



GREEN **economy**

IN THE CONTEXT OF VISION 2030

Jamaica





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This briefing will be utilised as a tool towards sustainable development which is possible, thanks to the dedication and participation of every Jamaican, as we work to make the Jamaica "the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACSSD-GE	Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development through Green Economy
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
COTED	The Council for Trade and Economic Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
MTF	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme



Red Mangrove – *Brandon Hay*

INTRODUCTION

This briefing paper documents Jamaica's existing support for the green economy within national policy and recommends how this support can be strengthened. In Jamaican policy the concept of the green economy is embedded in the country's national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica. Within this context Jamaica is able to propose a range of strategies that can be used to build an inclusive green economy, which will have the dual effect of reducing the country's high level of poverty while contributing to a more sustainable developmental path.

Specifically, this briefing paper will show that the green economy agenda provides responses to Jamaica's most critical development needs, most notably improving fiscal space, reducing poverty, increasing social well-being and strengthening resilience to economic shocks and natural hazards. As such, the paper:

- Identifies areas of Vision 2030 Jamaica that directly or indirectly impact or are impacted by a transition to a green economy
- Identifies strategies outlined in Vision 2030 Jamaica that could be enhanced through greening the economy
- Identifies policy gaps related to the green economy not accounted for in Vision 2030 Jamaica
- Provides a list of fiscal, regulatory and institutional reform areas that will need to be developed in order to effectively articulate a green economy strategy

BACKGROUND

This paper was written as part of a larger regional initiative on green economy, the Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable

Development Through Green Economy (ACSSD-GE) project. This project seeks to implement a concept note that was endorsed by the Thirty-Seventh Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Environment and Sustainable Development¹. The project has involved green economy scoping studies and green economy policy support in Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia. The project has also included supporting the University of the West Indies to become a regional Centre for Excellence in green economy, and forming national and regional multi-stakeholder green economy knowledge and networking platforms.

The purpose of this paper is to support decision makers and leaders from across sectors to use green economy activities to help Jamaica's Vision 2030 become reality. It builds on the research contained within the Green Economy Scoping Study for Jamaica as well as input from experts familiar with green economy and with Vision 2030 Jamaica.

DEFINING THE GREEN ECONOMY

Globally, many concepts and definitions of the green economy have emerged. The notion of the green economy has been defined by the United Nations Environment Programme as "an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities"².

1 UNEP (2012). Project Note: Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development Agenda through Green Economy Policies.

2 UNEP (2010). Green Economy: Developing Countries Success Stories. Available from http://www.unep.org/pdf/greeneconomy_successstories.pdf

In the Caribbean, the green economy is being conceptualized as a means of representing both an approach to development as well as a vision of an economy in which the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental development – are in synergy and working at the community, national, and regional levels.

Jamaica's national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, presents and articulates the notion of the green economy. In Vision 2030 Jamaica, the green economy is closely related to the definition articulated by UNEP but further states that "the rules for Government, business, investors and consumers will have to be rewritten to ensure that environmental considerations become integral factors in socio-economic decision-making", thereby moving the country into the realm of the green economy. Additionally for enterprises, Vision 2030 Jamaica proposes that the country's productive enterprises move beyond simply minimizing their negative impacts on the natural environment, and begin to base new jobs and industries on the sustainable use of natural resources as well as the country's unique environmental assets. Examples include further developing renewable energy sources, promoting higher levels of organic agriculture and exploring the genetic potential of the country's endemic species.

All three definitions (from UNEP, the Caribbean, and Jamaica) chart a path towards a new economic model that is based on ecologically compatible uses of resources, economic efficiency and social justice.

ABOUT VISION 2030 JAMAICA

The national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, is the first of its kind of its kind in the country. It was designed to put Jamaica in a position to achieve developed country status by 2030. It is based on the comprehensive vision of "Jamaica, the place

of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan represents the strategic determination of a small developing country to improve the well-being of its people to levels comparable with those of developed or high-income countries. The preparation of the plan involved a participatory stakeholder-driven process with bi-partisan support that consciously drew on the experiences of past planning exercises in Jamaica as well as international best practices in national development planning. Implementation of the Plan began in 2009.

By 2030, Jamaica envisages becoming a country with a vibrant and sustainable economy, society and environment and a high level of human capital development.

The Plan contains four national goals and 15 national outcomes as shown in the table below. Pursuing these goals will help Jamaica pursue strategies to move onto the path of the green economy. The goals are:

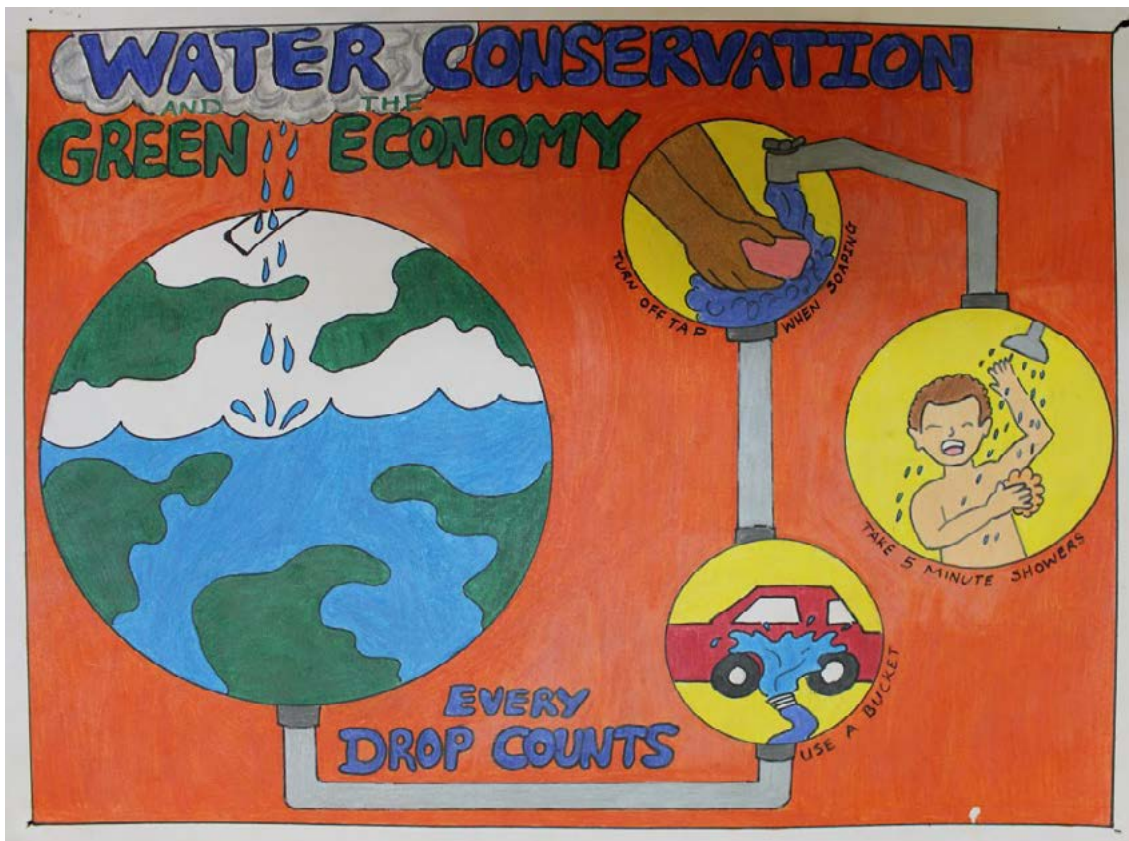
1. Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential
2. The Jamaican society is secure, cohesive and just
3. Jamaica's economy is prosperous
4. Jamaica has a healthy natural environment

Vision 2030 Jamaica offers a comprehensive planning framework in which the economic, social, environmental and governance aspects of national development are integrated. The Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) is aligned to the overall vision, goals and outcomes of *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan* and is the mechanism for implementing the Plan in periods of three years to 2030. Each MTF sets out a prioritized package of policies, strategies and programmes proposed by the Government for implementation over the period.

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES
Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential	1. A Healthy and Stable Population 2. World-Class Education and Training 3. Effective Social Protection 4. Authentic and Transformational Culture
The Jamaican society is secure, cohesive and just	5. Security and Safety 6. Effective Governance
Jamaica's economy is prosperous	7. A Stable Macroeconomy 8. An Enabling Business Environment 9. Strong Economic Infrastructure 10. Energy Security and Efficiency 11. A Technology-Enabled Society 12. Internationally Competitive Industry Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Manufacturing • Mining and Quarrying • Construction • Creative Industries • Sport • Information and Communications Technology • Services • Tourism
Jamaica has a healthy natural environment	13. Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources 14. Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change 15. Sustainable Urban and Rural Development



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ALIGNMENT BETWEEN VISION 2030 JAMAICA AND THE GREEN ECONOMY

Within the context of its national planning framework and its national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, there are a range of strategies that the country can use to build its green economy and which also will have the effect of reducing the high levels of poverty.

The following table compiles the green economy strategies that are included in Vision 2030 Jamaica. These strategies can enable Jamaica to move onto a green economy pathway in which development is equitable, sustainable and resilient, low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive, and maintains current reserves

of natural capital, biodiversity and environmental services.

The table below also illustrates how the idea of the green economy is integrated into the national development plan, providing an excellent start for Jamaica in moving towards a green economy. Of the 15 national outcomes in Vision 2030 Jamaica, 14 contain strategies that are aligned to the notion of the green economy. Outcome #12 – Internationally Competitive Industry Structures – explicitly speaks to a green economy and the other 13 outcomes address elements of the definition of a green economy. The outcome Security and Safety does not directly address green economy, however, it could be said that the strategies to achieve security and safety objectives in Vision 2030 Jamaica will contribute to “improved human well-being and social equity”, which are cornerstones of a green economy.

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES	Green Economy Strategies contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica
Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential	1. A Healthy and Stable Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and assessing the linkages between health and the state of the natural environment and defining appropriate long-term strategies to anticipate changing environmental conditions Infusing climate change issues in the country's national health policy
	2. World-Class Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that all students leaving the school system have skills and competencies that are relevant to the labour market or for matriculation to programmes of higher learning
	3. Effective Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infusing poverty and vulnerability issues into all public policies thereby giving consideration to the impact of various sectoral policies on vulnerable groups, including gender differentials; this will have the effect of maximizing efforts to improve the lives of the poor amongst the population Expanding opportunities for pursuing sustainable livelihoods that will assist the poor to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and enable them to meet their daily subsistence in a manner that is dignified, locally appropriate and environmentally sustainable Ensuring safe, sanitary and affordable shelter for all by embodying the concept that shelter represents a broad continuum of affordable and appropriate housing option related to the income of target groups but which is also inclusive and in an aesthetically pleasing community Locating housing settlements in areas that minimize vulnerability to natural hazards
	4. Authentic and Transformational Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving, developing and promoting the country's cultural heritage which comprises its artefacts, sites, music, poetry and history
The Jamaican society is secure, cohesive and just	5. Security and Safety	
	6. Effective Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening public institutions such as those involved in managing natural resources and ecosystems to become more efficient, productive, transparent and accountable and take into account the needs and interests of all citizens as the country pursues the path to sustainable prosperity
Jamaica's economy is prosperous	7. A Stable Macroeconomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating stable and predictable macroeconomic conditions such as reducing the country's high levels of inflation, stabilizing the exchange rate, maintaining price stability and ensuring the existence of sustainable fiscal balances by pursuing fiscal and debt sustainability policies that would place the Government in a better position to support, finance and incentivize green economy initiatives Increasing access to capital, which will be important in Jamaica's long-term economic development and will allow for greater levels of private sector investment by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in pursuit of the green economy and poverty eradication Reforming the labour market and ensuring that education and training programmes equip workers to be able to take-up green jobs as the country pursues the competitiveness of its productive enterprises through the pursuit of the green economy

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES	Green Economy Strategies contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the capabilities of micro, small and medium sized enterprises to seize the opportunities created by pursuing the greening of the economy and build their capacities to pursue business that sustainably manage and use environmental resources in the quest for profitability
	8. An Enabling Business Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a facilitating policy, regulatory and institutional framework for business development
	9. Strong Economic Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the impact of the transportation sector on the natural environment by pursuing sustainable transport practices that could include: better traffic management strategies for reduced air pollution, development of policies that would support reduction in ship-borne wastes and the introduction of invasive species in ballast water, and identifying opportunities that would allow for the reduction in the use of fossil fuels in the transportation sector • Capitalizing on the extensive growth of the country's telecommunications network to educate the population about the green economy • Improving water and sanitation services both for environmental protection as well as a mechanism for poverty eradication
	10. Energy Security and Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating the implementation of Jamaica's recently promulgated National Energy Policy 2009 – 2030; this long-term national energy policy, when fully implemented, is expected to create a modern, efficient, diversified and environmentally sustainable energy sector that provides affordable and accessible energy supplies with long-term energy security that contributes to the country's competitiveness • Diversifying the country's energy supply by creating a stable regulatory framework to effectively facilitate the deployment of renewable energy technologies such as those related to wind, solar, and biomass among others, thereby simultaneously reducing the country's need to spend foreign exchange on the importation of fossil fuels • Exploring opportunities for energy conservation and efficiency that would involve households and businesses aggressively and continuously adopting energy conservation and efficiency practices towards reducing the carbon footprint; ensuring that the Government of Jamaica becomes the leader in energy conservation and efficiency and sets the standard for all other sectors; modernizing the country's energy plants • Recognizing that sustainably produced biofuels present an emerging opportunity because they form part of the multi-faceted approach towards increasing energy security and reducing the use of fuel sources that pollute the natural environment for use as transportation fuels, in electricity generation and other energy needs • Creating an energy-from-waste sector that produces clean energy from indigenous materials towards helping Jamaicans to use less petroleum, ease the oil bill burden on the country, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the amount of land used for disposal sites and improve waste management generally

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES	Green Economy Strategies contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica
	11. A Technology-Enabled Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating science and technology into all areas of development Creating a dynamic and responsive National Innovation System
	12. Internationally Competitive Industry Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Manufacturing Mining and Quarrying Construction Creative Industries Sport Information and Communications Technology Services Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing company sophistication and productivity Promoting eco-efficiency and the green economy <p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the application of environmental best practices in the agricultural sector moving towards more sustainable agricultural practices by promoting zero waste production and processing in agriculture, developing organic farming as a major mode of production in the sector, and creating strategies that would enable the sector to adapt to a changing climate Applying land use policy and legislation to halt the change of use and degradation of agricultural land <p>Manufacturing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling the manufacturing sector to transition to and adopt green economy practices by creating the enabling environment for enterprises to pursue higher levels of productivity and value-added production using efficient and clean technologies in compliance with relevant environmental standards and regulations and adopting environmentally sustainable processes that embody zero pollution, zero waste production, low energy consumption, zero health hazards to workers and efficient use of resources <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the further growth of a dynamic tourism sector within a sustainably managed natural environment and ensuring that all activities of the tourism sector support national biodiversity conservation objectives, promote the application of local sustainable development planning principles to resort areas, facilitate the development and implementation of environmental management systems in tourism entities, and develop climate change adaptation strategies for the sector <p>Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a path for the development of the minerals sector that recognizes environmental management as a high priority; recognizes the importance of socio-economic impact assessments and social planning in mining operations; establishes environmental accountability in industry and government at the highest management and policymaking levels; encourages employees at all levels to recognize their responsibility for environmental management; ensures the participation of and dialogue with affected mining communities; adopts best practices to minimize environmental degradation; adopts risk analysis and risk management in the development of regulations and in the design, operation, and decommissioning of mining activities; and adopts environmentally sound technologies in all phases of mining activities

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES	Green Economy Strategies contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica
		<p>Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the development of an internationally competitive construction sector that supports economic development but in an environmentally sustainable manner, adopting and adapting to new and clean construction technologies that result in reduction and elimination of waste in construction as a result of better designs, developing approaches for the reuse and recycling of construction materials, and practicing high levels of energy conservation
Jamaica has a healthy natural environment	13. Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the environmental awareness of the general population and their participation in the management of natural resources Promoting initiatives that would halt or reverse unsustainable production and consumption patterns which are increasingly threatening the health of the country's ecosystems and biological diversity Providing an effective regulatory framework which binds the Government and the people including constitutional and legislative reform which emphasizes each citizen's right to a healthy environment Incorporating environmental considerations into decision-making processes such as national policies Ensuring that development takes place within the limits of natural resources Creating informed and committed leadership who are champions for environmental conservation and protection Preserving and renewing ecological capital Building capacity for collecting and analysing data to spot emerging problems, assess policy options and gauge the effectiveness of environmental programmes Developing and implementing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management Strengthening the capacity of local organizations to facilitate citizen participation in sustainable management of their local natural resources Creating an appropriate institutional framework for the integrated management of all types of waste, including integrating communities and private sector participation in the management of waste and creating incentives for the development of markets for waste that include waste-to-energy conversion, recycling, and zero waste processing
	14. Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing and mainstreaming disaster management and climate change into socio-economic decision-making processes as well as development initiatives with the objective of avoiding or minimizing the impact of hazards related to climate change and increasing the coping capacity of all sectors and particularly vulnerable groups Creating mechanisms to fully consider the impacts of climate change to consider climate change and to 'climate proof' all national policies and plans Undertaking research to identify sector-specific strategies for adaptation Adopting best practices for climate change adaptation Applying disaster reduction frameworks to strengthen climate change mitigation measures

NATIONAL GOALS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES	Green Economy Strategies contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica
	15. Sustainable Urban and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a framework for both urban and rural development that supports sustainable development through the preparation of a spatial arrangement of land use that facilitates social and economic development of all areas, respects the environment while at the same time satisfying citizens' prospects for pursuing sustainable livelihoods • Facilitating and promoting sustainable patterns of urban and rural development that meet socio-economic and environmental objectives, but with an emphasis on improving the quality of life of all citizens • Designing and developing communities that are in harmony with the natural environment • Creating sustainable urban centres and focusing on urban renewal and upgrading through the development of ecologically friendly buildings, construction and transport systems, minimizing urban sprawl, facilitating conservation of historic sites and cultural heritage in urban areas, and developing facilities for recreation and social interaction • Creating vibrant and diversified rural areas that promote growth, accelerate social development, and reduce poverty while protecting the environment

KEY STRATEGIES CONTAINED IN VISION 2030 JAMAICA THAT COULD BE ENHANCED IN ORDER TO GREEN THE ECONOMY

Notwithstanding the many strategies in Vision 2030 Jamaica that could contribute to the greening of the economy, some of these could be enhanced to better advance a transition to a green economy. The main strategies that could be enhanced are discussed below within the context of the applicable national outcome.

National Outcome 1: A Healthy and Stable Population

A healthy population is a prerequisite for a green economy and therefore all strategies that improve the quality of Jamaicans' health can be deemed "green economy strategies" for National Outcome 1. These include strategies specifically for this outcome as well

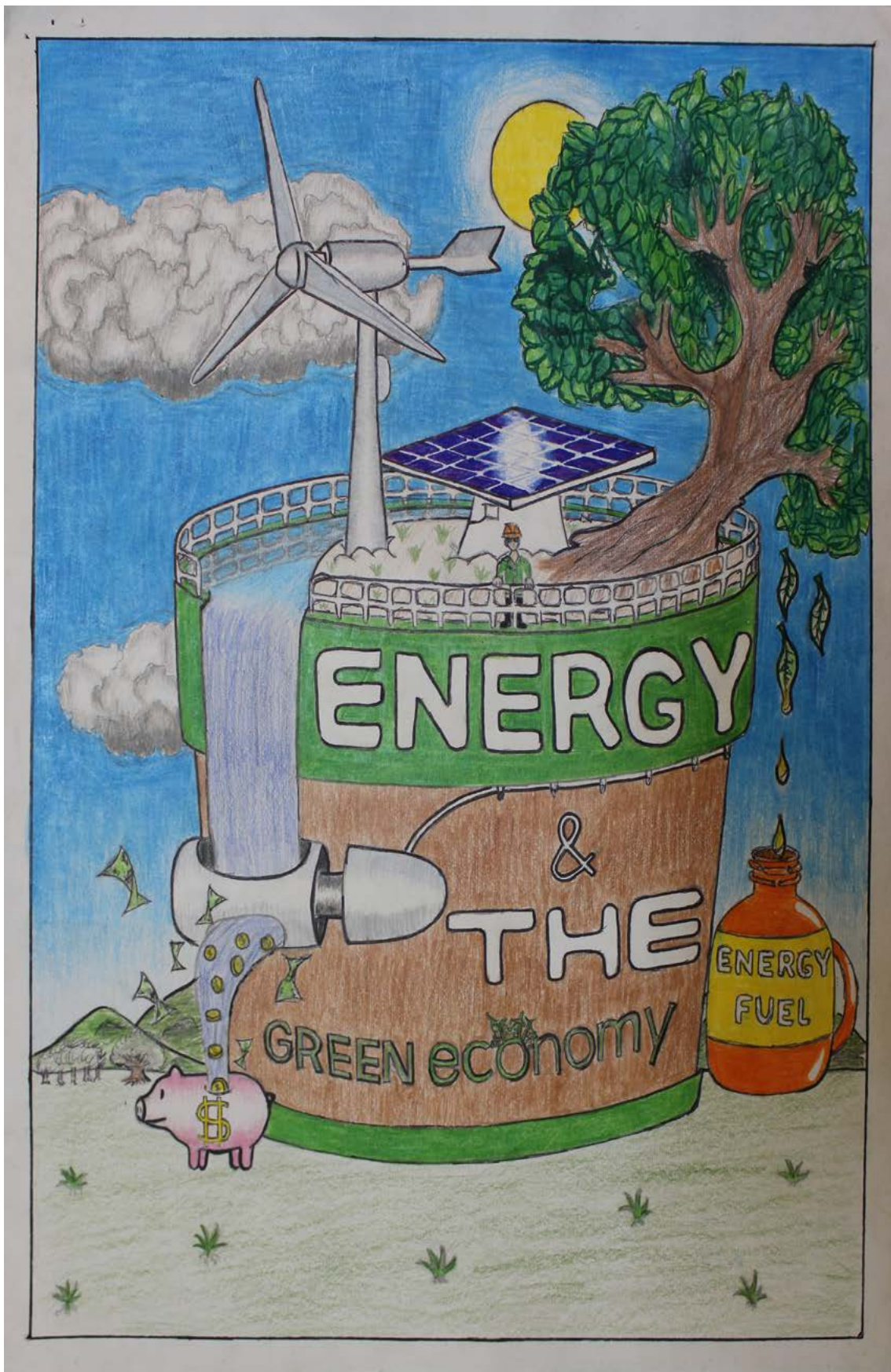
as those that address environmental quality, hazard resilience, sanitation, and poverty alleviation. These linkages – and others that occur throughout Vision 2030 Jamaica – could be stressed as being necessary for a transition to a green economy.

National Outcome 2: World-Class Education and Training

Greater emphasis should be placed on anticipation of new jobs that will be created in a green economy and preparing Jamaicans for those opportunities. In a transition to a green economy, some jobs will disappear and new ones will be created. In many cases the skills and training necessary to successfully fulfil the requirements of jobs will change.

Suggested strategies that could be added:

- In close collaboration with public and private sector actors in the main economic sectors, determine potential shifts in employment trends, design education and training programmes to develop the requisite knowledge and skills.



Marlon Palmer – May Day High School

- Create re-training programmes for workers whose jobs are likely to be replaced or significantly changed in a green economy.

These suggested strategies are mentioned under National Outcome 7 – A Stable Macroeconomy – but should rightfully be one area of focus of the country’s education goals.

National Outcome 10: Energy Security and Efficiency

While Jamaica aims to increase the contribution of renewable energy to the country’s energy mix, it is important to remember that renewable energy is not always sustainable and that certain renewable technologies can have negative social or environmental impacts. Examples include use of agriculture land for growing bio-fuels at the expense of food crops; impacts on birds and aesthetic issues from wind turbines; and hazardous materials in solar PV cells.

A strategy that could be added to Vision 2030 is to:

- Establish and enforce renewable energy technology standards that protect and advance environmental and social goals.

National Outcomes 11 and 12: A Technology-Enabled Society and Internationally Competitive Industry Structures (Information and Communications Technology)

While strategies related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) are included for these two national outcomes, the importance of ICT to a green economy could receive greater emphasis. ICTs can be powerful enablers of the green economy through the transformation of economic infrastructures, industry sectors and social behaviours.

Suggested strategies that could be added:

- In all sectors, increase use of ICT to de-materialize physical products,

services and processes, thus resulting in significant reductions in use of energy and materials (for example, electronic billing and payment, tele-work arrangements, virtual meetings)

- Use ICTs to increase access to education, training, health care and other public services
- Create ICT-based national data collection, storage and access systems to support decision-making in all sectors
- Develop robust legal frameworks, regulatory arrangements and enforcement mechanisms that will protect personal privacy and ensure the security and stability of electronic networks

National Outcome 12: Internationally Competitive Industry Structures

Vision 2030 aims at developing company sophistication and productivity in order to become more competitive internationally. One element of developing this sophistication which is not included in the strategy is the necessity of developing the perspectives, awareness and capacities required for ensuring a smooth transition to a green economy among the entire workforce, from senior management down.

National Outcome 12: Internationally Competitive Industry Structures (Agriculture)

While the strategies articulated for agriculture will contribute toward a green economy, there are additional strategies that could increase this sector’s effectiveness.

- Expand the use of agriculture infrastructure to reduce food spoilage and loss
- Support improved land tenure rights of small farmers

- Promote procurement of sustainably produced food in the public and private sectors e.g. in schools, government agencies, tourism facilities
- Examine Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes for farmers and owners of forested lands who implement green practices.
- Develop or expand finance programmes for smallholder farmers, including weather-indexed micro-insurance to protect against natural hazards

GAPS RELATED TO THE GREEN ECONOMY NOT ACCOUNTED FOR IN VISION 2030 JAMAICA

As indicated above, Vision 2030 Jamaica goes a far way toward putting the country on the path toward a green economy. The previous section described a few of the existing strategies that can be further developed to meet the needs of a green economy. However, there is one cross-cutting issue that affects the effective achievement of a number of national outcomes. This is described below.

Research, data collection and data management

A cross-cutting issue that is critical for the transition to a green economy is research, data collection and data management. Implementing informed decision-making in all sectors requires that institutions adopt a consistent, science-based approach to the assessment and analysis of environmental resources. Rules must exist to ensure that scientific analysis is appropriately factored into policy decision-making and that feedback loops enable ongoing learning and adaptation. Up-to-date statistics

can facilitate research in areas such as the dynamics of the labour markets, productivity of resource use, and the scope for new areas for development. A national data collection system could be supported by regional initiatives for monitoring and inspection that facilitate the achievement of common regional standards.

FISCAL, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AREAS FOR FURTHER ADVANCING A GREEN ECONOMY STRATEGY

While Vision 2030 Jamaica is already pointing in the direction of taking Jamaica toward a green economy, a complementary national green economy strategy would speed and enhance the transition towards sustainable development. Key policy areas that should be included in a green economy strategy are described below.

Government investment and spending in areas that stimulate a green economy

The careful use of public expenditure and investment incentives can play an important role in encouraging green economic activity and in attracting investment from the private sector. Comprehensive analysis of national conditions and a range of existing and potential interventions should be undertaken to help determine which initiatives will be feasible and most likely to lead to a green economy. Interventions should be evaluated against the following criteria³:

- Is it aligned with sustainable development priorities, taking into account possible impacts across economic sectors?

³ Adapted from UNEP, 2011, Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

- Is it aligned with strategies to strengthen the country's national comparative advantage?
- Is it solution-neutral, avoiding designating specific technologies or firms as champions, and allowing market forces to best determine how to generate green outcomes?
- Can it be achieved?
- Is it strategically targeted to have long-term impacts on market dynamics that will continue after the funding or incentive is withdrawn?
- Is it designed with mechanisms to control costs?

Examples of government investment incentives are:

- Foregoing government revenue – by reducing or removing fees (e.g. permit and licence fees)
- Accelerated depreciation, which allows an investor to depreciate the value of eligible fixed assets at a higher rate, which reduces the investor's taxable income – often used to encourage the production of energy from renewable sources
- Loan support – through favourable lending conditions (such as loan guarantees or less stringent repayment conditions) or low-cost financing (such as subsidized interest rates or soft loans)
- Legislative support to favoured industries/economic sectors
- Feed-in tariffs, requiring electricity suppliers to purchase electricity from renewable energy sourced producers at a pre-determined price that is sufficiently attractive to stimulate new investment in the renewable sector — this ensures that these producers have a guaranteed market and an attractive return on investment for the electricity they produce

Green public procurement

Green public procurement is another form of government investment that can advance greening. Procurement of goods and services by governments and state-owned enterprises in Jamaica represents a large proportion of total public spending. By committing to purchase goods which meet certain criteria for sustainability, the Government can create critical market demand. Green procurement policies can be achieved largely through the reorientation of existing spending.

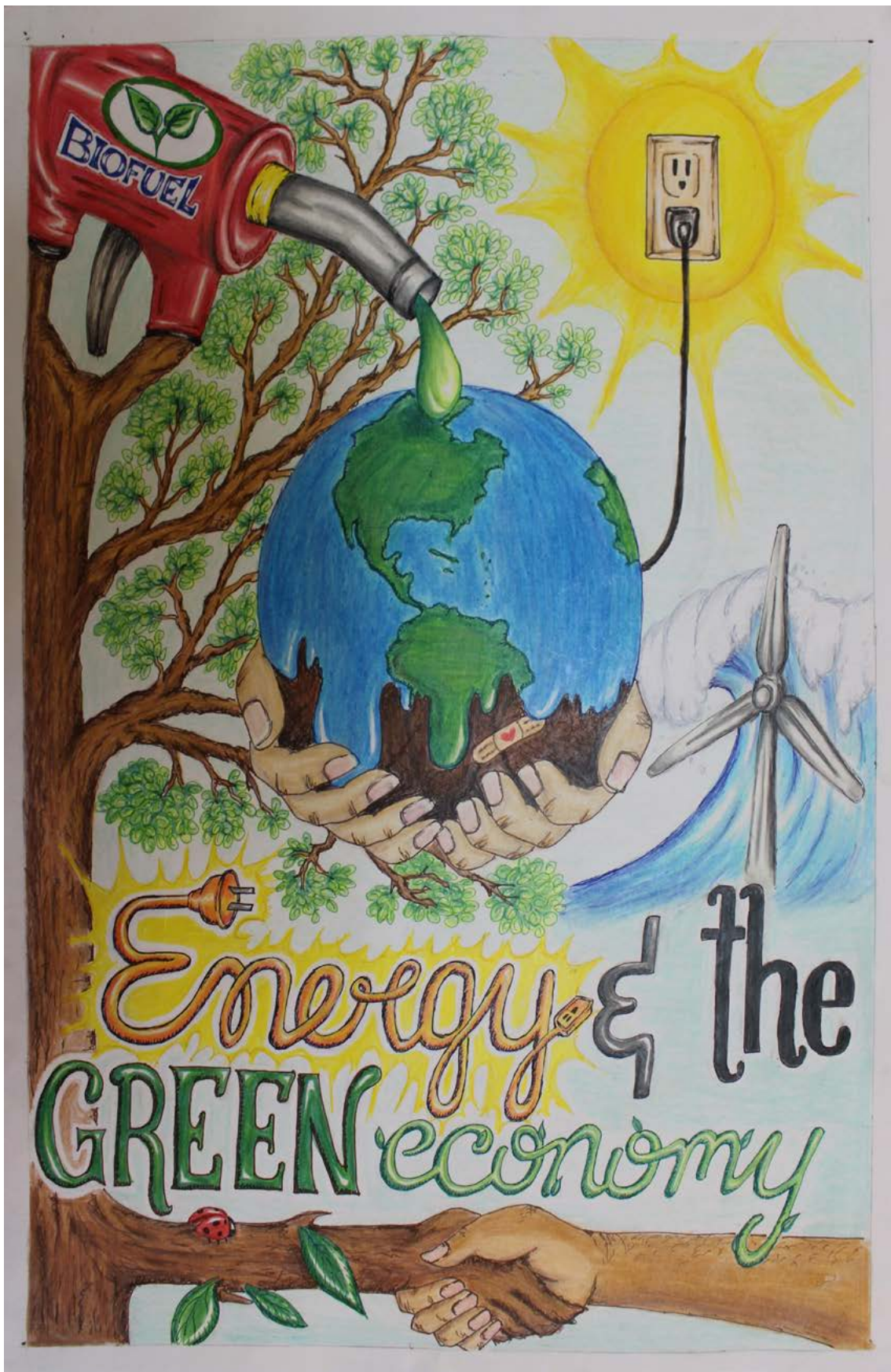
Reform of subsidies

Providing subsidies can come at a cost to provision of important public services and can encourage poor environmental and resource management. Artificially lowering the price of goods by subsidy can encourage inefficiency, waste and overuse, leading to the premature scarcity of valuable finite resources or the degradation of renewable resources and ecosystems. Jamaica should examine government subsidies in all sectors (agriculture, fisheries, energy etc.) and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of these subsidies to determine which may need to be reformed or removed.

Careful policy implementation is needed to offset undesired secondary impacts from reforming a subsidy. In some cases, subsidy reform can negatively affect the welfare of the poor, and complementary measures will be required to ensure a socially neutral or ideally progressive outcome.

A strategy for reforming subsidies could include the following:

- Design of complementary measures, such as short-term restructuring aid for industries, support and retraining for workers and welfare transfers for the poor
- Wide stakeholder consultation
- A strong communication strategy to reassure affected groups that they will be supported



Coreen Norman - Montego Bay High School

- Ongoing monitoring and review, essential to determine the effectiveness and any unintended consequences of subsidy reform, and whether the mitigation policies – especially financial support – are reaching their intended beneficiaries and achieving their objectives

Establishing sound regulatory frameworks

A well-designed regulatory framework can create rights and incentives that drive green economic activity, remove barriers to green investments, and regulate the most harmful forms of unsustainable behaviour, either by creating minimum standards or prohibiting certain activities entirely.

To use regulatory tools to promote green economic activity in key sectors, it is important to first establish the extent to which existing regulatory frameworks are aligned with policy objectives. This makes it possible to decide which laws should be amended and whether or not any new legislation is needed.

Evaluation of taxes

Tax incentives and rebates can be used to provide incentives for green economy behaviour. Examples include reductions in or rebates on property tax, import taxes and duties, general consumption tax etc. for purchase of green technology or services. However, a disadvantage of tax credits is that they do not lower the barrier of initial upfront payment, and therefore do not help low-income households as subsidies may.

Taxes can be used to promote a green economy by discouraging negative behaviours. Full cost accounting can be used to internalize the cost of an externality in the price of a good or service via a corrective tax, charge or levy. These taxes can provide incentives to reduce emissions and use natural resources more efficiently and can stimulate innovation. They can be based on “polluter pays” – focused on charging producers or consumers at the

point that they are responsible for the creation of a pollutant, or “user pays” – focused on charging for the extraction or use of natural resources. The overall tax burden can be kept unchanged by lowering negative incentive taxes simultaneously with the introduction of environment-related taxes (for example, replacing subsidies for fossil fuels with support for renewable energy). It should be noted that in cases where an activity should be prohibited, rather than reduced, regulatory measures are typically a more appropriate instrument than taxes.

BINDING CONSTRAINTS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

For Jamaica, the transition to the green economy will be enhanced by implementing the strategies presented above. This will require political will and an appropriate and facilitating policy framework. In addition, there must be:

Access to financial, human and social capital to implement programmes and projects related to the green economy strategies

- Implementation of public finance and fiscal measures that promote or enhance the implementation of strategies necessary to advance the green economy in Jamaica
- Increased capacity building and institutional strengthening
- Information sharing and technology transfer
- More effective monitoring and evaluation systems and enhanced focus on implementation
- Investment in education and training
- Improved enforcement of laws and policies
- Integrated, holistic planning
- Decision-making based on data and scientific analysis

CONCLUSION

It is clear that Jamaica can increase the global competitiveness of its economy by developing a low-carbon energy system, installing clean technology in its productive enterprises – including manufacture, mining, and quarrying – and producing goods and services that meet international environmental standards. The country also can increase resilience to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change by incorporating principles of environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation in the design of infrastructure, urban settlements, and ecosystem management. Further, Jamaica

has the ability to achieve these goals while pursuing social development and healthy communities in both rural and urban areas of the country.

In the five years since 2009, when implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica began, the country has made progress towards achievement of the four national goals and satisfying many of the key elements of a green economy. Ultimately, a national green economy strategy will support Vision 2030 Jamaica to achieve the vision of “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”.



Bob Marley Museum



Jamaican Boa or Yellow Snake – *Micheal Milinkovitch*



EUROPEAN UNION

This briefing paper documents Jamaica's existing support for the green economy within national policy and recommends how this support can be strengthened. In Jamaican policy the concept of the green economy is embedded in the country's national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica. This paper identifies areas of Vision 2030 Jamaica that directly or indirectly impact or are impacted by a transition to a green economy as well as strategies identified in Vision 2030 Jamaica that could be enhanced through greening the economy and policy gaps related to the green economy not accounted for in Vision 2030 Jamaica. Following from these, the paper recommends fiscal, regulatory and institutional reform areas that can be enhanced as part of an inclusive green economy strategy. The aim of the recommendations is reduce the country's high level of poverty while contributing to a more sustainable developmental path.

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