

## *Problems and Issues*

Despite the Region's great natural beauty, there are striking examples of polluted harbours, silt laden rivers, and contaminated aquifers. Environmental degradation is both cause and effect with respect to human poverty. Thus, the sea lanes of the Caribbean, crowded with merchant shipping, have also become the exodus routes for refugees fleeing degraded ecosystems no longer able to sustain even subsistence agriculture. Some root causes for environmental deterioration and economic decline in the Wider Caribbean Region include

