

ABSTRACT

Broadly speaking, the position of developing countries on environmental conservation remains the same as it was in the 1970s. Their acceptance of sustainable development as a worthwhile goal is a response to the incorporation of elements of the New International Economic Order that they had proposed two decades ago. This situation is an indication of the South's struggle to guarantee acceptable conditions of living for its populace.

"Our Own Agenda", the Caribbean position paper on environmental matters was prepared for presentation at UNCED in Brazil in June 1992. Reflected in the Caribbean's position paper is a concern for economic growth within the context of a new economic order. Further, the paper underscores such concern as the motivating force for the region's pursuit of sustainable development, indicating that the Caribbean is a representative sample of developing countries.

The South requests that the North subsidizes environmental conservation that is compatible with development in the South. This request reflects a dependence on the North to finance environmental conservation in the South. As a consequence, developed

countries exert a great influence on environmental conservation in the Caribbean.

It is within this context that a strategy for maximizing the chances of sustainable development is offered by the model proposed in this paper. The model reflects the central argument of the paper that a higher level of Caribbean integration, with environmental conservation as one of its main objectives, offers the greatest scope for the realization of the region's interest.