1 INTRODUCTION

This workshop is a component of a larger project being managed by the United Kingdom’s Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on behalf of the United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The main objective of the project is: ‘To work with each OT Government to understand the economic value of its natural environment, the threats posed and options available for managing these threats, and to enable environmental issues to be integrated into strategic decisions.’

This workshop was funded by the British Government’s Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEPEP) and organised by the JNCC with the assistance of a local project oversight group. JNCC contracted the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to perform a ‘Review and Scoping’ study to examine the suitability of existing legal frameworks, state of environmental knowledge and institutional and societal capacity in the British Virgin Islands for implementation of environmental mainstreaming. CANARI performed a desk study of the legal and legislative framework and facilitated focus group discussions, conducted interviews with key stakeholders to inform the agenda for this workshop and facilitated the workshop.

2 OBJECTIVE AND AGENDA

The goal of the workshop was to provide a wider grouping of stakeholders with a forum to consider recommendations to implement environmental mainstreaming in the BVI. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share experiences and lessons learned on environmental mainstreaming;
- Identify gaps and barriers to the implementation of environmental mainstreaming; and to
- Identify short, medium and long term key actions for environmental mainstreaming.
3 PARTICIPANTS
The workshop brought together individuals from government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public sector and business representatives. 55 persons registered on the first day and 45 on the second. Participant list for each day is given in Appendix 1.

4 METHODS
The workshop was conducted over two days. The agenda is available in Appendix 2. The opening ceremony for the workshop was chaired by the Governor of the BVI, Boyd Mc Cleary CMG CVO, who welcomed participants, briefly described the biodiversity of the BVI, listed some ecosystem services and provided sound justification for acknowledging the value of the environment in economic development. Notes from the Governor’s speech are available in Appendix 3.

Following the Governor’s welcome remarks, the Premier and Minister for Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith OBE, provided a cultural context for environmental management in the BVI. He gave a historical review of the use of natural resources in the BVI and laid outlined his government’s commitment to conserving and protecting the environment by providing support so that thirty percent of partners in the tourism industry can meet the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria in the next five years. He also endorsed the development of “enviropreneurs” (entrepreneurship opportunities from the sustainable use of natural resources) and concluded his remarks by reminding the gathering that the protection of the environment is enshrined in the constitution and assured that his government is committed to preserving and conserving the environment in the present context of climate change and economic turmoil (Full speech is available in Appendix 4).

The Deputy Premier, and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering, delivered a very passionate speech. He began by asking thought provoking questions about maintaining the quality of life and livelihoods, in the BVI and highlighted the need for everyone to play a part in conserving and protecting the environment. Perhaps the most memorable part of the Minister’s speech was his proposal to undertake a pilot project on renewable energy in the island of Anegada in order to determine the economic and environmental suitability of renewable energy in the BVI. He concluded his comments by encouraging participants in the business sector to join his Ministry’s “Green Pledge” to be launched in June of this year as a step in greening the economy (Full speech available in Appendix 5).
It should be noted that Minister, the Honourable Mr. Walcott A. Richardson, Minister with responsibility for the Environment, along with many other responsibilities, and the Director of the Department of Environment, Mr. Karim Hodge, attended both days of the meeting as observers of the process.

As listed on the agenda, the opening ceremony also included a presentation on the use of economic evaluation as a tool in decision making (Appendix 6) by Professor Dr. Roy Brower, of the VU University of Amsterdam, and Katarina Grgas Brus, Policy Officer at the European Commission, Directorate General of the Environment provided useful information on available funding opportunities (Appendix 7).

These presentations provided a useful context for the discussions that followed. The discussions were guided by four issue papers (Appendix 8) which were developed by CANARI from the desk study of the legal and legislative framework, and facilitated focus group discussions and interviews with key stakeholders. Four sessions were facilitated, each structured to include an introductory lecture (Appendix 9), icebreakers and probing questions guided by the issue papers.

5 FINDINGS

5.1 Gaps and barriers to the implementation of environmental mainstreaming

SESSION 1 – INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO DECISION MAKING IN THE BVI

- The National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS) and draft overarching environmental legislation have been developed through a 5-year process and have not been implemented.
- Plans and policies created in the past that may have lead to or contributed to environmental mainstreaming were not implemented because they were not communicated to the political directorate for action using the most appropriate pathway.
- There is no overarching policy to guide environmental mainstreaming in the BVI.
- Political manifestos developed in isolation by aspiring politicians are becoming the policy documents to guide the operations of governments and these may not take into consideration environmental mainstreaming.
- BVI’s high human migration rate needs to be taken into account when sensitising the local population on environmental mainstreaming as the resident population may be completely different in as little as five years.
SESSION 2 – COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- There is need for a comprehensive environmental education strategy with specific objectives, target audiences, messages and timelines to guide environmental education initiatives in the BVI.
- Few resources are allocated in governmental departments for environmental education.
- Few government personnel have the capacity to communicate their work effectively.
- Messages communicated by the government about the environment need to be clearer and more comprehensive and be more closely linked to livelihoods so target audiences can see the relevance of their actions in their daily lives.

SESSION 3 – GREENING THE BVI TOURISM INDUSTRY

- There are currently no fiscal incentives to encourage industry partners to go green.
- There needs to be an initiative targeted to defining a role for the local BVI resident in the tourism industry to contribute to improved environmental conservation on the islands.
- Best practices and lessons learned in greening operations in the tourism industry in the BVI need to be more effectively disseminated among industry stakeholders.
- Microenterprises that sustainably use local products and traditional practices need to be supported and promoted to further develop.

SESSION 4: IMPROVING DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING

- There is no approved National Physical Development Plan to guide planning development approval.
- There is a need for a formal mechanism to transfer information among the committees with responsibility for evaluation and approval of development planning, namely the Technical Review Committee (sea beds), the Airport Authority (localised area in the flight path) and the Planning Authority (on land).
- There needs to be more effective transfer of information among government departments with responsibility for the management of natural resources.
- Development planning approval conditions need to be enforced by the relevant governmental authorities.
- Financers and insurance companies need to be encouraged to include development planning criteria in their processes to contribute to infusing environmental mainstreaming into day to day operations.
- Developers need to build their capacity to implements green practices into their way of doing work.
- There is a need to improve public awareness and knowledge on the application and approval process for development approval.

5.2 Recommended key actions for environmental mainstreaming

SESSION 1 – INTERGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO DECISION MAKING IN THE BVI

- Develop a sustainable development strategy for the BVI which is:
  - inclusive of:
    - a clear designation of roles and responsibilities;
    - an implementation plan which identifies concrete targets and simple steps that can be taken by government and civil society;
- a monitoring and evaluation component to track progress and contribute to accountability;
- incentives for the business community; and
- capacity building initiatives selected via a needs assessment exercise.
  - developed by a participatory approach;
  - built upon key documents that have been developed, specifically the National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS);
  - communicated to the political directorate in a manner which is user friendly;
  - supported by legislation, for example, amendment to legalize the use of renewable sources of energy;
  - supported by economic evaluation/ cost benefit analysis of key actions;
  - addressing specifically the issues of waste management and energy conservation;
  - improving capacity for enforcement of laws.

SESSION 2 – COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Develop a communication strategy for environmental mainstreaming in the BVI to:
  - target the media, elected officials, developers, contractors, engineers, architects, children, Public Works Department, Tourism Industry, Boards of Directors of statutory bodies, financers and insurers;
  - facilitate and/or create more effective dialogue and participatory planning among government, business, NGOs and the broader community;
  - use social media and current technology;
  - encourage consumer driven demands for green products;
- Build the capacity of technicians to communicate.

Photo 3: Workshop participants communicating non-verbal messages during an icebreaker
SESSION 3 – GREENING THE BVI TOURISM INDUSTRY

- Build the capacity of stakeholders in the industry in participatory planning and implementation of processes;
- Infuse greening into the Tourism Master Plan which is being currently updated by:
  - encouraging responsible behaviour by visitors / developing the concept of responsible tourism;
  - encouraging encouraging and incentivising green behaviour of stakeholders to protect and sustain the environment;
  - expanding the concept of “nature” in the tagline to include promoting BVI as a green destination;
  - establishing local certification standards that include green measures;
  - providing green criteria for development projects in the Tourism sector from design through development planning to operation;
  - promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and contributing to the preservation of traditional cultural practices in the BVI by encouraging local souvenir production;
  - encouraging stakeholders in the industry to use local agricultural produce through the establishment of networks among stakeholders in both the tourism and agricultural sectors; and
  - encouraging local participation in the industry.
- Streamline, clarify and provide more assistance in attaining Pioneer status to encourage the establishment of green businesses.
- Develop and introduce a national solid waste management policy and plan with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Develop a national waste water management policy and plan to include sewage disposal on land and sea.
- Build the capacity for the implementation of best practices on greening in the industry by:
  - providing information from the BVI that substantiates the claim that greening operations save money and or generate revenue;
  - establishing a forum for stakeholders to exchange lessons learned and experiences on greening; and
  - encouraging the use of social media to exchange lessons learned and experiences on greening.

SESSION 4: IMPROVING DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING

- Build the capacity of the Planning Department in the use of tools such as stakeholder identification and analysis to inform selection of review committees for effective assessment of planning proposals.
- Develop and approve a National Physical Development Plan that takes into consideration greening issues.
- Improve communication and information exchange among key agencies involved in development planning and building approval, specifically among the Planning Department, Building Authority, Airports Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Disaster Management.
• Build awareness of the planning and building process among residents of the BVI.
• Build the capacity of developers and contractors to address practical green issues, for example sediment control.
• Build the capacity of financers and insurance companies to support greening issues through their application and approval process.
• Include environmental implications in the current template for Cabinet papers.
• Develop certification and standards for architects and contractors.
• Update planning and building regulations to incorporate and encourage green standards in construction.

6 OUTCOMES

Participants in the workshop were able to identify many gaps and barriers and recommend several actions to implement environmental mainstreaming in the BVI. However, the most salient outcome from the process was undoubtedly the knowledge gained by participants on how the government operates and in particular the development application and approval process. Participants also took advantage of the opportunity to network with fellow participants and to share lessons learned and best practices on greening in the BVI.

7 NEXT STEPS

This report will be circulated to participants and the finalised version will inform the final project report that will be submitted by CANARI to the JNCC.
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</table>
Appendix 2- Workshop agenda and invitation
YOU ARE CORDially INVITED
TO A SEMINAR ON:

Greening the economy

towards sustainable development for the BVI

DATE: Wednesday 22nd February and Thursday 23rd 2012
LOCATION: Treasure Isle Hotel - Verandah Room, Road Town, Tortola
TIME: 8:30-5:00p.m.
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE

For more information please contact:
Emma Dean at 468-3507/ Emma.Dean@fco.gov.uk
**Greening the economy**

**A seminar to be held at the Treasure Isle Hotel - Verandah Room - Road Town, Tortola**

### Wednesday 22nd February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am – 9:00am</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am – 11:00am</td>
<td>His Excellency the Governor, Boyd McCleary, CMG CVO</td>
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<td>9:00am – 11:00am</td>
<td>Dr the Honourable Kedrick Pickering – Minister for Natural Resources &amp; Labour</td>
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<td>9:00am – 11:00am</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Roy Brouwer - VU University Amsterdam</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am – 11:00am</td>
<td>Katarina Grgas Brus - Policy Officer at European Commission, Directorate-General for the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am – 11:30am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:30am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Focus group 1</td>
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<td>1:00pm – 2:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 4:30pm</td>
<td>Focus group 2</td>
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<td>4:30pm – 5:00pm</td>
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### Thursday 23rd February

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<td>9:30am – 12:00am</td>
<td>Focus group 3</td>
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<td>Greening the BVI tourism industry</td>
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<td>Focus group 4</td>
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<td>1:30pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>Improving developmental planning</td>
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<td>4:30pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Summary for the day and close</td>
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GREENING THE ECONOMY WORKSHOP, 22 FEBRUARY 2012

OPENING REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR, MR BOYD McCLEARY CMG CVO

- Good morning. I’d like to welcome everyone to this workshop on greening the economy. A particularly warm welcome to the Premier and Deputy Premier, whose presence today says a great deal about the attitude of Dr Smith’s government to the environment. And a particular word of thanks to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour for all the help that he and his staff have provided over the last few weeks in the run-up to this event.
- I’d like to recognise the presence of other Permanent Secretaries and senior officials from across government, to the Chairman and staff of the BVI Tourist Board, who have also been very much part of the planning for the workshop, and to representatives from the business sector and NGOs, without whom we would not be able to achieve what we hope to achieve today.
- I should acknowledge the presence of the Hon Walcott Richardson, the Minister of .. from Anguilla, who, together with his Permanent Secretary, …. are here as observers for today’s workshop.
- And a very warm welcome too to those who have travelled across the Atlantic to participate, in particular to our guest speakers Prof Roy Brouwer from the University of Amsterdam and to Katarina Grgas from the European Commission. Also to Tony Weighell of the UK’s Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the main adviser to the British Government on nature conservation issues.
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been working together with regional environmental consultants CANARI and with a group of local stakeholders in preparation of this workshop, which has been funded by the FCO’s Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). Many of you will be familiar with OTEP, as this programme has provided funding for a number of projects in the BVI over the last few years. Projects like the environment profiles for Jost van Dyke, Virgin Gorda and Anegada, for the Green VI glass recycling plant in Cane Garden Bay and for the rock iguana protection programme in Anegada.
- The involvement of JNCC also reflects the strengthened commitment of UK Government Departments to do what they can to assist the Governments of British Overseas Territories such as the BVI in developing their policies and building their capacity in areas such as the environment. This approach has been welcomed by the BVI Government and will be spelt out in more detail in the White Paper which is due to be published by the British Government this spring.
- We are all dependent on our environment. This is true whether we live in large cities or on small islands. The environment provides us with food and water. It protects us from extremes of weather and even protects us from ourselves by dealing with our waste products.
- On Caribbean Islands such as the BVI, where the beauty of the surroundings are one of the greatest assets, our dependence on the natural environment should be obvious and yet we sometimes take it for granted. Reefs not only attract tourists, but protect the coastline. Sea-grass beds and mangroves act as fish nurseries. Forested slopes protect property from flooding and protect reefs from being covered in sediment.
Over the next two days we will be considering what key actions need to be taken – short, medium, long term – to ensure that the environment is taken properly into account in planning the economic future of these islands.

By being more aware of the goods and services delivered by the environment, such as flood protection, prevention of coastal erosion and mitigation of climate change impacts, governments can take more informed, more balanced decisions and help to provide a stronger foundation for sustainable growth and development. This in turn can help ensure that:

- The natural environment, whether through individual species, habitats or whole ecosystems, is appropriately valued.
- Economic activity, including tourism, is managed in a way that is consistent with long-term sustainable use of the natural environment.
- Unique, highly vulnerable or sensitive natural environments are identified, protected and conserved by appropriate means.
- The role of the natural environment in underpinning long-term economic prosperity is understood and integrated within policy-making.

Good planning decisions and how to ‘green’ our key industry, tourism, will be essential components of the BVI’s economy in the future. Equally essential will be communicating the value of the environment to everyone who lives in these islands. Planning, tourism and communication will be discussed at working sessions today and tomorrow. So too will the scope for renewable energy and recycling.

Hopefully, we will all emerge from the workshop with a clearer view of what we need to do to ensure the BVI understands the importance of its natural environment and of striking the right balance between the environment and development. Whatever the future holds for the BVI, I think we all know that one critical component will be maintaining a healthy environment for all of our citizens and visitors.

I wish you all a very successful couple of days.
Appendix 4- Premier’s speech

My Government has entered office at a time of great political and economic upheaval around the world and at a time when we understand more than we ever did before about the fragility of our environment and the threats posed to our wonderful world by our actions. From the time of our earliest ancestors, we have become accustomed to taking the Earth and its rich bounty for granted.

Centuries ago, slash and burn agricultural practices eradicated huge swathes of forest land and converted them into crop lands. When industrialization came, it made work easier but it also accelerated the growth of environmentally destructive practices. Factories spewed waste into the air and over the land. Mining and other interests eradicated hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin forests and created huge scars on the earth. We have probably done more harm to the earth in the last two hundred years than in all the previous eras combined.

Here in the Virgin Islands we have not been immune. Our first settlers the Arawaks and other Amerindians came to these islands and met verdant hills and rich fishing grounds. For hundreds of years, they lived here more or less in harmony with nature but then they moved on and the islands were left in peace until the arrival of European settlers in the 1500s. As the early indigo and cotton plantations turned to growing sugar, more and more of the forested hills were tamed and subdued and the population climbed when African slaves were brought over to create the wealth the planters and their investors craved. Then, with the abolition of slavery, and the setbacks caused by poor harvests, labour migration, and powerful hurricanes, the Europeans left, leaving the islands to the descendants of the slaves they had brought over. The islanders settled down to subsistence farming and agriculture, their impact on the environment not much greater than that of the Arawaks. Virgin Islanders lived simple lives of simple pleasures but also of hardship. While nobody went hungry, it was also true that few had access to a good education, medical care was almost non-existent and those who wanted greater professional options had no choice but to migrate. For those who remained, life was hard and it was a time of making-do with less. What we did not realise then but are realising now was that, for the most part, our impact on our environment was minimal.

Belongings were treasured and looked after so that they would last for years, decades even. We re-used and recycled. The bags in which we bought our flour became our clothing. The pages of old catalogues were used to decorate our homes. Hardly anything went to waste and we made do with what we had.

Then in the 1950s, we embraced the tourism industry and leapt to take advantage of the opportunities it could bring to our people. And make no mistake about it; the tourism industry has brought unprecedented change and unprecedented benefits to a wide cross-section of our society. It has also brought many challenges. Between 1980 and 1991, for example, our population grew by almost fifty percent severely impacting our physical and social infrastructure and dramatically raising the vulnerability of our ecologically sensitive areas.
Since then, it has become clear that government’s policies and programmes must find ways to stimulate continued economic growth while remaining environmentally sensitive. We have to balance the needs of present-day Virgin Islanders with those of future generations who must not be allowed to inherit a Territory so environmentally troubled that its ability to sustain itself is in doubt.

In the late 1990s the BVI formulated a Tourism Development Plan which we are now in the process of reviewing but one of things my Government has always been conscious of is the need for a sustainable approach to the economy and particularly to tourism. Tortola is only 21 square miles but it is the largest of our islands. Our sister islands are tiny. To maintain the quality of our attractions we cannot afford to over-burden any one site and must be mindful that the carrying capacity of our beaches, our historical sites, and our national parks are not overwhelmed. As we embark on our review of this Plan, all stakeholders including our environmental organisations will be brought to the table to discuss our agenda going forward. Even as we seek new approaches to improve our accessibility to our visitors we are committed to doing so in a sustainable way. We are very conscious of our need to protect the golden goose that makes the BVI so attractive to visitors, and that is our environment.

A 2002 study indicated that 84 percent of tourists would prefer to stay at an accommodation that had received green accreditation and 68 percent would pay more to stay there. The more we learn about global warming and climate change and the more organizations such as Tourism Concern and Mother Nature Network make information about eco-friendly travel easy to access, the higher those figures will go. We ignore them at our peril. My government is determined to seize the day and to do all that we can to become a destination where thirty percent of our tourism industry partners meet the criteria established by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council within the next five years. It is our desire that in the next twenty years, 100 percent of our tourism properties are meeting the criteria. Broadly, these criteria are as follows:

- Demonstrating effective sustainable management while minimising all negative impacts.
- Maximising social and economic benefits to the local community.
- Maximising benefits to cultural heritage.
- Maximising benefits to the environment.

Businesses and tourism properties will be encouraged and assisted to raise the environmental awareness of their staff so that everyone who works in the BVI knows how important the environment is to the existence of their job. It is our beautiful clear waters, our pristine beaches, our colourful reefs and lush hills that attract tourists to our islands and it is the income we earn from tourism that makes our quality of life possible. Every single person in the BVI is affected by our tourism industry regardless of whether they work directly in it or not. Tourism revenues allow us to maintain our roads, modernise our medical clinics, and pay civil servants. The tourism industry employs thousands of people but it does much more than that – it underpins our very society.

As we work through our Tourist Board and partner with our environmental organisations we will prioritise the conservation of our natural heritage and the biodiversity of plant, animal and bird life. The Anegada Rock Iguana, our humming-birds and chicken hawks, our century plants, our Land Crabs and our coral reefs, our flamingos, our guinep and tamarind...
trees – these have all contributed in one way or another to the uniqueness of our Territory, its landscapes and seascapes. We will work at protecting them and at finding ways to help our enviropreneurs find new techniques for making opportunities from them. As we begin to look at alternative energy sources, for example, the potential for enviropreneurs is huge. Decades ago, our ancestors found a way to make a drink from the barrel cactus which was known as Miss Blyden but that drink is ever more rare because the cactus itself is disappearing from our environment. Yet the Miss Blyden is a drink to match any imported to our shores. And that is the crux of the matter – the environmental crisis faced by the world must be met by a reassessment of our history and culture and of our values.

The foods, drinks and other products which we import at great expense from other countries also exact an environmental cost which will, arguably, be felt most deeply by small island nations such as the BVI and our Caribbean neighbours.

Improving our sustainability must therefore also mean improving the sustainability of our supply and ensuring that the products we import reach our shores with the smallest carbon footprint possible. Where possible we will facilitate our businesses and our tourism properties to source their food and other requirements locally. Where that is not possible our next best option is sourcing our needs from our closest regional neighbours. To that end, governments of the Caribbean must begin to work together to enable this heightened cooperation and turn the challenges posed by economies of scale to our advantage.

My Government is also committed to facilitating the growth of a diversified economy where our entrepreneurs are encouraged and assisted to become enviropreneurs. The protection of our environment and of our biodiversity offers us some stiff challenges but it also offers opportunities for innovators to become involved in the rapidly growing eco-sector of our economy. Five years ago, Green VI did not exist but now it collects used glass products and makes beautiful jewellery and art from items that we used to throw away. Twenty years before that our national hero, Noel Lloyd, began using discarded metals to make sculptures of found art.

My Government is extremely optimistic about the future and about what can be achieved with the help of international resources like those made available under the auspices of initiatives such as BizClim where the public and private sectors are assisted to partner more effectively around environmental and other initiatives. We know that both the United Kingdom and the European Commission will work with us to help us to achieve our goals for sustainability and I welcome the opportunities presented by this workshop.

The protection of our environment is one of our highest and noblest responsibilities which is why you will find it enshrined in our constitution. Yet our survival as a Territory and as a people depends on our finding ways to balance all of our responsibilities including those owed to our people whose growth and advancement, individually and collectively, depends both on how well we manage our resources and on how well we tread the middle way between protection and over-development. This is a challenge that has stumped many of the most powerful countries in the world and which has proved the stumbling block to global agreements aimed at lowering the threat posed by global warming.
As Premier, I am keenly aware of how far we have come as a people within my own lifetime; in one generation we moved from an agrarian-based economy to one with global significance. Our foreparents dreamed of the day when education would be available to all and of the day when the aspirations of their children depended less on where they grew up and more on their own aptitudes and abilities. That day arrived with the advent of the prosperity brought about by tourism and the diversification of the economy. Now, as we face the challenge of climate change, my government must strike a balance between the protection of our natural heritage, the desire of our people for jobs, and the interests of future generations. My Government will find that middle way and we will strike that balance. There is too much at stake for us to falter at this point in time. I wish you all very fruitful discussions and I look forward to the results from this workshop.
Appendix 5- Deputy Premier's speech

An American Express Ad says, “We are a part of nature and as we destroy nature we destroy our selves. It's a selfish thing to want to protect nature.”

Over the next two days the terms “Green Economy,” “Sustainable Development,” and “Environmental Mainstreaming” will likely be bounced around this room faster than Usain Bolt could run the 100m dash. But to come out of this discussion as winners, with a clear way forward, we must first ask ourselves, what does it mean to “Green” our economy? I don’t pretend that I can do justice to such an important question in just a few minutes.

In a realistic sense, the question is what does “Green Economy,” “Sustainable Development,” and “Environmental Mainstreaming” mean in a practical way for these Virgin Islands.

The changes that will be seen in 1, 5, or 10 years will be the result of discussions like these, and that is ultimately what really matters.

Whether we say “Green Economy,” “Sustainable Development” or “Environmental Mainstreaming” we are essentially talking about the same thing – living in harmony with our environment to ensure that it continues to provide us the resources that we depend on to sustain our lives, our health and our economy. Perhaps then, our first question should be, in this BVI context are what are these resources that sustain us? Or is it that it allows us to have a vibrant economy, a healthy life style and an envied quality of life? I can’t possibly name all of them, but I’ll be glad to mention a few. What does it really mean without our clean air or uniquely beautiful land and seascapes that attract close to a million visitors each year? We depend ultimately on our diverse and highly valuable coastal and marine resources. From our salt ponds that serve as important drainage basins in times of floods, to our mangroves that protect our shorelines from crashing hurricane waves, to our beaches, to the reefs that sustain our fisheries and other marine life, and yes even provides the very white sand that make up our beaches. What about the water we drink and that flows in every tap that ultimately comes from our coastal seas and rainfall? Then, of course, there are the resources that we have not fully harnessed as yet, like the brilliant sunshine and Northeast Trade Winds that could power our homes and businesses and the question of the business of renewable energy.
Perhaps in no other setting than a small island is the connection and dependence between the environment and man so explicit. We depend on finite or limited and fragile resources and we have the capacity to fundamentally impact our environment and the impact we have on our environment eventually has an impact on us. At the heart of the concept of a “Green Economy” is a fundamental understanding and respect for these facts. To believe otherwise is simply a state of denial. The global business community is awakening to this reality and it is time that we here in the Virgin Islands do so also.

Because of this understanding, we also have to recognize that we cannot leave the charge of protecting the environment, our lifeline, to only a few. If you are concerned about BVI’s development, you ought to be concerned about BVI’s environment. And if you are concerned about how you will live tomorrow, next year and how your children will live, you ought to be concerned about our environment. Unless and until the environment becomes everyone’s business, and is thought about, and seriously considered in every decision we make, we can forget about an environment that will be in any condition to maintain our economy, secure our development or continue to provide the lifestyle that we now enjoy.

There is no tourism without environment, let me repeat myself, there is no tourism without environment. As the Premier so eloquently articulated that it is extremely important that we understand that the point of our environment in our tourism product is integral and inseparable. As we develop as a country it will become increasingly important that we have a ministry of tourism and environment because there is no tourism without the environment. We have to make fundamental changes in which we think and act about energy, water, waste and how we make decisions about developmental and development practices. I want to point out a very specific example of that, if you are paying attention to what is happening in Cane Garden Bay, then everyone of you sitting here has to be deeply concerned of what is taking place in Cane Garden Bay. It is an interesting case study to see the interaction of man and his environment and what we can do to the environment and what the environment can ultimately do to us. As minister responsible for the natural resources of this country and the environment, one of the things that must absolutely be done in Cane Garden Bay is the restoration of the pond. A beach cannot survive without a pond, the pond is the lifeblood of the beach and we are destroying it.

In the Virgin Islands we face a number of practical dilemmas that Going Green can help to solve, such as the energy and climate problem. We are all intimately aware that the cost of electricity and gas continues to rise and energy security remains a serious issue for our islands.
I want to introduce a concept, something that I sincerely believe is a winner for the British Virgin Islands, that we use Anegada as a case study for renewable energy. Anegada is a very fragile ecosystem and it has a small but dynamic population. We can use Anegada by setting up solar energy, wind or wave energy. We can use Anegada as a case study to see what it really will cost to use a re-used form of energy to produce whatever needs that community can have. Coming out of that study we can modify whatever needs to be modified to see if renewable energy is a winner for the rest of the BVI. We can set up a solar system on Anegada that will take over the use of the electricity department there to produce energy for Anegada. If we have succeeded at that we can then use the economics of that to show that in fact we have a winner with electricity cost going down dramatically and that we are not impacting the environment. We can then extend that to Jost Van Dyke modifying the gains and losses, then extend to Virgin Gorda and then ultimately to the entire BVI. The BVI can become a shining example of what a green economy needs and that renewable energy can work in these islands and probably for the rest of the Caribbean. Climate change is a direct result of humans’ unchecked use of fossil fuels to produce energy. While the Virgin Islands and Caribbean as a whole contribute little to the problem, we are on the frontline of the impacts and must be a part of the global effort to curb this problem.

There is the water issue. Traditionally a dry climate, we have very limited freshwater resources. This situation will intensify as climate changes and our part of the Caribbean is predicted to receive less overall rainfall in the future. While we may be able to avert a crisis situation by depending more on desalination, we must recognize that this comes at a high cost of the energy required to produce that water.

The most important issue in the BVI is that the BVI faces a problem in respect to waste especially waste water. The Virgin Islands is neck deep in a waste crisis. We produce more solid waste than we can handle. At the current rate we will outgrow the combined capacity of the old and new incinerator in just a few short years.

It is extremely important that we be careful, we must be aware. If we are concerned about living in and passing on healthy islands, we have to take strong actions now to rewrite the storyline. To rephrase an ancient proverb, "We will reap exactly what we sow"
There are a number of practical steps that we must take, these will include issues like the way we use our toilets and flush water. Are we going to encourage businesses to provide energy saving waste units or are we going to continue to use units that are disposing 5 gallons of water just like that? Do we continue an excessive volume of unnecessary waste that will quickly filter down to Pockwood Pond? Do we continue to burn and ultimately pollute the air or do we find ways to reduce waste we produce in the first place and are we ready for recycling? Do we continue to ignore the sun and wind energy at our ready disposal and continue to solely rely on fossil fuels? Do we continue to build in ways that destroy the environment when we could achieve the same ends without the environmental damage by making small investments in protective measures, such as silt fencing, or encouraging alternative development options that would capitalize on environmental features instead?

When I was in the EU Forum, I had a discussion with the Prime Minister of Curacao who is helping to initiate and encourage what he refers to as the ‘White Roof Initiative.’ Studies have been done in Washington that shows if every house in a place like in the Caribbean painted their roofs white it could have tremendous impact on the greening and ultimately reduce the impact of climate change and that doesn’t cost much. That would be a winner for both government and private enterprises. Government can also play an important role through providing incentives that then drive businesses and individuals to making smarter, greener decisions. We find a perfect example right here in our region in the case of Barbados. Presently, there are over 50,000 solar water heaters installed in Barbados, this represents about 50% of the housing stock. Cumulative consumer savings as result of this massive “Green” conversion is over $400 million United States dollars to date. This represents serious savings on the country and individual level when we consider that a solar water heater can pay for itself in 1 to 2 years. There were many important factors and actors, but chief among them was the important role the government played through fiscal incentives.

This Government is committed as our Premier just said, to taking the steps, within our capacity, to act as a facilitator and example setter in the greening process. Businesses have a special role to play, because at the end of the day, You decide which products hit the shelves. The private sector has a special gift of innovation and creation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour wants to provide you with opportunities and incentives to exercise it to spur this critical green transition. Today, I have already made a commitment on behalf of the Government; I now want to close with a challenge to the business community.

In BVI, June is celebrated annually as Environment Month, coordinated by the Conservation and Fisheries Department. This year the theme is “The Green Economy: Does it include you?” This June the Department is urging (and I am challenging) all businesses to take meaningful action to create this “Green Economy” by making your own “Greening Pledge”.

26
A “Greening Pledge” would include any action(s) that each business decides to implement in 2012 to help protect the environment. Pledges may include, for example, actions to cut down on your waste production, energy or water use, actions to properly dispose of wastes, actions to help educate consumers about better environmental practices, actions to support environmental work or even your own environmental stewardship project.

What is the incentive? Firstly your bottom line, as you save water, energy, and produce less waste, you save money. Secondly, your brand reputation – by taking the Pledge your business will be awarded with the Department’s official “Greening Seal” and publicly recognised as a Green leader. The Department will be launching its call for pledges shortly in the media and will be making direct appeals to the business sector. I challenge all business leaders, civic society groups and even individuals to take action on the discussions you will have over the next two days by making our own “Greening Pledge” as a part of that initiative.

While the pathway to a truly green, sustainable future, is a long one, where we fully integrate the environment in all of our decisions, from those made at the House of Assembly, to the meeting rooms of small businesses and the dining tables of homes, it is also one full of opportunity and excitement. As your Minister for Natural Resources and Labour I look forward to leading the way and partnering with you to make this necessary transition to the Green Economy.
Appendix 6- Presentation on economic evaluation.
Presentation outline

1. The concept of Ecosystem Services and Total Economic Value
2. Potentially relevant issues in greening BVI's economy

Objective:
What can environmental economics do for the BVI?

Example: Ecosystem Services of Coral Reefs

Total Economic Value of Ecosystem Services

1. Ecosystem Services and Total Economic Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem Services</th>
<th>Total Economic Value of Ecosystem Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>$14,785 ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes/rivers</td>
<td>$8,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical forests</td>
<td>$2,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral reefs</td>
<td>$675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open ocean</td>
<td>$252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasslands</td>
<td>$232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)
2. Role of Environmental Economics

- Awareness raising
- Environmental liability
- Decision support
- Stainable financing

"One day son, all of this will be yours."

2. Role of Ecotourism in USVI

- Characteristics of visitors

Air passengers are more "eco-oriented" than cruise ship passengers

USVI Visitor Profile: Expenditure Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Average Cost (US$)</th>
<th>Cruise Visitors</th>
<th>Air Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruise package</td>
<td>1453</td>
<td>1746</td>
<td>1746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norkeling</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reef to reef</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local transport</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eats</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1568</td>
<td>1568</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corrected for:
- Reef related $23
- alle added $116

Spatial Distribution Economic Values Guam

Biodiv.

Tourism

Fish

Amenity

Protect

Example: Exxon Valdez

- 1989 largest oil spill in history
- 11 millions of crude oil
- Alaska rince William and Corporation
- on lost $4
- tax non- tax val es $3
- tron ind stry 10 cention of
- non- tax and
- of $C
- on aide italy paid $11
Example: Environmental Liability Hawaii

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE TO FRUY CORAL AND LIVE ROCK.

15 i. In addition to subsection (c), a fine may be levied
16 for damaging or breaking stony coral or live rock in an amount
17 equal to the greater of:
18 (1) Up to $10,000 per square meter of area damaged; or
19 (2) The value of the particular area damaged, determined
20 by using an accepted economic valuation method.

“Accepted economic valuation method” means a valuation
21 approach to estimating the value of a reef within a total
22 economic framework, including considering such indicia as direct
23 and indirect uses, option values, benefit values, and existence
24 values.

c) Decision support

- Costs and benefits of environmental policy

Mangrove ecosystem provides “free” services

Mangrove Services:
- Nimbus fishery
- Habitat
- Sediment trap
- Protects
- Erosion

Mangrove Conversion

| Mangrove: $90 per hectare |
| Shrimp Farm: $2000 |
| Gross: $17,900 |
| Less costs of $15,900 |
| Less subsidies $1,700 |
| Social Net Present Value per hectare |
| Mangrove: $4,000 |
| Shrimp Farm: $70 |

Impact environmental degradation on visitation

Will you return to the USVI if...

Coral reefs in current state 193 |

$4000 per hectare

Mangrove Conversion

Will you return to the USVI if...

Shrimp farming and potential damages

Mangrove Services:
- Nimbus fishery
- Habitats
- Sediment trap
- Protects
- Erosion

Mangrove Conversion

| Mangrove: $90 per hectare |
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| Gross: $17,900 |
| Less costs of $15,900 |
| Less subsidies $1,700 |
| Social Net Present Value per hectare |
| Mangrove: $4,000 |
| Shrimp Farm: $70 |
Example: WPC protect 20-30% of world seas

Costs: $5-19 billion - Benefits of increased fish catch: $70-80 billion

Implement proper management

Benefits with management

Benefits of management

Benefits without management

Management costs

Example: Sewage treatment Grand Anse, Grenada

Example: Revenues from MPA in Dutch Antilles

Example: Sewage treatment Grand Anse, Grenada

Figure showing the financial B-C ratio and economic B-C ratio over different discount rates.

Example: Revenues from MPA in Dutch Antilles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Island government 2002-03</th>
<th>Other grants 2002-03</th>
<th>Self-generated revenue 2002-03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saba</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Eustatius</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Maarten</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonaire</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curaçao</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several of the Nature Parks in the Dutch Antilles have relatively high levels of financial self-sufficiency.

 Commitment from both managers & visitors

Source: Spergel (2005)
Role of **environmental economics** in “Greening BVI”:

- Demonstrate and communicate the value of the environment
- Cost-benefit analysis as a decision support tool
- Increase transparency and accountability of decision making
- One talks – it is the language policymakers understand
- Make one talk – change behavior through economic incentives (market-based instruments)

### Greening BVI: potential relevant issues

- Economic valuation of BVI’s ecosystem services
- Age assessment protocol for marine environment
- Role of tourism industry and development of sustainable tourism policies
- Costs and benefits of sustainable (later) management plan for the BVI
- Cultural importance of ecosystem services and natural capital among local citizens
Appendix 7 - Presentation on available funding opportunities.
Out of sight does not mean out of mind - EU-OCTs cooperation on environment

Katarina Grgas Brus, DG Environment, European Commission

British Virgin Islands, 22-24 February 2012

Seminar: Greening the Economy: towards sustainable development in British Virgin Islands

Content

- Introduction
- EU and sustainable development
  - Resource efficiency
  - Rio+20
- EU-OCTs cooperation on environment
  - OAD
  - From policy to implementation
- Conclusion

EU and sustainable development

- **Europe 2020 Strategy** - Flagship initiative: “A resource-efficient Europe” (March 2010)
- Three mutually reinforcing priorities: Smart, sustainable and inclusive economy
- **Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe** (Sept 2011)
- Sustainable consumption and production, turning waste into a resource, supporting research and innovation, natural capital and ecosystem services, governance and monitoring.

Rio+20

- **UN Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20** is a unique opportunity to make sustainable development and eradication of poverty a reality for this generation and the next.
- Objectives Rio+20 June 2012:
  - Take stock achievements and challenges since Rio 1992
  - “A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”
  - “The institutional framework for sustainable development” i.e. governance

Rio+20

- **EU Communication** (June 2011): “Rio+20: towards the green economy and better governance”
- Increasing resource efficiency, tackling climate change, protecting biodiversity and promoting the sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems
- Promote green economy partnerships in areas: water, food and sustainable agriculture, renewable energies, oceans and chemicals, ecosystem services
- Enabling conditions need to be established
**Rio+20**
- Zero draft of the outcome document
- Key areas for action: food security, water, energy, oceans, chemicals and waste, sustainable consumption and production.
- Blue Economy
- Possible ingredients of an outcome at Rio+20:
  - Broad political call for greener and more sustainable economy
  - Green economy Roadmap
  - National/regional actions
  - Key indicators and accounting

**Overseas Association Decision**
- The current OAD will expire on 31 December 2013.
- The European Commission adopted a Green Paper on future relations between the EU and the OCTs (June 2008)
- Communication "Elements for a new partnership between the EU and the OCTs" (November 2009)
- Joint Position Paper of the OCTs and the Member States (March 2011)

**Out Of Sight. Out Of Mind...**

**EU-OCTs cooperation on environment**
- Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)
  - The purpose of the association: "shall be to promote the economic and social development of the countries and territories and to establish close economic relations between them and the Union as a whole".
- Overseas Association Decision (OAD) (Nov 2001)
  - The association shall pursue the objectives of the Treaty "by focusing on the reduction, prevention and, eventually, eradication of poverty and on sustainable development and gradual integration into the regional and world economies".

**Revised OAD**
OAD will be expected to contribute to achieving what should be the three central objectives of the OCT/EU association:
1. Enhancing competitiveness;
2. Strengthening resilience;
3. Promoting cooperation.
These objectives are to be pursued via 5 inter-linked principles and axes of cooperation, which are:
   a) OCTs as centers of excellence;
   b) EU rules and standards;
   c) Environment and disasters;
   d) Links to the outside world;
   e) Trade and economic cooperation.

**Revised OAD**
- The current OAD does not identify areas of cooperation specifically dedicated to environmental issues
- The Commission - proposals that could help the OCTs to embark on a sustainable development path by greening the economy and help them to implement environmental measures (such as adaptation to climate change, networks of protected areas, environmental assessments, waste management and renewable energies).
- The future association - focus on improving the OCTs' capacity to respond to economic shocks, energy dependency and environmental challenges.
How?

- PWP 3 on Environment and Climate Change
- Trilateral meetings
- Once a year, an EU/EC/OCT forum is held alternatively in Brussels and in an OCT.

From policy to implementation

- **10th European Development Fund** (2008 – 2013) - 286 m€

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total: 250 million Euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Territorial envelope</td>
<td>195 million Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional envelope</td>
<td>40 million Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non allocated reserve</td>
<td>15 million Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Facility managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB)</td>
<td>30 million Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance managed by the Commission</td>
<td>6 million Euros</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other sources of financing

- BEST "Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas"
- The objective: to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in OCTs and ORs
- The Preparatory action was voted under the 2011 budget (2,000,000 m€) at the initiative of several MEPs. It was prolonged in 2012 with a further budget of EUR 2,000,000.
- First Call for Proposals, 2011:
  - Number of proposals received: 42
  - Requested cumulative cost: € 13,360,486
  - Total cumulative cost: € 19,704,643

Post 2013 multiannual financial framework

- **11th EDF** (2014 – 2020) - the European Commission presented in its Communication 'A budget for Europe 2020' the overall volume: € 30,318.7 million in 2011 prices
- The amount of EUR 343.4 million shall be allocated to implement actions with the OCTs.
  - 338 million is allocating to territorial and regional programmes
  - the remaining 5 million allows the EIB to finance interest subsidies and technical assistance in accordance with the Overseas Association Decision.

Conclusion

OCTs and the EU are committed to ensure development that improves human well-being, whilst protecting the environment.

Decoupling economic growth from resource use.

Quoted in Time:

Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find.
Thank you for your attention!
Focus group 1: Integrating the environment into decision making in the BVI

Context:

There are many pieces of legislation that speak to integrating environmental issues into decision making. The BVI is a signatory to a number of United Nations conventions by virtue of the fact that the United Kingdom is a signatory to these conventions and the BVI is a territory of the United Kingdom. The government of the BVI in 2001 signed “The British Virgin Islands Charter: A partnership for conservation and sustainable use of the BVI’s environmental resources” which outlines roles and responsibilities for the governments of the United Kingdom and the BVI in the sustainable management of the environment. The charter refers to the development of “a detailed strategy for action” for sustainable use of BVI’s resources, but to date no strategy has been formulated.

Participants interviewed in this project, pointed to various means, (offices or instruments) that provide guidance on implementing environmental mainstreaming into decision making at the strategic level. High level technicians in the government service indicated that guidance is sought from the Minister with responsibility for the portfolio and is understandably influenced by the capacity of the particular Minister on environmental management. Other high level technicians with varied responsibilities pointed to multiple documents, for example the national physical development plan and the tourism strategy, which are largely outdated and do not adequately address environmental mainstreaming. Research in this project also revealed that there is a draft Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Act 2006 in which one of the stated objectives is to integrate environmental concerns into private and public decision making.

Questions:

- Are environmental considerations included in your decision making in your work?
- How are environmental considerations included in the decisions that you make on a day to day basis?
- What authority/document is used to guide decisions at the strategic level?
- Is this process consistent among the Ministries and authorities? Does it need to be?
- Does the capacity exist within your organization for greening decisions?
- When do considerations of waste management and energy use factor into these decisions? How and when should or do you think they should be considered and why?
Focus group 2: Communicating the value of the environment

There are several public awareness and education activities that involve environmental issues. In line with the Tourism strategy, many initiatives promote sites or species while other initiatives advise on conservation and wise use practices. Many official documents acknowledge the importance of the unique island environment to the way of life in the BVI and several government departments employ technicians with responsibility for education, outreach and awareness. However, many participants in the study indicated that there is a gap in the message being communicated. Participants indicated that the messages being transmitted need to reflect a stronger link with livelihoods to more effectively contribute to a better understanding of the contribution of the environment to livelihoods in the BVI. While others admitted that more attention needs to be paid to refining the messages to meet the specific target audience.

In terms of providing a framework for these initiatives, an environmental working group has been constituted to implement a project, “Sustainability capacity building for the BVI”, to enable a systematic and collective approach to environmental education through the participatory development of a national environmental education strategy.

Questions:

- Who should lead on this initiative and why (who are key stakeholders)?
- Is there sufficient capacity among stakeholders to implement this initiative?
- Which audiences need to be targeted (Who do we want to see a behaviour change in)?
- Is there a need to target government stakeholders as a specific audience? Is there a need to target a sector in civil society as a specific audience (for example building contractors or supermarket owners and operators)?
- Are the messages clearly transferring information about the behaviour change we want to see?
- Are the messages drafted so that they link behaviour to livelihoods, so that people can see a relevance in their lives?
Focus group 3: Greening the BVI tourism industry

The Tourism industry and its supporting services provide livelihood opportunities to many people in the BVI. Tourism in the BVI has been dramatically affected as a result of the global economic crisis. The gradual weakening of the world economy and the adoption of unfriendly regulatory policies and tax measures (e.g. Air Passenger Duty) by a number of developed countries aimed at offshore financial centres and the airline industry, have contributed to a global economic environment of declining growth in which the territory must operate. These factors are dampening the BVI’s economic outlook for 2012 and beyond.

Against this backdrop, promotion of the country is guided by a tourism strategy lead by the BVI’s Tourist Board. The main objective of the strategy is to promote the country as the premier Caribbean destination for leisure holidays and high-end events. In terms of environmental mainstreaming, the Tourist Board is currently implementing a “Sustainable Tourism Environmental Programme" which is a pilot project with four properties which develops and implements environmental management systems for small properties. The outcome of this pilot project is intended to contribute to international certification. The Tourist Board is also developing an environmental management system for greening its own operations.

Supporting services in the sector are engaged in various activities geared towards mitigating or dampening the impact of their operations on the environment. For example, one of the largest supermarket chains is greening its operations. It has made a huge investment in more energy efficient equipment (light bulbs and refrigeration equipment), installing low flush toilets in all new buildings and renovating older buildings with similar devices and putting used cardboard boxes into bales to ship off island for recycling. It should be noted that the introduced energy conservation measures have realised savings on electricity for the company. The company also indicated that it is actively engaged in developing a system to select more products and packaging that are biodegradable. It was also mentioned that representation has been made to the government to modify the current tax regime to encourage businesses to green their operations.

Many participants interviewed in this project highlighted a need for more attention to be paid to waste management and conservation on the islands. A couple of large supermarkets, invited by a civil society grouping, are formulating a plan for the voluntary phasing out of the use of plastic bags. Many participants in the study highlighted a need for modification of legislation for the generation of electricity to approve the use of alternative energy sources by residents in the BVI.
There is yet another civil society grouping that has drafted and circulated a petition and drafted amended legislation on the use of alternative energy which has been presented to the Premier for consideration.

Questions:

- How are strategic decisions made about the Tourism sector?
- Who is involved (Who are the key stakeholders in the tourism sector? Have they been identified and involved)?
- How are “cradle to grave” considerations about supplies and products incorporated into decisions?
- What can be done to implement/encourage green decisions in the sector?
- What is known about best practices? Are they being implemented? By whom?
Focus group 4: Improving developmental planning

The Planning Department has an established operational interagency physical planning committee, which includes senior officers from key agencies and convenes frequently to review development proposals. Environmental impact assessments are conducted for development activities listed on schedule 3, section 26, of the Physical Planning Act 2004. The Department indicated that there was room for improvement in the environmental impact assessment process. Issues included improving mobilization of the community and tailoring the format to provide more useful feedback from the public for decision making.

Although the interagency physical planning committee could be viewed as an appropriate structure for mainstreaming management control decisions, the following shortcomings should be noted. First, under the law, planning decisions are to be guided by a National Physical Development Plan. However, the current approved plan is obsolete and does not address issues of environmental mainstreaming. Second, the committee does not include a representative from Solid Waste Department and the storage and collection of household refuse is not adequately accommodated in approved developments. Third, many respondents indicated that enforcement under the planning law is woeful. The Department reports that they are simply overwhelmed in this area and do not have enough personnel for monitoring and surveillance of planning permits. Respondents in this study described frequent occurrences of siltation of bays from construction sites and indicated that these events contribute to a prevalent perception that the planning process is cosmetic and conditions are put on permits but are rarely enforced. There are courses being offered to developers for greening of operations. However, it is necessary to evaluate how the information offered can be practically applied to mitigation measures that are appropriate to circumstances in the BVI.

Questions:

- How are agencies selected for the physical planning committee? Who makes the decisions and how should this be decided?

- Is the physical planning committee the best structure to lead on environmental mainstreaming at the management control level?
• Is there any other structure/process needed?

• What do you consider to be the areas requiring increased capacity (resources - skills, knowledge, personnel; operation: legislation, monitoring etc)?

• Does the planning process adequately take into consideration critical environmental issues (waste management and energy use)? If so how? Who determines which issues are critical?

• How can current best practices be included in planning permission?
• Appendix 9- Introductory lecture to facilitated sessions
Treasure Isle Hotel, Road Town, Tortola
22nd and 23rd February, 2012

Overview

• Who is here?
• Explore the issues

CANARI

• Regional non-profit organisation which has worked in the islands of the Caribbean for over 30 years.
• Based in Trinidad.
• Geographic focus: the islands of the Caribbean

Ground Rules

• Every contribution is valued
• Respect for opinions
  – Allowing others to express themselves
  – No more than one person speaking at any one time
• Cell phones

CANARI’s mission

Promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building and fostering partnerships
Who is here?

• Give your first name and the name of your organization.

• Are environmental considerations included in decision making in your work?

• How are environmental considerations included in decision making in your work?

Decisions

• Strategic decision –making provides overall direction.

• Management control decision-making are focused on implementing the overarching policy or strategy and with the effective and efficient use of resources.

Exploring the issue

1. Key concepts and definitions

2. The context

3. The analysis

• Operational control decision-making is concerned with how to carry out specific task and include day-to-day on site management decisions.

Key concepts and definitions

• Decisions

• Capacity

• Livelihoods

Capacity

“ability of a person or organisation to participate effectively in the process in which they are engaged”.

CANARI, 2010. Facilitating participatory forest management: A toolkit for forest managers in the Caribbean. Port of Spain: CANARI
• Capacity encompasses a range of elements and need to be considered collectively. These include:
  – world view/ philosophy;
  – culture;
  – structure;
  – adaptive culture and strategies;
  – linkages;
  – skills knowledge and abilities; and
  – material resources.

• The DFID framework identifies five categories of livelihood assets: human, natural, social, physical and financial.

• The research conducted by CANARI suggests that in the Caribbean context it is also important to include political and cultural assets.

Livelihoods

encompasses the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living.

Integrating the environment into decision making in the BVI

• Is the description accurate?

• Is there any other critical points that need to be added?

Let’s explore the topic using the questions on the sheet.

Livelihood assets

• The livelihoods framework developed by (DFID) in 1999 is based on the idea that human well-being is determined by the extent to which individuals and households have access to a range of types of ‘assets’;

• Further modified by work done by CANARI;