

Overview of the outcomes at the Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Rio Principle 10 in the Caribbean Region

UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Latin
America and the Caribbean
18-19 November 2013, Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá

Mr. Stefan Knights

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To provide a succinct overview of the common best practices and challenges to the implementation of Rio Principle 10 in the Caribbean
- ▶ To highlight some of needs to effectively implement Principle 10 in the Caribbean.

Presentation is limited to 10 – 15 minutes

The Rio Declaration:
Principle 10
What it Means to You



Access to Environment Information

Best Practices:

1. Laws are enacted in the following countries to ensure freedom to information:

Antigua and Barbuda

Belize

Dominican Republic

Guyana

Jamaica

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Trinidad and Tobago



Access to Environment Information

Best Practices:

The Public is able to obtain environmental information from:

Radio Programmes

Television Programmes

Social media - emails, blogs, facebook and twitter

Public consultation



Access to Environment Information

Challenges:

Information is difficult to comprehend.

Information not relevant and fitting to the Caribbean.

Public Participation in Decisions that Affect the Environment

Best Practices

The Public is able to influence the decision making process through the following mediums:

Radio Programmes

Television Programmes

Social media - emails, blogs, facebook and twitter

Public consultation



Public Participation in Decisions that Affect the Environment

Challenges

Public Participation is affected by:

Late inclusion of the public in the decision making process.

Inconvenient scheduling of public consultations.

Corruption

Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Best Practices

1. There is a Constitutional basis for access to environmental justice in the following countries:

Article 29 of the British Virgin Islands Constitution of 2007

Article 18 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order (2011)

Article 27 of the Constitution of Cuba

Article 149(J) of 1980 Constitution of Guyana, (2003 Amendment)

Section 13(3)(I) Jamaican Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2011

Articles 6 and 41 of 1987 Constitution of Suriname



Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Best Practices

2. Most countries have an Environmental Protection Act and similar legislation.
3. Trinidad and Tobago has established an Environmental Commission.

Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Best Practices

4. Caribbean Judges have been attending regional and international workshops and conferences on the environment:

2001 – Gros Islet, St. Lucia Symposium

2002 – Johannesburg, Global Symposium

2004 – Chief Justices' Meeting, Braco, Trelawny, Jamaica

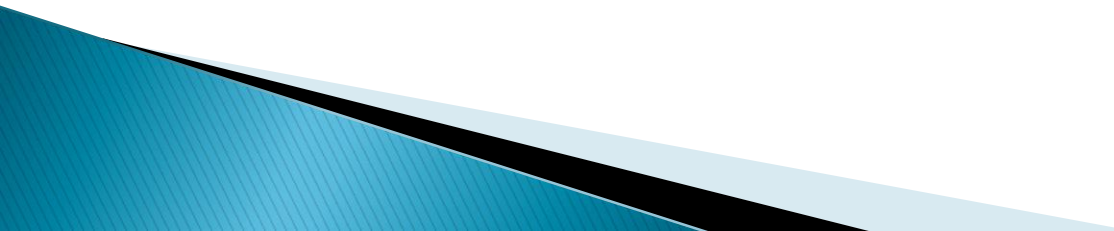
2011 – Workshop, Montego Bay, Jamaica

2012 – World Congress, Brazil

2012 – Symposium, Bay Gardens, St. Lucia

Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Challenges

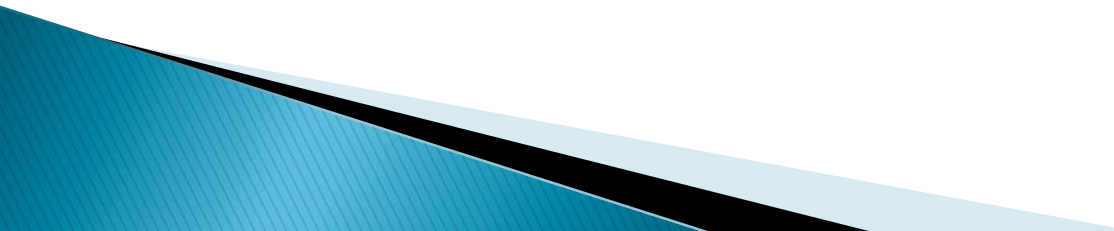
1. Judges and lawyers are not sufficiently equipped to handle complex environmental cases.
 2. It is costly for NGOs and concerned citizens to institute legal proceedings against people who damage the environment.
 3. Some of our environmental laws are out-dated and the fines for crimes against the environment are very low.
- 

Youth Initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean

PIDES International


Caribbean Youth Environment Network

TUNZA Youth Network



Effectively Implementing Rio Principle 10

We need:

- 1. More Public education programmes on the environment and sustainable development.**
 - 2. More technical and specialist personnel in the Caribbean.**
 - 3. The establishment of a regional court to address environmental matters only.**
 - 4. More Caribbean countries to sign the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean**
- 

THANK YOU

