

REPORTING ON NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly set a target date of 2002 for the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development (NSDS). It also reaffirmed that all sectors of society should be involved in their development and implementation. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation urges States to take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of NSDS and begin their implementation by 2005.

The NSDS global map, distributed at the eleventh session of the CSD, attempts to capture the status of development and implementation of NSDSs at the global level, based on information contained in the 2002 Country Profiles and in the National Assessment Reports, prepared for the WSSD. The purpose of the map is to encourage those countries that have not yet completed the process, to proceed in their efforts to meet the goal of 2005, while at the same time serving as a tool for the CSD to monitor progress in this area.

In order to properly track broad progress in the area of NSDS development and implementation, the CSD Secretariat intends to issue an updated version of the map for distribution at the CSD sessions on an annual basis until 2006.

1. Does your country have a NSDS approved by the government:

In 2002, the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy was finalized by the National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCSD) and the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. It was approved by Cabinet in 2003 and was laid in Parliament in January 2004.

2. How is your NSDS being implemented?

The Policy has been laid in Parliament, the NCSD has committed to the development of comprehensive implementation strategies. The policy has called for the NCSD to

" formulate appropriate criteria for the evaluation, assessment and review of the implementation of this policy at the sectoral, corporate and individual levels, including the formulation of a plan of action and incorporation of the use of indicators of Sustainable Development in measuring our progress towards achieving Sustainable Development."

The policy also recommends creation of information systems, development of a legal framework, institutional changes, capacity building, expanding and procuring resources and improving access to information.

Additionally, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment has proposed an education and awareness campaign that will involve a variety of strategies to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the policy and its recommendations.

3. Has your NSDS been evaluated and if so, when and how?

The policy itself has evaluation mechanism in the form of indicators of sustainable development.

4. Do you have, and if so, what are the other relevant strategies in place supporting the NSDS? Please choose from the following:

Water (name and year of being implemented):

The Groundwater Protection Zoning Policy implemented in 1964 augmented by a nationwide water quality monitoring programme conducted by the Barbados Water Authority and the Environmental Engineering Division. There is also ongoing public education on water conservation and management. See attached freshwater profile for further details.

Sanitation (name and year of being implemented): See attached sanitation profile for further details.

Human settlements (name and year of being implemented): See attached Human Settlement profile for further details.

Other strategies: Other strategies would include reporting on the State of the Environment which is done by the Environment Division of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment and production of the national Annual Social and Economic Report which is prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

5. Have multi-stakeholder consultations, training or workshops for NSDS development been undertaken?

If yes please give the nature and type of consultations/training/workshops held:

The National Sustainable Development Policy was distilled from a long process of consultations at various levels and among the different partners of national development which include government, the for-profit non-governmental organizations, the non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and the labour, youth and women organizations. The primary aim of the consultation process has been to secure consensus among the various stakeholders in order to ensure the identification and execution of the best strategies for achieving sustainable development.

The Consultative process that produced this policy was carried out on two levels. On the first level, the NCSD acted as an umbrella organization that was supported by eight multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary steering committees. The eight (8) Steering Committees addressed the following topics:

- Indicators of sustainable Development
- Implementation mechanisms
- Science and Technology
- Natural Resources
- The Built Environment
- Waste Management and Pollution Control
- Human Resources
- Public Awareness and Education

The sub-committees met and deliberated on a regular basis and produced thorough briefs and reports containing thematic policy recommendations and action plans that were incorporated into the national policy. On the second level, national consultations were targeted at specific priority areas. As a result, six (6) “National Dialogues on Sustainable Development” were convened. These dialogues dealt with the following key concerns:

- Sustainable Water Management
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Sustainable Waste Management and Pollution Control
 - Youth and Communities
 - Sustainable Energy
 - Building a Sustainable Path for Our Common Future which focused on the following critical cross-cutting issues:
- Integrating Economic and Environmental Policies;
 - Monitoring and Performance Indicators for Sustainable Development;
 - Legal Framework for Sustainable Development;
 - Trade and Sustainable Development

The outputs of the National dialogues; the deliberations of the steering committees; and the review of existing national policies and action plans provided the foundation for drafting the national sustainable development policy. That version of the draft policy was deliberated upon by the NCSD Advisory Council, a sub-committee of the NCSD that consisted of the Chairpersons of the eight steering committees. The revised policy was then widely circulated among various interests groups for their comments and suggestions.

Comments received from members of the public, diplomatic corps and other government departments were considered and some elements were incorporated into the draft policy. The policy went through further refinement by the NCSD.

6. Do you have a national coordination body for NSDS development established?
If so, please give the name and nature of such body (e.g. composition):

The National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCSD) was formulated in 1994 and formalized in 1997. The Commission is renewed every three years; therefore a third commission will be inaugurated early in 2004.

The current composition of the NCSD is as follows:

- Dr. Hugh Sealy - Chairman
- Director of Research and Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs- Deputy Chairman
- Dr. Yolanda Alleyne-Planning Consultant
- Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Coalition of Trade Unions and Staff Associations
- Small Business Association
- The Chief Town Planner or nominee
- The Director of Youth Affairs or nominee
- The Chief Agricultural Officer or nominee
- Dr. Colin Hudson –Agricultural expert
- The Chief Community Development Officer or nominee
- The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Transformation or nominee
- Barbados Association of Non Governmental Organizations
- National Organization of Women
- Barbados Christian Council
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment (Environment Division) or nominee

7. Where a NSDS does not exist, do you have other relevant strategies, plans and activities in place? :
(Please specify)

Not applicable