



**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC**

10 April 2003, San Juan, Puerto Rico

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.724/Add.3
MONCOM 11/5/Add.3
26 March 2003
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

10-1

BIBLIOTECA

23 JUL 2003

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PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE

**ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORK
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION OF EXTRABUDGETARY PROJECTS**

2002 - 2003 biennium

[As at 30 March 2003]



ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY ECLAC/CDCC

Dutch-Funded projects

1. Development of Social Statistical Data Bases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States, NET/00/035

Background

In responding to the articulated needs for greater availability and a better quality of social statistical data, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat is currently executing a project on the "Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States". This project aims to provide data, at the relevant scale of aggregation, for the improvement of social indicators to inform social policy. In addition, the project will strengthen the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate social policies in the subregion. Governments of the subregion have articulated the need for greater availability and better quality of data and mandated action to be taken to achieve those goals at a number of world summits and regional meetings.

Government's support for the project was articulated by ministers at the subregional level at the eighteenth session of the CDCC, held from 30 March to 1 April 2000. This was formalized through resolution 52(XVII) introduced by Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Aruba, and supported by all governments present.

To date, 10 countries: Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, have agreed to release data to the subregional databases project. In addition, regional institutions and organisations such as UNICEF, Caribbean Tourism Organisation, UNESCO, CAREC and PAHO/WHO continue to participate in activities related to the project as well as CARICOM and the University of the West Indies via its *Derek Gordon Data Bank*.

Project objectives

1. To improve the social conditions of persons living in ECLAC/CDCC member states by strengthening the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate social policies;
2. To create, maintain and use a fully searchable social database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean;

3. To build capacity at the national and subregional levels for the monitoring and evaluation of social vulnerability among small, open economies of the Caribbean, through linkages with national and regional databases on social statistics and training of social planners in the use of social statistics for policy formulation;
4. To make available to policy makers in the subregion a comparative analytical framework based on the available social data for informed social policy development relevant to poverty eradication, social equity and gender equality and the eradication of violence against women;

Outputs of the project

1. A fully searchable database of socio-demographic statistics for all ECLAC/CDCC member countries, housed/linked through the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean;
2. Creation of socio-demographic data sets at the national level, stored electronically;
3. Trained personnel at country level capable of monitoring and evaluating social indices as a tool for policy formulation;
4. An integrated data collection protocol on violence against women;
5. Organized socio-demographic databases at the national level in all ECLAC/CDCC countries;
6. Publication of a Compendium of Social Statistics;
7. Publication of the Second Digest of Social Statistics;
8. Methodology for construction of social vulnerability index; and
9. Manual for use in the construction and review of the SVI.

Status of implementation

The activities undertaken thus far in the project are geared towards ensuring that social statistical data are reliable, accessible, and comparable and support social analysis. The secretariat has already established three functional databases, containing population census, survey of living conditions and labour force survey data. It is expected that the social databases will become fully searchable during the second semester, 2003.

The databases, identified as a good repository for census and other social statistics, will go a long way in increasing the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate social policies. It is envisaged that the social statistical databases will become the engine for

enhanced social policy capacity in the subregion and a vehicle for analyzing the social components of the development challenge.

Meetings

In an effort to ensure that the project meets all its objectives, the secretariat has convened nine ad hoc meetings to seek guidance on the development of the statistical databases and the Social Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States.

Workshops

To date, two training workshops in evidence-based social policy formulation for the Caribbean have been conducted:

1. *Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 28 - 30 October 2002.* Participating were 28 senior technocrats from 13 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
2. *Kingston, Jamaica, 26 to 28 November 2002.* Some 18 persons from seven countries - Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and the United States Virgin Islands - participated in this workshop.
3. *In-house training workshop to ensure that staff members were able to fully understand and properly manage the project.*

The objectives of the training workshops were twofold. The first objective was to enhance the skills of senior technocrats in evidence-based social policy formulation, using a hands-on approach, with Caribbean social statistics in a technology-based environment. The other objective was to familiarize participants with the workings of the Caribbean Social Statistical Databases. Participants for the training workshops were senior technocrats who work in the field of social development.

The overwhelming view of participants was that there would be follow-up training workshops, especially in the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to exploit the range of information in the databases

Publications

The following publications have been produced:

1. *Establishing Social Statistical Databases for evidenced -based social policy formulation in the Caribbean* [LC/CAR/G.661]. The paper presents the challenges and lessons learnt from the Project NET/00/035.

2. *Quality of Life: A compendium of selected social statistics for 5 selected Caribbean countries - 1995-2001. [LC/CAR/G.680].* The publication is the second in a series on social statistics to be published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC). It demonstrates that even with the limited data sets, which exists in the subregion, a significant amount of information can be gleaned about the quality of life of persons.
3. *Data collection system for domestic violence. [LC/CAR/G.691].* The report reviews the various options at developing a reliable data collection system for consideration by governments in the Caribbean subregion.
4. A brochure on the Caribbean Subregional Social Statistical Databases

Expected impact of the project

Few institutions in the subregion undertake social surveys or re-visit social research because of cost and time constraints, on the one hand, and, on the other, because of insufficient or inadequate social data sets. As a consequence, member countries of the ECLAC/CDCC have severe limitations in adequately addressing specific social issues of concern. This project is expected to provide Caribbean governments with the appropriate social data sets and social indicators, through a fully established database, which would assist in completing sound social research and analysis needed to formulate policy in the field of social development.

At the end of the project member governments and policy makers will have:

1. An up-to-date and detailed integrated socio-demographic database which could be accessed by governments, international organizations and individuals;
2. An improved capacity by policy makers in the use of social vulnerability indices in strategic planning in the area of poverty eradication, social equity and gender equity;
3. Improved social statistical databases at the national and subregional levels; enhanced national level skills in the collection and manipulation of social data for policy formulation; and
4. Greater appreciation by national governments for the value of social data as an integral tool in strategic development planning.

2. Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean [development of a trade database], NET/00/81

Background

Despite the extremely high dependence of Caribbean countries on external trade, the national systems for recording transactions with the rest of the world are as varied as the national systems for recording and processing data collected from the customs warrants. Several trade analysis initiatives have been embarked on in the past with limited success. The challenge has been the ability of the national statistical systems to publish timely trade statistics. It is to the credit of earlier project interventions that there is in place a means of accessing trade statistics. Nomenclatures used are not the same throughout the subregion as various revisions of the Standard International Trade Classification are used. Within more recent times all countries have been reporting according to the Harmonized System (HS) format, but this is not satisfactory for analyzing the trade for economic and end-use analysis. The result is that it is at present difficult to access normalized Caribbean trade statistics. This difficulty is manifest when one consults the major sources of harmonized trade statistics worldwide.

The present project seeks to provide timely and quality information to policy makers, researchers and businessmen who can influence trade flows within the subregion and between the subregion and the rest of the world. The immediate objectives are centered on the provision of the outputs that would provide for a better comprehension of trade flows and their implications for the economies of the subregion. The main goal of the project is the establishment of a functional and relational database of trade statistics

Project Objectives:

The present project seeks to correct the situation described in the Background and Justification section of this report through a number of objectives, both longer term and immediate in nature. The **longer-term objective** seeks to provide timely and quality information to policy makers, researchers and businessmen who can influence trade flows within the subregion and between the subregion and the rest of the world. The **immediate objectives** are centered on the provision of the outputs that would provide for a better comprehension of the trade flows and their implications on the economies of the subregion.

Development (longer-term) objective

1. To provide policy makers, trade negotiators, researchers and business people with up-to-date and detailed information on trade, both within the Caribbean subregion and between the Caribbean subregion and the outside world
2. To develop trade among CDCC countries and increase the capacity of Caribbean countries to better participate and benefit from trade liberalization

Immediate objectives

1. To improve the capability of the countries to provide current and detailed trade data and improve the comparability of the data produced
2. To provide a fully searchable database at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain
3. To provide users with improved trade statistics on the Caribbean and improved analytical documents on trade and economic performance
4. To undertake studies to promote trade among CDCC countries and assess the implications for the NICCs of membership in hemispheric trade agreements
5. To improve the capacity of trade policy makers to formulate appropriate policies to participate effectively in trade negotiations so as to benefit from membership of trade liberalisation agreements

Project results and future implementation of activities

Outputs of the project

1. A report presenting an assessment of the current capabilities of selected statistical offices' trade units, types of data available, the periodicity of publication of such data and the comparability of data across the Caribbean.
2. Report on training seminar(s)
3. Report on technical assistance missions
4. A fully searchable database at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain.
5. Preparation of three studies:
 - a) Trade expansion between CARICOM and the Netherlands Antilles
 - b) Trade expansion between CARICOM and Aruba
 - c) Implications of the FTAA for selected NICCs
6. Reports on workshops on trade liberalisation issues of relevance to the Caribbean

Status of implementation

Database

To date, the secretariat has established a fully searchable database, accessible on the ECLAC/CDCC website, which is aimed at increasing the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate trade policies. One of the benefits of the database would be the development of a harmonized approach for tackling statistical problems, which continue to beset the subregion. It is envisaged that the statistical database will become the engine for enhanced policy capacity in the subregion and a vehicle for analyzing the components of the development challenge.

CARIBTRADE is the Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database prepared by ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The database was inspired by the need to provide to a wide variety of users rapid answers to their queries on Trade Statistics of the Caribbean countries. CARIBTRADE is user-friendly and comprehensive in its capabilities. Generous funding by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has made this product possible. Apart from answering queries on direction of trade, the database provides analysis of the trade data in a relatively novel manner of addressing strategic options, given a country's recent trade performance. To do this it presents the capability of examining the trade through different lenses. Indicators seek to make the trade analyst aware of recent trends in trade and in the performance of items traded, while providing for the shaping of policies based on observed trends and patterns of trade against the changes taking place in the external environment.

This database has drawn on the data provided by the several Caribbean countries, which have used different nomenclatures and coding schemes to prepare and process their trade data. The data have been normalized to make them as comparable as possible. Its location on the Internet is ECLAC's contribution to more widespread access to critical data that has in the past not been as generally available as the present offering. It is a contribution to the provision of data that can assist trade negotiators, researchers and the business community to make informed decisions.

Access to the database has been designed at two levels. The first level of access accommodates the queries of a wide variety of users and is provided up to the third digit of the SITS Rev. 3 and HS classifications. Another level of access is accorded to a limited number of personnel at national level. The Chief Statisticians of the contributing countries will have access to their data at the most disaggregated level of data supplied. Researchers wishing the use of data at a lower level of disaggregation than 3 digits may contact the Chief Statisticians of the countries for that level of data. A list of Chief Statisticians is presented on the web page for easy contact.

The countries whose data are included in the present database are the following: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Workshops

Three training workshops were held:

1. *Trinidad and Tobago*, 14-15 October 2002. Sixteen persons from Aruba, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the training workshop.
2. *Antigua and Barbuda*, 28-29 October 2002. Sixteen persons from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia participated in the training workshop.
3. *Jamaica*, 2-3 December 2002. Nineteen persons from Belize, British Virgin Islands and Jamaica participated in the workshop.

Participants were introduced to the database and had an opportunity to observe its design and query it. They were exposed to the software packages: *Competitive Analysis of Nations* (CAN) and *Module to Analyse the Growth of International Commerce* (MAGIC), two trade analysis packages that proved to be helpful to some of the participants in resolving some of their actual research requirements.

Feedback from the workshops has enabled the project team to design more output formats from the database in accordance with the data requirements of the users. It was recommended that some effort be made within the project to hold seminars aimed at improving the quality of data that form the input into the national trade statistics. This will be addressed in the early part of 2003. In addition, a request was made for the development of a methodology for the computation of the index numbers of volume and value of trade that could meaningfully be used, and which did not suffer from the defects as produced through the use of the conventional trade index number methodology. This will be addressed by the project in the first half of 2003, before the end of the project

Meetings

An ad hoc expert group meeting was convened in Port-of-Spain on 26 June 2001 to discuss design plans for the establishment of a trade statistics database being undertaken through project. The *Report on the production of trade statistics in the Caribbean region* evaluating the databases currently used by Caribbean countries in processing their trade information, was presented to the ad hoc expert group meeting [Document: LC/CAR/G.678]

Impact of the project

Given the recurrent and growing demand for up-to-date and detailed trade data, which could be accessed by governments, international organizations and individuals, the project will develop a fully searchable trade database at ECLAC Port-of-Spain. It is expected that trade units of statistical offices in the subregion will be strengthened and will be able to produce data on

time and in the format required. This will ultimately result in increased understanding of trade issues and ability to formulate appropriate policies to benefit from trade agreements as well encourage more effective participation of Caribbean countries in the negotiations of trade agreements

3. Development of a Regional Marine-based Tourism Strategy, NET/00/79

Background

The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States was held in Barbados, 10-14 November 1997. At this meeting it was observed that while some progress has been made on the environmental sustainability of land-based tourism much less progress has been made on marine-based tourism.

Marine-based tourism or MBT is that segment of tourism that focuses on the use of the marine environment and includes yachting, diving, whale watching, recreational fishing and the array of support and ancillary services such as marinas or boat maintenance facilities. In this context, it excludes cruise-ship tourism because the large number of cruise-ship visitors warrants its own sub-classification.

It is anticipated that marine-based tourism will continue to grow in the Eastern Caribbean. Even more than mainstream tourism, this segment of the tourism market is driven by nature, whether these are reefs as in the case of diving, whales for whale watching or islands and sheltered and clean ocean conditions as in the case of yachting. In addition, the increased awareness by tourists and the continued pressures on marine resources are likely to force a more environment-friendly approach towards marine-based tourism in the future.

In a few islands MBT is an important component of the market and land-based support and ancillary services have been developed. In others, MBT is still relatively underdeveloped. In all but a few countries understanding of the sector is lacking up to the point that even basic statistics, such as the number of tourist arrivals, the number of yachts, the number of berths, average length of stay or MBT tourism revenues are not available. Few countries have a policy to promote sustainable marine-based tourism.

Project Objectives:

Development objective

Contribute to the understanding of the need to apply sustainable development principles to the management of the marine-based tourism, and increase the capacity of Eastern Caribbean governments to promote the sustainability of marine-based tourism. Within these parameters the focus of the project is on yachting in the Eastern Caribbean, from the Virgin Islands to Trinidad and Tobago.

Immediate objectives

Provide bases for national policies to promote sustainable marine-based tourism.

The project will thus seek to address weaknesses of marine-based tourism while maintaining the strengths and dynamism of the subsector.

Project outputs

Output 1: National reports on issues pertinent to marine-based tourism.

Output 2: Draft national marine-based tourism strategies

Output 3: A regional assessment on economic and on environmental impacts of marine-based tourism

Output 4: Draft regional strategy and action plan on marine-based tourism

Status of implementation

During the period under review, the project has progressed beyond the preparation of reports and have now initiated a programme of national consultations on the findings of the reports. Draft national reports have been completed for the following countries:

▪	Antigua and Barbuda	LC/CAR/G.704
▪	Saint Lucia	LC/CAR/G.706
▪	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LC/CAR/G.707
▪	Saint Maarten	LC/CAR/G.708
▪	Martinique	LC/CAR/G.710
▪	Trinidad and Tobago	LC/CAR/G.711

A draft report for Grenada and the subregional strategy is being finalized

Following the preparation of these reports, national consultations have been conducted in the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda, 11 April 2002
- Saint Lucia, 16 May 2002
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 10 October 2002;
- Saint Maarten, 18 October 2002; and
- Grenada, 26 March 2003

The objectives of these consultations included the introduction of the project to the national communities, with a view to understanding of the problems that face the industry from a

government and a private sector perspective and finalization of the terms of reference to be applied for the national studies. In the pre-draft stage of all national reports an expert meeting was held to discuss the progress of the project and the identification of common issues relevant to the regional component of the project and identification of areas of future action.

At a subregional meeting on the contribution of the yachting sector to the Eastern Caribbean held in Port-of-Spain 12 and 13 December 2002, participants elaborated a Regional Strategy that would assist in articulating an effective framework for the management of the yachting sector, so as to maximize its potential contribution to the Caribbean's development goal as well as to regional co-operative approaches

Expected impact of the project

Given the recurrent and growing demand for improved attitudes and practices among MBT practitioners, the project is expected to contribute to a greater understanding of the need to apply sustainable development principles to the management of the marine-based tourism. With the resulting increase in the sustainable use of marine resources and changed policies and programmes by government agencies and regional governmental organizations, it is anticipated that subregional governments will adopt a Regional MBT policy.

There will be the following beneficiaries:

- Tourism authorities and the economic development and environment departments will be the direct beneficiaries and government partners in the participating countries.
- Private sector organisations and NGOs relevant to MBT will also be beneficiaries and the secondary partners at the national level.
- At the regional level collaboration will be with relevant regional organisations such as the OECS Secretariat, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, the Caribbean Hotel Association, and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute and regional NGOs such as the Caribbean Conservation Association.

UNDP-funded projects**1. The elaboration of a national Human Development Agenda for Belize, BZE/01/001**

- (a) Commencing January 2001, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belize office, embarked on a programme of technical assistance to the Government of Belize for the elaboration of a National Human Development Agenda (NHDA). This project, an initiative of UNDP, evolved out of the partnership between UNDP and the Government of Belize in developing the National Human Development Reports.
- (b) This project is of particular importance for the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, since it represents a useful approach for consideration by other governments in the region that wish to clarify their human development goals and to define more rigorously the most effective strategies.

