

***“Using Information for Decision-making on Sustainable Development –
Issues and Challenges for Caribbean SIDS”***

May 27-28th, 2003

Working Group Deliberations and Findings

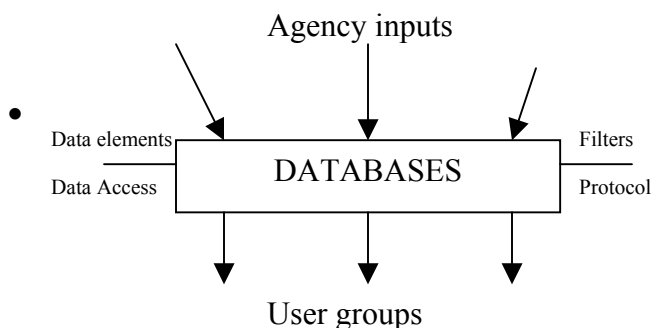
The following represents the findings of the three working groups in their discussions on May 28th, 2003. Three groups were formed comprising participants of the workshop to discuss and make recommendations on three issues:

- Strategies for Improving Information on Sustainable Development
- Development of National Information Policies
- Priority Training Needs for IDSD to address in key thematic areas

Group 1: Strategies for Improving Information on Sustainable Development

Basic Principles:

- Sustainable Development Information should be regarded as a National asset
- Information must be open and inter-sectoral
- SIDS must establish national information for sustainable development policies
- Appropriate forums must be developed to enable stakeholder participation
- Information should be built through the application of linkages and filters
- Consequently protocols must be developed to establish protocols to assure compatibility of sources and databases
- Quality control should be covered by protocols
- SIDS must develop sets of sustainable development goals and targets in order to assess effectiveness of development according to the set of indicators being monitored
- Information should be used for decision making, so ways must be found to make information useful for this purpose. Make use of graphic and cartographic presentations as much as possible
- Accordingly strategies should be developed making clear who the target groups are
- Information systems must be sustainable in the long-term
- A general model for the information system could be the one shown in the following figure:



- System should also enhance/enrich user skills
- Systems should use a multiplicity of sources
- Information should be generated for decision-making support and not only for reporting
- Use best and worse cases as well as scenarios

Strategies for improvement:

- Recognition of the values of the data collection process and of the data itself
- Need to inform government executives
- Countries should only collect data that reflects sustainable development goals
- Strategies for sustainability of the information systems must be developed (fees, user contributions, budgetary lines, project surcharges)

Inputs to Barbados + 10

- Raising awareness of importance of knowledge societies
- Virtual data centers
- National focal points
- Establishment of mechanism for information sharing
- National, regional and inter-regional
- Bottom-Up approach to gather and build information, supported by regional Agencies
- Support for SIDS training program for:
 - Analysis, case studies
 - Dissemination
 - Presentation
 - Communication
- Information for decision-making at all levels
- Comprehensive yet accessible training facility

Group 2: Development of National Information Policies including issues of access, networking and sharing

Policy Issues

- National policies based on best practices: ISP, stats. legislation, UNESCO
- Remember Principle 10
- Access initiative: www.wri.org
- Some information should be free, e.g. environmental impact assessment. Some could have nominal cost based on users (structured)
- Introduce information issues into school curricula
- To build consensus: consultation, transparency
- National structures must have the mandate (e.g. Barbados) or the capacity: Review/Revisiting existing frameworks

Networks are useful for:

- Dissemination of information
- Consensus building
- Creates awareness
- Services provided should include training and ideas for standards
- Remember to manage technology
- Principles for National Information Strategies must be developed

GROUP 3: Priority Training Needs for IDSD to address in key thematic areas

	Sustainable tourism	Land use planning	Coastal zone management	Disaster Management
Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of indicators to measure sustainable tourism • Lack of consensus about indicators • Inadequate knowledge of MIST by end users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No linking of decision making with data • Absence of systems with applications to Land Use Planning • Inadequate participation of stakeholders in planning process • Outdated maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate biophysical data/info • Lack of integrated policies to guide CZM • Unclear, poorly defined institutional frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate vulnerability assessment systems
Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No integrated applications to information management • Lack of standardized formats • Short term planning horizon for political benefits • Lack of common understanding of meaning of data • Narrow focus of tourism managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No integrated applications to information management • Lack of standardized formats • Short term planning horizon for political benefits • Inadequately designed data systems to support decisions • Inadequate participatory approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No integrated applications to information management • Lack of standardized formats • Lack of human resources to monitor and manage coastal zone • Short term planning horizon for political benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No integrated applications to information management • Lack of standardized formats • Short term planning horizon for political benefits • Lack of scenario development in applications
Training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental-awareness building of end users of eco-tourism products • Assessing sustainability of tourism • Policy formulation • Link Resource Management to product promotion and use to generate financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory approaches to planning • Networking to share experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness building among decision-makers and planners • Use of CZM guidelines e.g. EIAs 	
Building sustainable capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in regional approaches • Inter country collaboration and capacity training • Database of resource persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in regional approaches • Inter country collaboration and capacity training • Database of resource persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in regional approaches • Inter country collaboration and capacity training • Database of resource persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in regional approaches • Inter country collaboration and capacity training • Database of resource persons
Functional capacity to support Decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification 			
Priority Technical training				