

## Jamaica: Achievements since Barbados, 1994, and new Challenges for Samoa, 2014- Synthesis Document for the SIDS National Preparatory Process

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## Glossary

ALBA – Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America  
BRIC – Brazil, Russia, India, China  
BPOA – Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States  
CARICOM – Caribbean Community  
CARIFORUM – Caribbean Forum (CARICOM plus Cuba and Dominican Republic)  
CPACC – Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change project  
EAST – Environmental Audit for Sustainable Tourism  
ECLAC – Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean  
EMS – Environmental Management Systems  
ENACT – Environmental Action Programme  
EPA – Economic Partnership Agreement  
ESSJ – Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica  
EU – European Union  
IMF – International Monetary Fund  
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
IRENA – International Renewable Energy Agency  
GDP – Gross Domestic Product  
GEF – Global Environmental Facility  
GMO – Genetically Modified Organism  
GoJ – Government of Jamaica  
JANEAP – Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan  
JSLC – Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions  
LAMP – Land Administration and Management Programme  
MDG – Millennium Development Goal  
MEA – Multilateral Environmental Agreement  
MFI – Multilateral Financial Institution  
MSI – Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA  
MTSEPF – Medium Term Social and Economic Policy Framework  
NAMA – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions  
NEPA – National Environment and Planning Agency  
NGO – Non Governmental Organization  
NIP – National Industrial Policy  
NPEP – National Poverty Eradication Programme  
NRCA – Natural Resources Conservation Authority  
ODA – Overseas Development Assistance  
PIOJ – Planning Institute of Jamaica  
PPP\$ – Purchasing Power Parity dollars  
R&D – Research and Development  
STATIN – Statistical Institute of Jamaica  
SCP – Sustainable Consumption and Production  
SD – Sustainable Development  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal  
SE4ALL – Sustainable Energy for All  
SIDS – Small Island Developing States  
UN – United Nations  
UNCED – United Nations Conference on Environment and Development  
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme  
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
USA – United States of America  
USAID – United States Agency for International Development  
WSSD – World Summit on Sustainable Development  
WTO – World Trade Organization

## **Executive Summary**

Jamaica's preparation for the Third International Conference on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, (SIDS) scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa in mid-2014, began with a review of the progress made in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) agreed in 1994, and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI), agreed in 2005, and a national consultation on the new and emerging issues for Jamaica and the rest of the SIDS. This document synthesizes the reports of both of these exercises on the eve of the regional conference of Caribbean SIDS to prepare for the upcoming conference in Samoa.

The review of the record of implementation by Jamaica showed of the fourteen (14) priority areas of the BPOA, the eight (8) that received the most attention were climate change and sea-level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resources, land resources, biodiversity resources, and national institutions and administrative capacity. Five (5) of the others were also important in the policy agenda and the implementation programmes of action, though not treated as areas of the BPOA. These were energy resources, tourism resources, transport and communication, science and technology and human resources development. The area in which the implementation lag was greatest appears to have been contribution to the regional institutions and technical cooperation.

In the case of the five (5) additional areas of the MSI, health was second only to education in public expenditure and there has been a lot of policy attention to culture. Very little seems to have been done in the areas of “trade, sustainable production and consumption” and “knowledge management”, and Jamaica's contribution to the resistance by SIDS of hasty “graduation from least developed country status”.

Jamaica has shared many of the same challenges in implementing the BPOA and the MSI as other countries in the Caribbean. Dependent as they are on the international economy, especially for food and energy, they have suffered disproportionately from the periodic spikes in energy prices, the food price inflation in 2007, and the global

recession that began in 2007. As a result, many countries have incurred rising debt levels along with the inflationary pressures from essential imports.

An ECLAC report in 2010 noted that the region has made progress primarily with its own efforts and some support from the “international development partners, inter-government regional organizations, non government organizations, international financial institutions”<sup>1</sup>. Several important institutions have either been transformed or established to support the drive to sustainable development and in that sense, are aligned to the BPOA and the MSI. But like the rest of the SIDS, the Caribbean has not benefitted from the commitments of finance made by the developed countries in Barbados, and reiterated in the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 and Mauritius.

Proposed issues for Jamaica and the SIDS to engage at the Samoa meeting were collated from targeted interviews with policy-makers and business persons, and presentations and workshop reports from the national consultation. Most of the old issues were re-emphasized, and new issues added. The issues fell broadly in the categories of environmental, economic, social, governance, implementation, partnerships and international. **Table IV.4** presents a detailed list of the issues. The dominant issues in the respective categories were:

- managing the impact of climate change
- relieving the debt burden and securing investment resources to stimulate the development of a dynamic green economy
- eliminating poverty and all forms of inequity
- pursuing inclusive governance as a key element in building enhanced regional and national capacities for implementation of commitments
- forging and sustaining working partnerships, especially among SIDS and with the rapidly developing countries of the South
- finding and securing, urgently, an appropriate space in the international architecture to locate and pursue the interests of SIDS

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<sup>1</sup>ECLAC, 2010, p.viii

## I. Introduction

### Third International Conference on SIDS

One of the recommendations of the Rio + 20 conference in 2012 was that the United Nations General Assembly should convene a third international conference on small island developing states (SIDS) in 2014. The first *UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States* was held in Barbados in 1994, and it issued the Barbados/SIDS Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (BPOA). A little more than 10 years later, the second conference, the *International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* was convened in Mauritius to review the progress made in implementing the BPOA. That conference issued the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI).

The Third International Conference on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States is scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa in mid-2014, and will seek to continue the work of the previous two international meetings.

The United Nations mandated “that the Conference should:

- a) assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;
- b) seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;
- c) identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;
- d) identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.”<sup>2</sup>

### National Preparatory Process

In the first two international meetings on SIDS, Jamaica played important leadership roles. Jamaica has now elected to participate in the national preparatory process in advance of the conference in Samoa. A multi-stakeholder consultative process to

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<sup>2</sup> Guidance Note, p.1

prepare for and contribute effectively to the 3rd SIDS Conference has been planned with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“The national preparation process consists of three consecutive and interlinked phases. All three phases contribute to the preparation of an output document while building capacity on the issues.

These three phases are:

- Preparation of background document(s) as basis for multi-stakeholder consultation;
- Multi-stakeholder consultations on issues related to the general objectives of the Conference; and
- Preparation of national synthesis report, and/or national briefs, which may be used in regional and global preparatory processes.”<sup>3</sup>

This paper is the synthesis document which includes the background material as well as the outcome of national consultations. It recounts the persistent issues of vulnerability and sustainable development that SIDS have been grappling with since 1994, and the emerging issues in the context of Rio+20, against the background of Jamaica’s record of implementation of the Barbados/SIDS Programme of Action (BPOA), and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA(MSI). It includes a brief outline of the experience of Jamaican and Caribbean SIDS with engaging the international economy, especially since the global financial crisis of 2008. The paper is based on a critical review of the relevant literature and special documents, and interviews of key public officers and members of civil society with the relevant experience and expertise. The synthesis document also includes the issues and recommendations identified in the consultations, as well as an overview of the general issues faced by Caribbean SIDS.

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<sup>3</sup> UNDP, “Individual Consultant Procurement Notice”, March 6, 2013

## II. Jamaica: Then (1994) and Now

### Location

Jamaica is an archipelago consisting of one large inhabited island of 10,991 square kilometres, and over 60 tiny islands, with some of the Pedro Cays being partially inhabited by fisherfolk and others used for recreation, such as Lime Cay. Its exclusive economic zone is about 24 times its terrestrial space, for a total of 235,000 square kilometres. It is the largest of the islands in the English-speaking Caribbean, but smaller than Cuba and Hispaniola which is shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

It is located in the north west of the Caribbean Sea, about 145 kilometres southeast of Cuba, and 190 kilometres south west of Haiti. It lies on the direct shipping route from the Panama Canal to North America, and is therefore ideally placed to benefit from the current expansion of the Canal. The path of hurricanes coming from the East tends to run either through Jamaica, or just north of it, on its way to the Gulf of Mexico, very often through Cuba. In recent years, storms have formed in the southern, and even south eastern Caribbean, and impacted Jamaica and Cuba on their way North. In late October 2012, Hurricane Sandy approached from due south and made landfall in Jamaica as a Category 1 hurricane, fortunately for vulnerable Kingston, to the east in St. Thomas. But, it gathered strength on the way to Cuba, and was particularly destructive to Santiago de Cuba as a Category 3 Hurricane.

### Governance

Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy based on the Westminster model of government that was adopted by the former British colonies as they acceded to

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