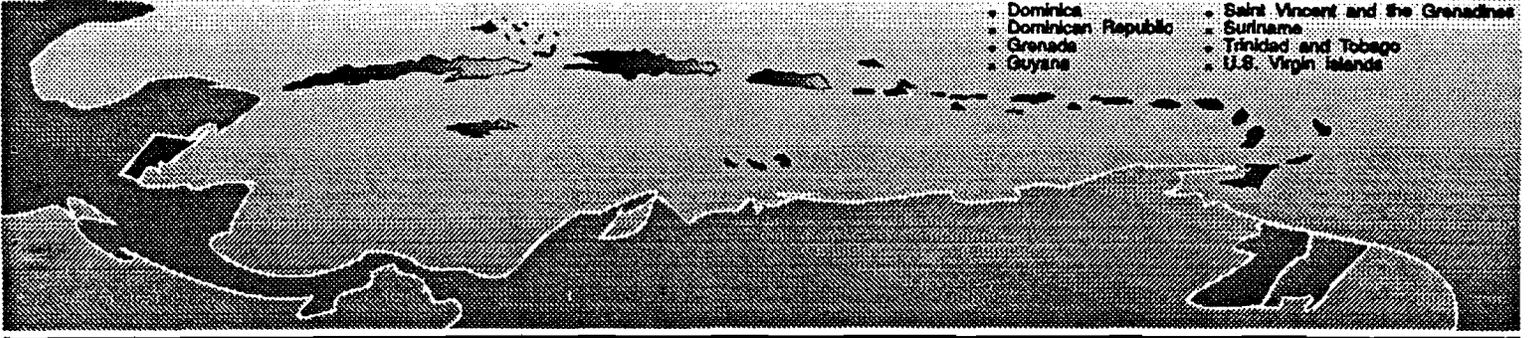




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- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.530
9 March 1998
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**SUBPROGRAMME 12:
SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

BIENNIUM 2000-2001



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE



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SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Presentation

By the year 2000 the countries of the Caribbean expect to have completed their economic stabilization and adjustment processes and to have consolidated the first generation of institutional reforms. The globalization process will have posed major challenges for the Caribbean economies, especially in terms of the formation of closer commercial and financial ties with new markets, regions and trading blocs and, within a broader context, in relation to the search for new modalities of international cooperation.

It is expected that the Caribbean countries will continue to be highly vulnerable to the impact of economic and political events at the international and regional levels which will influence various aspects of their social development, including employment, the status of women, health and education.

Against this backdrop, the overall objectives of this subprogramme are to carry out a multidisciplinary analysis of the fundamental factors influencing the development of the Caribbean countries and to provide assistance to Governments in the subregion in connection with the formulation of relevant policies and the adoption of decisions aimed at solving the main problems thus identified. The execution of this subprogramme is the responsibility of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, which also serves as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

The work to be conducted under this subprogramme in 2000-2001 covers six subject areas and calls for the implementation of activities relating to the international linkages and economic development of the Caribbean; integration and regional cooperation; the application of science and technology to development; information management; human and social development; and sustainable development in the Caribbean.

The activities to be undertaken in the area of international linkages and development will address the problems which the countries of the subregion are likely to encounter as a consequence of economic events at the international and hemispheric levels, including the formation of economic blocs, progress towards the creation of a free trade area of the Americas (FTAA) and the evolving relationship between the States and territories of the Caribbean and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The countries of the subregion remain heavily exposed and highly vulnerable to external events; the changes occurring in the world economy will affect the subregion's production activities, trade, finance, economy and social development, and it is therefore important to continue analysing their effects, in conjunction with the related topic of the competitiveness of the Caribbean economies.

These economies' behaviour and tendencies will also continue to be studied in an effort to furnish relevant and timely information on their macroeconomic and sectoral performance. The work done in these areas will also constitute a suitable point of departure for research into how the countries' policy objectives and economic results relate to one another and, on this basis, for an effort to facilitate an understanding of other subjects as well.

Another question that needs to be explored is how the Caribbean countries' interest in founding subregional organizations can be harmonized with the trend towards the establishment of broader hemispheric associations. The activities planned in this field include the preparation of studies to support the steps towards greater integration being taken by the countries belonging to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the further development and expansion of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the consolidation of ACS and a more active role for the non-autonomous territories of the Caribbean, as well as initiatives relating to the negotiations aimed at starting up the FTAA by the year 2005. An analysis of the issues entailed by the integration process and the nature of the relevant policy reforms may help to resolve the problems inherent in this process and to further the Caribbean's integration with the rest of the hemisphere and the world economy as a whole. By the same token, a review of events in other regions, including the negotiations being undertaken to expand the European Union and achieve monetary union, especially in terms of their implications for the Caribbean, will serve as a useful input for policy-makers focusing on such issues in the member countries.

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean also plans to continue contributing to the development of the subregion's scientific and technological capabilities and to a fuller understanding of the role that technology can play in promoting a sustainable form of development in the countries. The activities to be conducted in this area will be complemented by the work of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).

Information management and use are key elements in the future development of the Caribbean economies. Support will continue to be provided in this field with a view to strengthening the countries' mechanisms and procedures for collecting and processing information on their development processes; an effort will also be made to promote the rationalization of the data collection activities of government agencies in order to maximize their coordination.

In executing the activities that have been planned in the field of population and development, the status of women and social development, a special area of concern will be the need for follow-up to the action programmes adopted at world conferences dealing with these topics. In the field of social development, particular attention will be devoted to the availability of basic data, information and analyses regarding the Caribbean societies' most pressing social problems. Studies will also be undertaken with a view to encouraging the countries of the subregion to place greater importance on social development and poverty reduction in the design and implementation of their policies and programmes.

With regard to the status of women, the activities being conducted in connection with the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women will

be carried forward and steps will be taken to promote gender mainstreaming; more specifically, databases will be created that will be disaggregated by sex in order to facilitate social and economic planning and policy-making as a means of helping the subregion to achieve its established objectives in terms of gender equity.

Support will also continue to be provided to the Governments in acting upon the recommendations contained in the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and in executing new technical assistance programmes in connection with the 2000-2001 census round and the analysis of its results. Steps will also be taken to upgrade the Governments' and non-governmental organizations' capabilities as regards the incorporation of population-related issues, especially with respect to the eradication of poverty, into national social programmes.

The activities relating to sustainable development will focus on an analysis of the problems faced in this area by small island developing States and the impact of development policies on land use and tenure. In the first of these subject areas, studies are to be prepared on the execution of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; in the second, research will be undertaken on policies and decisions that influence land use, management and tenure and that, in the long run, could jeopardize policy-makers' ability to formulate sustainable development strategies.

1. Activities

Subject area 12.1: International linkages and economic development of the Caribbean

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to analyse economic management and planning issues in the subregion within the context of regional economic events, to include trade and financial aspects.

(b) Publications

(i) Reports on economic trends in the countries of the subregion (one per year covering events in 1999 and 2000, respectively).

(ii) A document on world trade and financial issues and their implications for the Caribbean countries.

(iii) A study on trade and investment ties between the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

(iv) Two reports on statistical indicators for the Caribbean countries (one per year).

(c) Technical materials

Input for the subsection on the Caribbean of the 2000 and 2001 editions of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

(d) Information materials and services

Publication of a quarterly bulletin on the external sector entitled "The external briefing notes".

(e) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to requesting member countries in areas relating to world economic trends and their regional and national policy implications, and to economic events in the Caribbean and their macroeconomic policy impacts.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.2: Integration and regional cooperation

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

A session of CDCC, including the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation, and a meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee.

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to analyse issues relating to cooperation for development of relevance to CDCC member countries.

(c) Publications

(i) A study evaluating the existing degree of policy convergence, especially with regard to trade and payments agreements entered into by the various integration groups.

(ii) A document on selected trade issues being addressed in the negotiations concerning the creation of the FTAA.

(iii) A study on trade among CDCC member countries and between them and the other countries of the western hemisphere.

(iv) A report on the foreign trade statistics of the Caribbean countries, to include an analysis of trade and investment flows between the Caribbean and Latin America.

(d) Information materials and services

(i) Publication of a quarterly bulletin entitled "Focus" covering CDCC activities (English only).

(ii) Publication of a quarterly bulletin entitled "The associate" dealing with issues of interest to non-independent Caribbean countries (English only).

(e) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance in connection with events within the sphere of integration and regional cooperation to ACS, CARICOM, OECS and the FTAA working groups at the request of member countries.

(f) Intermediate activities

Preparation of studies on specific topics with a view to strengthening ties among the CDCC member countries.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: Application of science and technology to Caribbean development

(a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

Two plenary sessions of CCST and four meetings of its Executive Committee.

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to analyse selected technological development issues as a means of contributing to the development of competitiveness and the formation of international linkages by the Caribbean subregion.

(c) Publications

(i) A study on the relationship between competitiveness and technological development in Caribbean countries.

(ii) An assessment of the application of science and technology to the development of the community of Caribbean countries, to include priority-setting.

(iii) A study on legal and regulatory systems for the protection of intellectual property and their implications for the application of science and technology to the development of the Caribbean countries.

(iv) A study on problems relating to technology transfer mechanisms in the Caribbean countries.

(v) A study evaluating energy pricing policies and policies to promote the use of renewable sources of energy in the Caribbean countries.

(d) Information materials and services

Publication of the quarterly "CCST newsletter" (English only).

(e) Operational activities(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance in connection with the development of production and technology, with special emphasis on competitiveness, to public agencies and non-governmental organizations, upon request.

(ii) Group training

- Facilitation of training for scientists and technical personnel in project design and execution.

- Seminar on the preparation of materials for the diffusion of science and technology.

- Seminar for historians and scientists specializing in the social and natural sciences on the compilation and dissemination of information regarding the history of science and technology.

A project designed to enhance the use of technological innovations in the Caribbean countries is to be executed during the biennium.

The execution of operational activities and of the activity described in section (c), subparagraph (v) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.4: Information management for development(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to evaluate the Caribbean countries' compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standard and to examine various aspects of the dissemination of information on new information management technologies.

(b) Publications

(i) A report on methods of data compilation and dissemination, with special reference to statistical information, in the Caribbean countries.

(ii) A document on selected aspects of the relationship between information and governance.

(iii) A report on the Caribbean countries' compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standard.

(iv) A study evaluating how information and communications technologies influence the management of public institutions.

(v) A study on the application of the latest revision of the System of National Accounts in the Caribbean countries.

(c) Technical materials

(i) Updating of the database of trade statistics.

(ii) Preparation of bibliographic abstracts of major statistical publications.

(iii) Updating and maintenance of the bibliographic database of the Caribbean Information System for Economic and Social Planning (CARISPLAN) and facilitation of on-line access to users.

(d) Information materials and services

(i) Publication of a quarterly bulletin entitled "Current awareness bulletin".

(ii) Publication of a monthly bulletin entitled "Current contents".

(e) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance to requesting countries in the field of information management and in connection with the creation of statistical databases, including the design of data compilation systems and governmental information mechanisms.

(ii) Group training

Support for the organization of training courses on the use of new information technologies, upon request by users of the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

A project to develop and maintain a database containing the full text of selected documents concerning policies of the Caribbean countries and to provide on-line access to users is to be executed during the biennium.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.5: Human and social development in the Caribbean

(a) **Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings**

(i) A meeting at the ministerial level to analyse the integration of women into the Caribbean development process in preparation for the forthcoming Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(ii) An intergovernmental meeting to evaluate the progress made in implementing national plans of action for the elimination of poverty, to be held as part of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

(b) **Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts**

(i) A meeting of experts to examine the problems affecting social development programmes in the countries of the subregion.

(ii) A meeting of experts to consider issues relating to the information and machinery required in order to create a subregional database on gender equity.

(iii) A meeting of experts to analyse questions relating to the application of the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development.

(c) **Publications**

(i) Annual publication of the *Social Panorama of the Caribbean*.

(ii) A document on the application of the programme of action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development and its follow-up in the Caribbean countries.

(iii) A study on aspects of social development relevant to the Caribbean.

(iv) A study on data quality in relation to information disaggregated by sex, the use of such information in gender planning and the results achieved in the Caribbean subregion.

(v) A study on the status of women in the countries of the subregion at the end of the decade.

(vi) A study on the steps taken by the Governments of the subregion to promote gender mainstreaming.

(vii) A study on the linkages existing among sustainable development, poverty and demographic factors.

(viii) A study on demographic trends, to include an overview of population and development indicators used by the Caribbean countries.

(ix) A document on the use of sociodemographic information in the design of policies and programmes, to include a compendium of social and demographic statistics on the Caribbean.

(d) Technical materials

(i) Updating and expansion of the database on social development.

(ii) Updating and expansion of the database on women and development in the Caribbean, to include information on gender equity.

(iii) Maintenance, updating and expansion of the subregion's sociodemographic database.

(e) Information materials and services

Publication of a quarterly bulletin entitled "Caribbean action on population and development".

(f) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance to requesting member countries and national and subregional agencies and institutions in connection with the evaluation and analysis of census data, the design and implementation of population policies, gender mainstreaming, and the promotion of social development and social planning.

(g) Intermediate activities

Facilitating the formation of a network of researchers in countries of the subregion to follow up on research in progress and compile data on priority social issues, and the development of new social indicators.

Subregional projects in the areas of social development, gender mainstreaming, and population and development are to be executed during the biennium.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.6: Sustainable development in the Caribbean

(a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

A meeting of government authorities to draw up a plan of subregional activities for the Caribbean following the assessment to be carried out in 1999 of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to examine the implications of development policies in terms of the sustainability of development.

(c) Publications

(i) A document concerning the plan of action to be drafted following the assessment to be carried out in 1999 of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

(ii) A document on appropriate mechanisms for incorporating sustainability indicators into the development planning process.

(iii) A study on the impact of world trade in terms of poverty and the environment in selected countries of the Caribbean.

(iv) A study on development planning policies and zoning regulations designed to protect local community access to coastal resources.

(v) A study on how policies for developing the tourism industry may influence land tenure.

(vi) A study on the impact of land use policies and decisions on environmental quality.

(vii) A study evaluating how the allocation of State-owned land can influence the integrity of river basins, water quality and soil quality in selected countries.

(d) Technical materials

(i) Maintenance and expansion of the database on projects and programmes relating to small island developing States.

(e) Information materials and services

(i) Publication of a biannual bulletin on land use and developing planning issues for distribution on-line and in print.

(ii) Publication of a quarterly bulletin containing progress reports on projects and programmes relating to small island developing States for distribution on-line and in print.

(f) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance to requesting member countries, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental agencies in connection with the design and implementation of sustainable development policies, particularly as regards the construction of sustainability indicators, and the implementation of follow-up activities in relation to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

(ii) Group training

Seminar for regional planners on legislation and policies concerning natural resource use and management.

Projects in the areas of environmental information management and the construction of sustainability indicators are to be executed during the biennium.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

1. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities of this subprogramme will be conducted in close collaboration with ECLAC headquarters and ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico. Meetings will also be held on a regular basis in order to consult and coordinate with other agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and with intergovernmental, international non-governmental and Caribbean organizations active in the region.

The activities relating to international linkages and economic development and to integration and regional cooperation will be carried out in consultation with the secretariats of OECS and CARICOM, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and ACS, as well as with the Governments of the countries members of ACS and their central banks.

The tasks to be undertaken in connection with the application of science and technology to development will be conducted in close collaboration with the secretariats of CARICOM and OECS and with the Technology and Energy Office of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Working relations will also be maintained with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) of the United Nations, other United Nations bodies and other international organizations, as appropriate. In addition, close contact will be maintained with national institutions active in this field.

The activities dealing with information management for development will be held in consultation and close collaboration with the OECS and CARICOM secretariats.

In the sphere of human and social development, the tasks to be conducted will be pursued in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with issues relating to population, the status of women and development, particularly the secretariats of CARICOM and OECS, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The activities planned in the field of the environment and development will be executed in coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP and other United Nations bodies, as well as with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and CDB.

1. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials concerned with economic and social matters and with the formulation and execution of policies, programmes and projects in the areas indicated above, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations concerned with integration and cooperation. The outputs will be suitable for use in the formulation of proposals and as reference materials for users in their respective fields.

Other major users will include a variety of public- and private-sector organizations, such as business, labour and professional associations, universities and other academic institutions, applied research institutes and centres for the development and diffusion of technology.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and publications, the provision of information materials and services, technical cooperation activities, regular consultations and contacts, and participation in intergovernmental forums and meetings of experts.

Annex1. MeetingsOrganization and substantive (or technical) servicing of intergovernmental meetings

Organization of meetings of the representatives of government institutions in the member countries to consider a specific topic relevant to the work of those bodies. In most cases, ECLAC will prepare a report or substantive document on the subject in question. In others, the Commission's participation will be confined to the execution of the specified activities.

Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meetings of specialists from outside the United Nations system for the purpose of providing advisory assistance to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of a specific subject. The Commission usually prepares a report or substantive document on the topic in question to serve as a basis for the discussion.

Documents and publicationsRecurrent publications

Studies published by ECLAC at regular intervals specified in advance in the secretariat's publications programme, such as the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

Non-recurrent publications

Studies which are published by ECLAC in accordance with its publications programme but which do not appear on a regular basis.

Technical materials

Information contained in databases, computer programs and other media which may be used in the production of the final outputs of scheduled activities but which are not themselves classified as outputs.

Information materials and services

All those outputs whose purpose is to disseminate information on the activities of ECLAC. Examples include pamphlets, information notes and press releases, exhibition posters and other visual materials, filmed and videotaped documentaries, material for radio broadcasts, guided tours and special events.

Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to member countries at their request.

Group training

Specialized training seminars and courses organized and held for the benefit of member countries.

Intermediate activities

Any activity whose results may be used in the production of final outputs.

