

THE BARBADOS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Doing the right things by doing things right!



National Commission on Sustainable Development
Government of Barbados

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE BARBADOS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
POLICY

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January 2004

National Sustainable Development Policy for Barbados

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*This policy is dedicated to
the memory of Professor The Honourable Oliver Headley,
Chairman of the National Commission on Sustainable Development
who passed away during its final preparations.*

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Foreword



By the Honourable H. Elizabeth Thompson
Minister
Ministry of Housing, Lands & Environment

Sustainable Development has been on the international agenda for the last decade of the twentieth century. The Government of Barbados has participated in many of the various international discussions on this subject and agrees to the implementation and operationalisation of the principles of Sustainable Development at the national level. In particular, as hosts of the 1994 global Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Barbados is oftentimes perceived as the *de facto* guardians of the Barbados Programme of Action which is the main outcome of that meeting.

In direct response to this challenge, the Government of Barbados in 1997 appointed a multi-disciplinary National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCSD) which included members from government and civil society. The mandate of the NCSD included the formulation of a National Sustainable Development (NSD) Policy. The main purpose of this policy is to provide a definition for Barbados of Sustainable Development to guide all levels of national decision-making.

The NSD Policy calls for a change in attitude, behaviour and values by all persons, corporations and decision-makers. The lynch-pin of this policy is that the primary development objective in Barbados ought to be the optimization of quality of life for present and future generations, while ensuring that economic growth and development is not achieved at the expense of our ecological capital. In this regard, the Government, in partnership with civil society, is committed to providing the appropriate framework to facilitate the attainment of this goal.

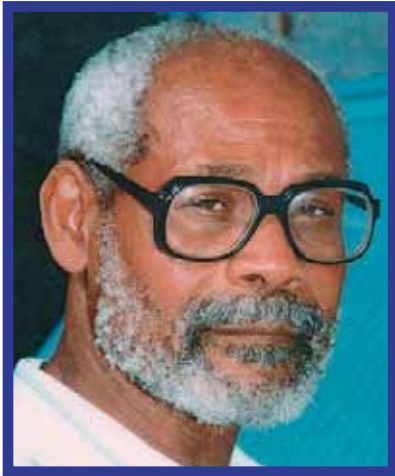
Every industry, business sector of society and individual needs to play a role in protecting our national patrimony. This policy document is aimed at ensuring that sustainable development considerations infuse all our planning and decision making processes and becomes part of the culture and ethic of how we live as people. I recommend it to you.

Our vision therefore calls for a new approach to decision-making in Barbados. An approach that ensures that we are **DOING THE RIGHT THINGS BY DOING THINGS RIGHT.**

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Thompson'.

H. Elizabeth Thompson, M.P
Ministry of Housing, Lands and Environment

Chairman's Remarks



Professor the Honourable Oliver Headley
Chairman
National Commission on Sustainable Development

As a small island state with a high population density, Barbados needs to ensure that all members of our society have their legitimate needs met in ways that preserve adequate resources and a habitable environment for future generations. The National Sustainable Development Policy seeks to produce guidelines which will be used by decision makers as they determine the direction which national development will take, bearing in mind the constraints imposed by the previous sentence. Because of their limited resources, small island states are particularly vulnerable to negative changes in environmental, economic and social conditions. While many of these unwelcome changes are the direct result of events and processes which originate outside of our boundaries, we should strive not to exacerbate them by making unfortunate decisions which determine the way in which we utilize our own limited land space.

Some of the anthropogenic environmental changes, such as global warming and ozone depletion, which have been seen in recent years, have a special threat for small islands. Our Sustainable Development policy and the decisions which we make to preserve our local environment, should therefore demonstrate to the world that we are implementing mitigation and adaptation measures which will contribute to our long-term survival.

Social conditions are also an important component of sustainability, and these must demonstrate to the average citizen that he or she has a viable stake in the country and that it is in his or her interest to sustain a caring social system which does not exclude or marginalise anyone. Our cultural diversity must be harnessed and tapped to ensure that our development is built on fairness and promotes harmony. Wise and prudent economic growth should be at the centre of our development strategy.

A major concern for all Barbadians is the policy which we implement for land use. The expansion of the tourist industry in recent years means that an increasing amount of our land is being utilised to improve the comfort and convenience of our visitors. This industry is now the major provider of foreign exchange, hence it needs to be handled with care. However, even this vital sector has to be developed in a manner that does not compromise the sustainability of our island in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Headley', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Oliver Headley, PhD, CHB,
Chairman, National Commission on Sustainable Development.

Contents

Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Foreword	v
Chairman's Remarks	vi
Contents	vii
List of Boxes & Case Studies	xi
Acronyms & Abbreviations	x
About Windmills	xi

PART I NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY	1
1. Introduction	3
2. Policy Aims	5
3. Definitions	7
4. Policy Objectives & Goals	9
5. Principles of Sustainable Development for Barbados	11
5.1 Quality of Life	11
5.2 Conservation of Resources	12
5.3 Economic Efficiency	14
5.3.1 Economic Instruments	15
5.3.2 Science & Technology	16
5.4 Equity.....	18
5.5 Participation	19
6. Policy Implementation	23
6.1 Recommendations	23

PART II NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - ACTION PLAN	27
1. Introduction	29
2. Stakeholder Involvement in national Decision Making	29
3. Fresh Water Resources	30
4. Transportation	31
5. Agriculture	32
6. Terrestrial Biodiversity Including Forestry	34
7. Fisheries	35
8. Energy	36
9. Biotechnology	36
10. Research & Development	37
11. The Built Environment	37
12. Land Resources	38
13. Natural Resources	39
14. Education & Training	39
15. Waste Management	40
16. Regional Cooperation	40
17. Concessions & Incentives	41
18. Human Health, Well Being & Poverty	42
19. Gender	43
20. Population	43
21. Disaster Management	44
22. Coastal & Marine Preservation	44
23. Consumption Patterns	45
24. Implementation & Legislation	45
25. Indicators for Sustainable Development	46
26. Sustainable Tourism Development	46
27. Conclusion	46
Annex 1	49

List of Boxes & Case Studies

Box 1. Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management	13
Box 2. Natural Gas Production in Barbados	17
Box 3. Education to Maintain a High Standard of Living	19
Box 4. Making Community Sports Sustainable	21
Box 5. Indicators of Sustainable Development	24
Case Study 1. Fresh Water	14
Case Study 2. Sand & Gravel Quarrying Along the East Coast of Barbados	16
Case Study 3. Energy	17
Case Study 4. The Fishing Industry	18
Case Study 5. The National Commission on Sustainable Development	20

Acronyms & Abbreviations

NSD	- National Sustainable Development
NCSD	- National Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCED	- United Nations Conference on Environment & Development
BATNEEC	- Best Available Technique Not Entailing Excessive Cost
BPM	- Best Practicable Means
BPEO	- Best Practicable Environmental Option
PPP	- Polluter Pays Principle
NCST	- National Council for Science & Technology
UWI	- University of the West Indies
LPG	- Liquefied Petroleum Gas
CNG	- Compressed Natural Gas
IPM	- Integrated Pest Management
GIS	- Geographic Information System
PDP	- Physical Development Plan
SIDS	- Small Island Developing States
NGO	- Non Governmental Organisations
CZMU	- Coastal Zone Management Unit

About Windmills...

Windmills represent not only the use of a renewable resource to generate energy but conjure up memories of sugar, once a driving force in the Barbadian economy in colonial and post colonial times. The work of many people focussed on using the windmill to create energy needed to grind canes, pump water for drinking, to feed livestock and other farming purposes.

Windmills are icons of Barbadian heritage and one of the oldest symbols of sustainability on the island. They are closely linked with social, economic, environmental, technological and scientific matters from a Barbadian, regional and global perspective - the very facets of sustainability.

