

Appendix 2

Project approach

To gain insight into potential areas of focus within the remit of the project, an Advisory Group – comprising regional ‘thought leaders’, including senior policy-makers within the Caribbean, and chaired by the Commonwealth Secretariat Deputy Secretary-General – was convened. Given the multifaceted nature of development, the Commonwealth adopted a multidisciplinary approach in the selection of experts for the group, covering economic, social and environmental disciplines. The members of the group were the Hon. Winston Dookeran (Minister of Foreign Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago); Rod Pennycook (Chair of the Board of the Royal Bank of Canada); Dr David Smith (Coordinator of the University Consortium of Small Island States); Dr Wendy Grenade (lecturer at the UWI); Farmala Jacobs (Caribbean Youth Network representative); the Deputy Secretary-General of Economic and Social Development, Deodat Maharaj; and Dr Denny Lewis-Bynoe, Acting Head of Climate Finance and Small States in the Economic Policy Division of the Commonwealth. They met in Trinidad and Tobago and deliberated on the concept and approach for building the resilience of Caribbean economies and developing a vision for the Caribbean that embodies the aspirations of its people. In their choice of topics for consideration, the Advisory Group drew on their considerable knowledge of the region, identified those issues that are likely to be most transformative for the development of the region, and decided those that were to be the project’s areas of focus.

The study commissioned by the Commonwealth includes research by a team of consultants, who contributed their expertise in the areas of economic modelling, the private sector and innovation, citizen security, development strategies and visioning to the report. In addition, the Commonwealth drew on internal expertise for the sections on youth and financing for development.

The project also involved broad stakeholder consultation, including with Caribbean youth networks, and social media interventions. In addition, initial findings were presented and shared at two high-level fora in the region: the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UWI and Government of Trinidad-sponsored Caribbean Future Forum.

This vision was developed from a wide range of sources, including through a range of consultations from across the Caribbean region (outlined in Box A2.1). The process is illustrated in Figure A2.1.

Box A2.1 Development of the Caribbean Vision 2050

The vision for the Caribbean was developed using a widely consultative process, which included reviews of national strategic and development plans, in order to identify the elements that were common to all countries in the region and the CARICOM Strategic Plan for 2015–2019. The plans vary from short to long term, and they all present a situational assessment for each country that is then addressed through a strategic framework with a vision, goals, objectives and strategies. The commonalities that were identified were then interpreted as the key areas of focus – in terms of both assessment and strategies – across the region. Together with those from the CARICOM Strategy, the common themes emerging from the country plans were synthesised in order to develop the elements of Vision 2050 (see Appendix 2 for a synthesis of the review of national strategic and development plans).

The second element in the process of developing Vision 2050 involved eliciting the perspectives of a cross-section of Caribbean stakeholders on his/her vision for the Caribbean to 2050; the greatest challenges/threats to achieving this vision in his/her sector during the timeframe and how these can be surmounted; the extent to which any of the strategies for surmounting the identified challenges are already being implemented; and his/her views as to the potential benefits to regional co-operation in relation to addressing the challenges previously identified. Consultations were undertaken through various means:

1. A survey of the public and private sectors, as well as civil society and youth representatives in four Caribbean countries, in order to determine their views on some of the critical issues facing the region.
2. A meeting of Caribbean ‘thought leaders’: the Commonwealth selected a Caribbean Advisory Group to guide the development of the analytical and strategic work. The group, which covered economic, social and environmental disciplines, deliberated for a full day on the concept of and approach to building the resilience of Caribbean economies, offered its vision for the Caribbean
3. A Facebook page to solicit contributions to the strategies and vision.
4. A presentation of the initial findings of the study at the Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Antigua on 29 April 2015.
5. Finally, the vision – as well as key elements of the strategic framework stemming from the imperative for change – was presented at a three-day future forum of approximately 300 regional and international stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago in early May 2015. The session was highly interactive and provided substantive interactions and feedback, which enabled the further refinement of the framework.

Figure A2.1 Methodology used to develop Vision 2050

