

# The search for a new economy in the Caribbean

## A Regional Dialogue

*In many parts of the world, including right here in the Caribbean, there are government officials, international organisations, academics, civil society groups and business leaders talking about a Green Economy. What is that? A new concept, or just a new way to say things that have been said before? Can it help us re-shape Caribbean development in ways that truly benefit people – especially those who need better living conditions – while at the same time protecting and managing our environment? If so, what are the changes needed in the way we carry out our politics, define our policies, shape our trade relations, operate our businesses or make consumption choices? Indeed, what are the new policies and the new institutions we need to ensure that trade, agriculture, mining, fisheries, tourism and other economic sectors are sustainable and fair? Can we change the way we produce and use energy to make us more prosperous and less dependent, while contributing to the global fight against climate change? Should we look at our environment in a more innovative way, as a resource that we can use and nurture, for our benefit, now and in the future?*

These are some of the questions that are being addressed as part of a Dialogue organised by the [Caribbean Natural Resources Institute](#) (CANARI), the [Sustainable Economic Development Unit](#) (SEDU) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the [International Institute for Environment and Development](#) (IIED), with support from the [Commonwealth Foundation](#) and other partners. This Caribbean Dialogue is part of a series of events organised by the [Green Economy Coalition](#) (GEC) in various parts of the world, bringing together environment, development, trade union, consumer and business sectors, in the North and the South.

Building on current thinking and experiences at micro and macro levels in the region, this Dialogue will attempt to define the main elements of a new approach to economic development and governance that pays greater attention than in the past to key issues of environmental sustainability, social justice, equity and rights.

Following an initial phase of research and consultation, a regional workshop will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in February 2011 to formulate ideas and recommendations, and develop a draft position paper that will then be circulated widely throughout the region for comments, amendments and additions. The final version of that position paper will be disseminated to all relevant organisations, with the expectation that its contents will be used in policy and programme formulation at national, regional and international levels.

*Colleagues interested in this Dialogue and willing to contribute ideas or documents should write to:*  
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