



Report on Caribbean Urban Forum 2010: “Establishing a Policy and Research Agenda for the Urban Sector in the Caribbean”

April 6th -9th 2011

Guyana International Conference Centre, Guyana



**Central Housing &
Planning Authority**

List of Acronyms

AdeKUS	Anton de Kom University of Surinam
APA	American Planning Association
API	Atlantic Planning Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CCST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIP	Canadian Institute of Planners
CNULM	Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management
COSHOD	Council for Human and Social Development
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSUS	Network for the Application of STI to the Urban Sector
PSUP	Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
UN-ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UG	University of Guyana
UTECH	University of Technology
UvA	University of Amsterdam
UWI	University of the West Indies

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1.0 Introduction

As part of its capacity building activities, the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) is implementing a project under the ACP Science and Technology Programme, financed by the European Union, entitled: *Strengthen Research Development and uptake Capacity in Urban and Land Management in the Caribbean [NSUS Network for the Application of STI to the Urban Sector]*. This three year project focuses on the identification of research and technologies relevant to the urban sector and ways to foster their uptake by local, national and regional authorities. Key partners in this project are the St. Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI), CARICOM Secretariat, University of Guyana (UG), Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) and University of Amsterdam (UvA).

The meeting marked the first of three annual policy meeting which will be held under the NSUS project. This first Caribbean Urban Forum, aims to become the focal point for an ongoing dialogue on urban issues in the Caribbean. The meeting was held over a four day period (6th – 9th April 2011) and covered a range of urban issues related to the establishment of a policy and research agenda for the urban sector within the Caribbean. The meeting was a follow up to a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on urban assessment and profiling held in November 2010 in Suriname. The meeting was supported by wide cross-section of stakeholders from within the urban sector. These included: representatives from CARICOM member states, professional planning associations within the Caribbean and North America, academia, civil society, planning related organizations and NSUS project personnel.

The Keynote address was delivered by the Honourable Irfan Ali, Minister of Housing and Water, Guyana. Other notable speeches were delivered by representatives of: CARICOM, the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), the American Planning Association (APA), UWI and UG. The opening ceremony also saw the official launch of the blueSpace website and Technical Working Paper Series.

As part of the meeting a draft policy working paper entitled *Towards a Caribbean Urban Agenda* and a draft technical working paper *Strengthening the Development and Application of Urban Profiling Methodologies: A Review of Urban Profiling in the Caribbean* were circulated among the participants beforehand so as to help inform and guide the discussions of the meeting. This draft report gives a summary of the major issues discussed and examined, as well as the consensus gained from the first NSUS policy meeting. This report along with additional information gleaned from the meeting will be used to update both the draft policy working paper and the technical working paper. A listing of the persons who attended the meeting can be found in Appendix A.

2.0 Setting a Regional Urban Agenda for Policy Development and Research

The aim of this session was to examine the factors influencing the traditional as well as contemporary approach towards prioritizing urban issues within the Caribbean, and the extent to which current urban priorities within the region are reflective of the critical issues facing the urban sector. This session focused on two important presentations. The first was a presentation entitled *Developing an Urban Agenda for the Caribbean* by Dr. Hebe Verrest (UvA) and Dr. Asad Mohammed (CNULM/UWI). The presentation sought to expound on the Draft Policy Working Paper alluded to earlier. The presentation outlined the urban issues in various regional as well as international policy frameworks and initiatives such as: the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), Caribbean Regional Policy Framework for Action, Agenda 21, Small Island Developing States Plan of Action (SIDS POA), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Among the principal issues identified were: climate change, governance, poverty eradication, shelter, sanitation, etc. It was pointed out that the urban issues which receive priority and attention in the Caribbean were largely driven or influenced by international policy frameworks, e.g. UN-Habitat MDGs, SIDS POA, UN ECLAC work programmes, etc. In other words, the Caribbean position on urban issues is generally guided by the international agenda. This over-reliance on the international agenda to guide the prioritization of urban issues within the Caribbean has resulted in critical national and regional issues being sidelined. For example, while climate change and the environment tops the global urban related policy frameworks and initiatives, local economic development and poverty were identified as the principal challenges by some of the technocrats and regional government representatives present for the meeting.

A list of possible issues that could lead to the development of a **Caribbean urban agenda** was presented in Table 1. It was guided heavily by information from countries on the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP). This is because the CNULM is the regional manager for PSUP, which is the latest initiative assessing urban issues; hence there is a lot of information was on hand. This programme was initially developed for Africa and subsequently expanded into the Caribbean and Pacific. There has been some level of localization through National Steering Committees (municipalities, national implementation agencies, civil society) e.g. Jamaica.

It was highlighted that while various international and regional policy frameworks and initiatives address issues within the urban sector, strictly speaking they do not constitute an urban agenda, but more so a broad based sustainable development agenda as their focus is not urban specific. Thus to some extent urban policy both internationally and regionally is characterized by a fragmented piecemeal approach. The existing challenge is to pull together the various fragmented policies and activities into an overarching composite urban framework. Besides the issues outlined above, the presenters in putting forward a rationale for establishing an indigenous policy and research agenda for the urban sector in the Caribbean noted that the Caribbean is one of the most urbanized regions in the world.

Table 1: Caribbean Urban Priorities

	CARICOM	UMP (PoS)	Safer Cities programme	LA21/SCP	Localizing MDG	PSUP
Safety and Security	Disaster preparedness Crime		Crime Safety Violence		Crime	
Poverty & Deprivation		HIV/AIDS and Poverty			Employment	
Physical Living Conditions		SWM		Solid waste management Public Space Transport	Access to drainage	Basic Services /Land
Inequality		AIDS HIV and Youth	Women and Violence		Youth Gender and Education HIV/Aids	Gender/HIV/ inclusive city
Climate Change (contribution to)	Green economy Energy			River degradation		
Climate Change (vulnerability to)	Disaster preparedness					Disaster Preparedness
Governance		Participatory Governance	Citizen's Participation			Urban Governance
Sustainable planning						
Local Economic Development	Liberalization CSME					

In response to the presentation, several points were raised regarding the setting up of a regional urban agenda for policy development and research. Some of the points are categorized as follows:

The Urban Environment – The urban environment is not a single uniformed entity, but a composite space in which the various elements of an economy and society intersects with each other to produce a distinct urban character. An urban agenda should therefore not be a sectoral agenda, but integrate a series of agendas which affect the urban condition. It was mentioned by the CARICOM representative that the Council for Human and Social Development (COSHOD) and Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) are both organs of CARICOM

which address many urban issues. There are policies in place for environment, agriculture etc. and there are opportunities for localizing to form part of urban agenda.

Climate Change – The adaptation versus mitigation approach to climate change should be abandoned in favour of combined approach with long term benefits. For example, while the region seeks to adapt to effects of climate change, the use of cheap, efficient, clean and renewable energy not only help to mitigate against climate change, but also strengthen the economic resilience of the region.

Engaging the Political Directorate – Some of the professional planners expressed concern that planners need to better engage politicians as their support for a regional urban agenda is crucial.

Critique of Methodology – A concern was raised that the comparing the global agendas with regional policies may not be a true reflection of what guides urban issues within the region, as activities on the ground need to be taken into consideration. The presenters noted that while there is room for detail on the ground studies, technocrats from municipal corporations were invited to participate in the preceding TAG meeting in Suriname to get as much first hand information as possible.

The second presentation on *Green Urban Development and the Green Economy in CARICOM* by Ms. Anya Thomas, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat, sought to establish why it is imperative for CARICOM to move towards a green economy. The rationale put forward is that the current economic growth pattern runs the risk of irreversibly damaging the environment. The environment and the economy can no longer be considered in isolation. Green development is therefore seen as win-win situation in that it contributes to economic growth through the use of cheap, clean and sustainable energy, while simultaneously reducing environmental degradation, providing employment, promoting equity and raising living standards.

Given the dominance of climate change on the international agenda, and the availability of funding for climate change related activities, the region was implored to ensure that national development policies reflected an awareness of the importance of a green economy to the development of the region. While there policies and activities supporting a green economy, e.g. wind farms and ethanol fuel blends in Jamaica, there is no clear CARICOM position on a green economy heading into the Rio + 20 meeting in 2012. Numerous instruments for enabling green cities are available (e.g. carbon trading) but needs to further examined and tested by CARICOM member states.

In seeking to practically apply the concept of a green economy, Ms. Thomas presentation outlined seven potential areas, among others, where greening of the urban centers can be pursued. These included:

1. **Green architecture** – Designing new buildings and retrofitting old ones to be more energy efficient and use less water, both during construction and post-construction. Building codes, tax and duty free incentives, and loans can enhance incorporation. Municipal authority, as “owners” of large amounts of public property should set the example.

2. **Procurement Policies** – Government procurement policies which link the acquisition of goods and services to with sound environmental practices on the part of the bidder as well as supplier are gaining popularity within CARICOM. A draft regional procurement policy is currently under review by CARICOM member states.
3. **Energy** - Cities rely on energy sources beyond their boundaries hence efficient distribution necessary. Reducing energy consumption and adopting renewable energy systems both on a macro and micro level are important in greening the urban landscape.
4. **Water Management** – Minimize the loss of water during harvesting and distribution particularly from rural watersheds to urban centers. Pricing mechanism should also encourage water conservation.
5. **Transportation** – Reduce the number of cars and increase the efficiency of mass transit. Provide infrastructure to facilitate walking, but be mindful of the security implications.
6. **Waste Management** – Implementation of recycling policies and converting waste to energy.
7. **Vegetation and Landscaping** – Green spaces provide a range of ecosystem services, such as filtering of air, habitat for wildlife, carbon storage etc. as well as recreational benefits. Incorporating green spaces into urban design requires consideration of the entire urban form and layout as well as appropriate land use policies.

In order to make the transition to a green economy, it was noted that enabling factors such as: effective governance, clearly established planning regulations, timely and relevant data collection and sharing, financing, among other incentives must be present. Education and training will be vital. Research and teaching within our colleges and universities should equip architects, engineers, and planners with the necessary knowledge and skills to design green buildings and cities. The state in partnership with the private sector will need to provide strong leadership in facilitating the transition into a green economy.

Some of the potential barriers that may inhibit regional progress towards creating a green economy include: fragmented or sectoral approach governance, insufficient grassroots participation in governance which limit local buy in and support, the high cost to switch from a ‘brown economy’ to a ‘green economy’. Vested business interest and risk aversion may also create reluctance on the part of corporate as well as state entities to switch to a green economy.

Following the opening presentations, there was a round table discussion on *Regional and National Perspectives to Create an Urban Agenda* in which the representatives of the national governments, as well as planners from across the Caribbean gave their views on the considerations that should inform a Caribbean urban agenda, as well as the development of green economy within the region. These views covered a wide range of issues ranging from conceptual frameworks to technical, managerial and spatial issues. These issues are not isolated, but overlap with each other to create complex challenges within the urban sector. A summary of the views expressed are outline below:

Theoretical and Spatial Considerations

- **Issues of Urbanization in the Caribbean SIDS transcends the physical boundaries of the urban environment** – Rapid urbanization in Caribbean SIDS have resulted in the same technology, services, and lifestyle becoming increasingly common to both urban and rural areas. In such situations, a proposed urban agenda can be used guide planning in both urban and rural areas.
- **Informality and informal settlements** – The growing number of informal and illegal settlements, and the attendant problems associated with this growth necessitates that priority be given to this issue.
- **Standardize Definitions** – There is a lack of a standardize definition for what constitutes an urban center in the Caribbean context.
- **Expansion or Retreat from Vulnerable Coastal Areas** – Should towns and cities continue to expand onto hazard prone lands or shift expansion away from vulnerable coastal locations? What are the cost and benefits of such decisions? A case study to note is the relocation of Belize capital from the coast to Belmopan in the interior.
- **Defining the Elements of the Urban Center** – An urban agenda must clearly identify the issues as well physical characteristics that make an area distinctively urban.
- **Retrofitting of Settlements and Associated Infrastructure to meet new standards.**

Social Considerations

- **Crime and Urban Insecurity** - Urban renewal with a focus on safety and security involving targeting crime prone areas and youth at risk is a priority for some island states where urban crime poses a grave threat to social and economic stability. Gentrification arising out of urban renewal projects is a problem as it destroys communities and transposes crime problems elsewhere.
- **Security of Tenure** – A common issue across the region, but to varying degrees in different countries.
- **Gender** – Gender was not identified as a priority, but gender has been receiving increased attention in planning. Most noticeable was the merger of gender and planning into a single ministry in Trinidad and Tobago.

Economic Considerations

- **Poverty Reduction** – Improving the lives of people in depressed urban communities by providing greater employment opportunities through local economic development. Some member states felt that greater effort should be made to use tourism as a means of creating greater self-reliance and reducing poverty. It was however noted that local economic development is broader than poverty reduction as it also serves to promote efficient land use and resource management.

- **Planning and National Development** – Regional and economic development is intrinsically tied to cities. However, planning remains reactive (to existing bad situations) more so than focusing on what needs to be done to create good livable cities.
- **Carbon Credits** – The CARICOM representative noted that CARICOM is behind in terms of exploring how the region can fully exploit this facility in the quest to develop a green economy. Only Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have successfully negotiated the Clean Development Mechanism, with St. Kitts hoping to complete soon. It was pointed out that Costa Rica has made considerable progress in this area, and the region could learn from them.

Governance and Management Considerations

- **Integrated planning** – There needs to be a strong connection between central and local government as well as the agencies and ministries responsible for providing urban infrastructure and services. Long term planning is critical, but is affected by changes in the political administration. A balance is needed in this area.
- **Public consultation and participation** – Essential for local buy in and support of the planning process and any agenda which guides such a process. Civil society representatives expressed concern that enough attention was not being paid to NGOs and CBOs, as the residents of local communities are most affected by whatever planning decisions are made. It was highlighted that although governments are increasingly recognizing the importance of civil society, there have been situations where civil society cannot effectively contribute to the decision making process because they are not sufficiently informed, reducing their presence at the discussion table to mere tokenism.
- **Legislative and Policy Review** – Planning related laws and policies need to be updated to effectively address existing urban and land use issues. Enabling legislation is a key tool to planning. In some member states, mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation is lacking.
- **Research, Education and Training** – There will be a need to train persons to implement a Caribbean urban agenda. Who will stand the cost? It was noted that presently planning in the region is not carried out based on research and sound data, thus the uptake of research into policy and implementation needs to be addressed.
- **Strategic Visioning** - Necessary for articulating and advancing a coherent urban agenda. It was suggested that any model put forward to advance a Caribbean urban agenda must have the planning professionals and the general public as decision makers.

Policy, Programme and Plan Implementation

- **Policy Financing** - Policies need to have a well-financed component for communication and implementation. This is essential in getting an urban agenda to work.
- **Land Use Planning** – There is a need to revise land use planning to make land use plans and other planning instruments easier to implement a spatial vision.

Building Resilience to Natural Hazard and Climate Change

- **Safety and security with respect to natural hazards** – A priority for member states in which further capacity building in necessary.

A revised table outlining the major urban issues within the Caribbean was accepted as the **preliminary urban agenda** (Table 2) or starting point from which a more comprehensive Caribbean urban agenda could be developed through increased dialogue with a greater range of stakeholders. The first five should be given higher priority while the lower six should have less priority. Within the priority groupings, there was no ranking.

Table 2 – Caribbean Urban Issues (Preliminary Urban Agenda)

Thematic Areas	Issues
Higher Priority	
Local economic development and Poverty alleviation	Unemployment, Strengthening diversified local opportunities for economic development, Provision of housing and basic services
Enabling mechanisms for government and professionals	Research, Communications, Training, Education, Financing etc.
Governance	Implementation, Communication and legislation, Municipal governance, Awareness component, Co-governance inclusive governance, Partnerships, Coordination
Informal sector	tenure security, informal settlements, informal economy
Natural hazards and disaster management	climate change, built environment resilience, response capacity
Lower Priority	
Physical human Security	Crime, Safety, Freedom from fear
Physical Living Conditions	Housing, Basic services (water, sanitation, energy use, transportation etc.)
Inequality	Social, Economic inequality based on gender, age
Climate Change (contribution to)	Energy, Emission, Transportation, Green economy
Climate Change (vulnerability to)	LECZ, Adaptation at local community level,
Sustainable planning	Urban form (compact), Holistic, Comprehensive coastal zone settlements planning, Land management/use, Rural/urban integrated planning

3.0 The Professional Community and the Urban Agenda

The aim of this session was to brain-storm to elicit the opinion of the planners from across the region and the wider Americas on the ways in which there can be Caribbean wide and hemispheric collaboration around an urban agenda, among other planning related issues. The issue of leadership within the planning community featured once again as pressing issue. It was felt that the planners need to establish a niche for themselves in addition to being more visionary effective in engaging other stakeholder, notably politicians. There were calls for renewed advocacy on the part of planners, not only in promoting an urban agenda, but other issues as well. This it was felt would help planners in gaining recognition. It was also felt that there need to be further clarifications of the goals and objectives of the proposed urban agenda. An urban agenda must be clear on exactly the kind of cities we want to create in the Caribbean and how this will be achieved. Importantly, the urban agenda must be integrated, dynamic and user driven. Government representatives must also have an early input into the process.

In terms of forming a regional wide planning association, the would-be legal status of such an association was called into question. The issue of due process in creating a legal Caribbean planning body was also mentioned, and the question of where is the registration of planners in the region on CARICOM's agenda was posed as well.

In terms of implementing an urban agenda, it was clearly pointed out that individual island states within the region will need to determine their specific urban agenda, separate from a research agenda. We may also need to look at an urban related agenda as a scale which can be implemented at various levels depending on the constraints of the existing environment.

A number of issues were identified around which there could be cooperation whether as part of an urban agenda or separately. Standardizing the certification process for planners was raised. It was thought that certification should be tied to competencies and it was suggested that legislation and regional wide certification should allow planners to work across the Caribbean. It therefore followed that legislative reform was also identified as an issue which planners in the region could work together on.

This component of the meeting also had a working session which unofficially signed off on some specific issues and activities which the various regional planning associations will work together on. The working session was supported by a video conference among members of the various regional planning associations, the American Planning Association (APA), Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), Atlantic Planning Institute (API), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), universities, and government agencies from across the Caribbean. A listing of the attendees at the video conference can be found in Appendix B.

Coming out of the working session, several working groups were formed to address the issues outlined below.

1. Governance Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Develop, recommend and seek endorsement for a governance structure and business model for a regional association. Base the review on the following experiences:

- Historical attempts at Caribbean networks and associations
- Canadian Institute of Planners and Atlantic Planners Institute
- American Planning Association
- Pacific Islands Planning Association
- Role of CAP and Global Planners Network

Members:

- Michelle Mycoo (TTSP): review models based on the Caribbean experience
- Bill Budd (API/CIP): review the API and CIP models
- Michel Frojmovic: Review the APA and PIPA models

Deadlines:

Submit a Brief by the first week of May

Hold a Teleconference within one week of submission (involving 1 rep from each of the three national associations and CAP)

2. Jamaica Conference Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Coordinate a regional Planning Conference in 2012. Tentative date of March 21-24, 2012

Support multiple agendas:

- Themed Caribbean Planning Conference
- CAP Americas regional meeting
- Launch of the regional association of planners
- CARICOM Ministers meeting on the Urban Agenda (building on the April 2011 meeting in Guyana)

Members:

Rely on the WG on Regional Collaboration to technical input, with a Jamaican team to provide leadership (including the Planning Institute of Jamaica, UTECH, and National Housing Thrust)

Milestones:

- Jamaican Conference Committee to meet in April and May
- Prepare for a Regional Conference Technical Committee Teleconference in early to mid-June
- Status Report for June teleconference; Recommendations for July CIP/API Conference

3. Certification Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Review and recommend a system of certification for the Caribbean region, including the issues of:

- ability of planners in countries with no existing national planning association to gain membership;
- different standards in the existing national planning associations;
- recommendations to change existing standards;
- possibility of regional certification via a regional body.

Develop and administer a survey of professional planners and planning associations in the CARICOM to solicit feedback on certification and governance

- JIP, BTCPA, TTSP review their own procedures
- APA to contribute to the costs of survey administration
- CIP to contribute Young Professional Internship placements
- CNULM/UWI to coordinate survey administration and analysis

Members:

Presidents of the three national associations (Arnim, Yolanda, Martin)

Milestones:

Status Report for June teleconference; Report for July CIP/API Conference

4. University Recognition Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Review and compile planning curriculum and standards in the four university planning programs in the Caribbean: UWI, UTECH, UG, Anton de Kom (Suriname)

CNULM/UWI to coordinate

Members:

Directors/Coordinators of the planning programmes in the 4 universities

Milestones:

Status Report for June teleconference; Report for July CIP/API Conference

OTHER MILESTONES:

May and June: Regional Working Group Teleconferences

July 11-14, 2011: CIP/API Annual Conference St. John's, Newfoundland

Nov, 2011: NSUS Technical Committee Meeting

March 21-24, 2012: Caribbean Planning Conference

April 14-17, 2012: APA Conference Los Angeles

August 2011-February 2012: Additional teleconferences as needed

4.0 Knowledge Development for Decision Making at the National and Municipal Level

The aim of this session was to discuss the findings of a technical study on urban assessment and profiling in the Caribbean and explore ways to enhance urban profiling within the region. The highlight of the session was a presentation by Mr. Dellarue Howard (CNULM/UWI) and Dr. Asad Mohammed (CNULM/UWI) which examined the effectiveness of current approaches to urban assessment and profiling in the region in addressing the critical urban problems facing the region. This presentation was a follow up to the draft technical working paper on urban profiling which was circulated prior to the meeting.

In seeking to develop a Caribbean urban agenda to address urban issues and manage the urban sector in the region, there needs to be a relevant mechanism to inform, update and evaluate this agenda in a timely consistent manner. This is where urban assessment and profiling comes into play as a multi-purpose tool. On the one hand, it enables municipalities, as well as central government agencies to rapidly assess the current urban situation within a town or city. On the other hand, the output of such analyses can also serve as means to inform and assess the effectiveness of existing urban policies, plans and programmes, (i.e. an urban agenda). Other benefits of urban profiling which were identified include being shorter and less complex than local area planning. It does not replace local area planning, but serve as monitoring and evaluation tool in between the scheduling of local area plans. In addition, urban profiling helps to improve municipal management as municipal projects are informed by research and empirical data.

A number of urban assessment and profiling programmes that have been introduced in the region were identified. These included: the UNDP Urban Management Programme, UNEP GEO Cities, UN-Habitat and World Bank Safer Cities Programme, Localizing the MGDs and PSUP. It was noted that the roll out of these programmes has not resulted in the benefits outlined above. Hence it was argued that an indigenous Caribbean urban profiling tool is necessary because:

- a) Existing programmes and methodology were initially developed for use in a non-Caribbean context.
- b) Issues relating to Caribbean SIDS are not adequately covered.
- c) Targets/ goals are sometimes not relevant to the region.
- d) Limited capacity at the municipal level.
- e) Inefficient use of resources through multiple profiling programmes with overlapping themes could be reduced with a comprehensive urban profiling programme.

However, in order to develop a Caribbean urban profiling tool, certain related issues need to be discussed. These include: systematizing data collection and analysis, rationalizing spatial definitions and meta-data, developing relevant national and regional urban indicators, and embedding urban profiling into the planning system, particularly at the municipal level.

To further highlight the importance of data management in municipal governance, Mr. Michel Frojmovic (CIP) did a presentation on data management systems in Canada. This allowed for a

limited comparative analysis of between Canada and the Caribbean. The key points were that municipalities require a range of information in order to function effectively and indicators are needed to monitor and evaluate the performance of municipalities on an ongoing basis.

During the ensuing plenary session which followed the presentations, the issue of developing tools to collect and manage the relevant data for municipal management was discussed. It was mentioned that Jamaica was making progress in this regard in that the Social Development Commission (SDC) has community profiles, inclusive of environmental data, on 784 communities in Jamaica. Some of these communities are urban, while some are not. The Land Information Council in Jamaica was also noted for its data collection activities. The importance of data sharing was highlighted, as technocrats alluded to the existence of a large amount of data present in various agencies, but little knowledge of its existence.

One of the most compelling points which were raised suggested that we need to reexamine the relevance of rapid urban profiling in Caribbean SIDS. The thesis being put forward is that given the very small size of Caribbean SIDS and the high levels of urbanization, we do not have the critical mass at the urban level to support the usual rapid urban profiling that is done in other places. Hence Rapid Island Systems profiling is more suitable for the islands in the region.

5.0 Project Identification and Development

The objective of this session was to identify potential projects and develop project proposals based on the issues outlined earlier during the meeting. The following ideas were identified as possible project activities that could help to support an urban agenda and urban profiling within the region:

- Creating a system of regional urban indicators to facilitate inter-temporal and inter-spatial comparisons among Caribbean cities. This would facilitate more accurate analysis of Caribbean cities than that which presently obtains using international indicators, some of which are not relevant to the region.
- Developing and testing a Caribbean urban profiling methodology / technique in one or two Caribbean cities to see its effectiveness in identifying and assessing critical urban issues within the region vis-à-vis existing international approaches to urban assessment and profiling.
- Developing a municipal data management platform for the management of municipal data. Lessons can be drawn from drawn from the Quality of Life Reporting System in Canada, as well as the University of Amsterdam work in supporting Indian municipalities in managing social issues.
- State of Caribbean Cities Report – To date there has not been any comprehensive analysis or report on the conditions of Caribbean cities. A State of Caribbean Cities Report would go a far way in proving a comprehensive review of all the issues associated with Caribbean cities.

Additional projects identified included:

- Research into how the Caribbean can successfully transition into a green economy to be presented at the March 2012 meeting in Jamaica.
- A possible extension of the EU-ACP EDULINK project in Guyana and Suriname.
- Project on policy, planning methodology or implementation as well as on regional best practices regarding the elements on the urban agenda.

Potential sources of funding to undertake the above mentioned projects include national, professional and multi-lateral organizations such as: CIDA, CIP, EU-ACP, and UN-Habitat.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Attendance List: NSUS Annual Policy Meeting 2011

Name	Organization
Representatives from Member States and CARICOM	
Mr. Noel Harvey	Representative for Belize, Ministry of Housing
Ms. Annie Edwards	Representative for Dominica, Chief Physical Planner, Physical Planning Division
Mr. Fabien Purcell	Representative for Government of Grenada, Senior Planning Officer, Physical Planning Unit, Grenada
Mr. Rawle Edinboro	Representative for Guyana, Chief Development Planner, Central Housing and Planning Authority
Mrs. Allison Richards	Representative of the Government of Jamaica, Urban Planner, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica
Mr. Clement Mead	Representative of Government of Montserrat, Physical Planner
Mr. George James	Representative for Government of St. Lucia, Permanent Secretary , Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal & Local Government, St. Lucia
Mr. Lloyd Kotzebue	Representative for Government of Suriname, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Public Works
Ms. Shelly Sultani-Maharaj	Representative for Government of Trinidad & Tobago, Assistant Coordinator, Ministry of Planning and Gender, Trinidad & Tobago
Ms. Anya Thomas	Senior Project Officer – Sustainable Development , CARICOM Secretariat
Professional Associations	
Dr. Yolanda Alleyne	President, Barbados Town and Country Planning Association, Barbados
Mr. Richard Gill	Vice President, Barbados Town and Country Planning Association, Barbados
Mr. Martin Addington	President, Jamaica Institute of Planners, Jamaica
Ms. Joan Dennis	Senior Project Manager , Jamaica Institute of Planners / National Housing Trust, Jamaica
Mr. Arnim Cozier	President, Trinidad & Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad & Tobago
Dr. James Armstrong	Urban Planner , Trinidad & Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. Ancil Kirk	Senior Land Use Planner , Trinidad & Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Stephen Boodhram	Regional Planner, Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad & Tobago
Ms. Margaret Thompson	Development Planner , Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. John Reinhardt	Program Manager , American Planning Association, USA
Mr. Michel Frojmovic	Canadian Institute of Planners / Director, Acacia Consulting, Canada
Mr. Jacques Besner	Chair International Affairs Committee Canadian Institute of Planners, Canada
Mr. John Wall	Manager, Canadian Institute of Planners, Canada
Mr. William Budd	Development Planner , Atlantic Institute of Planners, Canada
Academia	
Dr. Carol Archer	Dean – Faculty of the Built Environment and PSUP Implementer, University of Technology, Jamaica
Dr. Hebe Verrest	Lecturer , University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Mr. Igginio Stuyck	Researcher / Urban Planner, University College of Antwerp, Belgium
Mr. Sieuw Naipal	Anton de Kom University, Suriname
Mr. William Harris	University of Guyana – Department of Architecture, Fac. of Technology, Guyana
Ms. Sigrid Heirman	Researcher / Urban Planner, University College of Antwerp, Belgium
Civil society	
Ms. Carmen Griffiths	Executive Director, Construction Resource and Dev. Center / CNULM Advisory Board, Jamaica
Ms. Denise Bentinck	Project Director , CHF Guyana, Guyana
Planning related organizations	
Ms. Marcelle Linton	Project Coordinator, Guyana Partnership for Community Planning, Guyana
Mr. Jose Canjura	Strategic Planner , Canada-Guyana Partnership for Community Planning, Canada
Dr. Ashook Sookdeo	Director , Environmental Health Unit, Ministry of Health, Guyana
Mr. Raymond Drouin	Development Cooperation, Guyana & Suriname, CIDA, Canada
Mr. Germaine Stewart	Development Planner , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana
Ms. Anna Iles	CIDA Program Office, Canadian High Commission, Canada
Ms. Fayola Azore	Development Planner , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana
Ms. Maria J. MacKenzie	Project Advisor , Governance Directorate, Partnership with Canadians, CIDA, Canada
Ms. Marle Reyes Pantoja	Senior Environmental Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana
Ms. Myrna Pitt	Chief Executive Officer , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana

Ms. Naomi Josafath	Senior Officer – Spatial Planning Department, Ministry of Public Works, Suriname
Fazal Wahab	Senior Engineering , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana
Omar Narine	Civil Engineer , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana
Denise King-Tucker	Land Dev & Admin Manager , Central Housing Planning Authority, Guyana
NSUS Project Personnel	
Dr. Asad Mohammed	Director, Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad & Tobago
Dr. Perry Polar	Project Manager , Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. Dellarue Howard	Project / Research Officer , Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad & Tobago
Ms. Jessica Toumson	blueSpace Network Coordinator , Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad & Tobago
Ms. Sana Razvi	Project Officer , Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad
Ms. Jennifer Laforest	Project Officer , Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), Trinidad
Dr. Paulette Bynoe	University of Guyana, Director – School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Guyana
Ms. Roxanne Wharton	Assistant Project Manager , School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana, Guyana
Ms. Linda Johnson-Bhola	Coordinator , School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana, Guyana
Dr. Marten Schalkwijk	Dean - Institute of Graduate Studies and Research, Anton de Kom University, Suriname
Ms. Angelika Namdara	Project Manager NSUS , Anton de Kom University, Suriname
Prof. Isabella Baud	Professor , University of Amsterdam / CNULM Advisory Board, The Netherlands
Prof. Ad deBruijne	Professor, University of Amsterdam / CNULM Advisory Board, The Netherlands

**Appendix B –Attendance List for Working Group on Regional Professional
Collaboration in Planning Video Conference April 6th 2011**

Name	Organization
Mr. Arnim Cozier	President, Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners
Ms. Margaret McDowall	Vice-President, Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners
Dr. James Armstrong	Immediate Past President , Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners
Dr. Yolanda Alleyne	President, Barbados Town and Country Planning Society
Mr. Richard Gill	Vice-President, Barbados Town and Country Planning Society
Mr. Martin Addington	President, Jamaica Institute of Planners
Ms. Joan Dennis	Vice-President, Jamaica Institute of Planners
Ms. Allison Richards,	Urban Planner, Planning Institute of Jamaica
Dr. Asad Mohammed	Director, Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management, University of the West Indies
Dr. Perry Polar	Project Coordinator, Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management, University of the West Indies
Dr. Carol Archer	University of Technology, Jamaica
Mr. John Reinhardt	Program Manager, Energy & Climate Partnership for the Americas , American Planning Association
Mr. John Wall	Manager, National & International Affairs; Canadian Institute of Planners
Mr. Jacques Besner,	Chair International Committee and CAP-Americas VP Canadian Institute of Planners
Mr. Michel Frojmovic	International Project Manager, Canadian Institute of Planners
Mr. Bill Budd	President , Atlantic Planners Institute