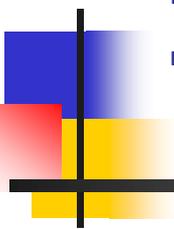
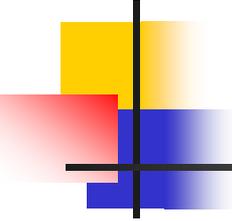


TOWARDS STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLANNING IN JAMAICA: THE NATIONAL SPATIAL PLAN



**JIEP 5th Biennial Conference on the Environment:
“Balancing National Development and Environmental Protection”
June 6, 2011
Jamaica Pegasus, Kingston**



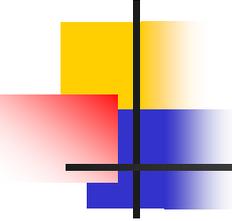
Overview of Presentation

- Brief History of National Development Planning
 - Short term development plans
 - National Physical Plans (NPP)
- Implementation of NPPs
 - Settlement Strategy
- Way Forward
 - National Spatial Plan
- Recommendations

National Development

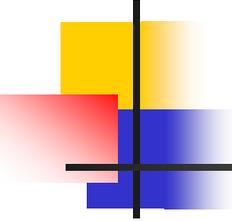
Planning – The Early Years

- The preparation of short to medium term development plans were prepared from as early as the 1940s.
- These development plans had a predominantly economic focus
- There was no mechanism or strategy for translation of these development plans into a spatial dimension.



National Physical Plans – The transition

- The need for long term national development planning precipitated Jamaica's first attempt at spatial planning
 - resulted in the National Physical Plan for Jamaica 1970 – 1990
- According to McHardy (2002) the largely socio-economic focus rather than the necessary focus on the physical environment in part led to the subsequent preparation another twenty-year plan for Jamaica eight years later

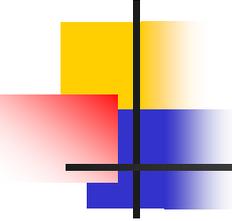


National Physical Plans –

The transition

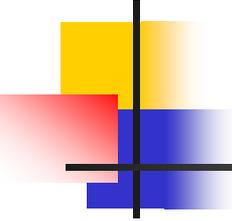
- The existing National Physical Plan 1978 – 1998 attempted to address the spatial structure of the islands physical and environmental resources in a more comprehensive manner.
- included recommendations and strategies for an overall national development strategy
 - were informed by background studies on themes such as Population characteristics, Housing, Transportation, Conservation, Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Tourism, Manufacturing, Public utilities (water, electricity, telephone system) and Settlement structure.

National Settlement Strategy



- The National settlement strategy was seen to be a vehicle through which the rationalization of land uses could be achieved along with a better balance of social, economic and physical development across the Island.
- The main objectives of the National Settlement Strategy in the NPP 1978 – 1998 were to
 - rationalize the rural to urban ratio by providing strategies to minimize rural migration to large urban centres,
 - improve rural centres by decentralizing development across a hierarchy of settlements island wide
 - control urban sprawl

National Settlement Strategy



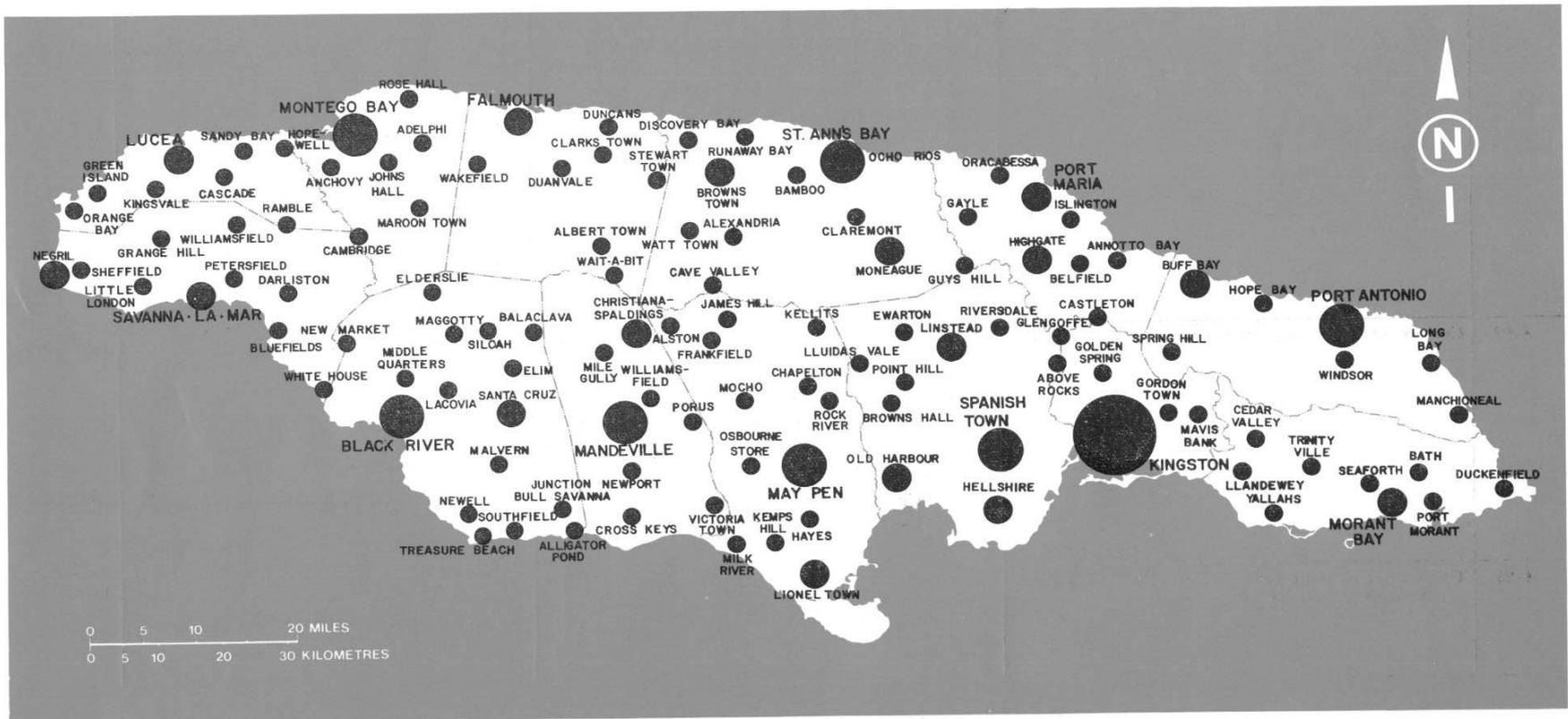
- The NSS proposed that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass would be targeted for investment through a hierarchy of settlements.
- Thus developing efficient and sustainable cities, towns and rural places to bring a better spread of opportunities, better quality of life and better places to live in.

Recommendations and Strategies

Map 1

- Regional Centres
- Sub-Regional Centres
- District Centres

SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

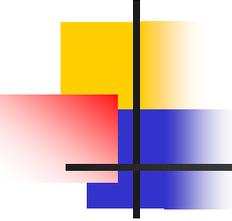


National Settlement

Strategy — success or failure ?

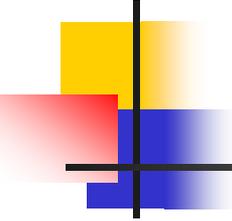
Planning efforts have had only limited success, due to inherent weaknesses which included

- relatively short-term planning horizons,
- inadequate system to support implementation,
- weak synergies between objectives, strategies and budgets
- Absence of targets, indicators, monitoring and evaluation framework,



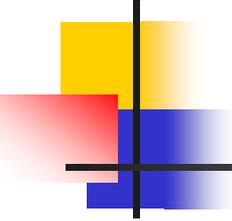
Need for an updated National Physical Plan

- Increasing pressure on coastal zone
- Increasing pressure of competing land uses for limited land resources
- Need to plan for impacts of and adaptation to climate change
- Need to apply modern tools for rationalizing land use
 - modeling and natural resource valuation



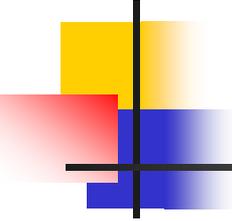
Need for an updated National Physical Plan

- A modern framework for integrated spatial planning and basis for prioritizing and rationalizing land dependent decisions is required.
- Presently there are no mechanisms in place which make the appropriate spatial links between land use planning and the economic development path of the country.



Way Forward-Strategic spatial planning

"spatial planning gives geographical expression to the economic, social, cultural and ecological policies of society. It is directed towards achieving balanced regional development and the physical organisation of space according to an overall strategy."

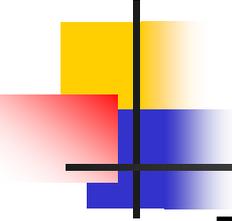


National Spatial Plan – The Way Forward

A Government of Jamaica / Caribbean Development Bank grant funded project

It is being implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister, with full time technical support from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

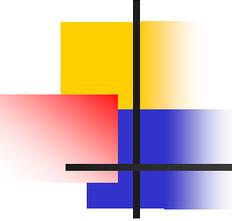
The main project objectives address the need for broad spatial planning objectives and guiding principles which are required for sustainable development at national and regional levels.



National Spatial Plan – The Way Forward

The Project profile for the development of the National Spatial Plan for Jamaica lists five major objectives which are as follows.

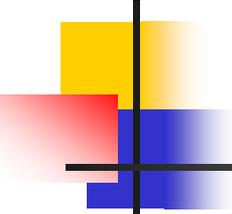
- To set a national context for spatial planning at the local level.
- To optimize the use of land and natural resources by providing a framework for making sustainable locational choices.
- To improve governmental capacity to formulate, coordinate and implement integrated rural development policies and programmes in order to address spatially unbalanced development.



National Spatial Plan – The Way Forward

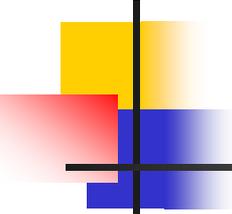
The main project objectives

- To inform strategic infrastructure policy and public investment decisions which support the achievement of balanced regional development,
- To strengthen inter-sectoral coordination within a spatial framework and provide the private sector with a clear context to in which they can make investment decisions.



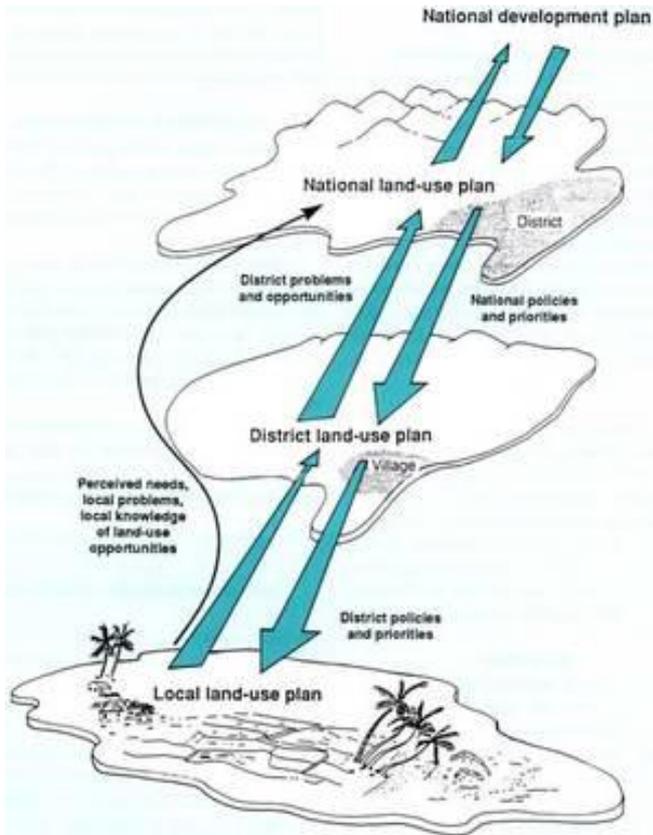
Strategic alignment with the Vision 2030

- The National Spatial Plan is intentionally aligned with the long term National Development Plan - **Vision 2030 Jamaica**,
 - which sets out development goals along with strategic objectives and priorities and provides the framework for the transformation of the Jamaican society and economy by 2030.



Strategic alignment with the Vision 2030

- With respect to urban and rural development strategies outlined in National Outcome ***#15 Sustainable Urban and Rural Development*** include:
 - create a framework that will support sustainable development of all parishes.
 - ensure that development decisions are guided by a spatial planning framework ie, the national spatial plan
 - accelerate the implementation of strategic regional centres which will play an integral role in balanced rural urban development.
- This strategic alignment with the Vision 2030 National Development Plan is to amongst other reasons to ensure that the spatial link between development objectives and investment decisions will be made

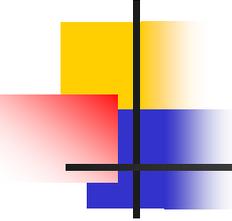


Vision 2030

National Spatial Plan

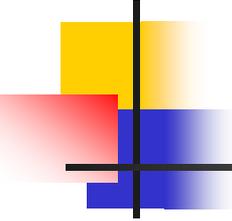
Regional plans
Development Orders/Plans

Community Plans



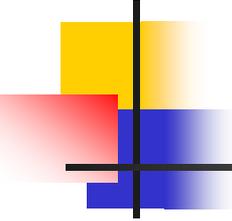
Conclusion

- Jamaica has not lacked in the development of numerous strategies and plans geared towards all aspects of National Development or considered focus on a national spatial planning directions,
- previous National Physical Plans attempted to provide guidance for strategic national development.



Conclusion

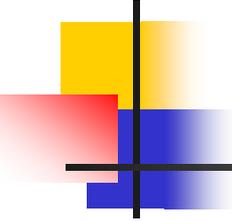
- Through preliminary assessments it was realized that several strategies and recommendations were adopted, though not in the specific timeframes due to several reasons some of which include lack of coordination and prioritization and budgetary constraints.
- It would seem however that the primary downfalls were
 - lack of the necessary implementation framework
 - Insufficient strategy for adoption
 - No system identified for alignment of budgets for implementation by Government Ministries.
 - No targets/indicators developed to assess level of implementation



Recommendations

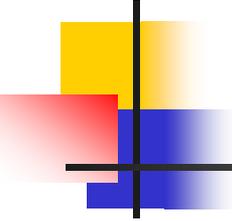
Some preliminary recommendations may be provided In order to ensure adherence to and relevance of the NSP these include:

- ensure that the NSP is incorporated into a legal framework which requires alignment with national, regional, local and community planning
- framework for the integration of short and long-term plans prepared by Ministries and Agencies involved in development planning must be adopted at the highest level to ensure concurrency and coordination amongst sectors.



Recommendations

- Implementation strategy must involve the tying of budget allocation to Ministries and Agencies responsible for carrying out identified strategies
- Development of a results-based monitoring and evaluation mechanism that establishes specific targets and indicators to evaluate adherence to the plan and inform future plan revision



Recommendations

- A system of monitoring and review should be developed
 - include the establishment of permanent national body tasked with periodic review to highlight achievements and failures of the past period, and goals for the future;
- mechanisms to make reasoned adjustments to the plan during implementation –use of modeling software to evaluate effects of policy and decisions made to ensure successful achievement of national goals