

Indicators of for Monitoring the Goal of ‘Building a Green Economy’ in Barbados

A presentation by
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Scope of Presentation

- Historical Perspective (1997-2009)
- Indicators
- Challenges
- Successes
- Current Focus

Historical Perspective

- A National Indicators Programme (NIP) came into effect in 1997
- National Steering Committee on Indicators of Sustainable Development assembled under the aegis of the National Commission on Sustainable Development

NIP COMPOSITION

- The Town and Country Planning Development Office
- The Barbados Statistical Service
- The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
- The Central Bank of Barbados
- The Welfare Department
- The Bureau of Women's Affairs
- The Ministry of Environment
- The Coastal Zone Management Unit
- The National Council on Science and Technology
- The Solid Waste Project Unit
- Treading Lightly (NGO)

SURVEY

- Category of the indicator, that is, whether it can be classified as Economic, Social or Environmental
- A working definition
- Unit(s) of measurement
- Highlight any restrictions on use of the indicator (e.g. is the data considered sensitive?)
- Indicate if any additional cost would be incurred in obtaining data
- List the methods of data collection- whether it was monitoring, surveys, questionnaires or other means

SURVEY

- What are the constraints to data collection (human? financial?)
- Are there proxy measures used if the data is not collected
- The update frequency- whether it was monthly, quarterly, yearly or other time frame
- The level of data disaggregation
- The level of data aggregation
- History of records- how far do they go back

SURVEY

- The agency responsible for compilation
- Sources of information if published
- A date for the latest available data-
- What formats of data- hardcopy, electronic, geo-referenced or other exist?

Historical Perspective

- National multi-sectoral consultation held to finalize list
- List finalized-170 indicators of sustainable development for Barbados (2000)
- Pilot study carried out to test sub-set of 20 indicators (2000)

Indicators

- 170 indicators identified currently classified into 3 areas: Human Well-being, Ecological Welfare and Sustainable Interactions
- 12 Sub-themes: health, education housing, social welfare, security, air, land-use, water, population, economic development, consumption and production patterns

Successes

- Partnerships
- Champions
- Regional publications on environmental statistics
- Environmental Vulnerability Index
- State of the Environment Report
- Increasing awareness among technocrats (Ministry of Finance etc.)

Successes

- Description of land degradation indicators
- Description of oil and gas indicators
- Membership of UNDESA's expert group on indicators of sustainable development
- Continued work at the CARICOM level

Indicators of the Green Economy

- Monitoring of Goal Four of the National Strategic Plan
 - Promote and facilitate the sustainable use of our renewable resources and the wise management of our non-renewable natural resources
 - To maintain a safe and reliable water supply
 - To ensure an efficient and reliable energy sector
 - To develop an efficient transport system and infrastructure
 - To improve disaster management
 - To develop and maintain an Efficient Land-use Policy

Indicators of the Green Economy

- UNEP Green Economy Initiative
- The Marrakech Process
- Trade and Environment
- Sustainable Finance

Indicators of the Green Economy

- A 2007 announcement by the Minister of Finance of Green Economy Fiscal and Economic Proposals called for the establishment of a task force to develop target and indicators of Green Economics and Sustainable Development.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) was assembled to articulate an initial list of indicators of the Green Economy.
 - The Central Bank of Barbados,
 - The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development,
 - The Ministry of Finance,
 - The Ministry of Energy and the Environment,
 - The Barbados Statistical Service

Indicators of the Green Economy

- Built on a number of initiatives and policies both national and international including:
 - The National Sustainable Development Indicators Programme
 - The Millennium Development Goal Process
 - The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs international list of Indicators of sustainable Development.
 - The National Strategic Plan
 - The Barbados Sustainable Development

- ***A Framework Approach***

- Utilise a conceptual framework would to help focus and clarify what kinds of indicators to choose. A theme-based framework was selected. This framework is most appropriate for this exercise because it links indicators to policy processes and targets. In this case the indicators will be linked to the objectives and targets as described in the National Strategic Plan.
- Thematic frameworks are well suited to monitoring progress in obtaining objectives and goals stipulated in national development strategies. They are also flexible enough to adjust to new priorities and policy targets over time

Indicators of the Green Economy

Relevance (R)	Is the indicator relevant to assessing progress towards Achieving Goal Four of the National Strategic Plan?
Usefulness (U)	Is the indicator useful to decision making and monitoring?
Availability of data (A)	Is data to substantiate the indicator readily available?
Practicality (P)	Is it practical to get data on the indicator?
Internationally acceptable (IA)	This criteria comes with the caveat that there may be some issues crucial to Barbados' national development where we may propose an indicator that is not utilized at the international level. Once the indicator satisfies the other criteria, it should not be omitted because this may be an instance of Barbados raising a 'red flag' for an important SIDS issue.
Technically sound (TS)	It should be noted that while indicators should always be conceptually sound-in new areas of interest, the demand for an indicator may precede its development.
Publishable (PU)	Can the data be published?

Indicators of the Green Economy

- Units of measurement
- National Targets
- International Targets
- Methods of data collection
- Frequency of data collection
- Restriction on use of indicator

Challenges

- Lack of human , technical and financial resources
- National Priority (moving target)
- Lack of awareness/ attitudes towards information use
- Formats, frequency, accuracy
- Continuity

Way Forward

- Collaboration with Barbados Statistical Service on Modernization of the Barbados Statistical Service
- CARICOM indicators
- ‘Customised’ indicators for the major work ongoing within the ministry e.g.
 - Sustainable Consumption and Production
 - Corporate Social Responsibility
 - Biodiversity

Questions???

THE END