



United Nations

ECLAC

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

# FOCUS

Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

**“THE TIME FOR EQUALITY HAS ARRIVED IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”** - Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC

ECLAC IDENTIFIES NEW COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAINT LUCIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE TOMAS

THE ROAD TO RIO+20



ISSUE I / JANUARY - MARCH 2011

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organization's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialisation include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development; while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean also functions as the secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain.

**MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Haiti                 |
| The Bahamas         | Jamaica               |
| Barbados            | Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| Belize              | Saint Lucia           |
| Cuba                | Saint Vincent         |
| Dominica            | and the Grenadines    |
| Dominican Republic  | Suriname              |
| Grenada             | Trinidad and Tobago   |
| Guyana              |                       |

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

- Anguilla
- Aruba
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Montserrat
- Puerto Rico
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United States Virgin Islands

**CONTENTS**

“The Time for Equality has arrived in Latin America and the Caribbean” - Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC 3

ECLAC identifies New Cooperation Opportunities between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean 4

Building Resilience to Advance Sustainable Livelihoods and Development in Saint Lucia in the Aftermath of Hurricane Tomas 5

The Road to RIO+20 7

**Regular Features**

Abstracts - ECLAC Publications 9

Recent ECLAC Publications 10

Upcoming Events - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011 10

**FOCUS: ECLAC in the Caribbean** is a publication of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**

- |              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Deputy Chief | Hirohito Toda, ECLAC     |
| Editor       | Julie Ramlal, ECLAC      |
| Copy Editor  | Maureen Afoon, ECLAC     |
| Coordinator  | Johann Brathwaite, ECLAC |

**Produced by ECLAC**

Printed by The Office Authority - Printing Division  
Layout by RAW Designs

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000  
Fax: (868) 623-8485  
E-mail: registry@eclac.org

## “THE TIME FOR EQUALITY HAS ARRIVED IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC



Alicia Bárcena proposed six pillars for a new economic strategy emphasizing investment, integration and innovation at the 52nd annual meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB.

**(28 March 2011)** *“Latin America and the Caribbean can safely take on its role in the new inclusive world scenario”* according to Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

The senior United Nations official was taking part in the second plenary session of the 52nd annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), held in Calgary, Canada.

“The time for equality has arrived in the region”, she declared. She proposed six pillars for a new economic strategy emphasizing investment, integration and innovation, so as to ensure productive convergence, a greater number and quality of jobs and environmental stability.

She stated that the global crisis and today’s challenges (including strong capital inflows and increasing inflationary pressure caused by rising oil and food prices) call for new approaches to development. She said that “the world economy and the financial system have to be more equitable, fair and stable so that the benefits of progress reach everyone, including the poorest”.

Ms Bárcena added “we are proposing a new approach to development, a strategy for sustainable and equitable growth based on equality”. She emphasized that social equality and economic growth are not incompatible, and that it is vital to increase the State’s capacity to redistribute resources and promote equity.



ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena

“Latin America and the Caribbean now has the opportunity to make use of this recently acquired resilience to act according to a long-term vision, in order to create the necessary conditions to achieve robust growth that is more equitable and sustainable”, she declared in a speech delivered to IDB representatives.

She pointed out that ECLAC is forecasting GDP growth of 4.2% for the region in 2011, which is more moderate than the 6.1% for 2010, as well as a one percentage point reduction in poverty for last year (down to 32.1% of the population, compared with 33.1% recorded in 2009).

In the framework of the annual IDB meeting, the ECLAC Executive Secretary was also one of the main speakers at the seminar “Faced with the development challenges in Latin America: what are the articulation possibilities between a European bilateral development agency and multilateral institutions active in the region?” and moderated the meeting on “Private Sector Investments and Socially Responsible Development of Natural Resources”.

At the latter, she highlighted the fact that the new patterns of commercial and economic integration with Asia, and especially China, pose new challenges for the development strategy of Latin America and the Caribbean. These challenges include reviews of the regulatory frameworks of sectors related to natural resources, and the increase of the amount of investment in infrastructure, which is key for the export of such products.

She claimed that the region should improve existing fiscal and contractual mechanisms intended to ensure sufficient income generation for the State, without endangering the investment boost needed to develop natural resources. At the same time, she also described it as essential to implement institutional arrangements to guarantee efficient use of any profits generated. ■

## ECLAC IDENTIFIES NEW COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



*“President Barack Obama’s visit to the region offers an unmissable opportunity to revitalize hemispheric relations”* according to Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

**(28 March 2011)** - The United States remains the main individual trading partner for Latin America and the Caribbean. The conditions are now right to launch a new era of economic and trade cooperation between the United States and the region, according to an ECLAC document.

The publication *The United States and Latin America and the Caribbean: highlights of economics and trade* was produced for the visit of the US President, Barack Obama, to three of the region’s countries: Brazil, Chile and El Salvador. The report describes recent trends in investment and trade relations between the parties, as well as advancing proposals for a re-launch of such relations.

The United States’ share of regional foreign trade has decreased over the past decade. In terms of exports, there was a fall from 59.7% in 2000 to 40.1% in 2009, while in terms of imports there was a drop from 49.3% to 31.2% in the same period.

However, although this decrease has pushed up the share represented by China and other emerging economies in the region’s foreign trade, the United States remains the main trading partner, and the region’s exports to the United States are more diversified than those to the European Union and Asia.

According to the ECLAC document, while the region’s countries exported an average of 1,197 products to the United States in 2008-2009, they exported only 878 products to the 27 European Union countries, 511 products to Asia as a whole and 202 products to China.

In addition, the United States continues to be the main individual

investor in the region, accounting for 34.7% of cumulative foreign direct investment flows received by the region between 1999 and 2009.

“The current tour of President Barack Obama to three Latin American countries offers an unmissable opportunity to renew hemispheric relations. What the region expects from the United States are proposals for a strategic dialogue and new initiatives in the field of trade and investment in order to strengthen mutual cooperation”, stated the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, in the foreword to the document.

*Despite Latin American and Caribbean economic buoyancy over the past decade, the United States has not had a comprehensive trade strategy for the region in recent years, according to the ECLAC report.*

The free-trade agreements concluded with Colombia in 2006 and Panama in 2007 have not yet been submitted to the United States Congress for approval.

Furthermore, the tariff preference programmes for Andean and other regional countries are currently suspended. In this context, closer trade relations have been forged with the European Union and



*Barack Obama, President of the United States, delivers a message to the entire region during his visit to Chile*

Carlos Vera / CEPAL

Asia-Pacific by means of, inter alia, trade agreements and association agreements.

According to the study, new cooperation relations should include the speedy approval of pending free-trade agreements and the renewal of preferences for Andean and other regional countries.

There should also be a joint commitment to work towards concluding the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round in 2011, opening a strategic dialogue between the United States and the region’s countries that are part of the Group of 20 (G-20) and establishing an integrated economic cooperation programme.

President Barack Obama visited Brazil, Chile and El Salvador during his Latin American tour in March 2011. ■

## BUILDING RESILIENCE TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAINT LUCIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE TOMAS



*The Bexon Valley, a sea of mud*

Hurricane Tomas cut a path of destruction and death as it swept across Saint Lucia. Seven persons were reported to have lost their lives, five were missing and 36 suffered a variety of physical injuries. The economy of Saint Lucia, which was recovering from the fall-out of the recession in major markets, received an added blow from the passage of the hurricane, and further complicated the recovery process.

**O**n 31 October 2010, Hurricane Tomas passed just 29 miles (46.7 km) south of the island, as an intensifying cyclone, producing 92 mph (148 km/h) winds on the island<sup>1</sup>. A damage and loss assessment was conducted by a team led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados Sub-Regional Office (SRO) and conducted in collaboration with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) in November 2010. Based on this assessment a comprehensive report was prepared<sup>2</sup>.

It was carried out using the methodology first developed by ECLAC now known as the Damage and Loss Assessment methodology, or the DaLA, and was intended to complement and expand on the emergency and humanitarian needs identified previously by the Government of Saint Lucia.

The population of Saint Lucia, as that of other Caribbean island States, is in a position of increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Caribbean scientists and their global counterparts predict higher temperatures, rises in sea level, and increased hurricane intensity which will threaten lives, property and

livelihoods throughout the subregion.

The nature of small island States and the patterns of development which heighten human activity in coastal zones and mountainous regions, mean that more people and more income-earning activities may be located in vulnerable areas. Such a scenario could result in more people having more to lose in the event of a disaster. The World Bank notes that disaster risk reduction has become one of the most important components of sustainable development<sup>3</sup>.

If no action is taken to reduce risk, increased damage from tropical cyclones or hurricanes could result in further loss of life, loss of tourism revenue, loss of livelihoods and damage to capital assets and infrastructure, thus reversing hard earned development gains.

The scope of response in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and variability requires more integrated processes. Specifically, it requires the integration of adaptation and mitigation policies into development planning processes as risk-informed land planning and development policies are essential.

To advance Saint Lucia's capacity for reconstruction and long-term development in the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas, the report proffers a number of recommendations to address the macroeconomic needs, to respond to the geo-environmental consequences of Hurricane Tomas, the damage to the

infrastructure, particularly to water, roads and bridges, in regard to agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, the environment and the tourism sector.

With regard to the social sectors and the affected population, recommendations are both targeted at long-term transformation and short-term mitigation actions. Finally, recommendations are presented to address data management for land use planning.

### Macroeconomic Impact of Hurricane Tomas

The total cost of the damage and losses to the different sectors amounted to EC\$907.7 million or US\$336.2 million. The scale of the event can be gleaned from comparing the total impact with key economic indicators. The total impact represents 43.4% of overall GDP, nine times agricultural GDP, three times tourism GDP, 62% of exports of goods and services, 19% of gross domestic investment and 47% of public external debt. (see Table 1 – Summary Damage and Losses from Hurricane Tomas on Saint Lucia)

Hurricane Tomas also exposed the vulnerability of the population and its economic activities to the accessibility of water, as the Roseau Dam experienced land and flow slides into the reservoir area of the dam and damage to its back-up generator and pump house. For a two-week period, water became a scarce commodity, leaving some 80% of the population struggling to cope with a limited supply of potable water. ►

<sup>1</sup> Berg/Franklin (2010-10-31). "Hurricane Tomas Discussion Eight". National Hurricane Center.

<sup>2</sup> Macro socio-economic and environmental assessment of the damage and losses caused by hurricane Tomas: a geo-environmental disaster, LC/CAR/L.286, 7 February 2011

<sup>3</sup> Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation in the Fight against Poverty. Annual Report 2010. GFDRR.

### Impact on GDP

The report concludes that Hurricane Tomas was primarily a damage event and, as such, this combined with the fact that it took place late in the year would help to contain the fall-out in GDP.

The disaster is projected to lead to growth of about 1.0% instead of the previous forecast of 1.7% in 2010. This projection could be mitigated if the strength of post-disaster recovery in tourism prevails.

### Impact on Infrastructure

The island's infrastructure sector was heavily affected; the water supply and water disposal systems were severely disrupted with heavy siltation of the main Roseau Dam.

Major damage and destruction to the transport network, including forest roads, conservatively estimated at EC\$141.7 million, was particular cause for concern since the costs to rebuild would likely be substantial.

### Impact on Productive Sectors

The productive sectors suffered important disruption that would affect the growth in real output in 2010, but with limited carry-over into 2011. The total impact on the sector amounted to EC\$306.8 million (34% of the total). Tourism, is the most economically significant sector in Saint Lucia, endured the brunt of the impact sustained by the productive sectors, amounting to EC\$114 million.

The main tourist hub in Soufriere and Vieux Fort was badly affected by the hurricane, suffering heavy flooding. Fortunately, only a few hotels suffered major structural damage. Losses stemmed directly from damage to hotels that led to the cancellation of bookings and indirectly from the disruption of water supply that affected operations.

The agricultural sector, which is also a critical contributor to the economy of Saint Lucia, suffered damage to the tune of EC\$151.8 million.

### Impact on social sectors

Although less than the other key sectors, the social sectors suffered important damage and losses, amounting to EC\$209.2 million. Housing bore the brunt of the fall-out in the social sector with estimated total effect of EC\$192 million. The effect on the education sector amounted to EC\$8.9 million, while the health sector was impacted to the tune of EC\$8.3 million.

(continued on page 10) ►

**Table I:** Summary Damage and Losses from Hurricane Tomas on Saint Lucia

	Total Impact US\$ Millions	Total Impact EC\$ Millions	Damage	Losses	% of Total Impact
Exchange rate to US dollar	2.70				
<b>Total</b>	<b>336.16</b>	<b>907.62</b>	<b>607.92</b>	<b>299.70</b>	
<b>Productive Sectors</b>	<b>113.64</b>	<b>306.84</b>	<b>200.94</b>	<b>105.90</b>	<b>33.8</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	56.20	151.78	108.84	42.94	16.7
- Bananas	0.25	54.68	37.64	17.04	6.0
- Other Crops	4.49	12.12	7.59	4.53	1.3
- Livestock	0.39	1.06	0.84	0.22	0.1
- Fishing	0.60	1.61	1.38	0.23	0.2
- Forestry	20.77	56.07	53.40	2.67	6.2
<b>Tourism</b>	42.21	113.96	67.90	46.06	12.6
<b>Infrastructure</b>	9.72	26.24	7.99	18.25	2.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	6.74	18.20	11.90	6.30	2.0
<b>Distribution</b>	8.48	22.90	12.30	10.60	2.5
					0.0
<b>Social Sectors</b>	<b>77.48</b>	<b>209.19</b>	<b>196.10</b>	<b>13.09</b>	<b>23.0</b>
<b>Housing</b>	71.13	192.04	182.54	9.50	21.2
<b>Education and Culture</b>	3.28	8.86	7.14	1.72	1.0
<b>Health</b>	3.07	8.29	6.42	1.87	0.9
					0.0
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>145.03</b>	<b>391.59</b>	<b>210.88</b>	<b>180.71</b>	<b>43.1</b>
<b>Road Transport</b>	44.81	120.96	74.96	46.02	13.3
<b>Bridges</b>	7.66	20.68	20.68	0.00	2.3
<b>Water Supply and Water Disposal</b>	44.25	119.47	53.02	66.45	13.2
<b>Water Supply Support Works</b>	1.85	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.6
<b>River Training</b>	32.67	88.20	35.00	53.20	9.7
<b>Electricity</b>	3.09	8.34	3.50	4.84	0.9
<b>Telecommunications</b>	3.74	10.09	0.88	9.21	1.1
<b>Forest Roads</b>	6.61	17.84	17.84	0.00	2.0
<b>Airports and Seaports</b>	0.37	0.99	0.00	0.99	0.1

Source: ECLAC estimates, based on country data and information

**Figure I:** The Impact of Hurricane Tomas on Real GDP Growth



Source: ECLAC estimates, based on impacts on the sector level

## THE ROAD TO RIO+20

ECLAC to work with several United Nations Entities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development



Carlos Vero / CEPAL

From left to right: Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, and Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC Executive Secretary.

The United Nations System in Latin America and the Caribbean is working as one to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), or Rio+20, which takes place in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.

Plans to collaborate were conceived during a meeting of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in February 2011 at the headquarters of ECLAC in Santiago, Chile and chaired jointly by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro, and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena.

The objective of the 2012 Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. The themes of the Rio+20 Conference are –“green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”, and “the institutional framework for sustainable development”.

The United Nations organizations operating in the region will produce, inter alia, an inter-agency document to assess progress achieved and challenges faced in pursuit of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - known as the Earth Summit - which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The report will include strategic guidelines to improve production and consumption

### About RIO +20

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992 (Earth Summit) and resulted in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Following this Conference, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the decisions taken at UNCED and to monitor and report on implementation of the agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. A five-year review of Earth Summit progress was made in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session.

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally

and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, governments, and major groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment are evident. The full implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Commitments to the Rio principles were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002. This summit stressed the social pillar of sustainable development, with a

reminder that, while economic progress often fosters social progress, the link is not automatic, and that ultimately economic development is a means of improving human well-being.

Monitoring of progress made in implementation of these agreements continues and, according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/236, an assessment of such progress will be conducted at the Rio+20 Conference that will be again be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

Source: <http://www.uncsd2012.org>

patterns, and to move the Member States of the region towards a sustainable development path based on the concept of a green economy.

“Unlike the 1992 Summit, Latin America and the Caribbean can play a leading role in Rio+20, in order to influence the global debate on sustainable development. The inter-agency report we are preparing will enable the region to face this important world conference with a strategic proposal”, stated ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

### The Green Economy

The concept of a green economy focuses primarily on the intersection between environment and economy that was addressed at the first Earth Summit. Prior to this, the predominant discourse was one of trade-offs between economic and environmental goals and as such, the conference was a major step towards recognizing the importance of synergies among these themes.

Moving towards a green economy can be an important driver in the effort to advance sustainable development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines the green economy as “one that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.”

The shift to a green economy can be seen as a pathway to sustainable development, which can be achieved through the development of new, and the strengthening of existing, engines of economic growth within the context of a green economy.

### Some of these engines of growth are:

**Service sectors.** The globalisation of services that have low or no environmental impacts. These include a movement away from non-transportable, non-tradable and non-scalable services to more modern services such as the use of information technology-enabled services; ►

**Manufacturing sectors.** The promotion of renewable sources of energy would greatly enhance greening of these sectors;

**Social infrastructure.** Education, health services and the development of human capital would benefit from an energy-efficient infrastructure and increased social investment. This would result in consensus between economic activity and environmental protection;

**Environmental goods and services.** As demand for environmental goods and services, equipment and technologies increase, there would be great potential in developing countries to create endogenous capacity and a new economic sector that would contribute to growth, environmental protection, employment and would close knowledge gaps.

### The work of ECLAC in promoting the Green Economy concept

Through its work programme over the years, ECLAC has addressed several issues related to the green economy, including economic instruments for the implementation of environmental policy; environment and fiscal policy; water and sanitation; low-carbon infrastructure; renewable energy and energy efficiency; and payments for environmental services. ECLAC has advocated a strong role for the State in guaranteeing the necessary conditions for equitable, sustainable development and poverty eradication<sup>1</sup>.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a few countries have started exploring green economy strategies, while others have adopted specific measures. In the Caribbean, Dominica has embarked on an effort to transform itself into an environmentally sound organic island; in Guyana, the emphasis is on implementing a low-carbon development strategy; and, Barbados, is actively pursuing its transformation into a green economy<sup>2</sup>.

Further, ECLAC is coordinating the preparation of a joint document to be drafted by the five United Nations regional commissions on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

### The institutional framework for sustainable development

The second theme of the Rio+20 conference, “the institutional framework for sustainable development”, covers a spectrum of formal and less formal bodies, organizations, networks and arrangements that are involved in policymaking or implementation activities<sup>3</sup>.

The institutional framework should be considered at local, national, regional and international levels. Globally, there has been a dramatic growth in the number of institutions and agreements, with more than 500 multilateral environmental agreements currently in existence. The reach of sustainable development governance has therefore been greatly expanded. Yet the continuing deterioration in the natural resource base, threats to ecosystems, global climate change and persistent poverty call into question the effectiveness of the institutional framework. The international institutional landscape has been characterized as fragmented, with a silo-like arrangement of regimes and institutions and a related lack of coherence and coordination required for an integrated sustainable development approach.

Overall, there is a widely recognized need to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels. In particular, attention is being given to improved cohesion in policymaking, integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. A strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development, building on developments since UNCED and WSSD, encompasses a number of objectives.

### Recommendations to strengthen the institutional framework include:

- Ensuring coherence and policy integration in the economic, social and environmental fields;
- Improving analysis, assessment and scientific advice;
- Strengthening implementation, monitoring and accountability;
- Limiting overlap or duplication of activities;
- Enhancing participation;
- Strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development;

### The Way Forward

Looking to Rio 2012, and considering the two themes in relation to the Conference objective, the following messages emerge:

- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is an approach to economic decision-making which will need to be built from the bottom up, responding to national and local priorities and challenges. This should include the social dimension and poverty eradication especially for most developing countries;
- Both developed and developing countries are already experimenting with green growth strategies, including low-carbon growth strategies, though their efforts do not yet add up to a level of ambition equal to the global challenges. A growing number of governments see such strategies as essential to the long-term dynamism of their economies;
- Countries are nevertheless concerned about the near-term transition costs from loss of competitiveness, worsening terms of trade, economic dislocations and unemployment. Targeted domestic measures like worker retraining, backed by international support like aid for trade, can assist with minimizing transition costs;
- Strengthened international cooperation will be crucial to addressing ongoing and emerging sustainable development challenges in an ever more interdependent world;
- International institutions, including the United Nations system, should support countries which choose to strengthen national green economy efforts and help them to align those efforts with poverty eradication and other national priorities;

(continued on page 10) ►

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2010a), Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails (LC/G.2432(SES.33/3)), Santiago, Chile.

<sup>2</sup> ECLAC (2010b), Caribbean Regional Report for the Five-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI+5) (LC/CAR/L.258), Port of Spain, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, May.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, 2010. Objective and Themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Report of the Secretary-General. Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Second session, 7-8 March 2011. Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*, A/CONF.216/7



## ABSTRACTS - ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

### SAINT LUCIA: MACRO SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DAMAGE AND LOSSES CAUSED BY HURRICANE TOMAS: A GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER - TOWARDS RESILIENCE

February 2011

**LC/CAR/L.286**

This report was prepared on request of the Government of Saint Lucia following the passage of Hurricane Tomas between 30 and 31 October 2010. The implications of the impact of Hurricane Tomas posed a need, apart from the immediate humanitarian response, for a rapid assessment of the social, environmental and economic effects.

The assessment was carried out using the methodology first developed by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), now known as the Damage and Loss Assessment methodology, or the DaLA.

The assessment will complement and expand on the emergency and humanitarian needs identified previously by the Government of Saint Lucia. The result of such an assessment provides a quantitative approximation of the overall damage to the economy and its impact on the affected population.

Baseline data for the conduct of the macro socio-economic and environmental effects are drawn from among official government data sets including: the Population and Housing Census 2001, the Survey of Living Conditions 2006, other relevant data sets from the Government Central Statistical Offices, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

The ECLAC mission, undertaken from 17-24 November 2010, was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados Sub-

Regional Office (SRO) and conducted in collaboration with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

### A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

January 2011

**LC/CAR/L.280/Rev.1**

In a study published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in December 2009, a strong recommendation was made to conduct a follow-up study to “collect information on the availability of statistical information on persons with disabilities and on the implementation of legislation and policies in order to measure the commitment of governments in the Caribbean region towards the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).”<sup>1</sup>

As such, ECLAC conducted a baseline study which comprised three questionnaires for national statistical offices (NSOs), government ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean in an attempt to get feedback on the situation of persons with disabilities. The report focuses on the questionnaires to the government ministries and NGOs on the implementation of policies and legislation.

The report starts with a general description of the Caribbean subregion as well as the current situation of disability. The second part of the report presents the results of the survey based

on the two questionnaires to the NGOs and the government ministries with the purpose of collecting first-hand accounts of the realities of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean, as well as to collect information on policies, programmes and other measures related to the rights of persons living with disabilities.

The analysis showed that there were some improvements in relation to the situation of persons with disabilities in the areas of laws and legislation, education and employment, however, more work was needed in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, accessibility and personal mobility as well as access to information and communication.

In the conclusion, some recommendations are given whereby more data and research is needed for there to be proper development and implementation of national and regional policies for disability.

### AVAILABILITY, COLLECTION AND USE OF DATA ON DISABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

January 2011

**LC/CAR/L.283/Rev.1**

This paper addresses the issue of the availability of data on persons with disabilities in the Caribbean subregion. It was prepared as a background paper for the Subregional Meeting and Capacity-Development Training Workshop on “Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean”.

On the basis of previous research conducted by ECLAC on the situation of persons with disabilities in the region, a recommendation was made for the commissioning of a study on the collection and availability of official data on disability. The methodology applied in this inquiry included an assessment of the current data collection practices of national statistical offices or other authorized government departments ►

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2009), “A Further Study on Disability in the Caribbean: Rights, Commitment, Statistical Analysis and Monitoring”, (LC/CAR/L.237), Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, December.

**ABSTRACTS - ECLAC PUBLICATIONS**

continued ►

as well as a review of the application and use of relevant international recommendations or agreements on the collection, analysis and dissemination of disability statistics.

Part I of the study presents the findings of a national assessment carried out by ECLAC to determine the data collection practices, which revealed that while most countries were already involved in collecting data on disability, the scope of the coverage and the periodicity of collection were very limited.

Part II of the study provides a statistical

analysis of census data from eight countries in the region.

The analysis addressed questions regarding equal opportunity and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment and education. The analysis was framed around the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which outlines disability issues within a human rights framework.

The projections indicate that some countries in the region are likely to record very substantial increases in the size of the disabled population. ■

► (continued from page 6)

**BUILDING RESILIENCE TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAINT LUCIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE TOMAS**

**Conclusions and recommendations**

Climate variability, as manifested by changing and unpredictable weather patterns, already represents a major challenge for planners in the subregion. Disasters, such as storms, hurricanes, floods and droughts have devastating effects on people's livelihoods, particularly those dependent on agriculture and tourism.

The report suggests that the key action necessary for effective adaptation to climate change, mitigation and risk reduction is the delivery of coherent national development plans that seek to address these new challenges. This report

provides a series of recommendations which can be implemented at the national and community levels and across sectors. In addition, the recommendations speak to institutional, legal and policy mechanisms that could be developed or strengthened.

The report recommends that central to the success of recovery and reconstruction, efforts would be needed to: seek debt restructuring, relax the fiscal stance, elaborate a national recovery plan, and establish a special unit within its Economic Planning Unit to guide the overall plan with the implementation occurring at the sectoral level. ■

► (continued from page 8)

**THE ROAD TO RIO+20**

**The Way Forward**

- *Insufficient progress has been made in integrating sustainable development into policymaking and implementation at all levels. Member States should have an active role in providing political guidance to the United Nations system for overcoming the institutional fragmentation and lack of integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.*

ECLAC will host the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at its headquarters in Santiago from 7 to 9 September 2011.

At this meeting, countries are expected to adopt, if they so decide, a consensus on the region's position vis-à-vis the UNCSO. This would include a series of recommendations for the draft outcome document of the Conference, which will be discussed at the second intersessional meeting to be held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2011. ■

**LIST of Recent ECLAC Documents and Publications**

Listed by Symbol Number, Date and Title

**No.LC/CAR/L.286** February 2011

Saint Lucia: macro socio-economic and environmental assessment of the damage and losses caused by Hurricane Tomas: a geo-environmental disaster - towards resilience

**No.LC/CAR/L.285** January 2011

Evaluation report of the subregional seminar on data warehousing and dissemination in the Caribbean

**No.LC/CAR/L.284** January 2011

Report of the meeting of the High-level Advisory Committee (HLAC) of the project: A review of the Economics of Climate Change in the Caribbean (RECCC)

**No.LC/CAR/L.283/rev.1** January 2011

Availability, collection and use of data on disability in the Caribbean subregion

**No.LC/CAR/L.280/Rev.1** January 2011

A situational analysis of the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean subregion

**UPCOMING EVENTS****2nd QUARTER****2011**

**13 April, 2011**

Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**14-15 April, 2011**

High Level Advisory Committee (HLAC) Meeting of the Review of the Economics of Climate Change in the Caribbean (RECC) Project  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**2 June, 2011**

Meeting of Experts on the Importance of Sports and Cultural Industries as a Vehicle for Development in the Caribbean  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**20-24 June, 2011**

REDATAM Regional Training Workshop  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**

**20 June, 2011**

Rio+20 Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Caribbean, Georgetown, **Guyana**

**30 June, 2011**

Expert group meeting on the economic impacts of climate change  
Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

**INFORMATION UPDATE FORM**

Please help us to keep our FOCUS Newsletter mailing list current by ensuring that we have your correct contact information (correctly spelt name, proper designation, correct address, etc.) recorded on this issue's mailing label. Any changes or additions should be filled in on the form below and returned to our office.

**Mr.**     **Miss.**     **Mrs.**     **Ms.**     **Dr.**     **Prof.**     **Other** (specify)

**Family Name**

**First Name**

**Job Title**

**Organisation**

**Address**

**Telephone Contact (s)**

**Fax**

**E-mail**

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

1 Chancery Lane, PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000 Fax: (868) 623-8485 E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



United Nations

ECLAC

**The Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**  
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

PO Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 224-8000 Fax: (868) 623-8485  
E-mail: [registry@eclacpos.org](mailto:registry@eclacpos.org)  
<http://www.eclacpos.org>