

Foreword

The ‘Achieving a Resilient Future for Small States: Caribbean 2050’ project, aimed at tackling the problems facing the Caribbean, posed some tough questions to policy-makers and development partners in the region. Do current development strategies set the region on a path to achieve sustainable development? What happens if the region continues on its current policy path? And is the region positioned to capitalise on the use of its limited resources and emerging opportunities?

In this publication, the Commonwealth has sought to answer these questions, focusing on some of the key factors for catalysing change across the region and informed by a wide cross-section of regional ‘thought leaders’. Among these are stakeholders involved in citizen security, energy, youth development, financing for development, private sector development and innovation.

A modelling exercise using selected Caribbean countries was undertaken to identify the future direction of the region. While acknowledging current and future threats, such as lack of competitiveness, human and financial resource constraints, crippling debt, limited access to development financing and citizen insecurity, the findings make it clear that the ‘business-as-usual’ approach is not an option. The findings of this research-based initiative challenge regional policy-makers and stakeholders to apply fresh thinking to eradicate the persisting epidemic of arrested growth and development in the Caribbean region.

This publication offers strategies that will seek to balance the concerns of survivability today and sustainability tomorrow, with a focus on a long enough period to affect necessary changes; recapture the potential of young people across the Caribbean; renew and re-energise the focus on the need to secure the energy requirements of the region; and address the need for a truly transformational system of governance across the region, while strengthening systems that safeguard against corruption and ineffectiveness.

The Commonwealth is committed to supporting the region in planning for, and realising the vision for, the Caribbean we want by 2050, built on resilience. We believe this publication, with its in-depth analysis and action-oriented recommendations, is a critical step in the right direction and will be of interest to policy-makers, stakeholders, key development partners, academics and those with an interest in the Caribbean.

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