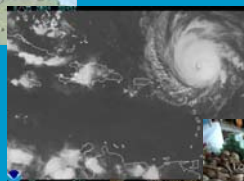


Caribbean perspectives



Regional discussions
on the outcomes of UN ECLAC's Regional Implementation
Meeting on Sustainable Development
6 May, 2008

Describing the Region

The Wider Caribbean

- 35 political units, including 24 sovereign nations (14 island nations and 10 continental)
- five overseas territories of the United Kingdom
- two overseas *departments* of France
- two self-governing units of the Netherlands
- one territory of the United States
- the US-associated Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Describing the Region

- Societies, environments and ecosystems characterized by their youth in geological and biological terms.
- Small size of islands, countries, ecosystems, domestic markets and economies.
- The resulting scarcity of some resources- land, water.
- Vulnerability to natural hazards, social and cultural change, economic shock.
- Diversity of species, ecosystems, cultures, political systems, economic performance.

Source: A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean Nicole Brown, Tighe Geoghegan and Yves Renard. (2007). *A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Describing the Region

- Growth and development in the agriculture and tourism industries been pursued separate and apart from each other.
- Traditional approach to development in Caribbean countries ⇒ most inputs for the productive process are imported and most of the output is exported.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Limited land available
- Limited human, technical and financial resources
- Informal and insecure systems of land tenure
- Continued patterns of inequitable resource allocation
- Many rely almost entirely on a single source of water
- Water supply, quality and reliability diminished as a result of upper watershed forest conversion, water source pollution, and soil erosion
- Conversion of upper watershed forests, particularly for agriculture and housing.
- The use of agrochemicals, particularly for crops grown for global markets.
- Inadequate sanitation and waste disposal.
- Upstream activities having serious downstream effects: soil erosion and landslides, floods as a result of unregulated run-off.
- Forest cover declining seriously in some countries
- No reliable systems of monitoring are in place in most Caribbean countries.
- High dependence on the reinsurance market.

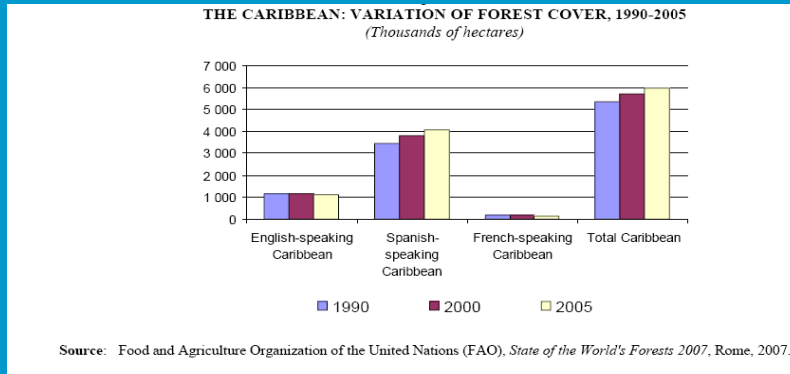
Source: A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean Nicole Brown, Tighe Geoghegan and Yves Renard. (2007). *A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

MAIN CURRENT DRIVERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

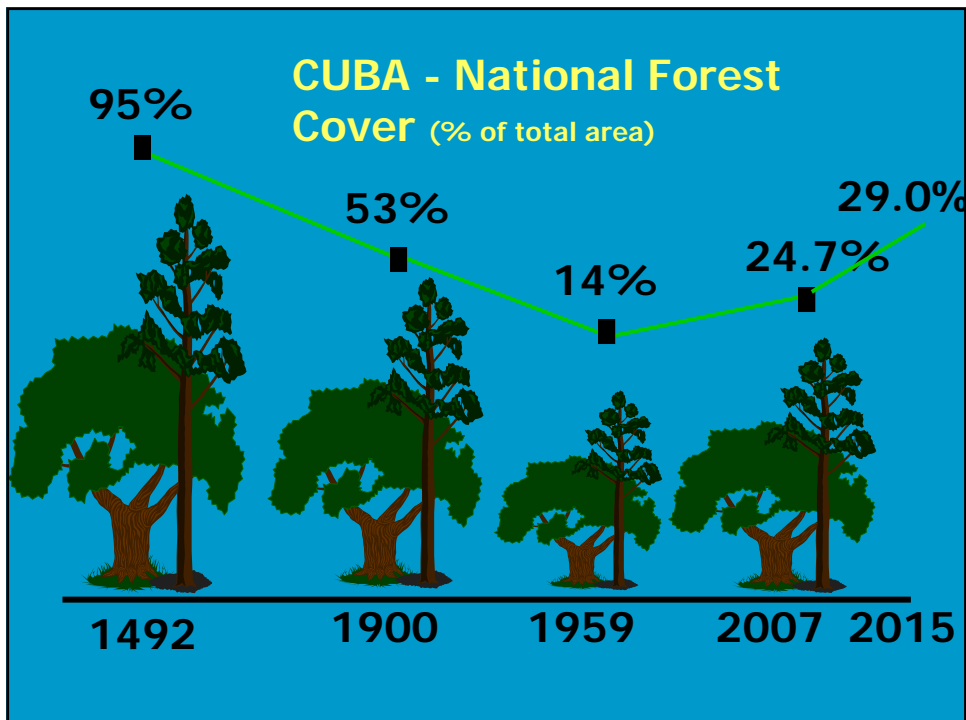
- *Global markets and external trade relations*
- *Consumption patterns and increased demand for environmental goods and services, particularly energy and water*
- *Demographic change, towards greater concentration of population in environmentally sensitive areas such as coastal zones*
- *Dependency and fragmentation, which limit options for addressing environmental issues*
- *Climate*
- *Poverty*
- *Public policies and institutional arrangements*

Source: A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean Nicole Brown, Tighe Geoghegan and Yves Renard. (2007). *A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

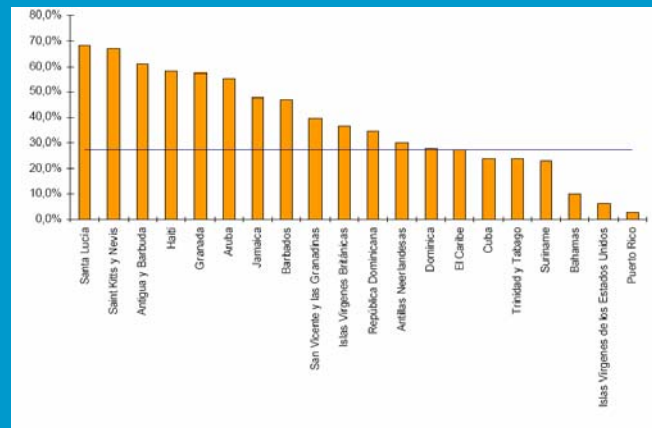
FOREST COVER



The expansion of forested area in Cuba, in response to public policy, has had a decisive effect on the expansion of forested areas throughout the Caribbean.



A number of major demographic changes have occurred in the region, including a reduction in, and aging of, the rural population (as measured by census data).



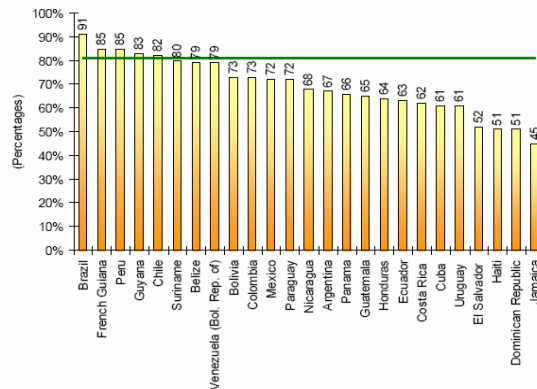
Land degradation

- **Latin America and the Caribbean is actually about one-quarter desert and drylands (20,533,000 km²).**
- In Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica, there are arid zones, as erosion and water shortages are noticeably intensifying in the Eastern Caribbean.

<http://www.unccd.int>

Land degradation

Figure V.1
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (19 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES):
LAND SHOWING SOME TYPE OF DEGRADATION, 2002
(Percentages)

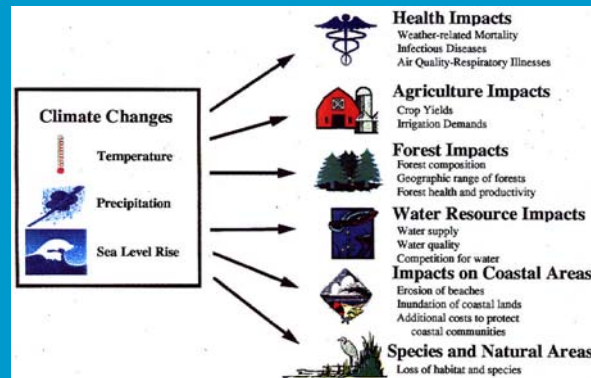


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *World Soil Resources Report, 2000*.

A future of growing vulnerability

- The implications of a rising sea level and changing weather patterns will have particularly disastrous consequences for the Caribbean region.
- Every facet of Caribbean life would be affected and would put an even greater strain on its limited natural resources, raising the question of what course Caribbean countries should take adapt to the consequences of climate change.

Potential Climate Change Impacts in the Caribbean



Source: GEF Consultations on NAPA Guidelines, Arusha, Tanzania; February 28, 2001
Adaptation: Challenges and Opportunities in the Caribbean

Adaptation Needs in the Caribbean

Impact on water supplies, saline intrusion, reduced rainfall

- Will need to adapt agriculture to changes in ecology of the region

Impact on coastal zone development

- Will need to adapt infrastructure, land use planning and tourism

Impact on fisheries

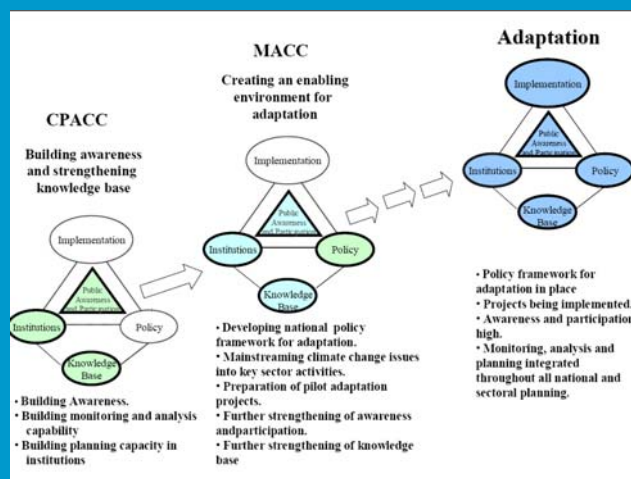
- Will need to adapt to changes in corals, fish-stocks

Weather-related costs

- Will need to adapt infrastructure, tourism

SOME REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- **CPACC (Caribbean Planning for Adapting to Climate Change) Project**, ended in 2001, but was followed by MACC, ACCC and then CCCCC
- **Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project** incorporated adaptation strategies identified under CPACC into national and sectoral development plans and continued with the capacity development initiatives started under CPACC.
- **Adapting to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC) Project** with nine components, which built upon CPACC's experiences in order to consolidate, extend and make sustainable climate change responses.
- **Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)**
CCCCC is an implementing body for regional climate projects.
- **Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- **UNDP-GEF's adaptation portfolio**
 - ⇒ Enabling activities
 - ⇒ Demonstration and pilot adaptation projects
 - ⇒ Adaptation Learning Mechanism



UNFCCC Expert Meeting on Adaptation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Kingston, Jamaica, February 5-7, 2007

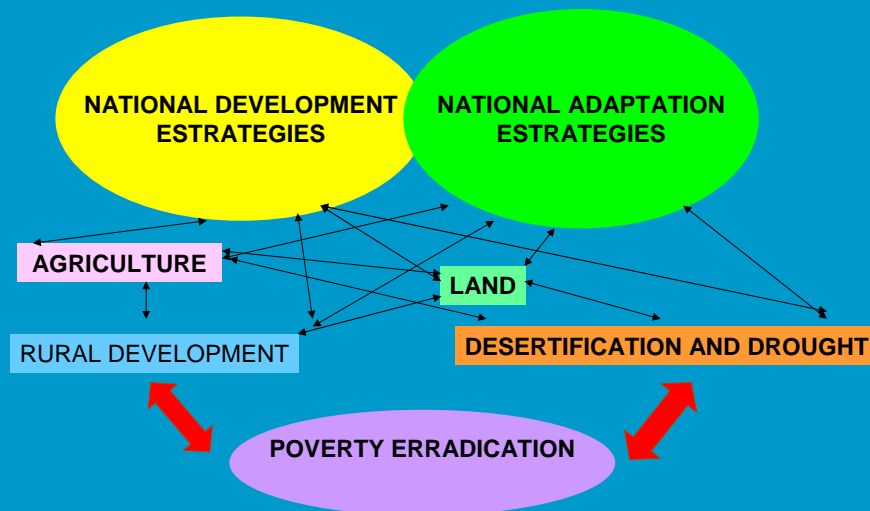
THE BIG CHALLENGE

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DESERTIFICATION
DROUGHT
CLIMATE CHANGE

THE BIG CHALLENGE



THANKS