
PATTERNS OF CARIBBEAN LIVELIHOODS

OBJECTIVES

- ✘ Highlight the livelihood issues within the Caribbean
- ✘ Building a body of knowledge that can contribute to Sustainable livelihoods within the Caribbean.
- ✘ Two case studies : St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Grenada are used

ORDER OF PRESENTATION

- Briefly introduce the concept of Sustainable Livelihood.
- Outline the Sustainable Livelihood Approach – DFID, IFAD
- A macroeconomic overview of SVG and an application of Sustainable Livelihoods concept from an agrarian standpoint.
- A macroeconomic overview of Grenada and an application of Sustainable Livelihood from a marine/fisheries standpoint.
- Conclude

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD (SL)

- Introduced by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development in the 1980s,
- Began as
 - *“an approach to maintain or enhance resource productivity, secure ownership of and access to assets, resources and income-earning activities as well as to ensure adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs. It was a reflection of the growing recognition that food security was not merely a problem of agricultural productivity but was a problem of poverty in all its multi faceted dimensions”*

-
- ✘ The 1992 UNCED initiated the first expansion in the context of Agenda 21.
 - ✘ *Agenda 21 stated that SL could serve as an integrating factor that allows policies to address development, sustainable resource management and poverty eradication simultaneously.*

- Chambers and Conway 1992.

“A livelihood in its simplest sense is a means of gaining a living. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide SL opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long-term”

AUTHORS WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DEFINITION SL

- Wallman 1984
- Singh and Titi (1994)
- Naresh C. 1996, 2000, 2002 (numerous Publication)
- Gilman Jonathan (2000), (2002)
- Scoones, 1998
- Carney's 1998
- Farrington et al, 1999
- Ellis 2000
- Krantz 2001
- Soussan, J., Piers Blaikie, Oliver Springate-Baginski and Mathew Chadwick (2003)
- Messer and Townsley 2003
- *Pantin*, D., D. Brown, M. Mycoo, C. Toppin-Allahar, J. Gobin, W. Rennie, and J. Hancock. 2004

MAIN ELEMENTS OF DEFINITION

- Derived from a set of wider issues: intergenerational component, natural resource usage and linkage to poverty and social institutions and processes
- It includes debate about the relationships between poverty and environment
- It draws on many elements of development and in its achievement trade-offs between productivity, equity and sustainability are critical.
- The term is that it is always subject to negotiation; to allow contradictions and trade-offs between different elements of the composite definition to be recognized.

THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD APPROACH (SLA)

- It is a way of thinking :objectives, scope and priorities for development.
- It is evolutionary rather than revolutionary, difficult to ascribe benefits / difficulties to SLA, rather than to good development practice.
- It can be used primarily as an analytical framework (or tool) for programme planning and assessment or as a programme in itself.
- The SLA or in some cases the Livelihood Approach has been developed and used by many development agencies : UNDP, CARE, DFID, OXFAM, IFAD, PGIEP and LAL.

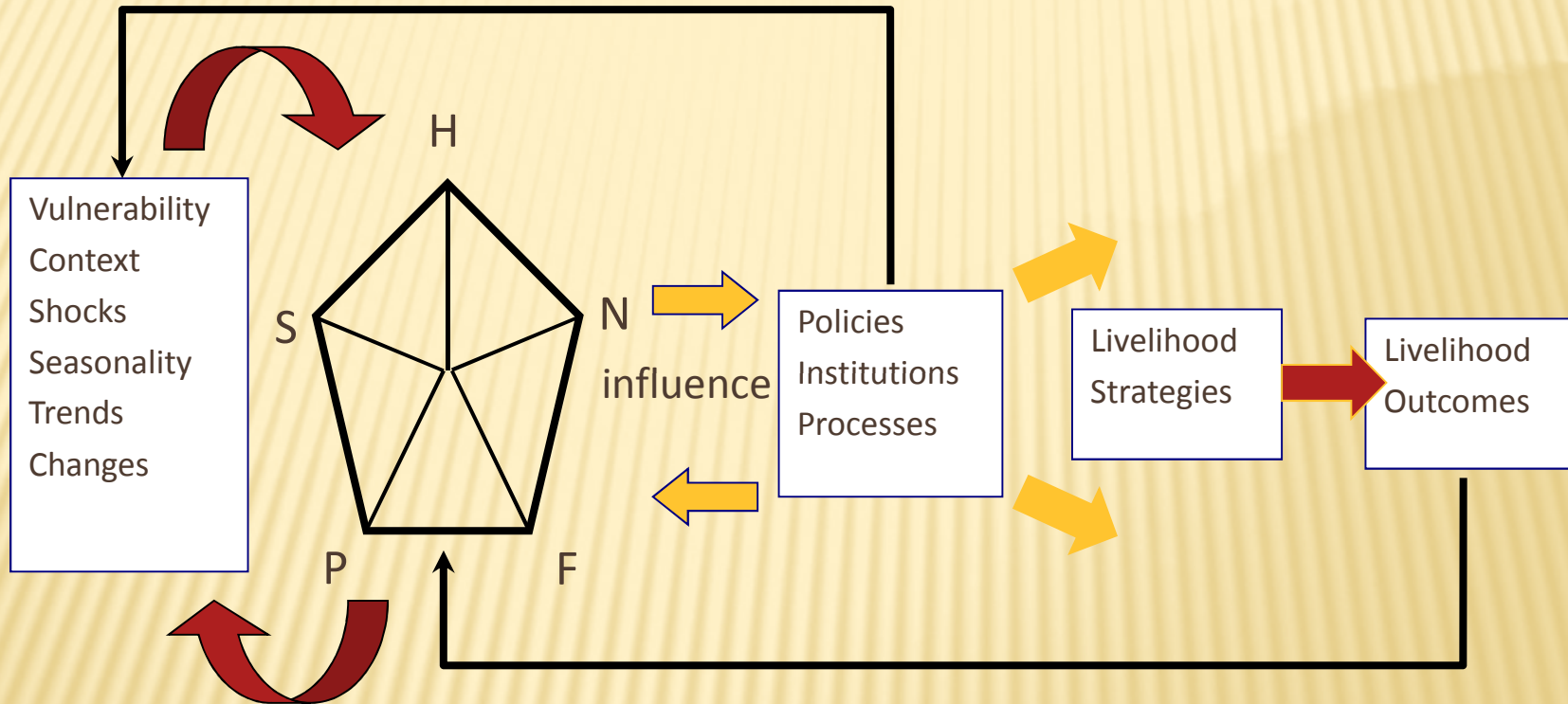
-
- There are three basic features common to most approaches:
 - The focus is on the livelihoods of the poor;
 - The approach rejects the standard procedure of conventional approaches of taking a specific sector as an entry point;
 - The approach places great emphasis on involving people in both the identification and the implementation of activities where appropriate.
 - For the purpose of this paper, two approaches, DFID (the conventional) and IFAD (considering improvements in DFID) will be considered.

DFID

- DFID SLA is based on a framework
- It defines and categorises the types of assets and entitlements which households have access to and examines the different factors that influence household livelihood security.
- It looks at the connections between the local or micro situation and actors, institutions and processes at work in the wider world.

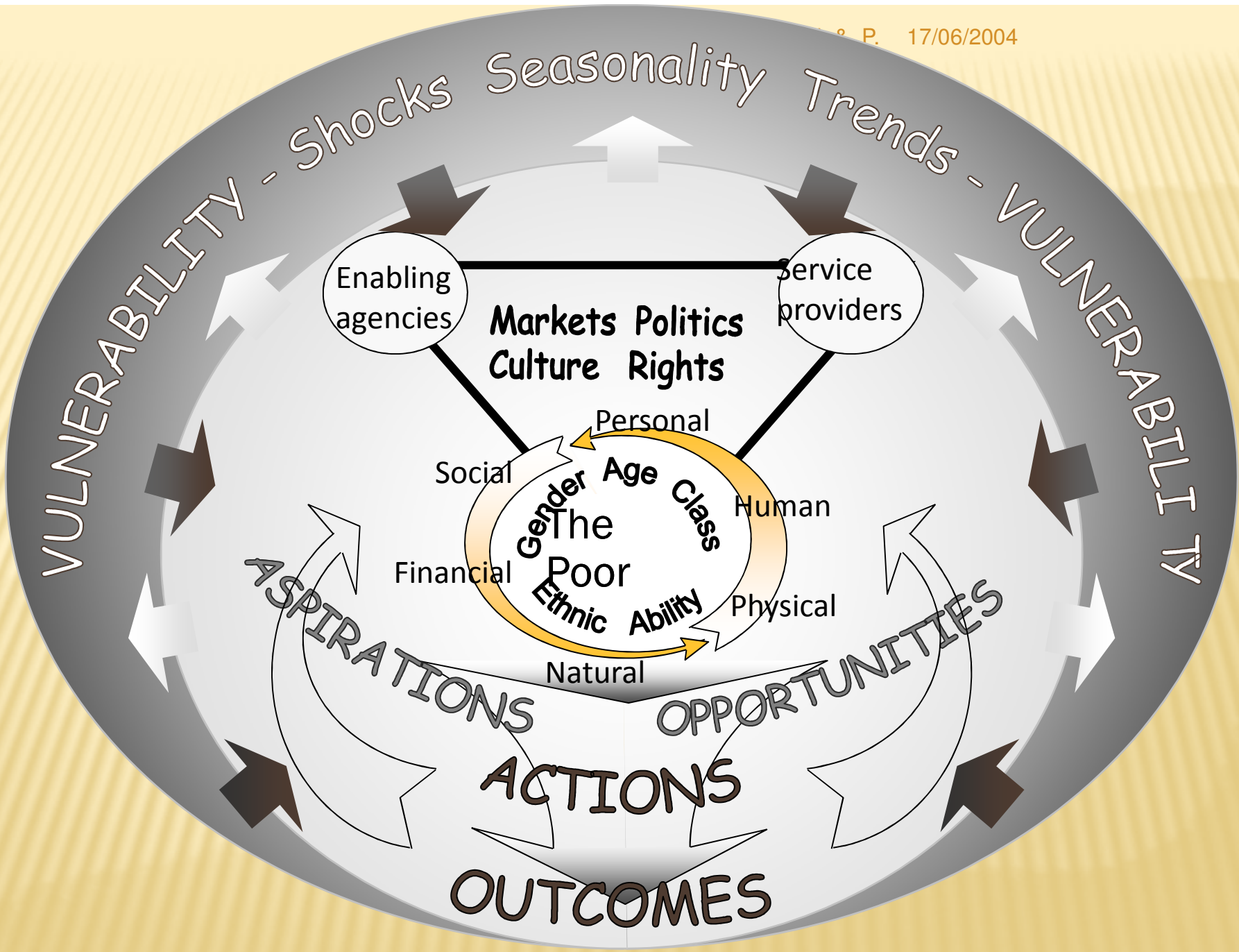
- In particular, the framework:
 - *provides a checklist of important issues and sketches out the way these link to each other;*
 - *draws attention to core influences and processes; and*
 - *emphasizes the multiple interactions between the various factors which affect livelihoods*
- The framework does not:
 - provide an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered,
 - does not work in a linear manner
 - intend to be an exact model of reality.
 - define poverty.
- It is a
 - planning and assessment tool
 - an analytical structure which focuses factors affecting livelihoods, livelihood opportunities, their importance and methods of interaction, where it concerns poverty reduction.
- The framework therefore, aids the identification of appropriate entry points for support of livelihoods.

DFID FRAMEWORK



IFAD

- IFAD SLA focuses on the methodology that development practitioners use to positively impact livelihoods.
- It results from changes that would have been applied to the DFID framework. These include:
 - It is less "sequential"
 - It rearranges the framework
 - The key "processes" are highlighted to personalize them.
 - IFAD has unpacked the "Policies, Institutions and Processes, (PIP) box "hub model" of institutional analysis giving greater salience to key functions, incorporating policies into the analysis and identifying other elements that have strong influences, particularly on the ways in which the poor interact with institutions.



MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW SVG

- SVG is a small open economy divided into fifteen political constituencies, including the Grenadine Islands and is a member of the OECS.
- Population is approximately 113,000 (2005), land space approximately 390 (sq km) with a **density**: 290 persons/sq. km.
- The population growth rate is approximately 1%/year. Approximately 46% (1994) is considered to be **urban**.
- Life expectancy is estimated at 72.3 years, adult literacy at 82.0% and the human development index is 0.836.
- Agriculture is the main stay of the economy with the banana industry being the major income generator, even though the industry is declining. Real GDP has grown approximately 4% between 1990 and 2005.
- Agriculture, Construction, Wholesale and Retail are the key sectors and as such are the sectors which employ the most persons. The unemployment rate in 2001 was approximately 21% and the labour force participation rate was 59.4%.
- The island is vulnerable to internal and external shock due to its small size and openness, the existence of the Soufriere volcano, and its location along a major earthquake fault and in the Atlantic hurricane belt.
- The economy has therefore been undergoing a structural transformation (1990-2007) which emphasized tourism, financial services and the service sectors.

CASE STUDY

- Byrea is a hilly farming community on the northern/windward side of SVG, farming since the 1960s
- The land is owned, rented or leased based on the land distribution policies the government.
- With bananas there is no subsistence, all produce is sold.
- 40 to 60 boxes of bananas are yielded fortnightly from a 4 ½ areas of land. The estimated income from this is approximately \$800: 1600 per month.
- The bananas can be sold to two main markets namely the fair trade market (\$18/box) and the regional market (\$13/box). Bananas are rejected when they are older than 2 weeks.
- The more costly inputs are labour inputs into the process are labour \$40/50 EC per day and Fertilizer/Chemical was priced at \$120 per bag.
- The industry has declined severely from 8000 to 1200 banana farmers.
- Production has declined due to changes in soil quality and the inability to apply frequent applications of fertilizer. Production is based on manure and the amount that can be afforded.
- The farmers believe that to keep the industry sustainable, the cost of inputs must be reduced and the price of the finished product must be increased.
- With the occurrence of natural disasters – storms, hurricanes and heavy rains, farmers experience a “crops spoil” and “wind crop”.

LIVELIHOOD ISSUES

- Seasonality - the weather conditions can vary from heavy rains to hurricanes,
- There is little control over natural assets. Farmers have access to their recently regularized portion of land.
- The farmers of SVG have little input into the major policies that affect them.

- The strategies utilized are constant. The farmers are mainly mature female head of households who choose agriculture and depend on it solely for their livelihood. They try to reduce cost by helping each other at harvest time and reaping for each other in the event of sickness
-
- **Natural Resource Dependence**
- The livelihoods of the farmers are dependent upon the natural assets: the land, the water, the manure etc.
- They are improvised by the drive to achieve environmental sustainability ignoring other dimensions , economic, institutional, and social
- To maintain livelihoods some farmers have adopted illegal practices
- .

MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW GRENADA

- Grenada a triisland state comprising Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique is divided into fifteen political constituencies.
- The population in 1996 was 98,900 , however, by 2015 its estimated to be 111,000.
- The land area is 344 square kilometres or 133 square miles.
- The population growth rate in 1996 was approximately 1%/year and is expected to slow to 0.5%/year in 2015.
- The population density is 275 persons/ sq. km (2000).
- Much of Grenada, outside of St. George's Parish, can be considered rural,
- Life expectancy is estimated in 2007 at 75.3 years, adult literacy at 96% and the human development index is 0.813.
- Grenada's economy has shifted from being agrarian to services-dominant, with tourism being the leading foreign earner.
- Manufacturing industries in Grenada operate mostly on a small scale.
- The unemployment rate in 2000 was approximately 12.5% and the labour force participation rate was 43%. GDP per capita was \$7,344 and the annual growth rate between 1990 and 2007 was 2.4%. Real GDP growth rates were estimated at 3.7% in 2008.
- The islands are in the path of the annual hurricanes and have sustained severe damage on occasion over the last 50 years as the most recent experiences were hurricanes Ivan (2004) and Emily (2005).

CASE STUDY

- Soubise is a coastal, fishing community located mid-way along the eastern coast in the parish of St. Andrew.
- Soubise was impacted by Hurricane Ivan (2004) and Emily (2005)
- With storms and hurricanes boats and engines were destroyed.
- Fishermen were unable to catch fish or even command prices or incomes similar to the pre-Ivan and Emily period because there was an overall decline in the demand for fish in the post-disaster period.
- Mental health impacts on children and other family members included shock, worrying, stress, fear of rainfall, fear of the sea and fear of separation from their family members.
- Fishermen were unable to return to the sea immediately after hurricanes because of poor weather conditions and damage to their boats. Restart of trade varied between 2 to 18 months .

LIVELIHOODS ISSUES

- Seasonality - The impact of inclement weather during the rainy season and its potential to develop into tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Security of equipment and time frame for securing such - their activities can be hampered by as little as rough seas bulletins to hurricanes.
- The natural asset for fishermen is the sea - the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic ocean. Fishing is an extractive livelihood. Catchment is affected by many factors including climatic changes, over which there is limited predictability.
-
- **Natural Resource Dependence**
- The extractive livelihoods of the fishermen make them dependant upon natural assets and vulnerable. They are improvised by environmental
- Their ability to effectively and efficiently execute a livelihood strategy and their ability to create positive livelihood outcomes – creating or increasing incomes is affected.
-

CONCLUSION

- The achievement of Sustainable Livelihoods focuses on three main issues: development, poverty reduction and sustainable resource management simultaneously.
- Caribbean economies are extractive, agrarian and in some exceptional cases industrial. Regardless of which is dominant, natural resources are at the centre. Once there is any shock to the natural environment the notion of building a sustainable livelihood is threatened.
- What is the plan of action when their main source of livelihoods have been disrupted. The answer could be based on the achievement of Sustainable Livelihoods

THANK YOU!