



# 17 SDGs for a brighter world

THE UN HAS NEW  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

## Saint Lucia

PRINCIPLE 10 TAKES  
CENTRE STAGE AT SAINT  
LUCIA MEETING

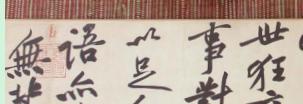
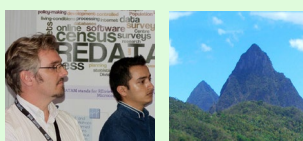
## Caribbean TIDE

ECLAC SPEAKS AT THE  
CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE  
FOR TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION



ECLAC

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# ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS



**ECLAC Caribbean**  
Non-profit Organisation

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## Upcoming Events

**1** United Nations International Day of Older Persons  
1 October 2015

**2** United Nations International Day of Non-Violence  
2 October 2015

**13** United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction  
13 October 2015

**14-16** ECLAC Caribbean - DaLA Training  
Tarapoto, Peru  
14 -16 October 2015

**17** United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
17 October 2015

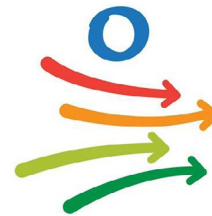
**24** United Nations Day!  
24 October 2015



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Aug 24

On 25-27 September, world leaders will come together to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals.



**2015**  
TIME FOR  
GLOBAL ACTION  
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted July 23

Catch the latest interview with Diane Quarless - Director of #ECLACCaribbean #sustainable #development



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Aug 24

Caribbean Experts gather in to discuss the Big Data phenomenon. Find out more: <http://vrb.al/big-data>





# eLAC Digital Agenda explored at Caribbean Internet Governance Forum

Computer circuit board  
by Yuri Samoilov / CC-BY-SA-3.0

On August 28, ECLAC Associate Information Management Officer, Bobby Williams, addressed the 11th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) on the topic of the eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda.

The CIGF is a regional, multi-stakeholder forum held annually to coordinate regional strategy on issues related to internet governance.

Attendees at the CIGF were briefed on the eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda, a set of 23 objectives that will form the basis of a workplan for interregional cooperation on matters related to information and communication technology (ICT) over the next three years. These objectives were agreed to by

representatives of 18 countries at the fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Mexico City earlier in August.

The objectives in the eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda are divided into five areas of action: access and infrastructure; digital economy, innovation and competitiveness; e-government and citizenship; sustainable development and inclusion; and governance for the information society. The objectives include calls to “scale up and achieve universal access to digital services and content production”, “promote regional coordination in the allocation and efficient use of the radio spectrum”, and “strengthen the

digital economy and e-commerce at the national and regional levels.”

With specific reference to an eLAC objective citing the need to “strengthen the use of ICT in education,” Mr. Williams suggested that this particular area may be promising for increased cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean. He cited the South American nation of Uruguay as regional leader in the development of pedagogical models for improving the use of ICT as a tool for learning. Accordingly, he suggested that the eLAC 2018 process could be used as a mechanism to share the expertise that Uruguay has developed with educators in Caribbean countries. ■

# REDATAM users get first hand demonstration at Caribbean TIDE



*“REDATAM is a great way for statistical offices to open up access to census and survey data!”*  
- Francis Jones  
(Population Affairs Officer at ECLAC Caribbean)



LEFT PAGE: Photos of former Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and former Finance Minister Larry Howai addressing the attendees of the Caribbean TIDE Conference

RIGHT PAGE: Photos of ECLAC Caribbean Staff Members at an ECLAC Exhibit at the Caribbean TIDE Conference



Anyone wanting to search for information on a country's population via a national census bureau can now do so by simply using a computer or digital tablet, thanks to the REDATAM software. Countries whose census data are only a click away now include Aruba, Belize and Saint Lucia.

REDATAM is a software program developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE - the Population Division of ECLAC). It provides users with a quick and easy forum to create, process and analyze information on census databases.

The software also makes it possible for statistical offices to provide controlled public access to datasets, via the internet, in a way which protects the confidentiality of individual census records. In addition to census data, REDATAM can also be used to provide online access to survey datasets such as labour force surveys or living conditions surveys.

ECLAC Caribbean recently had the opportunity to provide direct demonstrations to end-users of REDATAM at the First Caribbean Technology and Innovation for the Digital Economy (TIDE) conference at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre in Port of Spain, in late August 2015.

In introducing the software at the conference, Population Affairs Officer, Francis Jones, described it as an interactive tabulation tool. Jones guided the participants step by step through the interface, showing them how to define data fields within which searches can be carried out. Users showed considerable interest in finding out how to record data on REDATAM, and in what information can be sourced.

In the long term, improved online access to these census and survey data sources will hopefully encourage their use in research, development planning and evidence-based policy-making. ■



# Principle 10 takes Centre Stage at Saint Lucia meeting

**E**nvironmental issues need to be placed on equal footing with economic and social matters in the context of sustainable development, and are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. This was underscored by ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, in Saint Lucia in August, as she participated in a two-day meeting, attended by representatives from 12 Caribbean countries, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, civil society and non-government organizations.

The meeting identified opportunities for collective action on the path towards the full implementation of access rights to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, enshrined in Principle 10 of the Declaration of the 1992 Rio Summit.

Agreed upon by the international community in 1992, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration calls on countries to provide citizens with access to information on environmental matters in an open and transparent





Photo of Soufrière, Saint Lucia  
by Chensiyuan / CC BY.

manner to allow them to be part of decision making processes. Principle 10 also stresses the need to put in place mechanisms for integrating citizen concerns into public policy making. This can be achieved by involving industry associations, public interest organizations, including indigenous groups, academia, environmental activists and the general public in national planning workshops and open group discussions.

Since the adoption of the Rio declaration by the global community, over 80 governments across the world have enacted laws that provide their citizens with improved access to information on environmental matters, and the vast majority of these have been introduced in the past six or seven years. There remain, however, many States in which this is not the case and significant barriers to transparency and access to information persist. Of the 80 Governments parties to Principle 10, only four are Caribbean countries, namely: Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Principle 10 sets the global standard for protection of the environment through democratic process,

by providing a platform for the participation of concerned citizens in environmental issues. Quarless described it as an important instrument for upholding citizens' rights. "For it to be successful, every citizen must become involved and it is in the interest of a government to engage all citizens in the sustainable development process."

The meeting was organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). As a prelude to the regional Latin American and Caribbean meeting in Panama (on October 1 2015) and to the United Nations climate change conference in Paris, France in December, the meeting was followed by a workshop on climate change, in which natural disasters and coastal vulnerability in the Caribbean were discussed, after the presentation of the report – "The effects of climate change in the coastal areas of Latin America and the Caribbean". ■



**FEATURE  
ARTICLE**

The New Era  
of Sustainable  
Development



Image courtesy [www.kelplanete.com](http://www.kelplanete.com)



On 25-27 September 2015, world leaders gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to agree on a set of goals and targets to ensure that countries across the globe not only achieve economic and social development over the next fifteen years, but that they do so in a way that will not exhaust our planet's environmental resources. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive, and are scheduled to become the global reference goals of sustainable development for the 15-year period 2015 – 2030. As the curtain falls on this historic event, *The Hummingbird* looks at what all this might actually mean for people living in our region.

# The New Era of Sustainable Development

The Summit will – according to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon- “chart a new era of sustainable development,” aimed at eradicating poverty, increasing the share of global prosperity, and tackling the core drivers of climate change. But what might this mean for the Caribbean.

The SDGs’ proposed goals and targets cover a much broader range of issues and are considerably more integrated than those of their precursors – i.e., the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were implemented

over the period 2000-2015. This coverage should allow for the facilitation of more enhanced policy integration across sectors and thematic areas. This will be crucial for the attainment of substantive equality and sustainable development – especially in the Caribbean.

Without doubt, the broader scope of the SDGs is particularly important for our subregion. At a recent ECLAC symposium held in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2014, member States identified at least 12 priority goals that were deemed key to the attainment of sustainable development in the region.

Conclusions reached at this forum reinforced the fact that the Caribbean is characterized by multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities and challenges that cut across the three main development pillars. These embrace thematic issues concerning inequality and human development, the elderly, youth, persons with disabilities, gender, indigenous communities and geographic location.

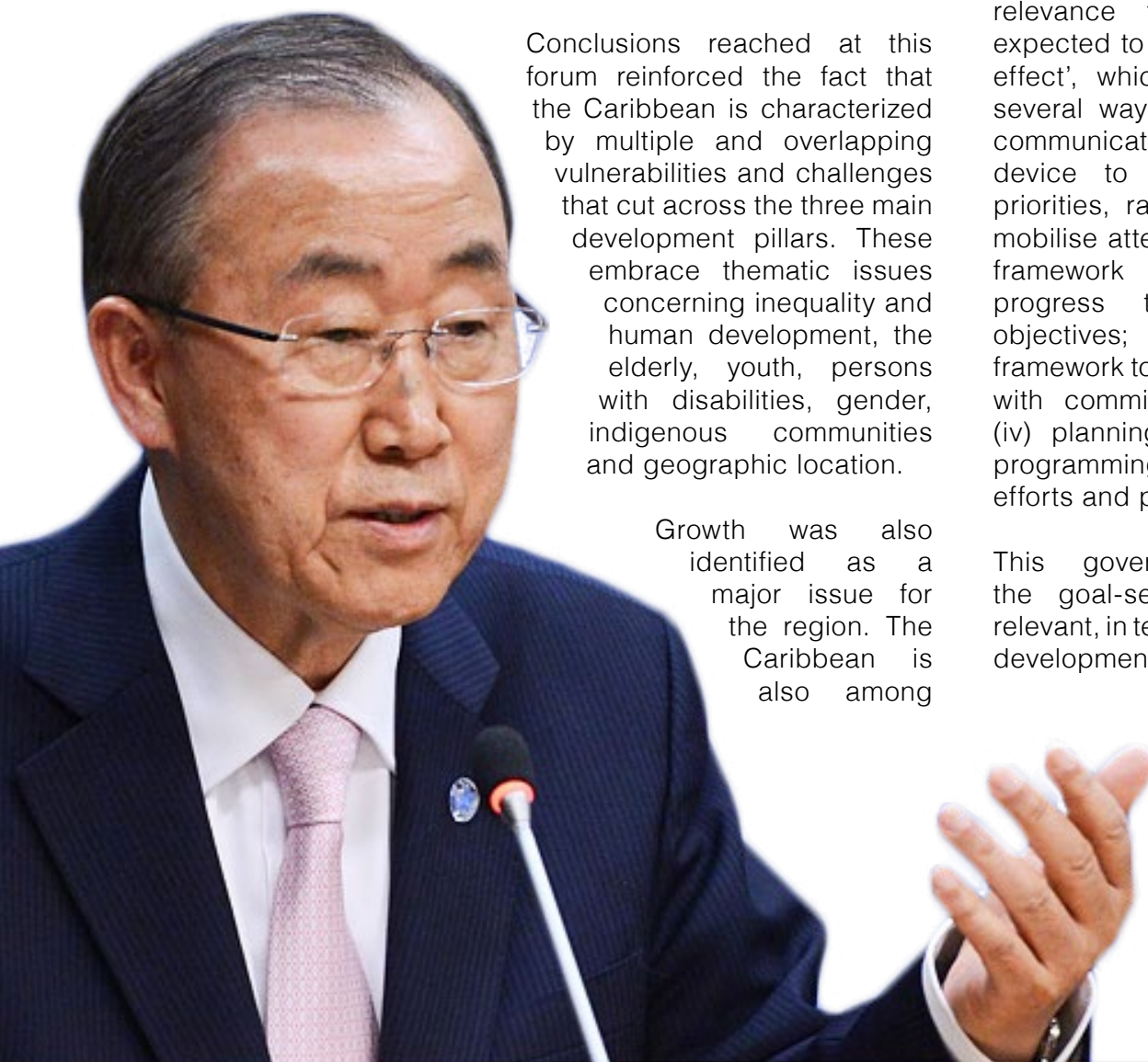
Growth was also identified as a major issue for the region. The Caribbean is also among

the most highly indebted regions in the world, with debt to GDP ratios ranging between 20 – 143%. Most Caribbean countries’ debt burden exceeds the sustainability threshold of 60%, implying significant constraints for implementing the SDGs in the future.

*The SDGs are therefore viewed as potential game-changers for regional development strategy*

The SDGs are therefore viewed as potential game-changers for regional development strategy. One of the issues of particular relevance to the region is expected to be the ‘governance effect’, which can manifest in several ways. These include a communications or messaging device to express important priorities, raise awareness and mobilise attention; an evaluative framework for monitoring progress towards important objectives; an accountability framework to assess compliance with commitments made; and (iv) planning targets to guide programming of resources, efforts and policy design.

This governance effect of the goal-setting paradigm is relevant, in terms of a sustainable development framework that establishes key long-term goals, meaningful commitments of international support and cooperation, and time-bound and measurable



targets and indicators that are regularly monitored and reported upon, and thus nationally, regionally and internationally transparent.

The negotiation process leading to the development of this new agenda was participatory and inclusive, spanning more than two years of discussions and decisions among major interest groups and other stakeholders resulting in 17 goals, which range from ending poverty and hunger to ensuring healthy lives and access to sustainable energy. There are also 169 related targets which add specificity to these goals.

The SDGs are ambitious in their quest to be universal – in that they should be found applicable to all countries – not only developing countries, and must serve as benchmarks for the challenging transition to sustainable development.

The post-2015 sustainable development agenda is intended to be more transformative than the MDGs, which were more focused on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger – and indeed, between 1990 and 2015, MDG implementation resulted in reduction by more than half the people living on less than one dollar a day. In 2011, 4.6% of the world's population lived with less than \$1.25 dollar per day, compared with 12.6% in 1990. Similarly, the proportion of people suffering from hunger fell from 14.7% between 1990 and 1992 to a projected 5.5% between 2014 to 2016. ■

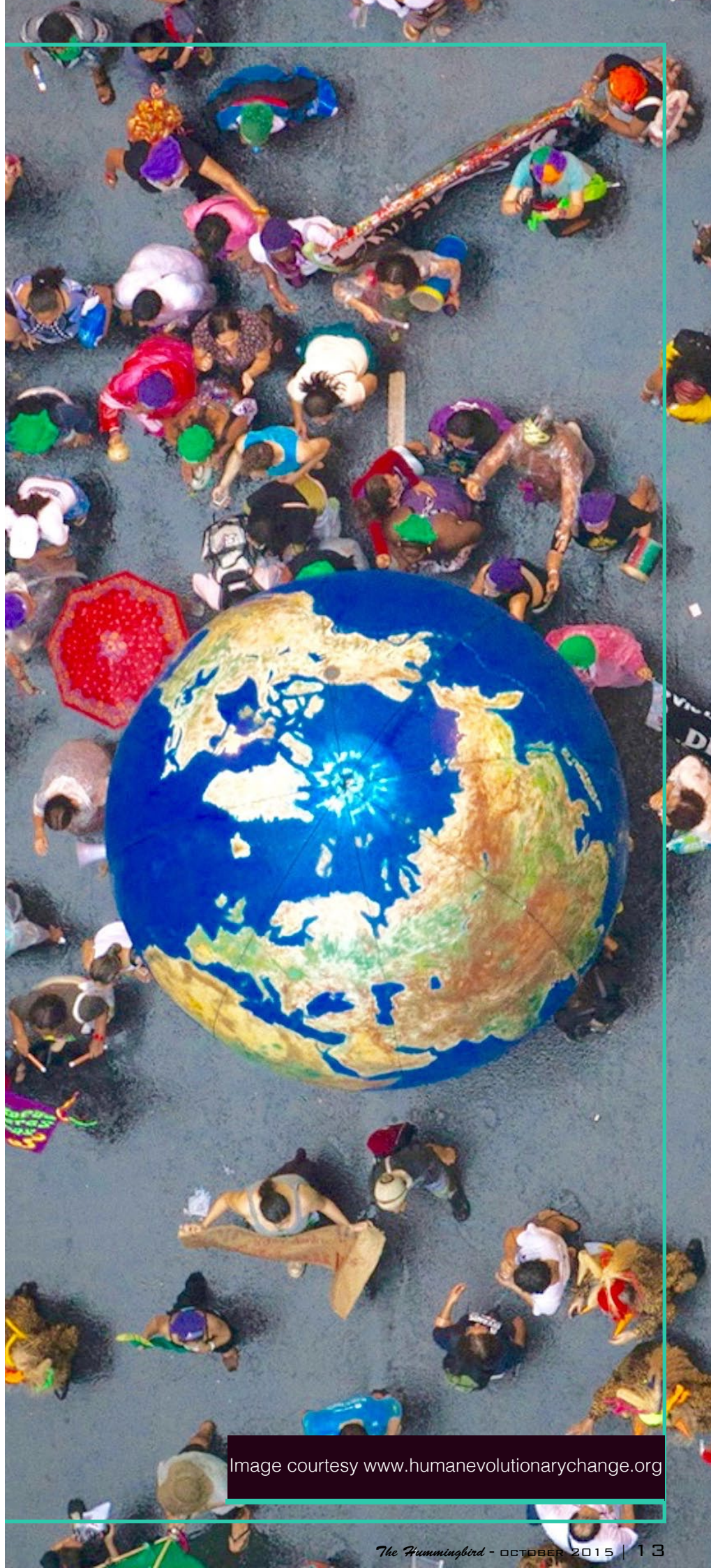


Image courtesy [www.humanevolutionarychange.org](http://www.humanevolutionarychange.org)



Scarlet Ibis in flight - National Bird of Trinidad and Tobago

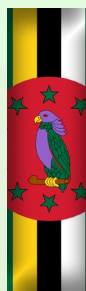
# STATE *of* AFFAIRS

## Dominica



### REGIONAL SUPPORT MOBILIZED

Aug 30th - The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission is cooperating with regional and international agencies to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the effects of tropical storm Erika on Dominica. Several agencies have been providing support and assistance to the government, among them the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the World Bank and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).



### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SEND SUPPORT

Sept 1st - The government of Antigua and Barbuda has donated US\$100,000 towards relief efforts in Dominica. In addition, Sir Ronald Sanders, newly appointed Antigua and Barbuda ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), called on the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Union Commission and international financial institutions to respond swiftly to the urgent needs of Dominica.

## The Bahamas



### PETITIONS TO VACATE TWO SEATS

Aug 13th - Minister of State for Legal Affairs, Damian Gomez, intends to file Election Court petitions to declare vacant the seats of local members of parliament Dr Hubert Minnis and Loretta Butler-Turner for "violation of the constitution" due to conflicts of interest. Mr. Minnis and Mrs. Butler-Turner have both since denied being conflicted.



### WOMEN IN POLITICS

Sept 9th - The College of The Bahamas, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Services and Community Development, hosted the inaugural Leadership for Women in Politics course. Sixteen women from divergent age groups, backgrounds and political views, were the first recipients of the course.

## Trinidad and Tobago



### OPPOSITION PARTY WINS ELECTIONS

Sept 10th - The opposition People's National Movement (PNM) party led by Dr. Keith Rowley, won the country's general elections on 7 September. The Elections and Boundaries Commission, announced that the PNM captured 23 constituencies for control of the 41-seat parliament. The People's Partnership, led by former Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, won 18 seats.



### CABINET SHRINKS FROM 33 TO 23

Sept 21th - Newly elected Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley and 25 members of the new cabinet were sworn into office. Twenty-four ministers were sworn in with Prime Minister on 11th September, while the 25th member, Dr Lovell Francis, was sworn in on 21st September. The current Parliament now includes 13 women, nine of which are members of cabinet, while four are part of the opposition.

# STAFF MOVEMENTS

Over the past few weeks, we at ECLAC Caribbean have welcomed new faces in our midst as new staff members joined us, while at the same time having bid au revoir to one or two. Here is the latest on the ECLAC family in Port of Spain.



**SUNIL THAPA**

In August, we welcomed Mr Sunil Thapa who arrived in Trinidad and Tobago to take up a post as Web Assistant in the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit. Sadly, Sunil had to return to his home country of Nepal soon after his arrival for personal reasons, and will not be returning. We wish him all the best for the future.



**TANISHA ASH**

ECLAC Caribbean has been supporting the On-The-Job (OJT) training programme of the government of Trinidad and Tobago since 2014, as part of our commitment to support the human resource development strategies of the country. This programme is intended to assist graduating students at secondary and tertiary levels to gain invaluable working experience and skills in preparation for the world of work. In this spirit, we were pleased to welcome Ms Tanisha Ash in July. Tanisha is assigned to the Statistics and Social Development Unit, and will be with us for two years.

# The Bahamas Creating 15 New Marine Parks

The Bahamas is launching a major expansion of its marine protected areas. As part of its commitment under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the country has announced the creation of 15 new marine parks and three park expansions, for a total of 4.5 million hectares.

The parks include habitats for endangered rock iguanas, nurseries for Nassau grouper, queen conch and spiny lobster, along with nesting and breeding grounds for more than 82 percent of seabird species that breed in the Bahamas.

“We recognized that biodiversity is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter and a clean and healthy environment in which to live,” said Bahamas Environment Minister, Kenred Dorsett. “Protected areas constitute an important stock of natural, cultural and social capital, yielding flows of economically valuable goods and services that benefit society, secure livelihoods, and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.”

The Nature Conservancy has helped to implement the expansion of the marine protected area system, in partnership with organizations including the Bahamas Environment Science & Technology Commission, the Bahamas National Trust and the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, supported by funding from the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environmental Facility, the Waitt Foundation and the Atlantis Blue Project Foundation.

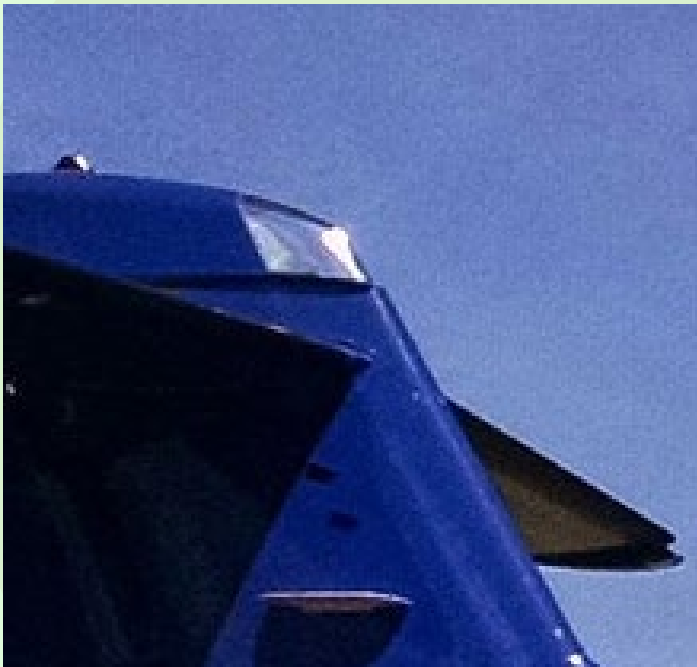
“The declaration of these new protected areas marks a tremendous moment for conservation in The Bahamas”, said Shenique Albury-Smith, The Nature Conservancy’s Senior Policy Advisor for The Bahamas. “Not only are these areas important for the country’s iconic wildlife, but they will benefit Bahamian livelihoods as well. These declarations represent a tangible demonstration of the government commitment to protecting our marine resources.” ■



Photo of Conception Island National Park,  
The Bahamas courtesy Bahamas National Trust



# LIAT's New Winter Schedule



LIAT recently launched its new winter schedule, which came into effect on September 15. The airline has moved up the launch of its winter schedule due to the acceleration in the fleet transition process, and in consideration of the current state of affairs in Dominica.



The schedule ensures that all critical flights required to maintain services to Dominica were in place on the reopening of the airport, according to the company. Antigua will also benefit from daily nonstop service to and from San Juan, as well as an additional connection between the two three times a week. Guadeloupe will also enjoy increased flight frequencies into the island, as a result of an increase in demand for flights from the French market.

LIAT is also adding an additional three flights per week between Trinidad and Guyana's Ogle Airport. ■



Photo of LIAT ATR, Dominica  
by Stefan Krasowski / CC BY.





The Confucius Institute is a non-profit educational institution, which seeks to promote Chinese language and culture, and supports local Chinese teaching internationally, through affiliated Confucius Institutes. It is headquartered in Beijing, under the Office of Chinese Language Council International. There are four such establishments in the Caribbean, which are part of initiatives to strengthen educational cooperation between China and the region. These Institutes support and promote the development of Chinese language education, and increase mutual understanding among people in China and the Caribbean.



Chinese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Huang Xinyuan and the staff of the Confucius Institute at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

# Confucius Institutes in the Caribbean

1. The University of the West Indies, Mona and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed an agreement to establish a Confucius Institute at Mona. The Institute was the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean and was officially opened on July 19, 2010.

2. On October 23, 2013, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine established a Confucius Institute in Trinidad and Tobago. On that date, the St. Augustine Confucius Institute became one of over 400 non-profit public institutions established by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN) for the promotion of Chinese language and culture.

3. The last in the trilogy of Confucius Institutes at the University of West Indies is taking shape on the Cave Hill Campus, and has been described as a symbol of an unshakeable bond of friendship between the People's Republic of China and Barbados.

4. On May 25, 2014, another Confucius Institute opened at the University of Guyana, and was hailed as an example of the close and valued relationship between Guyana and China.

A close-up photograph of two glasses filled with rum punches. The punches are topped with a thick layer of white foam and garnished with fresh fruit, including a red cherry and slices of pineapple. The background is blurred, showing a person's hand and a wooden table.

# Barbados

# FOOD

# WINE

# & DRINK

# Festival

Photo of Barbados Food & Wine & Rum Festival by Barbados Tourism / CC BY.



The Barbados Food & Wine and Rum festival is back with a new look, new venues, and a new chef line-up for 2015. “We felt that in our sixth year we would shake things up a bit and incorporate more of our other tourism product offerings into this highly successful festival”, said William Griffith , CEO of the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., during the recent launch event at the Fairmont Royal Pavilion Hotel.

This year’s festival headliners include Chris Consentino, author and San Francisco-based restaurateur; Carla Hall, co-host of ABC Daytime’s lifestyle series, *The Chew*, and fan favourite on Bravo’s *Top Chef*; Craig Harding, chef and owner of Toronto’s *Campagnolo* and Andrew Pern of the Michelin-starred *Starr Inn* in Harome, England.

Attendees will enjoy a host of new events, beginning with the Coastal Blend with Chef Marcus Samuelsson at Oistins on November 19, which will offer fresh seafood, cooking demonstrations, a mixology showcase, and popular local music.

The festivities will continue through Sunday, November 22, and will feature a launch party, dubbed “Evening Reserve,” at Fusion Rooftop Restaurant; “Taste the Spirits” at Polo at Holder’s Polo Club; a choice of four specially designed dinners showcasing internationally renowned chefs; and “Feast in the Sun,” an all-inclusive beach party. ■



**LOVING**

**THE  
GAME OF**

**CHESS**

## Loving the game of chess with Michael Milligan

ECLAC Caribbean is always ready for an opportunity to celebrate the multinational, multicultural nature of our family. There is never a dull moment when it comes to sharing some of the enjoyable things we do for recreation. This month, the Hummingbird dips in on Associate Economic Officer Michael Milligan, who has piqued the interest of a few staff members regarding his love of playing chess.

**Q: How did you get into the game of chess?**

A: I started playing at an early age, when I was about 10 years old. There were some chess boards in the classroom and it was a popular thing for the kids to do with their spare time. We had no knowledge of strategy and often played with a couple “house rules”. I don’t know if I was the best in the class, but I won quite a bit more than I lost.

**Q: What steps did you take to raise your game?**

A: My play level went up quite a bit within one year and I got my first book on chess, which happened to be The Simon & Schuster Pocket Book of Chess by Raymond Keene, so that I at least knew some rudimentary strategy. My next book was The Game of Chess by Siegbert Tarrasch, which was an excellent book for rounding out chess fundamentals. Then, by the time I was about 13 years, our family got its first personal computer. I could then play chess online with people all over the world. I learned quickly how many people there are better than me! I was hardly even average on this website. In the summers and on the weekends I would sometimes play all day long. Since then I’ve actually taught chess quite a bit, informally. I used to teach some of my teammates rules and strategy while waiting for wrestling practice. I also taught chess to a few interested villagers when I lived in Guinea.

**Q: Why play chess? Isn’t it as much activity as watching paint dry? After all, a game can go on all day long, right?**

A: Most things are more fun to do than to watch paint dry. Some people like the intense mental struggle of chess. Games vary quite a bit in length. A regular tournament-length game does indeed go on for about three or four hours. But it’s also possible to agree to shorter time controls, and most games I play take less than an hour to complete.

Recently, I even started playing “bullet chess”. Each side has only one minute to make all of its moves, so the game can’t take more than two minutes. However, I am much better at slower time control chess.

**Q: How hard do you have to look to find someone to play with you? How often do you play?**

A: Not hard at all. In Port of Spain there are a few chess clubs that meet regularly. Most games that I play, though, are online, and there’s always someone online who is willing to play. I play nearly every day.

**Q: Have you competed?**

A: I’ve competed quite a bit online. I’ve only been to one real-life tournament, which was here in Port of Spain. That was a blitz (relatively fast time control) tournament. Each side had 10 minutes to make all of their moves.

I was a bit nervous, as this was my first real tournament. I ended up winning three games and losing three games, and I was happy with that. One of the people who beat me was a Trinidad and Tobago national chess champion. Another one was a boy of about 12 years.

**Q: What are some of the moves and openings, and how hard are they to learn?**

A: I’m not sure if I can answer this in a way that would be interesting to the casual reader! Recently I’ve been specializing in two particular openings, the Queen’s Gambit and the Scandinavian, because four times out of five, I can steer the game into one of these openings. This deeper knowledge of opening theory is certainly an advantage. But I spend a fair bit of time studying endgame theory too. It is very frustrating to arrive at an endgame position that you know you should be able to win and then not managing to get it done. ■

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