

# User Guide to Effective Tools and Methods for Integrating Environment and Development

The Caribbean experience to date

CANARI

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# Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

- Regional non-profit technical institute whose mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing the natural resources critical to development through research, technical assistance, and capacity building (training, communications etc.).
- Based in Trinidad with small office in Barbados
- Main programme areas
  - Forests and livelihoods
  - Climate change and disaster risk reduction
  - Civil society and governance
  - Coastal and marine governance and livelihoods
  - Communication research

# Survey area



- Focus on **Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago**
- Minimum of three focus groups in each core country:
  - government agencies
  - civil society organisations
  - private sector (including consultants) and academia.
- Hoping to extend to UK Overseas Territories (Anguilla and Montserrat)
- Opportunistic interviews elsewhere

# Context for integrating environment and development

- “Environmental mainstreaming” not a familiar term;
- “Development” is equated (often negatively) with physical development;
- Institutional links between environment/development/poverty reduction weak (e.g. little integrated planning; few functioning national sustainable development councils; environment doesn’t figure strongly in PRSPs)
- Ministerial/departmental turfism leads to
  - unwillingness to share data
  - widespread perception that environmental issues are the responsibility of environmental specialists and do not concern others

# Context for integrating environment and development (cont.)

- Context changing rapidly, driven in many cases by international commitments (although national strategic plans also increasingly at least pay greater lip service to environmental concerns); BUT
- Commitments outstrip tools and resources (human, financial) to implement and monitor so project is timely;
- All sectors perceive that development decisions are driven primarily by short-term political and economic factors and that tools (including legislation) do little to change that.



# Process

- Sectoral focus groups with follow-up interviews if needed because:
  - questionnaires get very low response rate;
  - individual interviews with government are often difficult to organise and unrewarding;
  - Caribbean people usually feel less constrained in their responses in a group environment outside of their work place;
  - group discussion stimulates and facilitates more critical analysis;
  - validation of individual responses is immediate.

# Focus group outline

- Discuss concepts/definitions of ‘environmental mainstreaming’, ‘tools’ and ‘development’;
- Brainstorm tools in use in the country/sector (cards on wall then sorted);
- Completion of survey (modified to reduce ambiguity and length) on individual basis
- Discussion of constraints and enabling factors
- Discussion of ranking of tools
- Evaluation of meeting and next steps

# General findings

- Brainstorming facilitates identification of wide range of tools and is a prerequisite for input to survey but participants still find categorisation and ranking difficult;
- No real evidence of conscious decision-making as to what tool to use in a particular circumstance;
- Barbados participants (tourism-based economy) more sensitive to need for EM tools than Trinidad and Tobago (oil and gas-based);



# General findings

- NGO sector thought many technical tools, such as EIAs, were deliberately designed to exclude wide stakeholder input;
- Technical tools (EIAs, economic valuation) are those that spring to mind first but often accorded lower rankings than tools that foster engagement and participation;
- Strong donor interest in project (CIDA, CDB);
- Keen interest in receiving post-survey feedback – national and regional level

# Suggested re-categorisation of tools

## OLD

- Information and assessment
- Deliberation and engagement
- Planning and organising
- Management and monitoring
- Other

## NEW

- Data collection and analysis
- Planning
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Other

# Drivers

## **Government**

- Legislation, regulations, standards
- Availability of technical solutions (e.g. recycling, GIS)
- Requirements under international conventions
- Capacity to apply tools
- Buy-in and funding support from private sector
- Natural disasters/growing aware

## **Civil society**

- Leadership
- Political will
- Commitment to accountability and transparency

# Constraints

- Lack of political will (particularly Trinidad where “environment is seen as a barrier to development” and environmental agencies low in the decision-making hierarchy)
- Failure to implement legislation (no regulations, lack of enforcement)
- Failure to revise/update legislation
- Lack of integrated institutions and decision-making processes/overlapping agency mandates/competition between agencies and perception that collaborating is ceding power
- Lack of information on tools available
- Lack of capacity to implement (human resources, skills, finance)

# Constraints (cont.)

- Absence of effective leaders/change agents
- Lack of data and access to data
- Failure of civil society organisations to collaborate and form effective advocacy groupings
- Data presented in overly technical formats and so inaccessible to many stakeholders
- Over-emphasis on technical tools such as EIAs which don't facilitate equitable participation (civil society) and which become rubber stamping (Trinidad)
- Consultation burn out (too many consultations with little evidence that input is heeded) and inequitable consultation processes

# Categorising and ranking tools

## **Information and assessment**

- Economic analysis
- EIA
- Environmental audits
- GIS
- Databases/baseline data
- Risk assessment
- Cost benefit analysis

# Categorising and ranking tasks

## **Deliberation and engagement**

- Inter-sectoral dialogue/multi-sectoral committees (Barbados)
- Public consultations
- Collective visioning

## **Planning and organising**

- Strategic planning
- Budgets
- National and sectoral plans
- Legislation

# Categorising and ranking tasks

## **Management and monitoring**

- Environmental quality monitoring
- Audits
- Enforcement and prosecution

## **Cited in several categories**

- Networking
- Consultations
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Use of media
- Legal challenges



# Informal tools

- Clean-up campaigns
- Use of cameras to record 'before' and 'after' scenarios
- Using experts to inform community in support of a particular lobby/issue
- Networking with influential groups
- Interfaith/inter-denominational religious services

# Traditional or indigenous tools

- Rasta philosophy and Rasta community gatherings for drumming laid foundation for community-based forest conservation programme

# Criteria

- ‘*Ease of use*’ emerged as the clear favourite and ‘*cost*’ the least (surprising given that lack of funding was cited by many as a constraint);
- All the others received approximately equal ratings;
- Other criteria suggested were:
  - the effectiveness of the tool in delivering its stated objectives;
  - relevance of tool to particular social, economic or cultural circumstances.

# Ranking tools

**Top 5 tools:** no clear trends and some evidence of confusion as tools listed here that are not listed under 3. or 4.

**Least useful tools:** policy briefs

**No useful tools:** none cited yet

# Case studies

- Few emerged without strong facilitator prompting
- Some potential case studies of environmental mainstreaming:
  - civil society advocacy, lobbying or action
  - availability/use of technology (recycling/ participatory GIS);
  - use of legislation (e.g. Trinidad and Tobago Environmentally Sensitive Areas) as lever to overcome resistance to introduction of national parks participatory management of state lands.

# Comments on User Guide

- Is it addressing an identified need? If so, identified by whom?
- Maybe we need to find out first why so many toolkits are sitting unused on the shelves.
- How will it help to overcome the real barriers to environmental mainstreaming?
- How will it address the multiple factors that need to be taken into account when determining the most appropriate tool?
- How will it contribute to the implementation of effective poverty reduction strategies?