From National to Local, The Need For Integrated Approaches For The Local

Session 3: The need for an integrated approach – Sectoral and vertical visions

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at Caribbean Regional Workshop on Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
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What is the Commonwealth?

- 56 countries from across the world
- The 56 countries forming part of this voluntary association work together for prosperity, democracy and peace
- Home to 2.5 billion people, of which more than 60% is under the age of 30
- 32 of the world’s 42 small states are Commonwealth members, each with a population of 1.5 million or less
- Commonwealth countries are diverse: they are among the world’s biggest, smallest, richest and poorest countries. Together they work to pursue common goals and values.
- Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities. Every two years, they meet at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

**Commonwealth Caribbean = 16 Caribbean Countries:**
- *Independent countries:* Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago,
- *British Dependencies (limited self government):* Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Montserrat
- *Full British Dependencies:* Cayman Islands
Commonwealth Local Government Forum

Membership Organisation representing Local Government in 56 Commonwealth Countries

CLGF brings together:
Ministries of Local Government, Local Government Associations, Individual Councils, Cities & Local Governments, Research, Training and Professional organisations with an interest in local government (Associated members)

Strategic Focal Areas
- **Advocacy**: Promoting & Advocating for Local Democracy & Good Governance
- **Projects**: Supporting capacity building
- **Networking**: Bringing members together, exchange of experience,
- **Research**: Building knowledge and best practice

Offices:
**Head Office**: Europe (UK); **Regional Offices**: Caribbean (Port of Spain), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Accra), East Africa (Kampala), Asia (Mumbai), Pacific (Suva); **Country Offices**: Harare

Networks:
- Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network
- Commonwealth Women in Local Government Network (ComWLG)
- Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation (New Collaboration ComSec / CSCI Partners)

Research Advisory Group (RAG): Research bodies working on Local Government issues / thematics
Roles of Local Government (Caribbean)

- Commonwealth Local Government Handbook - CLGF
- Fostering Developmental Local Government
- Local Government and communities on the front line of damaging impact of climate change
- Cities central to delivery of climate commitments (Paris Agreement, SDGs)
Cross-Commonwealth Response

Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation

Key objectives:

- To bring a greater focus to bear on sustainable urbanisation in Commonwealth policy making

- To mobilise the power of the Commonwealth to work in a more integrated manner across its various networks toward multi-level governance and sustainable urbanisation

- To develop a programme of practical action to help deliver sustainable cities and human settlements across the Commonwealth

Source: ‘Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation in the Commonwealth’
The Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation

• The need for *integrated strategies* to deliver safe and sustainable Urbanisation.

• **Support cities** to mobilise resources to develop scalable programmes to address key challenges while reducing risk and vulnerability.
The Local Government System (Caribbean)
The Local Government System (Caribbean)

Role of Local Government:
- Administrative – Supply of goods and services (improving Service Delivery)
- Represent and involve citizens in determining local public needs and how these can be met
- Provision of Physical Infrastructure
- Leading and Supporting Local Economic Development

Key Actors in Local Government (Caribbean)
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum (Cross Commonwealth)
- Ministries of Local Government
- Local Authorities
- Local Government Associations
Addressing Climate Change
Local Government responding
to devastation of settlements
and infrastructure

KEY ROLES
• Policing (Trinidad)
• Planning
• Enforcing land and building development
• Drainage and flood emergency response
• Maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts
• Management and improvement of physical environments
  • Tree cutting
  • Parks, playfields and open space maintenance
  • Clearing of landscapes
• Public health and sanitation
• Solid waste management
• Public education on disaster risk reduction
• ....mobilising Citizen Participation....
Role of Ministries of Local Government

• Ensuring that central government’s planning, policies, and legislative agenda provide the enabling environment for sustainable development.

• Local Government Bodies seek national resources and international support
  • Resilience planning,
  • infrastructure,
  • amenities and services
Practical Action
Climate Change
Adaptation and Impact in Small States

Community Based Adaptation (Dominica)
• Conservation
• Reforestation
• Green engineering (Vetiver Grass)

Considered Actions:
• Vulnerability Assessments:
  • to determine and rank vulnerabilities
• Providing Resilient Infrastructure
  • Building back better, Market facilities after Hurricane Maria in 2017 (Dominica)
Climate Change Adaptation and Impact in Small States (Montego Bay, Jamaica)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International</th>
<th>Jamaica party to UN Framework convention on Climate change (1995)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Vision 2030 national development plan</td>
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<td>- Addresses SDG13, climate action through national outcome 14 – Hazard Risk reduction and adaptation to climate change</td>
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<td>- Indicators to monitor national outcomes</td>
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<td>- Push for use of Green Energy and Conservation to reduce carbon footprints etc. Wigton Wind Farm in Municipality of Manchester</td>
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<td>Local and National</td>
<td>Reforestation</td>
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<td>Sectoral</td>
<td>Manufacturing Sector – pushing to utilize clean energy to maximise benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol</td>
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<td>Local</td>
<td>1. Disaster plans and evacuation plans with early warning component (in some municipalities)</td>
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<td>2. Under the newly revised Disaster Risk Management Act:</td>
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<td>- Established parish disaster committees</td>
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<td>- Zonal committees</td>
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<td>- Enhance state powers and apparatus to respond in the face of crisis</td>
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<td>- Enhanced monitoring of building developments</td>
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Issues Facing Caribbean Cities

• Many of the Local Governments now recognised as first responders – Role needs to be Strengthened
  • Trinidad and Tobago
  • Jamaica - Local Sustainability Plans

• Limited, if any, access to funding for climate change adaptation and meeting the SDGs.

• Most funding for such projects is channeled to central government.

Outcomes of CLGF 3rd regional conference (Barbados 2022)
THEME: “BUILDING BACK BETTER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN”

Examined the issues surrounding Climate Change and other key development priorities and development opportunities for Local Government
Cities and Climate Change (CLGF 2022)

- Ensuring local communities are at the centre of managing, adapting and mitigating against the impacts of climate change
- Local Government as an enabler

Paper: Cities, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Governments in Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (CLGF 2022)

The Way Forward

Local Government Climate Resilient Development Pathways and Sustainable Development

- Enforcement of building and land development regulations
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Ecosystem-based adaptation and community participation
- Fiscal resources and decision-making autonomy
- Accessing the Green Climate Fund
- Human Resource Capacity Building
- Technological Capacity Building and Tools
- Building Partnerships
Enhancing the role of local government to actively support Climate Change readiness

Recommendations

That Climate Change readiness include:

a) Establishment and implementation of disaster mitigation plans, evacuation plans and early warning systems that involve community collaboration and training

b) Green climate action at the local level include water harvesting, tree planting and preservation/ enhancement/ establishment of green spaces and urban gardens

c) Supporting the use of renewable energy initiatives such as solar power and reducing the use of fossil fuels

d) Developing GIS capacity for hazard mapping, risk assessment towards disaster mitigation

e) Developing strategies to address food safety and promote food security

f) Advocating the revision of Town and County Plans for relevance
Enhancing the role of local government to actively support Climate Change readiness

**Recommendations**

That **resilience planning** be applied in:

a) Local Development Planning with a focus on collaborative governance and environmental sustainability, whilst also benefiting from institutional knowledge, best practices, local area knowledge and resources

b) Supporting livelihoods through use of natural resources and local talents

c) Encouraging young women to be transformational leaders through capacity development

d) Societal education to influence resilience thinking into the education systems

e) Data collection for informed business and financial planning

f) Formation of local level knowledge and action incubators comprising representation from Local Government, Business sector, and Universities within the corporate area
Enhancing the role of local government to actively support Climate Change readiness

Recommendations

That development partners:

a) Consider the inclusion of Local Government in conceptualising development projects so as to benefit from local area knowledge and expand outreach/impact.

b) Provide grant and loan funding to local government bodies to address development challenges affecting communities.

c) Provide financial education for Local Government bodies to explore innovative mechanisms for local government financing.

d) Ensure that procurement processes for development projects are accessible to local businesses.
Key Messages

Local and national governments working together is crucial to ensuring the SDGs are met

National Governments will need to build alliances with LGs

Forging partnerships - Central/local governments/international networks paramount to scaling up action

Local Government a key partner in setting programming goals

- Development
- Design
- Operation and Implementation
- Include Local Government Functions and Interests
- Local Government must be at the centre of forward planning discussions

Under Construction - CLGF to embark on 5’Cs project

- Building awareness within local government around LG responsibilities for climate preparedness and adaptation;
- Highlighting challenges LGs have in addressing climate impact in their territories;
- Explore how to build that link into national government to unblock main blockages
Opportunities for Interaction with Local Government

• CLGF Conference, Kigali, Rwanda (14-17 November 2023) – Theme: *Building Local Resilience*
• CLGF Programming – Pilot Projects on Local Climate Action
• Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network
• CLGF Regional Offices
  • Ms. Sandra Singh, Regional Programme Manager – CLGF Caribbean (sandra.singh@clgfcaribbean.org.tt)
Thank you

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum

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