

In addition the major sustainable development issues were outlined and the problems incurred by a centralized approach were identified.

ABSTRACT

The same issues were examined in the context of the "Maine Model" and other community models in an effort to compare the outcomes and to examine the possibility of an alternative approach to sustainable development.

**AN EVALUATION OF THE CARIBBEAN APPROACH TO
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

The findings of this study showed that the approach adopted by the Maine Model proved to be significant in the outcome of the Maine environmental project. The local community involvement allowed that facilitating involvement of the people at the grass roots level was responsible for the level of success in the projects undertaken. In addition the models compared favourably to some of the Subsidiarity principles which underlie the decentralized approach.

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The conclusions are that a system of decentralized decision making, and wide scaled community involvement in sustainable development issues leads to the desired outcomes. The decentralized approach that heavily utilized community involvement in the case of Trinidad & Tobago, is an alternative approach to sustainable development. The findings of this study showed that the approach adopted by the Maine Model proved to be significant in the outcome of the Maine environmental project. The local community involvement allowed that facilitating involvement of the people at the grass roots level was responsible for the level of success in the projects undertaken. In addition the models compared favourably to some of the Subsidiarity principles which underlie the decentralized approach.

The objective of this thesis was to set up a framework, which involved an approach to decentralization and a relevant model of community mobilization that would measure achievements in sustainable development. This was achieved by examining the "Maine Model" utilized by the state of Maine USA and the "Subsidiarity Principle" utilized by the European Community, making applications to the Caribbean specifically Trinidad & Tobago.

In addition the major sustainable development issues were outlined and the problems incurred by a centralized or top down approach were identified. The same issues were examined in the context of the "Maine Model" and other community models in an effort to compare the outcomes and to examine the possibility of an alternative approach to sustainable development.

The findings revealed that the participative approach adopted by the Maine Model proved to be significant in the outcome of the Maine environmental project. The local community models examined also showed that facilitating involvement of the people at the grass roots level was responsible for the level of success in the projects undertaken. In addition the models compared favourably to some of the Subsidiarity principles which underlie the decentralized approach.

The conclusions are that a system of decentralized decision making, and wide scaled community involvement in sustainable development issues leads to more definite outcomes than the centralized approach that heavily utilized by the Trinidad & Tobago authorities. If therefore an alternative approach is applied to the relevant sustainable issues in Trinidad & Tobago, the outcomes may be more sustained.

1. Library Research
2. Interviews with local CBO coordinators