

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

*User Guide to Effective Tools and Methods
for Integrating Environment and Development:
findings of a recent CANARI/IIED project*

Presentation to regional CBD NPSAP/CEPA workshop
Regional and sectoral perspectives on mainstreaming session
Trinidad 4 November 2008





CANARI

- Regional non-profit organisation founded over 20 years ago.
- Headquarters in Trinidad. Formerly located in Saint Lucia and St Croix, with a small office in Antigua
- Geographic focus: the islands of the Caribbean



CANARI's mission

- **To promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing the natural resources critical to development through:**
 - research
 - sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, including capacity building; and
 - fostering partnerships.



Project overview

- Global project with international steering committee to design a User Guide, profiling 30 most effective tools for ‘environmental mainstreaming’ and providing case study examples of:
 - Matching challenges to appropriate tools
 - Context for mainstreaming and how this affects the approach
 - Who is involved and how/whether this affects the approach
 - How tools, tactics methods can most effectively be applied
- Identification of locally-developed tools
- Identification of gaps (new tools)



Project overview

- Phase 1: Survey of users' preferred approaches (tools, methods, tactics) to “environmental mainstreaming” defined as:
 - the way environmental issues are brought to the attention of decision makers; and
 - the way environmental considerations are incorporated into decision making



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.
- Opportunistic interviews elsewhere



Methodology: Focus groups

- Discuss concepts/definitions of 'environmental mainstreaming', 'tools' and 'development';
- Brainstorm tools in use in the country/sector;
- 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



What do you think
were the most popular
tools and approaches
for mainstreaming?





Most popular tools/approaches

Process oriented tools

a) to involve key stakeholders in all aspects and at all stages of environmental mainstreaming

- stakeholder analysis;
- participatory mapping;
- collective or community visioning;
- conflict management;
- facilitating effective multi-stakeholder processes
- participatory policy processes;
- partnership building;
- strategic alliances;
- stakeholder mobilisation



Most popular tools/approaches

Process oriented tools (cont.)

- b) lobbying, advocacy and protests
- c) multi-agency committees/interagency collaboration
- d) data-sharing and accessibility protocols, databases
- e) public education and awareness



Most popular tools/approaches

Technical tools

- a) Impact assessments (EIAs). Few examples of SIAs or SEAs
- b) Risk assessments
- c) Economic tools
 - Budgeting
 - Cost/benefit analysis
 - **Economic valuation of environmental goods and services (desirable)**
 - Economic incentives (desirable)



Most popular tools/approaches

Technical tools (cont.)

- d) Tools which highlight the **spatial context** of environmental damage/benefits, e.g. maps, aerial photos, GIS images
- e) Environmental quality monitoring and standards, e.g. ISO 14000
- f) Environmental modelling (desirable)



Most popular tools/approaches

Legislative and policy tools critical and provide opportunity for **legal challenges** but effectiveness constrained by:

- slow and difficult process required to enact new legislation;
- overlapping and contradictory legislation and policies;
- lack of implementation (e.g. regulations not enacted in timely fashion) and weak enforcement of environmental laws.



When does mainstreaming take place?

- Mainly physical development planning
- Development of national strategic or sectoral or agency or company plans
- Restoration of degraded built or natural environment
- School or public education and awareness programmes
- Meeting standards, often voluntarily (e.g. tourism 'Green Globe' standards, ISO 14000).



How is mainstreaming taking place?

- Strengthening of **legislation** and or **standards/guidelines** in relation to the use of EIAs and other impact assessments for physical development projects.
- Development of **new legislation and policies** that support environmental mainstreaming.
- Development by the relevant government agency of **National Environmental Plans, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Sustainable Land Management Plans** etc.



How is mainstreaming taking place?

- **National strategic planning processes** such as the Vision 2020 process in Trinidad and Tobago or the Barbadian Prime Minister's commitment to "Greening the Economy";
- Integration of environmental issues into **national school curricula**;
- Adoption by businesses of **international standards**, with **ISO 14000** being the most frequently mentioned.
- **Legal challenges**;
- **Lobbying and advocacy**.

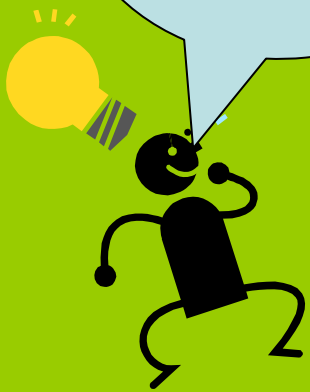


Findings

- **Context** in which mainstreaming takes place is the main challenge.

- **Increasing recognition of the need for environmental mainstreaming** is reflected in policy and legislation (often driven by external factors such as MEAs), but is not a widespread internalised **"world view"**,
Commitments outstrip resources (human, financial) to implement and monitor, e.g.
 - training for and requirements of different Conventions to monitor, evaluate and report are not harmonised, exacerbating resource constraints.


It's not the tools but the fools who don't get it!





Findings: context (cont)

- Lack of political will evidenced by:
 - Failure to enact or enforce legislation;
 - 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;



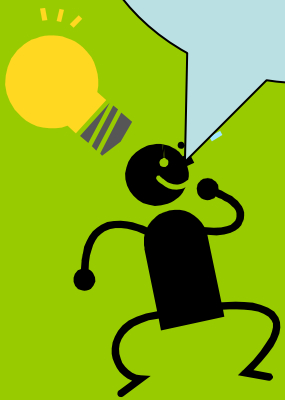
It's not the tools but the fools who don't get it!



Findings:

- **Need for more effective processes – and in particular consultative processes and stakeholder participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and enforcement.**
- **Process perceived as the most important factor in determining the long-term success of environmental mainstreaming initiatives**

It's not what you do but the way that you do it...





*If the only tool
you know is a
hammer, every
challenge looks
like a nail*



Findings

- No real evidence of conscious decision-making as to what is most appropriate tool in any particular circumstance - driven mainly by habit/comfort zone, legal requirement, available expertise.
- Technical tools (EIAs, economic valuation) were those that sprung to mind first but often accorded lower rankings than tools that foster engagement and participation.
- NGO sector thought many technical tools, such as EIAs, were deliberately designed to *exclude* wide stakeholder input.



Findings

- Relevant data and information not available in a format that can be understood by all stakeholders.
- **Data constraints cited include:**
 - failure to collect on a consistent long-term basis relevant data at the appropriate geographic or demographic scale;
 - inaccessibility of data;
 - data presented in formats that are incomprehensible to those who are ostensibly 'consulted'.





Findings

- **Capacity gaps:** insufficient, or insufficiently skilled, human resource capacity

Capacity building priorities

- ability to conduct high quality environmental and social impact assessments.
- collection, storage and analysis of spatial data, particularly GIS and participatory GIS;
- conflict management skills
- facilitation of participatory and consultative processes:



Findings

Other constraints to mainstreaming:

- Absence of effective leaders/change agents;
- Failure of civil society organisations to collaborate and form effective advocacy groupings
- Consultation burn out and inequitable consultation processes;
- Lack of information on tools available.



Conclusions

- Changing the world view about mainstreaming and the context in which it takes place needs to be the main priority not more/different tools.
- Capacity building needed but must be coherent, targeted and realistic for a SIDS context.



Conclusions

- Making mainstreaming more effective would mean:
 - **convincing politicians** to see effective environmental/natural resource management as an integral part of, rather than a barrier to, economic and social development;.
 - Improving **public education and awareness**;
 - **improving the cohesiveness and capacity of civil society** to act as effective advocates;



Conclusions

- Making mainstreaming more effective would mean:
 - **improving institutional linkages** between different agencies and sectors;
 - enhancing **technical capacity** for environmental mainstreaming processes
 - improving **access to information/sharing of information/ organisation of information** (e.g. common databases)
 - using a **mix of approaches** rather than a single tool, e.g. a technical tool (such as an EIA or GIS mapping) in conjunction with participatory processes.