewable energy as a pathway to a green economy (CDB 2016).
- Regional dialogue and publications on GE led by the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group.
- CANARI support for SMEs promoting sustainable use of natural resources (such as ecotourism, craft, sustainable agriculture).
- A regional EU project 2016-2019: *Creating enabling policy conditions for the transformation towards an inclusive green economy in the Caribbean* (DCI-ENV/2016/372-847) being implemented by CANARI. What this project has confirmed is relatively uncoordinated approaches at both the national and sub regional levels to implementation of agreed GE supporting measures/policies, which will help frame realistic proposals for spurring the sub-region into action.

3.4. Sustainable Finance – What is the Scope of Supportive Financial Systems, Public Investments and Fiscal Policies for GE Implementation?

There are indeed elements of private and institutional financing as well as public investment initiatives for greening the economies of the OECS but again this

seems to be disjointed and not commonly known. At the sub-regional level, the OECS Commission hosted a Green Growth Investment Forum September 20-21, 2012 in Saint Lucia, which proffered some key proposals including the development of an OECS *Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan*, the integration of GE into private sector initiatives and the facilitation of green investments. While there appears to be no structured GE related activity since then, the Commission has been involved in supporting various member states in their national sustainable development activities where requested. Some countries (including Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines) provide fiscal concessions for renewable energy technology and energy efficient fittings and production tools retrofitting but there is not a structured fiscal policy that supports the transition to a GE in any of the countries.

One example of a private 'green finance' initiative in the Eastern Caribbean is the Bank of Nova Scotia's Green Energy Loan Programme that was offered for green energy development or retrofitting in conjunction with tax breaks from participating Governments. Unfortunately, some countries discontinued those tax breaks after a few years, causing the programme to flop. The initiative targeted individuals and small businesses and offered an unsecured, low interest loan up to US\$5,500 (EC\$15,000).

In Dominica, the World Bank financed *Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project* is an example of a social impact investment that directs financial flows towards people and nature. The extent to which this programme is implemented in other OECS jurisdictions is unclear but in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, there appears to be a significant leap in the number of such programmes that are being considered. Additionally, the OECS Commission in October 2017 signed a US \$6.3 million grant agreement for the *Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project* (CROP), which is geared towards supporting Eastern Caribbean countries preserve and strengthen resilience of coastal and marine resources and implement regional policies to stimulate blue growth. CROP will also support the implementation of the OECS' *Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy* (ECROP), which is said to be, "a global best practice in regional co-operation for transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy (a blue economy)."¹² In essence, CROP funding would be used for, inter alia, developing coastal and



Dominica's natural hot springs are an attraction for locals and visitors alike and support local green enterprises. Credit: CANARI

marine spatial plans and national ocean policies and strategies through active citizen engagement; ocean education in conjunction with the private sector; mapping ocean assets and enhancing OECS ocean data coverage and access through collaborative public-private platforms.

Most of the other green financing initiatives within the sub-region are externally generated and include: the *Climate Adaptation Financing Facility* (CAFF) offered through domestic financial institutions by the World Bank; the Green Climate Fund that, like the CAFF, prioritises GE investments; and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Of course, while these financial mechanisms exist, there remains a need for enhanced measures to be put in place to allow smaller island developing states like those in the OECS to access funding for immediate situations. Similarly, specific actions are required to ensure that the main principles that guide microenterprise development as well as the key tenets of green growth, green enterprises and sustainable development are integrated into all lending policies and programs through microfinance and other financial institutions that serve those more vulnerable small countries such as those in the sub-region.

There are also other regional and sub-regional financing initiatives such as the CANARI-led €1.9 million *Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean* (PISCES) project, which is funded by the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) and co-financed by other project partners. PISCES' key

objective is to support innovative actions by Caribbean civil society and coastal community-based SMEs for the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods. The recipient countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Such innovative financing flows are key for the sustainability of the GE transition in the OECS and provide an important foundation for funding the process.

What remains an issue generally in the sub-region is the patent absence of Ministries of Finance and Planning and other important economic and financing institutions in the GE transition dialogue. Indeed, even at the OECS decision-making level, most of the discussions and consultations have been confined to environmental authorities and institutions. This is a major concern, as the success of any GE transitioning process demands that fundamental decisions need to be made to favour sustainable use of natural capital in government budget and fiscal decisions. Although economic and financial agencies and Ministries have been tangentially involved in regional and global discussions on international green growth and climate finance initiatives, these do not focus on inclusive GE outcomes, on mainstreaming GE into the national economic planning process or on the wider enabling economic environment. This, of course, leaves many aspects of the economic status quo unchanged.

3.5. Green and Inclusive Sectors – Have Policies in Support of Greening in Priority GE Sectors Been Proposed, Developed and Implemented?

Dialogue on GE has not always translated into specific action within priority sectors other than the general embrace of alternative energy initiatives in most countries while consolidating the widespread dependence on fossil fuels-based energy generation. Most sector 'greening' proposals reference renewable energy, green tourism and biological diversity use, particularly in agriculture and manufacturing, but there is little evidence of a determined policy(s) development in support of greening in priority sectors.

In Saint Lucia, for instance, a few renewable energy firms/ initiatives have sprung up. A firm, St Lucia Linen

Services has begun to use waste oil to *successfully* fuel its linen cleaning business. Women farmers in Saint Lucia come together towards a more sustainable approach to farming techniques.

3.6. Is Green Fair? – What is the Level of Understand of Key Public and Private National/Sub-Regional Stakeholders of the Importance of an Inclusive and Fair GE Transition?

The need for a socially inclusive approach is certainly not an ostensible aspect of the nascent GE transitioning process in the sub-region. Neither the questionnaire responses received thus far nor desk research and consultations have revealed an acknowledgement of the importance of attempting an inclusive and fair GE transition nor has been any determined efforts or public stances that promote greater equality and access to green jobs. In accordance with the GE assessment framework, this indicator of GE transitioning in the OECS sub-region therefore receives a poor grade.

3.7. Economics for Nature –To What Extent do Key Domestic/Sub-Regional Public and Private Sector Stakeholders Embrace the Importance of Natural Capital Approaches for the GE Transition and Represent this in their Public Positioning and Some Activities?

The review has indicated that on average, less than three major public and private national stakeholders in each OECS member country formally recognise natural capital approaches as pertinent to the GE transition and publicly promote this approach. No known natural capital policies valuing ecological systems and biodiversity have been proposed and there appears to be limited opportunities for civil society and stakeholder groups to contribute towards the process. In that context, formal GE implementation is unlikely to proceed, and even if it does, it is likely to exclude key social groups and thus would receive very limited support from government, private sector and civil society groups. The score here is therefore poor.

In terms of measurement, there is a solitary example of the Central Statistics Office in Saint Lucia that has begun

collecting environmental statistics, which is a start, but there is not a widespread, concerted move towards valuing ecological assets or embracing the importance of natural capital approaches for GE transition.

As indicated in the appendix to the study's TOR, *“... to date, the efforts towards green development in the Caribbean have been largely confined to national efforts but have not significantly impacted economic growth. Given the continued global call to carve out a new economic trajectory that provides new job opportunities and creates a higher standard of living whilst providing a solid natural resource base for future generations, strong consideration must be given to a greater attempt to transform to inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development in the OECS. Development of a Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for the sub-region will help to define key principles, objectives, policy needs, pathways and capacity needs for transformation that Member States can pursue with development partners based on their own unique contexts or collectively for the region.”*

The #GE4U project is thus expected to support efforts to advance the sub-region's wider programme of sustainable development and to facilitate its attainment of, inter alia, the SDGs, the OECS SGD and the *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*. Indeed, pursuit of a GE is expected to support the much-required objectives of poverty reduction and job creation in the OECS.

4. Proposed policy approaches, structure and inputs for GE implementation in the OECS

4.1. Policy

Notwithstanding the wide international embrace of the GE concept and moniker, (or blue economy in the case of small island developing countries) there is, as stated earlier, an understandable hesitancy in small developing states such as those of the OECS to adopt what some see as just another internationally imposed development model or agenda. The GE literature is replete with convincing justifications for following the key principles of a green or blue economy regardless of the country's size, resource endowments or level of development. Indeed, the scoping studies done thus far all point to the strong positive transformational potential of a GE transition in OECS countries.

Emerging from a regional dialogue facilitated in 2011, CANARI has proffered a working definition for GE in the region as, *“one that aims for long-term prosperity, rather than solely for growth, through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources. It is economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks; self-directed and not driven by external agendas or funding opportunities, and self-reliant by being based predominantly on domestic production and investment. A Caribbean Green Economy is pro-poor and generates decent jobs and working conditions that offer opportunities for self-advancement for local people.”* (CANARI 2012b)

When juxtaposed against the previously cited economic, social and institutional challenges in the OECS sub-region it would be difficult to argue against the essence of that GE definition or its inherent objectives, whether the development approach is described as GE or not. What is imperative must be a steadfast adherence to the proven sustainable approaches to development that are captured in all the definitions of GE/ blue economy.

GE transitioning is not an easy undertaking and would be an even more difficult process in small, resource poor countries like those of the OECS. There are issues

of administration, financing, collaboration, coordination, governance, technical/change management and leadership that must be tackled along with investment of effort and human resources. There are also justifiable concerns that there are no guarantees of success as well as about the ability of small countries to compete for and attract the available resources for making the GE transformation. Nevertheless, at this point, business as usual is almost certain to ensure further declines in the sub-region's economic and social conditions.

4.1.1. A Climate Resilient OECS Approach

The 2017 intensely destructive Hurricanes Irma and Maria, albeit most unfortunate and traumatic for many OECS member states, territories and citizens, may have provided an ideal opportunity to rebuild affected economies and restructure existing ones on a pivot of climate change resiliency. This obvious and straightforwardly relatable fulcrum of climate resilient approaches to agriculture, construction, infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing, energy, housing, water supply, waste management and economic development could provide the much-needed impetus. In the hurricanes' aftermath, both the prime ministers of Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica publicly expressed their intention to rebuild their affected islands through a new approach that is climate resilient and sustainable. Indeed, Prime Minister Skerritt pointedly implored the UN General Assembly to, *“...Let these extraordinary events unleash the innovation and creativity of global citizens to spark a new paradigm of green economic development that stabilises and reverses the consequences of human-induced global warming.”*¹³ He followed up this statement with an even more focused declaration that... *“Dominica's plan now is to rebuild a 'climate-resilient nation. What we're doing is take an opportunity to build back better. And we're now putting the master plan in place. It entails sustainable livelihoods. In respect to energy, moving more into renewables – geothermal, solar. And we'll certainly be looking at the construction codes in the state of Florida, for example.”*¹⁴

¹³ <https://ctrustglobal.com/dominica-prime-minister-speech-un-hurricane-maria/>

¹⁴ <http://wlrn.org/post/dominica-pm-islands-post-hurricane-war-zone-can-become-climate-resilient-model>

41.2. A 'New Economy' for the OECS

It is therefore recommended that, while all the relevant GE or blue economy elements are factored into the OECS' development plans, it may be prudent to ensure that the core principles are clear and focus on a new economy that is pro-poor, climate resilient, socially inclusive, economically vibrant and sustainable, self-directed, innovative, results in overall improved human wellbeing, reduces environmental risks and enhances natural capital, attracts, green/ responsible investments, fosters economic growth and holistic development and in which production and consumption activities are low carbon, resource efficient. Of course, that new economy would exhibit all the tenets of good governance including transparency, open and responsible information sharing, inclusive approaches to policy formulation and implementation, integrity, accountability, effectiveness and independence.¹⁵ The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda intimated at the same UN General Assembly session that, *"If these frequent and brutal storms are to be withstood, Caribbean islands and certain parts of the United States, need to construct more resilient buildings and infrastructure than now exists."*¹⁶

The use of the term 'new economy' could be more pertinent and palatable to both policy makers and the citizenry of the OECS but one must caution that it should not be used in any way that compromises the essence and key principles of a GE. The vast knowledge and literature on GE could nonetheless be used as a guide to assessing achievement as well as to formulate and evaluate policy.

In its contribution towards a sustainable economic policy development effort in small countries, the Commonwealth Secretariat has proposed five focus areas as the key pillars of resilience building in small states, namely: macro-economic stability; micro-economic market efficiency; good governance; social development and cohesion and sound environmental management. These provide the overall policy framework for any small state interested in transitioning towards a GE. However, having reviewed the status of the sub region in progressing toward a new inclusive, green and resilient economy, the following

policy areas have been selected for special consideration in the challenging albeit potentially transformative GE/ new economy policy development process.

4.2. Partnerships for Success

A review of the seminal CDB commissioned/ CANARI drafted paper, *A new paradigm for Caribbean development: transitioning to a new Economy* (CDB 2014), reveals an impressive policy action agenda, albeit renewable energy focused, that is as relevant to the OECS countries as it is to the wider Caribbean. Reproducing this agenda here would not be advisable given the limitations of time and space. However, much of what it contains will be touched upon below with a slant towards the objective realities of OECS countries. This should hopefully, allow the CDB and CANARI to reference that work in their review of this study.

It has been claimed that, *"...both the levers and the blocks to a green economy are concerned with technology, capital, markets, capacity, regulatory support and political feasibility"* (Bass 2013). A European Union Results Oriented Monitoring Mission¹⁷ for the Caribbean #GE4U project found that the project was relevant, had effective systems in place for monitoring and evaluation of progress and that the implementing agency, CANARI, was well placed to deliver key informational and strategic inputs as well as to support sustainability in general and GE initiatives (e.g. via the Caribbean Green Economy Knowledge Platform being developed and action learning processes being used). This is no surprise, as CANARI has undoubtedly been the lead agency for GE development in the region. However, the preliminary report also noted that CANARI needs to strengthen its regional profile with key target audiences relevant to GE (e.g. finance) and a CANARI-CDB partnership could be very interesting as previously stated. This is not a criticism of CANARI but an acknowledgement that key strategic partnerships are required across the broad spectrum of regional and international institutions, governments, non-governmental agencies, academic and research institutions, financial institutions, donor agencies, civil society groups and the private sector if the mammoth task of greening the Caribbean economy is to

¹⁵ All these principles and objectives are entrenched in the various definitions of a green economy (UNEP, OECD, CANARI etc.) and even embraced by non-GE proponents such as the Non-State Actors Advisory Panel in Grenada.

¹⁶ <http://www.caribbeanetimes.ag/national-statement-honourable-gaston-browne-prime-minister-antigua-barbuda-72nd-united-nations-general-assembly/>

¹⁷ Preliminary Report of European Union Results Oriented Monitoring evaluator Anne Martin of the UK delivered via CANARI by email on October 5, 2017.

be realised. CANARI has limited financial resources but is resourceful in spreading the message of sustainable development and the GE to the local and regional community of civil society organisations, academics, the media, small enterprises and vulnerable groups, fisher folk and farmers etc. It is a font of knowledge on GE issues and well connected to international institutions involved in sustainable development such as the IIED, the GEC, the GGKP, the UN Environment and the EU but does not have the financial and administrative capacity to drive the regional GE transition on its own.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is also a font of knowledge with many committed faculty members serving as members of CANARI's GE ALG and researching and contributing towards the policy agenda for a GE transition in the wider region. UWI therefore must also be a key partner in the process, providing the intellectual and research leadership and contributing to the policy dialogue and implementation process.

Reshaping national and regional development policies require substantial resources (technical, financial, informational, technological, administrative and influential). No other regional institution possesses an optimal mix of those resources other than the CDB. Established in January 1970, the CDB's stated purpose is *"... to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of the member countries of the Caribbean (hereinafter called the region) and to promote economic cooperation and integration among them, having special and urgent regard to the less developed members of the region."*¹⁸

In acknowledgement of that purpose the CDB's Mission Statement is that, *"CDB intends to be the leading catalyst for development resources into the Region, working in an efficient, responsive and collaborative manner with our Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) and other development partners, towards the systematic reduction of poverty in their countries through social and economic development."*¹⁹

There is nonetheless still a major role for CANARI and UWI in continuing to lead the dialogue and action learning on the new economy while ensuring that the accepted GE principles are not compromised in the reform and implementation process. CANARI, however, needs to be invested with the requisite resources through an institutional partnership with the CDB and a formal

collaboration on GE/ new economy transitioning with the OECS Commission, if not the Members themselves. As a strategic partner and appointed agency for championing the process, important responsibilities for communication, knowledge sharing, community and public engagement, advocacy, research and evaluation/ monitoring must be formally delegated to both CANARI and UWI along with the requisite financial and technical resources. Progress is achieved by adding and not subtracting, by multiplying and not by dividing, so it would be most advisable for the sub-region to utilise those resources that are already adding value to the GE transitioning process rather than reinvent the wheel and fritter away valuable resources and achievements.

The OECS Commission itself would have to reorganise its current structure to reflect the need for a dedicated GE/ new economy focus. However, it cannot be stressed more that this would necessarily entail an advocacy, coordinating and monitoring role and not an implementing or executing one. Likewise, at the country levels, greater coordination and streamlining of administrative systems, technical review mechanisms and governance arrangements is imperative. The focus must shift from merely prescriptive policies to action for it is perhaps at the national policy level that the greatest impact can be made. This must begin with an acknowledgement by governments of the prudence of developing a green/ new economy and society. This broader vision of development must permeate all aspects of development programming and would hopefully be embraced by the society at large.

Additionally, appropriate partnerships with investors, donors and the international community could see the development of a GE predicated on greening of key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, energy, recycling businesses, smart manufacturing, housing, infrastructure and construction. The GE could be supported by a targeted development of the cultural industries, a focus on responsible agriculture for food security, agro-processing and expansion of indigenous culinary businesses that can meet the demands of the expanded local population of citizens, residents and visitors.

As a matter of policy, it may be opportune to reconsider the mix of ministries and revert to Ministries of Finance, Planning and Development (Sustainable Development) as a possible means of ensuring that the GE/ new

¹⁸ Article 1 of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Development Bank.

¹⁹ <http://www.caribank.org/about-cdb>



Traditional cassava bread is still made by the Kalinago people of Dominica. Credit: Natalie Boodram

economy idea is mainstreamed and receives the highest consideration by the most important policy advisers, formulators and decision-makers. It is essential to state that **it is ultimately the OECS countries themselves who would have to lead and champion the GE transition process if it is to succeed.**

4.3. Financing

The CDB is undoubtedly the leading catalyst for development resources in the region and, in the case of the OECS, channels resources from international donor/lending agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)²⁰ and the World Bank to the sub-region. It seems logical therefore for the CDB, in partnership with CANARI and OECS member governments, to be the champion and resource mobiliser for a successful GE transition in the sub-region if not the wider region.

The key challenge for the CDB, however, is to help its members mount a cogent development programme, based on the agreed GE principles, that would propel the region forward into a more secure future and a sustainable development path. Otherwise, the risk of a further reversal in the development gains of previous decades through the effects of climate change and continuation of the deleterious 'brown economy' becomes more tangible. Encouragingly, the CDB has already embarked on several initiatives that lend to that

recommended approach including: its 2012-2017 Climate Resilience Strategy (CRS), which was scheduled for review and updating in May 2017 prior to unveiling of the 2018-2023 CRS; a major review of Caribbean economic policy and history in 2012; the revamp of the Basic Needs Trust Fund and the wider poverty reduction strategy; the previously cited 2015-2019 Strategic Plan and its continuing strategic partnerships with other regional institutions and Governments towards facilitating a new, more sustainable approach to economic development in the Caribbean.

The CDB's Strategic Plan 2015-2019 (CDB 2014) identifies six major target areas to support inclusive and sustainable growth and development as well as good governance. These are detailed as: upgrading social and economic infrastructure; building greater productive capacity in agriculture (human and land-use); enhancing skills and human capital; providing much-needed funding for environmental sustainability, energy efficiency and climate adaptation; facilitating private sector development through upgrading of skills and greater access to financing; and supporting better governance and accountability. It is expected these would all lend to sustainable poverty reduction, greater economic resilience, improved economic management and competitiveness of its BMCs, which comprise all the OECS countries. The Strategic Plan acknowledges that, *... "the key development issues for CDB's BMCs have remained those of low and variable economic growth; unsustainable debt and poor fiscal management; high unemployment; vulnerability to the effects of climate change and natural hazards; environmental degradation, crime and increasing threats to citizen security; and rising poverty, all with distinctive gender imbalances; weaknesses in economic governance arrangements, and the slow pace of regional economic integration. Indeed, the recent financial crisis and Great Recession have further slowed already sluggish growth rates, made economic conditions more difficult and inequitable, and threatens to erode the social gains made in previous decades."*

4.3.1. Investment

An investment review mechanism at the regional or sub-regional level may be a useful tool to have at the outset

²⁰ None of the OECS member States are members of the IDB but IDB resources for region-wide initiatives are channelled to the OECS through the CDB.

of the GE transition process and, if not housed at the CDB, a concerted effort to obtain GE funding for such a proposal could be mounted. Green or sustainable investment is highlighted here, as the sub-region's landscape is littered with examples of failed or damaging foreign direct investment that failed to adhere to 'triple bottom line' conditions. While one fully appreciates the importance of foreign investment to small, resource-poor islands like those of the OECS, such investment must be circumscribed by clear developmental guidelines that protect both social and ecological integrity. The countries must be properly zoned and appropriate development planning guidelines prescribed and strictly enforced for safeguarding the patrimony and sustainable livelihoods of OECS citizens and residents while allowing for reasonable investments by responsible foreign investors.

Public sector investment in areas that would stimulate the greening of key economic sectors and in capacity enhancements such as human capital, infrastructure (both hard and soft), administrative and governance mechanisms is crucial. It would therefore be useful to develop, first at the regional level, and in each country, a completely revised public sector investment project (PSIP) strategy that focuses squarely on the green/new economy transition. The temptation to adopt a business as usual stance to public sector investment is understandable given existing financial obligations and political/ social imperatives but to continue to fritter away scarce financial resources on transfer payments and unsustainable consumption is anathema to all that the GE transition and sustainable development requires.

4.3.2. GE/ new economy/ climate financing

There is also the matter of accessing climate or GE financing. Many traditional international financial institutions and newer ones such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) offer financial assistance to developing countries and corporations, who meet the requisite criteria, to implement GE or climate resilient solutions. The GCF for instance claims to be driven by the impact of climate change on the planet and therefore strives to help countries shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development. There are also specific financing facilities for selected aspects of greening, for example: work by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UN Environment in support of national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest

carbon stocks – along with other REDD+ mechanisms (UNEP 2011); green stimulus funding from the World Bank and the GCF; responsible private investors; long-term investment funds from “green portfolios” of pension funds and insurance companies looking to minimise environmental, social and governance risks; international and regional development banks such as World Bank, IDB and CDB that have created green or sustainable development capacity building; sovereign wealth funds; bilateral and multi-lateral development assistance programs for example by the EU, the UN, etc..

There are also complementary financing programmes such as the CDB and World Bank's Disaster Risk Management initiatives that seek to minimise countries' climate vulnerability while building resilience to natural disasters. The challenge is to work those initiatives into the mainstream development agenda of OECS member countries so that they are structured to allow complementarity of development financing arrangements and sustainability of the overall development process.

However, the GE financing process must be well organised, structured and kickstarted with public financing which may be from: reallocation of non-performing expenditure; fiscal reforms that result in increases in net public revenue; through debt forgiveness; or attraction of additional, specialised donor funding. Public financing is crucial for a green/ new economic transformation and the process cannot succeed without governments “putting skins in the game”. This would require government agencies to make the “greening” of government activities a priority and limit spending on non-green initiatives.

4.3.3. Green Growth

The OECD describes green growth as “...fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our wellbeing relies”. Green growth also involves investing in the environment to drive economic growth and, as outlined above, necessitates a change in the approach to both public and private investing so that scarce public funds are prudently employed in sustainable growth inducing activities that are supported by appropriate private investment attracting policies. Indeed, governments have a major role in ensuring that public investment and public finance stimulates impactful developmental, commercial and environmental performance (Bass 2013). This an

essential step in the GE/ new economy process and OECS governments will have a responsibility to insist on such growth generating measures in GE transitioning. Assessment of the efficacy of public spending and private investment could therefore be done in that context.

There is the added necessity to facilitate those private investors including local SMEs and vulnerable individuals in their use of natural resources as potential sources of growth and jobs. This is particularly relevant to pro-poor strategies, as many poorer persons depend heavily on the use of natural resources to maintain their livelihoods. This includes fisherfolk, farmers, craftspersons, artisans, foresters, persons involved in indigenous medicinal ventures, beekeepers etc. There is just as well a need to support 'green and social enterprises', whether large or small, once they deliver 'triple-bottom line' benefits to the economy/ies in which they operate.

4.4. Capacity Building

It would be prudent to develop an overall regional or sub-regional strategy/ plan for the GE transformation process, which can provide the framework for individual national plans, strategies and standards to meet the established GE compatibility criteria. Already, there is evidence of several national plans that speak expressly or impliedly to GE or climate resilient development but there does not appear to be a coherence with GE concepts, green investing or sustainable production and consumption. Indeed, it appears that several current and proposed investments projects in the OECS have been accepted by the respective governments without reference to their stated commitments to a GE. The stated justification for governmental embrace of those projects is usually the jobs that they bring, which are not always sustainable jobs and, of course, possible harmful social and environmental effects seem to be downplayed during the investment proposal review stage.

Even within a framework of a sub-regional or regional new economy strategy, there would still be the likelihood of fights for turf between the various implementing agencies and government ministries. Their focus would plausibly be on their subject area of responsibility, which could promote territorial and compartmentalised approaches to green/ new economy implementation. Similar biases would probable obtain at the country level. Notwithstanding the need for sub-regional coherence, *"...a country-driven, country-tailored approach is needed*

to ensure stakeholders get what they need, rather than what they are given" (Bass 2013).

Intense public consultation and education on the importance of GE transition issues - including building economic and climate resilience, social inclusion and governance - must be highlighted. Governments will have to be the drivers of this process, to lead by example and demonstrate a high level of policy consistency to convince the populace that this is indeed a new, sustainable and better development pathway for all. Of course, the current GE proponents at both the individual and institutional levels, national and regional would have to support governments in that push.

4.5. Cross Cutting Issues - Energy, Land, Water, Waste Management

4.5.1. Alternative Energy

Several renewable energy investments have been implemented over the past few years in the OECS sub-region and many others are ongoing or planned. However, there is still a disproportionate reliance on the traditional fossil fuel base energy generation and distribution. Admittedly, there are structural and investment issues that must be addressed but perhaps no other sector offers a more immediate and seamless embrace of a green/ new economy than the energy sector.

The provision of more targeted fiscal incentives for spurring new investments in "green" technology and energy efficient production methods and tools that support a more environmentally-friendly approach and successful GE outcomes could be pursued. The earlier cited CDB study proposes detailed approaches on this matter and would have to be consulted thoroughly.

Some OECS member countries, such as Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, have already indicated a desire to be more than 50% alternative/renewable energy dependent in the next 5-10 years. Saint Lucia had committed to a 35% threshold by 2020. St. Kitts and Nevis is also refocused on developing its geothermal energy to industrial scale. There should therefore be no problem in the sub-region stepping up its efforts to be the leading alternative/ renewable energy region in the world.

Indeed, there are many 'green shoots' in the sub-region that can be built upon, such as the OECS' SGD and related sustainable development initiatives including



Protected areas in Grenada protect the rich natural heritage.

Credit: CANARI

ECROP; the C-SERMS; CDB's earlier cited Strategic Plan and CANARI's work with the GE ALG and SMEs. A full embrace of those initiatives and instruments could assist in pointing the way forward.

4.5.2. Land

Nowhere is there greater evidence of the deleterious effects of unplanned developments on the environment of OECS countries than on the land, which includes both terrestrial and marine spaces. The land involves all a country's natural attributes including its natural environment, physical beauty, and the patrimony of its people, particularly the issue of land ownership. Land use and land zoning policies must be brought into sharper focus with spatial planning and indicative land use plans adopted throughout the sub-region.

There is something to be said for the need to attract high levels of foreign investment to maintain and enhance existing standards of living. However, there must be a balance between that need and the imperative of protecting the patrimony of OECS nationals. While one fully appreciates the importance of foreign investment to small, relatively resource-poor island states, such investment must be circumscribed by clear developmental guidelines that protect the sub-region's social and ecological integrity. The countries must be properly zoned and appropriate development planning guidelines prescribed and strictly enforced for safeguarding the

patrimony and sustainable livelihoods of OECS nationals while allowing for reasonable investments by responsible foreign investors.

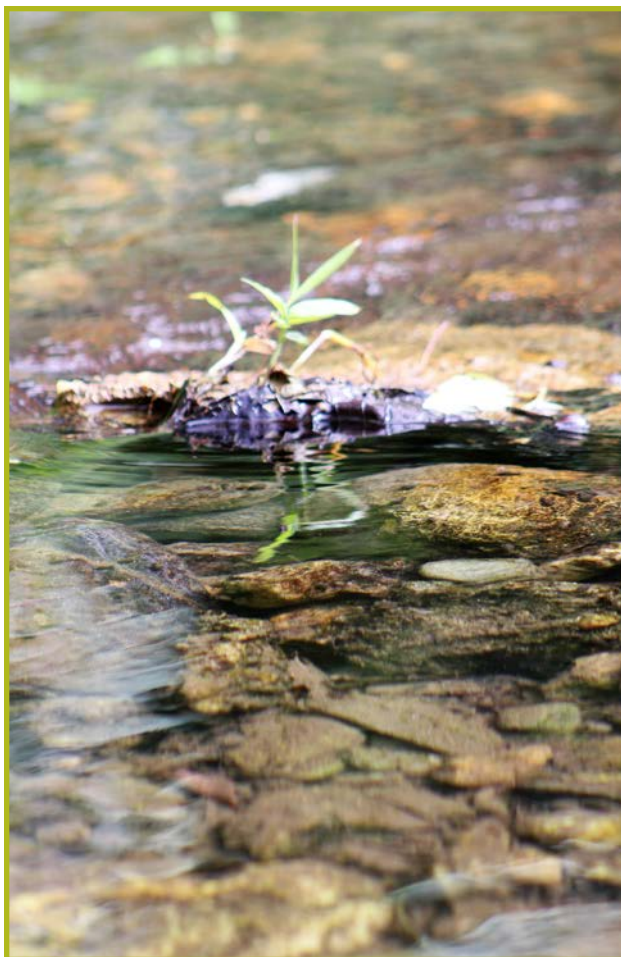
There is a well acknowledged need to significantly upgrade the sub-region's level of infrastructure to: (1) optimise spatial planning and utilisation; (2) maximise the countries' natural beauty and mostly pristine environment while facilitating the populace's easy access to modern roads, telecommunications, public utilities and basic social and economic services; (3) minimise the rural/urban divide; (4) lower the general cost of doing business; (5) ensure all investments are circumscribed by clear developmental guidelines that protect the natural heritage as well as the respective countries' social and ecological integrity; and (6) facilitate a more orderly land zoning and utilisation process.

The cause could also be helped by each person planting at least one tree each year for the next five years. This effort would also help inculcate an appreciation for the environment among the impressionable youth if "plant a tree" programmes are established in all schools.

4.5.3. Water

The cliché that "water is life" has never been more apt in this era of climate change and its attendant extreme weather patterns. The Caribbean is no exception to the trend of decreasing water catchment levels and increasing shortages. An intense understanding of this new reality must therefore be reflected in new policy approaches. The entire water capture, storage and distribution process has to be restructured to reflect available and new green water systems including rain water retention at both the domestic and industrial levels; reverse osmosis/desalination given the abundance and easy access to seawater; exploration of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion as both a renewable energy and new water generation option; seek out existing artesian wells; and improved surface water catchment, installation of new and more efficient reservoirs and vastly enhanced distribution networks.

Simple practices like installing rain water capture systems at public facilities such as fire stations, hospitals, sports stadia and government buildings as well as conserving water by re-using captured bath water to flush toilets and to water plants are other prudent ways to conserve and sustain the supply of water. However, policy and



Natural streams are key water sources in the OECS.

Credit: Natalie Boodram

legislation must support those initiatives to ensure that they become mainstreamed into every day practice.

4.5.4. Waste Management

Waste management is a veritable challenge in the small territories of the OECS and requires a quantum leap in effort and strategies to reverse some of the environmental degradation and aesthetic decline that has been witnessed over the years. This could start simply by introducing practices and legislation to separate household garbage into biodegradable and non-biodegradable receptacles. Plastics can then be cleaned and recycled for use as water bottles, liquid soap containers, plant holders etc.

Another option would be using bicycles and walking whenever feasible as well as personally taking responsibility for reducing carbon emissions by: (1)

choosing the most fuel-efficient options available when purchasing vehicles; (2) checking and re-inflating tires as often as possible; (3) parking and walking as much as possible when in the city rather than driving to each stop; and (3) carpooling, particularly for long trips.

At the corporate level, there have been some instances of adoption of some landmarks including roundabouts and parks for cleaning and maintenance by businesses. This should be widened to include adoption and maintenance of specific streets, verges and communities. Although personal and corporate responsibility is required to sustain this drive, the initial impetus would have to come from deliberate governmental policy, official precept and facilitation.

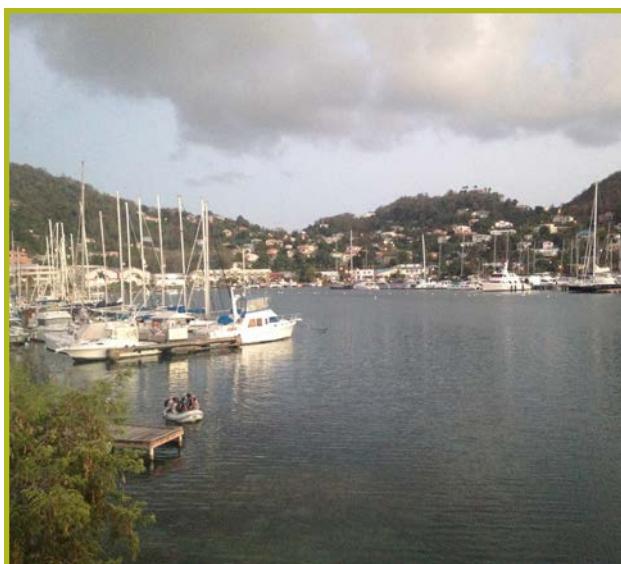
One of the most pernicious issues in small countries like those of the OECS is the poor disposal of old vehicles, tyres and non-biodegradable wastes. This should be a priority policy issue at both the domestic and sub-regional levels. New waste disposal policies that separate plastics, bottles, chemicals/ hazardous waste and metal should be instituted and even policies on importation of vehicles and incentives for scrap metal and new waste management and recycling enterprises should be promoted.

Of course, this would be ideally supported by: (1) an effective legislative and enforcement framework for garbage disposal and littering; (2) appropriate public education and awareness programmes; (3) annual cleanest community competitions organised by the Ministries responsible for the environment or for social transformation and generously sponsored by the corporate sector; and (4) an annual environmental award for the OECS corporate sector.

4.6. Greening Specific Sectors

4.6.1. Tourism

There are already many examples of tourism establishments that have utilised greening initiatives such as Green Globe or Earth Check certification to streamline their operations towards both increased ecological responsibility and lower costs. There is the added incentive of greater marketability to the higher echelons of the market, as the higher spending, ethnocentric visitor is often also environmentally conscious. Responsible tourism is thus a “no brainer” for OECS countries who



Yachting is important to the OECS tourism industry.

Credit: CANARI



Small scale farming contributes to food security in Montserrat.

Credit: CANARI

do not have the capacity for mass market tourism but could present a much more plausible proposition to the more discerning, segment of the market. The demand for green travel has also increased as indicated in KUONI's (luxury long haul tour-operator) Travel Trends Report 2012 and the ABTA Travel Report 2012. The reports provide evidence of consumers who demonstrate a preference for green products whether in food, forestry or tourism. They demand rigorous environmental and social standards in the product and in its production, particularly where certified green standards are the norm. The OECS tourism focus should therefore shift swiftly to that reality and follow best practices in greening the sector. It can build on an already developed base of the OECS Green Tourism Programme enabling environment, which includes the OECS *Common Tourism Policy*, the *Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework*, national policies and plans on energy, water, waste and tourism.

4.6.2. Agriculture

It is highly unlikely for the Caribbean region, and even more so the OECS, to implement a GE without green agriculture. The OECS continues to have an annual food import bill of more than US\$500 million while the terms of trade continue to move in favour of the major importer - the USA. Indeed, over the past 60+ years the sub region has

exported what it grows at steeply declining prices whilst importing food products at steadily increasing prices. This is, of course, not a sustainable approach to any business but seems even more injudicious when one considers the growing clamour about the adverse health effects of many of those imports. The real issue with agriculture's viability in the OECS may not be one of production but rather about marketing and distribution mechanisms. It is encouraging that the OECS Council of Ministers of Agriculture has already acknowledge the problem and is committed to tackling the issue head on.²¹ Nevertheless, the opportunities for greening the sector are not only realistic and manageable but could potentially yield huge financial, economic, health and food security dividends. Opportunities for agricultural investment include organic products, agro-tourism attractions, value added products and health and wellness related products including nutraceuticals and indigenous pharmaceuticals.

4.7. Recommended Institutional Structure for GE Implementation in The OECS

The inherent structure of Caribbean countries, and especially those of the OECS micro-states, seriously challenges their ability to implement sustainable development initiatives like the green or blue economy. The relatively small size and resource constraints of

²¹ <https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/oecs-to-tackle-high-food-import-bill/>

those countries restricts their capacity to realise the benefits of economies of scale and negotiating leverage, as larger countries do. Although the OECS countries pool their resources in the areas of external relations, civil aviation, education development, attracting development assistance and central banking, they still have certain fixed costs of providing public services, “...including data collection, policy formulation, regulatory activities and security. The provision of these public goods comes at a high cost per person, limiting the institutions and skills available for policy response. These challenges are inherent and any effective practical approaches to the development of the green or blue economy must take these factors full on board and be relevant to the Caribbean context.” (Roberts 2015)

As suggested earlier, the need for strategic partnerships between key regional institutions such as the CDB (primary resource mobiliser and facilitator); CANARI (lead advocate, researcher, knowledge sharing and community

engagement agency); OECS Commission (institutional coordinator and monitoring/reporting agency); OECS Member States (implementing agencies); and the private sector, academia, civil society organisations, the general public (key stakeholders) are crucial to the success of the GE/ new economy effort.

CANARI would have to take the lead in facilitating the engagement of the range of stakeholders on a regular basis, supported by the other agencies. This would require the development of a policy/implementation matrix of who does what, how and when. Its success would however depend on acceptance by the OECS governments to delegate some of the community/ stakeholder activities to CANARI and the other agencies, as required, with a full understanding that it is indeed a cemented partnership between designated GE/ new economy facilitators. Borrowing from the action agenda developed in the earlier cited CDB report (CDB 2014), the matrix could look like this:

Table 1: OECS GE Policy Implementation Matrix

Required Action	Responsible Agency	Methodology	Indicator of Success
Develop information base for policy goals, targets, strategies	CANARI/ CDB	Research/ analyses/ expert review	Funding/ technical assistance secured for informed and reliable targeting/programming
Acceptance by governments of a GE/ blue economy or new economy OECS programme	OECS Commission	Reporting/ programming/ advocacy	GE/ blue economy or new economy mainstreamed into national and sub-regional policy
GE to new economy	CDB/ CANARI	Advocacy/ report presentation/ media sensitisation	Term becomes synonymous with the reform and greening of OECS economies
New economy strategy development/ visioning	CDB/ UWI/ governments	Provide/ obtain funding for new economy strategy and its implementation. Introduction of widespread GE education and promotion programmes.	Lucid, publicly accepted new economy strategy is formally adopted after wide consultation
Financing the transition	CDB/ OECS Commission/ Member Governments	Grants and soft loans funding/ public financing/ targeted private investment attraction/ donor funding	New economy fund established and fully capitalised

Table 1 (continued): OECS GE Policy Implementation Matrix

Required Action	Responsible Agency	Methodology	Indicator of Success
Greening sectors	CDB/ Member Governments/ Relevant Agencies/ Private Sector	Sector by sector programming in association with national and regional specialists	International certification/ discernible sector growth in GE context
Administrative restructuring	OECS Commission / Member Governments/ Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)	Streamlining existing structure to align with new economy transitioning and increased administrative efficiency	Marked improvement in public sector output/ KPIs set, more than 80% met and high ratio of implementation of programs
Water and waste management policies and legislation	Member Governments	Review and update policies and legislation to better conserve and sustainably produce clean water while enhancing waste management practices	Cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing physical environment and efficient waste management and water distribution systems
Regular community engagement to promote inclusion	CANARI/ Member Governments	Institutionalised stakeholder meetings, literature, media programmes, social media inputs	GE/ blue economy or new economy is well understood and more than 80% accepted by public
Green growth initiatives	CANARI/ CDB/ Member governments	Public financing/ private and public investment to stimulate economic, social and environmental targets	New green growth criteria set and 85% met
Monitoring and evaluation	CDB/ OECS Commission	Assessment of adherence to GE principles	New methodologies for economic performance/ natural capital measuring developed

5. Conclusion: Building blocks for GE implementation



Valuing natural ecosystems, like those found along Grenada's coasts, is central to economic transformation in the OECS. Credit: CANARI

1. The traditional approach of a one-dimensional focus on development through a narrow profit or GDP only 'bottom line' has not worked for the OECS. This is the most salient lesson of the recent international economic crisis. What we do not yet know is precisely how to spur governments and key development partners within the public and private sectors, civil society and regional/ international institutions to steadfastly embrace that still relatively untested 'triple bottom line' approach to greening the economies of the sub-region and embarking on a truly sustainable, people-centred, climate resilient, low carbon, ecologically friendly development path.
2. While there is substantial interest and indications of commitment to greening the sub-region, or at the very least to a sustainable development approach, there is little evidence of real economic transformation or mainstreaming of the GE concept.
3. Conducting more detailed research through action learning and sharing of best practices could possibly provide a sound basis for more effective and successful action towards the goal of achieving a truly GE in the sub-region.
4. Albeit, action learning, research and the political directorate's expressions of commitment to a GE approach has not thus far resulted in mainstreaming of the GE ideas and approaches, there are many 'green shoots' of initiatives and disjointed programmes that can be better coordinated to achieve the required mainstreaming of GE initiatives, policies and practices.
5. The imperative for meaningful, sustainable growth and transformation requires a quantum leap in visioning, administration and implementation modalities in the sub-region for successful transition from the current 'brown economy' to the new GE.
6. There is an urgent imperative to do it efficiently and simply if one expects this new way to be widely and popularly embraced. There are action learning opportunities within enterprises, within countries and within communities that can inspire others towards success.
7. A Caribbean response cannot be simply a reaction to externally imposed concepts or models – the new

economy needs to be based on the region's reality, innate attributes, indigenous talents and specific conditions. There is already consensus that a new approach is needed to redress the creeping environmental degradation, general economic and social malaise in the OECS.

8. The GE agenda is still very much driven by external agencies such as UN Environment and the World Bank, but it appears that while OECS member countries may be willing to explore application of the key GE principles they may not necessarily have access to the required financial and technical support that would give them the flexibility to choose their own approaches.
9. Green or sustainable production and consumption should be the pathway to sustainable living and it is opportune, given the destructive effects of recent hurricanes, that the sub-region follow a new, climate resilient development path, which could be termed the 'new economy'.
10. Too often brilliant ideas and sensible development approaches, even when formally accepted, falter on the platform of implementation. It could reflect general inertia, systemic anti-change biases, or simply a sense of being overwhelmed.
11. The current situation demands a rededication of efforts, strategies and plans towards that new way of economic development, whatever it is eventually called. However, it cannot be argued that the main tenets of a GE are all desirable objectives of the sub-region.
12. Partnerships for effective implementation across the broad spectrum of governments, domestic, regional and international institutions, civil society and the private sector are critical to success of the new way given the need for policy coherence, pooling of strengths/ resources and effective, sustainable development supporting implementation modalities.
13. Once a programme of policies for the new economy is agreed, it requires nothing less than an unconditional commitment to genuine sub-regional and national development interests. Each institution, stakeholder or government must pay on demand its part of sacrifice if the figure of a strong, vibrant, climate resilient, pro-poor, green growth propelled, well



Valuing natural ecosystems, like those found along the coast of the OECS, like these fishers in Dominica, must be at the centre of economic transformation. Credit: CANARI

governed, competitive, socially inclusive economy is to take shape.

14. The current challenging economic and social situation in the OECS could be another opportunity to point fingers, whine incessantly and lay blame for mistakes past and current. Or it could be a veritable watershed – an occasion to usher in a new approach to problem solving, a fresh commitment to building a brighter future for the sub-region, its countries and territories, and the people who live there.

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Appendix 1: Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Specific elements of the transition to a green economy (GE) can be assessed and 'scored' as illustrated in the tables below.

- Coloured items are indicators that change by gradations between each score level.
- Underlined italic items are generic terms that must be specified for each country/region based on their assessment of local political economy. These can be based on GEC model priority sectors, stakeholders etc.

Green Economy Overall

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	The transition to a Green Economy is recognised as a core national priority by government and more than 10 <u>key public and private stakeholders</u> . An inclusively formulated national GE plan recognising significance of equity, inclusion and environmental limits has been developed, adopted as government policy, and is seeing strong legislative implementation , especially in national <u>GE priority sectors</u> . Policy impact is being strongly felt in <u>GE priority sectors</u> , especially by SMEs & informal actors, through a supportive financial environment . Adoption of natural capital valuation by public and private actors is leading to net gains in measured ecosystem health and biophysical assets.
3 - Good	The transition to a Green Economy is recognised a priority area by government and 10 <u>key public and private stakeholders</u> . An inclusively formulated national GE plan considering equity, inclusion and environmental limits has been proposed , and is likely to be adopted as government policy. There have already been some legislative progress in implementing policies in national <u>GE priority sectors</u> . Policy impact is beginning to be felt in <u>GE priority sectors</u> , including improved funding for SMEs & informal actors. Limited adoption of natural capital valuation by public and private actors is contributing to reduced degradation of measured ecosystem health and biophysical assets.
2 - Average	The transition to a Green Economy is acknowledged as an issue by government and 4-9 <u>key public and private stakeholders</u> . A top-down national GE plan with some consideration of equity, inclusion and environmental limits is being considered by government , and possibly adopted as government policy. There are some legislative proposals for policies in national <u>GE priority sectors</u> , but limited consideration of the role of SMEs & informal actors. Awareness of natural capital valuation by public and private actors has led to proposals for adoption and stronger protection for ecosystem health and biophysical assets.
1 - Poor	The transition to a Green Economy is acknowledged as an issue by government and 1-3 <u>key public and private stakeholders</u> . A narrow GE strategy with little consideration of equity, inclusion and environmental limits may be considered by government for adoption as policy . There are few legislative proposals for policies in national <u>GE priority sectors</u> , and consideration of the role of SMEs & informal actors is absent . Limited awareness of natural capital valuation by public and private actors has led to no progress toward stronger protection for ecosystem health and biophysical assets.
0 - None	The transition to a Green Economy is not acknowledged as an issue by government or any <u>key public and private stakeholders</u> . No GE strategy is likely to be considered for adoption as government policy . There are no legislative proposals for positive policies in national <u>GE priority sectors</u> , and acknowledgment of the role of SMEs & informal actors in GE is absent . No awareness of natural capital valuation by public and private actors contributes to ongoing declines in ecosystem health and biophysical assets.

Appendix 1 (continued): Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Measurement and Governance

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	A GE national plan being implemented by government is strongly aligned with national implementation of the SDGs and accompanying indicator framework . This approach to GE sees wide mainstream support and more than 10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of the GE national plan, SDG implementation, and beyond GDP priorities. New governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition have been launched and are receiving strong political backing . Large and active networks of civil society and SMEs are supportive of GE plans and highly coordinated in supporting implementation.
3 - Good	A GE national plan proposed by government is linked with national implementation of the SDGs and accompanying indicator framework . This approach to GE sees some mainstream support and 10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of the GE national plan, SDG implementation, and beyond GDP priorities. Proposals for new governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition are emerging and have political backing . New networks of civil society and SMEs are supportive of GE plans and able to coordinate in supporting implementation.
2 - Average	A GE national plan is being considered by government and has some links with national implementation of the SDGs and accompanying indicator framework . This approach to GE sees niche support and 4-9 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of the GE national plan, SDG implementation, and beyond GDP priorities. Proposals for new governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition are being considered . Selected civil society groups and SMEs are somewhat supportive of GE plans but have limited scope for coordination to support implementation.
1 - Poor	A limited GE strategy is being considered by government but has few links with national SDG implementation . A stronger approach to GE sees little support and 1-3 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of broader GE, SDG, and beyond GDP priorities . Proposals for new governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition are absent . Most civil society groups and SMEs are indifferent to GE plans and are unwilling to support implementation.
0 - None	No GE strategy is being considered by government and there is little focus on national SDG implementation . GE sees mainstream opposition and no <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of broader GE, SDG, and beyond GDP priorities . Proposals for new governance institutions to enable and manage a GE transition are absent . The clear majority of civil society groups and SMEs are indifferent or opposed to GE plans and may obstruct implementation.

Appendix 1 (continued): Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Sustainable Finance

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	The need for new financial systems and fiscal policies to reduce systemic risk and support GE is widely acknowledged . More than 10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are strongly supportive of finance for inclusive GE and coordinated to act in its support via funding and their public positioning . There is very strong and increasing investment in <u>priority GE sectors</u> , and multiple robustly funded policies are seeing successful implementation.
3 - Good	The need for new financial systems and fiscal policies to reduce systemic risk and support GE has mainstream acceptance . 10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of finance for inclusive GE and coordinated to act in its support via public positioning and some new funding . There is healthy and increasing investment in <u>priority GE sectors</u> , and several funded policies are seeing positive implementation.
2 - Average	The need for new financial systems and fiscal policies to reduce systemic risk and support GE some limited acceptance . 4-9 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are somewhat supportive of finance for inclusive GE and but not yet coordinated to act in its support with more than public positioning . There is adequate investment in <u>priority GE sectors</u> , and few policies with limited funds are seeing implementation.
1 - Poor	The need for new financial systems and fiscal policies to reduce systemic risk and support GE has niche support only . 1-3 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are somewhat supportive of finance for inclusive GE and but not yet coordinated to act in its support through public positioning or funding . There is under investment in <u>priority GE sectors</u> , and very few policies seeing funded implementation.
0 - None	The need for new financial systems and fiscal policies to reduce systemic risk and support GE is resisted by the mainstream . No <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> are supportive of finance for inclusive GE or coordinated to act in its support through public positioning or funding . There is significant under investment in <u>priority GE sectors</u> , and no policies funded for implementation .

Appendix 1 (continued): Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Green and Inclusive Sectors

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	Policies in support of greening in <u>priority GE sectors</u> have been developed and are seeing accelerating implementation through new processes and sectoral plans. SMEs (& informal economic actors) are increasing supported in the role of green innovators and receiving strong financial backing for taking part in greening process. A large network of SMEs is strongly engaged in GE dialogues and has had demonstrable impact on emerging GE policies and practice.
3 - Good	Policies in support of greening in <u>priority GE sectors</u> have been proposed and are seeing some implementation through processes and sectoral plans. SMEs (& informal economic actors) are recognised in the role of green innovators and receiving new financial support to take part in greening process. A network of SMEs is engaged with GE dialogues and has helped shape emerging GE policies and practice.
2 - Average	Policies in support of greening in some <u>priority GE sectors</u> have been proposed and may see implementation through processes and sectoral plans. SMEs (& informal economic actors) are not well recognised in the role of green innovators and receiving a little financial support to take part in greening process. A small network of SMEs is somewhat engaged with GE dialogues and but has had limited impact on emerging GE policies and practice.
1 - Poor	Policies in support of greening in few <u>priority GE sectors</u> have been proposed and are unlikely to see implementation through processes and sectoral plans. SMEs (& informal economic actors) are not acknowledged in the role of green innovators and are receiving no support to take part in greening process. An ad hoc involvement of SMEs with GE dialogues has had limited impact on emerging GE policies and practice.
0 - None	Policies in support of greening in priority GE sectors have not been proposed and will not see implementation through processes or sectoral plans. SMEs (& informal economic actors) are marginalised as green innovators and are absent from the greening process. No involvement in GE dialogues by SMEs has given them no impact on emerging GE policies and practice.

Appendix 1 (continued): Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Green Must be Fair

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	More than 10 <u>Key public and private national stakeholders</u> understand the importance of an inclusive and fair GE transition, and strongly reflect this in their activities and public positioning promoting greater equality and wide access to green jobs. Civil society groups have been extensively involved in consultation on GE plans and policy, with demonstrable impact through representing their stakeholders and improving the inclusiveness of adopted policies. They are fully supportive of ongoing GE implementation, and engaged through a large and highly active network including labour groups, SMEs and academic researchers.
3 - Good	10 key public and private national stakeholders understand the importance of an inclusive and fair GE transition, and reflect this in their activities and public positioning promoting greater equality and access to green jobs. Civil society groups have had good involvement in consultation on GE plans and policy, and had some impact in representing their stakeholders and improving the inclusiveness of adopted policies. They are supportive of ongoing GE implementation, and engaged through an active network including labour groups, SMEs and academic researchers.
2 - Average	4-9 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> acknowledge the importance of attempting an inclusive and fair GE transition, but only reflect this in their public positioning rather than through activities supporting greater equality and access to green jobs. Civil society groups have had limited involvement in consultation on GE plans and policy, and had minimal impact representing their stakeholders and promoting inclusive policy proposals. They are somewhat supportive of ongoing GE implementation, and engaged through a loose network including a few labour groups, SMEs and academic researchers.
1 - Poor	1-3 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> acknowledge the importance of attempting an inclusive and fair GE transition, and have limited public positioning promoting greater equality and access to green jobs. Civil society groups have had weak involvement in GE plans and policy due to a lack of consultation, and are unable to adequately represent their stakeholders and promote inclusive policy proposals. They are not very supportive of ongoing GE implementation due to poor process and outcomes, and only engaged on an ad hoc basis which misses out on involvement of labour groups, SMEs and academic researchers.
0 - None	No <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> acknowledge the importance of an inclusive and fair GE transition, and are unwilling to promote greater equality and access to green jobs. Civil society groups have had no involvement in GE plans and policy due to a lack of consultation, and are unable to represent their stakeholders and promote any policy proposals. They are consequently resistant to ongoing GE implementation due the potential for adverse outcomes and there is no engagement of labour groups, SMEs and academic researchers.

Appendix 1 (continued): Green Economy Coalition (GEC) Scorecard

Economics for Nature

Progress Score	Description
4 - Excellent	More than 10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> recognise the importance of natural capital approaches for the GE transition and represent this in their activities and public positioning . Robust natural capital policies to value and protect ecological systems and biodiversity have been developed with strong civil society and stakeholder input . Inclusive implementation is progressing with the support of government, private sector and civil society groups.
3 - Good	10 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> recognise the importance of natural capital approaches for the GE transition and represent this in their public positioning and some activities. Cautious natural capital policies valuing ecological systems and biodiversity have been proposed with some civil society and stakeholder input . Inclusive implementation is likely to progress with support of government and several private sector and civil society groups.
2 - Average	4-9 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> acknowledge natural capital approaches as relevant to the GE transition and represent this in their public positioning . Natural capital policies valuing ecological systems and biodiversity have been proposed but with little civil society and stakeholder input . Implementation will possibly proceed , but will exclude some social groups , receive limited support from government, private sector, civil society groups.
1 - Poor	1-3 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> acknowledge natural capital approaches as somewhat relevant to the GE transition but do not represent this in their public positioning . Natural capital policies valuing ecological systems and biodiversity have not been proposed and see there is limited opportunity for civil society and stakeholder groups to input. Implementation is unlikely to proceed , and is likely to exclude many social groups and consequently receive very limited support from government, private sector, civil society groups.
0 - None	0 <u>key public and private national stakeholders</u> recognise natural capital approaches as relevant to a GE transition and are willing to represent them in their public positioning . Natural capital policies valuing ecological systems and biodiversity will not be proposed and see there is no opportunity for civil society and stakeholder groups to input. Implementation is very unlikely as there is broad opposition from government, private sector, civil society groups.

Appendix 2: Applicable blue economy sectors/ activities in the OECS

Food security – Adequate scales and levels of marine resource protection, management and enforcement will provide long-term sustainable and renewable supplies of food.

Sustainable economic growth – The sustained supply of goods and services provides the basis for a range of economic activities. Primary amongst these is marine tourism that can be a major contributor to GDP for islands and coastal areas.

Energy security – Ocean currents and wave energy can be captured to provide a sustained source of energy; the ocean supplies a place to site wind farms relieving pressures on land. In remote small island states solar energy can reduce a near-total dependency on imports of diesel and other fuels.

Poverty reduction – Healthy marine ecosystems are associated with healthier local communities based on more and better quality sustained supplies of food in the form of fish protein. This is coupled with the fact that healthier more intact ecosystems generally harbour less pathogens of consequence to humans.

Climate change mitigation – Shallow coastal water ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes and even sea grass meadows are now seen as a critical part of our approach to managing essential natural carbon sinks.

Disaster risk reduction and mitigation – Coastal habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass meadows and coastal wetlands provide significant protection from episodic events such as cyclones and hurricanes. Through appropriate management the presence of such ecosystems also acts as day-to-day natural solutions to coastal erosion and flooding from storms and increasing sea levels.” (Roberts 2016)

Appendix 3: #GE4U OECS GE Diagnostic Questionnaire

Purpose

The key purpose of this exercise is to glean the state of implementation of Green Economy (GE) initiatives in the OECS sub-region with a view to developing recommendations for sub-regional economic policy, which will shape future development planning processes, plans and institutions that are needed to deliver a sustainable and inclusive economy in the OECS.

Target Market

The questionnaire is targeted at public officials, selected private sector and civil society stakeholders who represent a diversity of interests and perspectives, and policy-makers who are directly or indirectly involved in GE or related initiatives in the sub-region and who have a vested interest in GE implementation.

Vision

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in its pursuit of achieving sustainable development has been seeking to identify new and strategic directions that address multiple developmental challenges and provide opportunities for economic growth, social empowerment and environmental protection. This has led to the recognition that the development in the region must embrace a green perspective and capitalize on the opportunities that this can present. This approach to development is closely aligned with the values espoused in the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS and the wider United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This consultancy is thus a first step towards development of a strategic definition, agenda and action plan for an inclusive green economy in the OECS, as mandated by the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability at their 4th meeting in April 2017.

Main Output

The project's major expected output is a diagnostic study and policy brief on potential opportunities, hurdles, catalysts and institutional capacities needed for green economy transitions in the OECS.

Confidentiality

All responses will be kept strictly confidential. The aggregated results of answers would be used for assessing the state of GE implementation in the OECS and no individual answers will be published.

Appendix 3 (continued): #GE4U OECS GE Diagnostic Questionnaire

Country: _____

Name and Position/ Institution: _____

Key Questions

Please feel free to include any concepts/ actions/policies that may not be termed “green economy” but have similar characteristics that fit into the GE definition.	Yes/No Answers	Comments
Are you aware of the Green Economy (GE) Concept?	Yes	
Has the Concept been widely discussed or understood in your country?	Yes	
Have you heard of any specific GE initiative or other similar actions/plans in your country?	Yes	
Is your Government or any part of the public or private sector/civil society actively involved in any green economy plan or project?	Yes	
To what extent is or is not the green economy concept reflected in your national development plan(s)?		
Why or why not?		
Do you believe that GE should be embraced as a developmental approach in your country?	Yes	
Are you aware of any National GE or related Committee/Group in your country?	Yes	
Is the GE concept being used in mainstream political or media circles around economic reform?	No	
Do you know whether businesses in your country show awareness of the need for greener economies?	Yes	

Appendix 3 (continued): #GE4U OECS GE Diagnostic Questionnaire

Key Questions (continued)

Please feel free to include any concepts/ actions/policies that may not be termed “green economy” but have similar characteristics that fit into the GE definition.	Yes/No Answers	Comments
Is the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework being taken up by business / government?	No	
Are you aware of any national or regional measure of development that goes 'beyond GDP', or any moves towards a 'wellbeing agenda' or to do 'triple bottom line' (economic, social and environmental) reporting?	No	
Do you have any examples of social impact investment or sustainable investment that direct financial flows towards people and nature?	Yes	
Are you aware of any national fiscal reforms, incentives, subsidies, etc. that are geared towards sustainable financial sector development and minimization of systemic risks?	Choose an item.	
Have you seen any evidence of 'greening' of high impact sectors e.g. food, energy, housing, tourism, transport, cities, etc.?	Yes	
Do you know of any national low carbon plans, or public procurement, public-private partnership, or any other initiative designed to enhance economic sustainability?	Yes	
In your opinion, is the gap between rich and poor getting bigger or smaller?	Choose an item.	
Is any national policy/action addressing that gap?	Choose an item.	
If there are any green investments in your country, are they being driven towards the poorest?	Yes	
Are you aware of any measures or policies to link social considerations (e.g. welfare, redistribution, jobs/labour protection, etc.) into green or sustainable development strategies?	Choose an item.	

Appendix 3 (continued): #GE4U OECS GE Diagnostic Questionnaire

Key Questions (continued)

Please feel free to include any concepts/ actions/policies that may not be termed “green economy” but have similar characteristics that fit into the GE definition.	Yes/No Answers	Comments
Are you satisfied with the level of governance in your country?	Choose an item.	
Why or Why not?		
Are you aware of any institutionalized participatory approaches for national economic governance (e.g. participatory national budgeting or planning processes)?	Choose an item.	
Do you know of any attempt to value nature/ natural capital/different ecosystems in your country?	Yes	
Do you know of any initiative by either the public sector or businesses to pay for ecosystems services in your country?	Yes	
Would you say that there are opportunities for moving forward with a transition to a green economy in your country?	Yes	
Do you have any recommendations for how this could happen?	Choose an item.	
If yes, please list your suggestions below:		
Please add any additional comments here:		



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for over 20 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building and fostering partnerships.

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