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**REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC/CDCC WORK PROGRAMME
2002 - 2003 BIENNIUM AND 2004-2005 BIENNIUM**

[covering the period 1 January 2002 to 31 March 2004]

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SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

A. INTRODUCTION

During the 2002-2003 biennium, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), focused its attention on the analysis of issues of special relevance to economic and social development in the Caribbean subregion. In this context, the Subregional Headquarters attained the following three interrelated expected accomplishments: (i) to improve policies, programmes and projects to facilitate adjustment of Caribbean societies to rapid changes on the international scene; to maximize the benefits and mitigate the adverse effects of globalization; to boost the subregional integration process incorporating the changes derived from the evolution of the multilateral trading regime; and to alleviate poverty and reduce gender inequalities; (ii) to strengthen capabilities of member States to develop and apply indicators to measure the catalyst effect of science and technology on economic and social development in the subregion; and (iii) to strengthen national capacities to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean.

With regard to the first of these areas, Caribbean member and associate member States continue to benefit from the programmes and policies implemented by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. In an effort to improve relations with member States, ECLAC/CDCC prepared research papers on the economic trends in the countries of the subregion and disseminated 59 technical studies and reports that provided up-to-date information on trade and integration, science and technology, gender, sustainable development strategies, Caribbean tourism, and other issues of interest which have an impact on Caribbean economies. Among the meetings convened by the Subregional Headquarters, particular mention should be made of the nineteenth session of the CDCC, held in Trinidad and Tobago, in March 2002, and the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, in Puerto Rico, in April 2003. The latter meeting, which was attended by 19 of its 23 members and associate member States, reviewed the implementation of the work programme of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Mention should also be made of the Caribbean Subregional High-level meeting preparatory for the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Trinidad and Tobago, on 11-12 November 2003.

In an effort to strengthen the capability of member States to utilize its limited resources, the Subregional Headquarters organized 14 training workshops during the biennium. As a result of these interventions, 415 persons, of whom 186 were females, from 18 member States received training in the area of trade and social statistics, information technology, science and technology indicators, disaster assessment, protocols for evaluating domestic violence and diplomacy. Moreover, the Subregional Headquarters has established fully searchable databases for trade and social statistics aimed at increasing the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate trade and social policies.

At the same time, indications that there has been a revitalization of the CDCC process was evidenced by 729 persons, from member and associate member States and selected regional institutions, participating in the 19 meetings convened by the secretariat. These meetings examined issues such as small and medium-sized enterprises, gender socialization and domestic violence, the production of statistics, protecting and promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the construction of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in the Caribbean, and trade in services.

In the area of technical assistance, 90 missions were carried out in countries of the subregion, particularly in connection with integration and regional cooperation, information management for development, human and social development, the review and development of a legislative agenda to deal with domestic violence, especially violence against women, environmental sustainability, water resources management, and trade. In addition, the Subregional Headquarters provided wide-ranging support to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), especially in the area of trade; the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) responding to requests for the preparation of substantive papers for use at meetings of these institutions.

Furthermore, activities were undertaken through extrabudgetary projects, including the completion of an extensive audit of the social impact after the closure of the sugar industry in St Kitts and Nevis; a marine-based tourism project which focused on the yachting sector in the Eastern Caribbean; development and establishment of databases in trade and social statistics; and the development of a draft national human development agenda for the Government of Belize. National reports on the yachting sector, which were prepared for seven countries of the Eastern Caribbean have, so far, borne results in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines where dedicated yachting officers have been appointed within government to facilitate regular consultations between government and the private sector. In St Vincent and the Grenadines, government has also moved to establish a marine tourism task force with a view to developing a marine tourism policy. The project received widespread media coverage in the national and regional press and the Trinidad and Tobago report was extensively referred to in a feature story of the global *Cruising World* on Trinidad and Tobago. One consequence of the widespread publication has been an increase in requests for assistance in the yachting sector.

With regard to the area of science and technology, Caribbean countries have compelling reasons for collecting and analyzing meaningful and disaggregated data on science and technology; this need follows also from the concern of the critical role of science and technology in the process of sustainable development, which involves the integration of social, economic and environmental components of action for policy decision. To this end, the secretariat produced a methodological manual entitled "The development of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean" (LC/CAR/G.696). Member States have been urged to use this manual when collecting and collating indicators on science and technology for submission to ECLAC, which will serve as the basis for a database and for a document on science and technology indicators planned for publication in 2006. Although there was a slowdown in the training aspects of the development of science and technology indicators for the Caribbean subregion, and some difficulties accessing the donor funds, the secretariat was able to accomplish a 93% success rate. Another key area has been the discussions with member States

related to the establishment of a Caribbean Water Partnership, as part of the Global Water Partnership.

Member States have requested ECLAC/CDCC to conduct training workshops in assessing the impact of natural disasters, as a result of the success of these training programmes in selected Caribbean countries. This training was envisaged to shorten the response time for evaluation after a natural disaster event. In response, ECLAC/CDCC has reviewed the existing ECLAC methodology to take into account the peculiar nature of the small island States of the subregion. During the biennium, 132 persons, of whom 48 were females, received training in the use of the Disaster Assessment Manual in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Finally, ECLAC/CDCC continued to serve as the operational secretariat for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Caribbean countries. This activity was pre-empted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 57/262 of 20 December 2002, which provided for regional preparatory meetings in connection with an International Meeting that is to convene in Mauritius, in August 2004, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the POA. In this context, the Caribbean Subregional Preparatory Meeting was held at the technical level in Trinidad and Tobago, on 6-10 October 2003. To guide discussions, the Subregional Headquarters prepared the background documents; provided secretariat support and assisted with other substantive aspects of the meeting, in conjunction with the Department for Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations. The interregional meeting, at the ministerial level, is to convene in the Bahamas in January 2004.

All of the above-mentioned activities have resulted in a significant increase in the number of member and associate member States participating in the various programmes of the secretariat aimed at achieving the goal of sustainable development in the subregion

Programme performance

In order to achieve the above-mentioned results, the subprogramme carried out its programmatic commitments within the framework of the programme of work of the ECLAC system and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

Table 1: implementation of the work programme 2002-2003: final outputs by category

Description	Programmed	Additional	Total
Substantive servicing of meetings	6	-	6
Expert groups, rapporteurs, depository services	9	4	13
Recurrent publications	2	-	2
Non-recurrent publications	36	23	59
Other substantive activities	41	2	43
International cooperation, inter-agency coordination and liaison	2	-	2
Advisory services	46	5	51
Training courses, seminars and workshops	10	4	14
Field projects	4	-	4
Total:	156	38	194

The following synoptic table shows the actual programme performance of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in relation to programme budget commitments for the biennium 2002-2003, in terms of final outputs: publications, meetings of experts, intergovernmental meetings, operational or technical cooperation activities (missions, courses, seminars and projects).

Table 2: Actual programme performance biennium 2002-2003
[In relation to programme budget commitments]

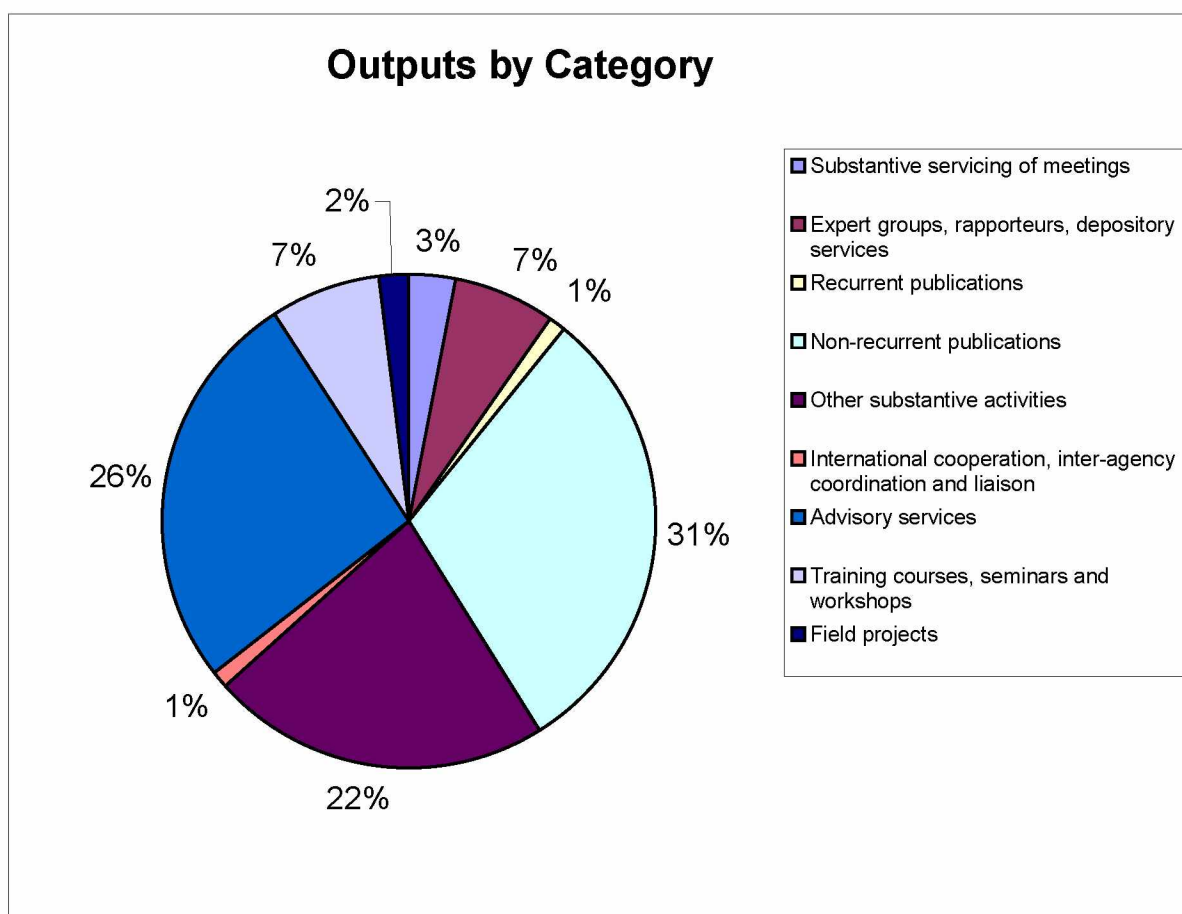
	Planned		Additions by		Implementation		Departures from programmed commitments		Implementation rates*	
Sub programme	Programmed	Carried over	Legislation	Secretariat	Implemented	Reformulated	Postponed	Terminated	Mandated	Total
Subregional activities in Caribbean	156		0	38	130	11	7	8	90	

The following synoptic table shows the work months utilized by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean during the biennium 2002-2003 for the implementation of activities included in its mandated programme of work.

Table 3: Work months utilized

	Regular		Extra budgetary		Total				Grand total
Sub programme	Professional	Consultants	Professional	Consultant	Regular	Extra-budgetary	Professional	Consultant	
Subregional activities in Caribbean	289	22		28	311	28	289	50	339

The following graph shows the total programmed and additional outputs completed with resources available in the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, including those financed with extrabudgetary resources.

Chart 1: OUTPUTS BY CATEGORY – TOTAL OUTPUTS

All publications and meeting reports can be found on the ECLAC/CDCC website www.eclacpos.org.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES BY SUBJECT AREAS

1. Subject area 12.1: Linkages with the global economy and competitiveness of the Caribbean countries

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat implemented this section of the work programme under a number of broad themes, namely economic integration, economic reforms, trade and investment and economic development. This was done within the context of developments that the secretariat monitors at the global, hemispheric and regional levels.

The secretariat continued to prepare studies in this subject area in an effort to keep member States abreast of developments, which have implications for Caribbean economies. Competitiveness, in light of the trend toward increased trade liberalization, is an important issue that was reflected in most of the research done. The secretariat facilitated capacity-building to undertake studies on competitiveness by providing training on the ECLAC CAN and MAGIC software to personnel from government agencies and research institutions in the subregion. Other issues related to competitiveness were examined in specific studies, such as those on export promotion policies, tourism trends and impact and the impact of the FTAA. The study on social security reforms examined, among other things, the ability of pension schemes to meet obligations given the changes in work practices in regional economies that strive to achieve competitiveness.

1.1 Economic development issues

In keeping with the annual programme of reporting on the economic trends in the countries of the subregion, the secretariat published the following documents:

- (a) Economic Overview of Caribbean Economies. LC/CAR/G.766. December 2003.
- (b) Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies 2002-2004. LC/CAR/G.778. February 2004.
- (c) Supplemental Notes on the economic performance for the Caribbean subregion LC/CAR/G.699, August 2002.
- (d) Economic overview of Caribbean countries - 2001 LC/CAR/G.697, July 2002.
- (e) A Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies - 2002 LC/CAR/G.714, January 2003.
- (f) Global Economic Developments – 2000-2001 LC/CAR/G.683, January 2002.

1.2 Trade and investment

The following documents were prepared to analyse new issues, which may have implications for Caribbean economies:

- (a) Issues, Effects and Implications of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Agreement for CARICOM Economies. LC/CAR/G.773. January 2004
- (b) Fiscal Trends and Policy Issues and Implications for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.771. December 2003.
- (c) Caribbean Tourism, Trends, Policies and Impact 1985-2002. LC/CAR/G.765. December 2003
- (d) Export Promotion Policies in CARICOM Caribbean Economies. LC/CAR/G.757. November 2003.
- (e) The impact direct foreign investment and patterns of specialisation in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/G.716, January 2003
- (f) Exchange rate regimes in the Caribbean, LC/CAR/G.715, January 2003
- (g) Monetary, Fiscal Policy and Economic Performance in a Monetary Union. WP/2003/14, December 2003.
- (h) The Quality of International Insertion and Competitiveness in the Greater Caribbean: Applying ECLAC Instruments in Assessing Competitiveness. WP/2003/11, October 2003.
- (i) Social Security Reforms and their Implications for the Caribbean. [To be published in 2004]

1.3 Meetings

The importance of fiscal budgets and outcomes in macroeconomic stability as well as in meeting the obligations and development objectives of Caribbean governments led the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to convene a meeting in Port-Of-Spain in December 2003 to examine fiscal trends in the Caribbean and their implications for the economies of the subregion.

1.4 Technical cooperation

The secretariat continued to respond to requests from member States for technical support. This is offered under a special programme with funding support from ECLAC Headquarters.

- (a) At the request of the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, on behalf of Permanent Representatives of CARICOM to the United Nations, the secretariat prepared Briefs on Financing for Development to assist in the negotiations leading up to the Conference on Financing.
- (b) The secretariat provided technical assistance at the request of the OECS Secretariat and produced for the Secretariat the (restricted) document "The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) within the Free Trade Area of the Americas

Agreement (FTAA): Issues, Effects and Implications”. This document has proved useful in informing the position of the OECS countries in the FTAA negotiations.

2. Subject Area 12.2: Linkages with the international economy, integration and co-operation

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to deepen and widen regional integration and cooperation. This was facilitated through its research and technical assistance activities.

2.1 CDCC meetings

Two meetings of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat during the biennium:

- a) Nineteenth Session of the CDCC, 14 - 15 March 2002, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. A major item on the agenda, in addition to issues pertaining to the regular work programme, was the review of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC. Revised texts were adopted for the consideration by ECLAC.
- b) The Eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC convened in Puerto Rico, on 10 and 11 April 2003. A major element under discussion and on which significant progress was made, was the issue related to “Developments in Relation to the Proposal for Securing the International Recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development”.

2.2 Trade and cooperation issues

Trade and economic integration were the primary focus of activities under this heading. The progress made so far in deepening CARICOM integration was examined as well as the integration trends within the wider Caribbean subregion. A study of the financing mechanisms that support regional integration was also undertaken within the context of the proposed FTAA. A document on a national strategy to facilitate Trinidad & Tobago’s integration within the hemispheric integration group (the FTAA) was also prepared. A study was also done to examine how Caribbean agriculture, which supports a significant proportion of the workforce in the region, can cope with trade liberalization and increased competition at both regional and multilateral levels.

A number of studies were done in these areas:

- (a) Progress Made in the Implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. LC/CAR/G.770. December 2003.
- (b) Main Trade Trends, Trade Policy and Integration in the Greater Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.756. October 2003 (Joint Publication with the Association of Caribbean States).

- (c) The Development of the Services Sector in Caribbean Countries, LC/CAR/G. 717, January 2003.
- (d) Incorporation of special and differential treatment in international trade agreements and the implications for Caribbean economies, LC/CAR/G.693, May 2002.
- (e) Intra-CDCC Trade, LC/CAR/G.694, published 17 June 2002.
- (f) National Strategy for Strengthening Trade Related Capacity in Trinidad and Tobago. WP/2003/7. September 2003.
- (g) Financing Mechanisms in Support of Regional Integration. WP/2004/2. January 2004.
- (h) A Study on Free Trade and the Development of Environmentally Friendly Agriculture. [To be published in 2004]

2.3 Meetings

- (a) A meeting on the *Development of the services sector in the Caribbean* was convened in Port of Spain, 2 to 3 September 2002 in light of the growing importance of services to Caribbean economies in terms of contribution to income, employment and foreign exchange earnings.
- (b) A meeting was convened in Port-of-Spain in November 2003 to examine the critical issues relating to the proposed FTAA. The ECLAC Caribbean Trade Database was presented to the meeting to demonstrate, among other things, its utility in analyzing competitiveness of Caribbean economies. A Report [LC/CAR/G.774] on the meeting was produced in January 2004.

2.4 Regional

FTAA

ECLAC continued to provide assistance, as part of the Tripartite Committee, to the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies. Special emphasis has been placed on development of the Hemispheric Cooperation Programme, which is aimed at building trade capacity and assisting smaller economies to negotiate and implement FTAA agreements as well as adjust their economies to cope with the effects of trade liberalization. More recently, countries have been exploring the possibility of establishing compensatory financial mechanisms to facilitate adjustment to hemispheric trade integration. In this regard, ECLAC prepared, at the request of the Smaller Economies Group a document [WP/2004/2] on Financing Mechanisms in support of regional integration for the FTAA meeting in Mexico from 13-14 January 2004.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

ECLAC/CDCC continued to work closely with the ACS in the preparation of papers and the convening of meetings.

2.5 Information dissemination

The secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, FOCUS, which provides information on the ongoing work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

The ECLAC Issue Brief, previously issued as External Briefing Notes, is a quarterly publication of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat that examines current economic issues and concisely highlights the implications for the Caribbean subregion.

2.6 CARIBTRADE Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database

- (a) ECLAC/CDCC continued to assist member States in addressing perennial problems in the production and dissemination of timely trade information. This was done through the implementation of the project NET/00/081: Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean [development of a trade database], with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The main objective of the project was the establishment of a trade database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and provision of support at the national level in selected Caribbean countries' statistical offices.
- (b) The database seeks to facilitate ECLAC/CDCC member countries in effectively participating in and benefiting from trade negotiations by providing rapid answers to queries on trade statistics and comparative indicators of the Caribbean.
- (c) Already, as a result of the work of the project, the Office has been approached to assist a Caribbean country by recommending solutions leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the production of its trade data.

2.7 Technical cooperation

During the biennium, the secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration among member States, at their request.

3. Subject area 12.3: Information management for development

In support of the SIDS POA, the secretariat continued its efforts in promoting trade, enabling good governance and building capacity for sustainable livelihoods at the national and subregional levels through its activities of the 2002-2003 biennium.

3.1 Statistical development

Initiatives centred on:

- (a) The management and modernization of statistical offices in order to improve data quality, data security, the timeliness with which data are produced and the coordination of data-collection activities;
- (b) Legislative support of the statistical process;

- (c) Enhancing transparency of the statistical process;
- (d) The provision of reliable and accessible trade and economic statistics and support.

3.1.1 Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to examine issues relating to the production of statistical information in the Caribbean and proposals for increasing efficiency in this sphere. This meeting was held in Port of Spain on 16 and 17 October 2003, and was a follow-up to a paper on the topic published by the Statistical Unit in October 2002. The meeting brought together experts to discuss several issues surrounding the production and quality of statistics in the Caribbean subregion. The report of this meeting was presented to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians held in the Turks and Caicos Islands in November 2003.

3.1.2 Recurrent publications

Two issues of Selected Statistical Indicators: Vol. XV – 2002 (LC/CAR/G.703) and Vol. XVI – 2003 (LC/CAR/G.759). This document provides subscribers, researchers and other users of Caribbean statistics with a single compilation of select economic data for the ECLAC/CDCC member countries. It also serves as an adjunct to national or subregional studies that seek to analyze economic and social development in the Caribbean. The data are gathered from the countries and checked for accuracy and consistency; associated problems resolved; datasets updated; quality control audit performed on analytical document.

3.1.3 Non-recurrent publications

- (a) A document on the Production of statistical data and information in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.70) and proposals for increasing efficiency in this sphere. The paper examined aspects of the external and internal environments that impact the production and delivery of relevant and accurate statistics, and drew from information collected in a survey of Caribbean government statistics-producing offices.
- (b) A document on the Criteria for the efficient coordination of the activities for data collection and the design of instruments for mapping and data collection applicable to the countries of the subregion (LC/CAR/G.755). The paper highlighted the importance of good economic and social data to measure change in the economy and the society and the need for governments to base policy decisions on data. It discussed the issues of design and coordination of data collection to ensure that the data collected fit into an information mosaic that enabled planning. Among the key issues discussed were: data collection and coordination; design of instruments for mapping and data collection; harmonization; ownership of data that result from an interorganizational team effort.

3.1.4 Technical materials

Document, Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts (Vol. VII) – 2003. (LC/CAR/G.747) is published biennially and lists the main statistical documents currently produced and/or circulated by the ECLAC/CDCC member countries. It serves as a first stop to discovering what exists by way of information on nationally produced Caribbean statistics.

3.1.5 Technical cooperation

Technical assistance was provided to the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in modernizing the operations of their statistical offices. Technical assistance provided was mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. The secretariat continued to support the English-speaking Caribbean countries, through the CARICOM secretariat, in the analysis and access to the 2000 Population and Housing censuses.

3.2 Information management – Caribbean Documentation Centre

Currently, in addition to the management of the Library, the Caribbean Documentation Centre has responsibility for the ECLAC (Port of Spain) web site, the maintenance and development of the Caribbean Digital Library, and maintaining an archive of the organization's publications. This library is now being accessed at www.eclacpos.org/cdl

3.2.1 Current Awareness Bulletin

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to produce the bimonthly publication *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)*. The Bulletin provides national planners, policy-makers, researchers and libraries with up-to-date information on regional, economic and social issues. The CAB includes the following: a list of documents recently prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC Headquarters and other UN agencies as well as the most recent acquisitions of United Nations documents, arranged by subject.
- (b) The Current Awareness Bulletin is also made accessible through the Website, www.eclacpos.org, with links to abstracts of some documents where available.

3.2.2 Current Contents

- (a) The secretariat also continues to produce the monthly newsletter *Current Contents*, which provides users with an insight into the contents of journals, and other publications recently received in the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

3.2.3 The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

The Caribbean Documentation Centre has been engaged in monitoring and attempting to influence through its research work, the Caribbean Response to the Action Plan emanating from

the First session of the WSIS. The work in this area is fuelled by a commitment to ensure that the Caribbean takes adequate advantage of the real opportunities inherent in the promise of an information society and to ensure that a high degree of e-consumerism is not mistaken for real progress.

The secretariat has prepared a paper for discussion the Twentieth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee entitled "Obstacles to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action".

3.2.4 Youth unemployment and the Caribbean Information Society

In response to the nature of youths in the subregion, the secretariat prepared the following documents:

- (a) A document entitled "Business incubation and innovation in the Caribbean: a people centred approach" was prepared and presented at a Commonwealth Secretariat seminar/workshop on Electronic Commerce; and
- (b) Youth unemployment and the Caribbean Information Society: a challenge and an opportunity. ECLAC (Port of Spain) Working paper 2004/1

3.2.5 The Caribbean Digital Library (CDL)

The CDL an online research facility developed by the Caribbean Documentation Centre is a collection of more than 800 web-based substantive documents arranged for easy retrieval under 26 broad subject headings. The method of its compilation is an experiment in regional inter-library cooperation. A study to assess its success in this regard will be undertaken during May of this year. The CDL is accessible at: <http://cdl.eclacpos.org>

During this year's annual conference of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), the Documentation Centre will host a workshop on the Caribbean Digital Library, with a view to encouraging greater input from the countries themselves

3.2.6 Training workshop

The secretariat continues to offer training to libraries and information centres which have made requests. Thirty persons from 12 CDCC countries and other United Nations agencies participated in the most recent training exercise (a five-day workshop on CDS/ISIS) conducted by the Documentation Centre with the cooperation of the National Library and Information System Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (NALIS). A report on this workshop has been issued as LC/CAR/G.769.

3.2.3 Technical cooperation

In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics also responded to several requests for support for member States and regional institutions. It should be noted that in

keeping with current trends, publications, including newsletters, prepared by the secretariat are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website www.eclacpos.org. In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of keeping the cost of publications and dissemination to a minimum.

4. Subject area 12.4: Environmental sustainability

The programme of work under this subject area focused on the issues related to preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002. It also reviews the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA) and the establishment of programmes on sustainable tourism. The sustainable development database is being expanded to provide information on sustainable development and the execution of programmes on the assessment of the impact of natural disasters.

4.1 Implementation of the SIDS POA

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued to promote the implementation of the SIDS POA. Towards this end, the secretariat provided support for the subregional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SIDS POA and related decisions; and collaborated with other subregional, regional or international agencies on issues relating to the execution of the joint work plan for the implementation of the SIDS POA. ECLAC/CDCC will coordinate this process in its role as secretariat of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean.
- (b) The secretariat prepared the document entitled: Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean Subregion, 1994-2003 (Document LC/CAR/G. 749 and its Summary, Document G.750). This document provided the background for the conduct of the review of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for SIDS + 10, which convened in Trinidad and Tobago, on 6-10 October 2003. This important input was formally acknowledged in the report of the Meeting. The documents were also hailed by a number of regional and wider international institutions such as the OECS and the European Commission.

4.2 Caribbean Sea

- (a) The Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean further intensified its efforts in promoting the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development. To this end, significant support was given to CARICOM, the ACS, particularly the latter, *inter alia*, in the sharing of studies on this topic, towards the presentation of a report by the subregion to the 59th General Assembly, in 2004.

- (b) Document CDCC/19/INF.9, entitled Promoting an Integrated Management Approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development identifies the major difficulties encountered by the subregion in advancing the proposal and, through the development of a proposed work programme, suggests a way forward. It takes into account new initiatives, which bear close relationship to the Caribbean Sea proposal sponsored by ECLAC/CDCC and the ACS. The document concludes that the results of the process to date, as enshrined in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 54/224 and 55/203 do not reflect the vast potential that is recognised in the original proposal.
- (c) Discussions are continuing with several member States and regional bodies such as CARICOM and the ACS to ensure that this item stays on our agenda and that of the United Nations General Assembly.

4.3 Approaches to sustainable development

- (a) The basic objective of the study entitled, “Conceptual and Definitional Approaches to Sustainable Development: In Search of a Caribbean Convergence.” LC/CAR/G.754, was to explore the scope for convergence of perspectives on this very important concept, sustainable development, not only to facilitate dialogue, but, also, to ensure coherent policy-making.
- (b) The concern for conceptual and definitional convergence with respect to *sustainable development* was articulated in the particular context of the 23 Caribbean countries that are members of the CDCC. A major thrust of the activities undertaken within the Committee and within the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean, in general, is the implementation of the SIDS POA. It is still early to gauge the impact of this document. It is however clear from certain approaches that have been adopted across the subregion, including by CARICOM and the OECS, that, as intended, it will generate a significant amount of discussion.

4.4 World Summit on Sustainable Development

As part of its preparations for the WSSD, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat updated the document CDCC/19/INF.8 entitled Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for presentation to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which took place in Guyana during the period 3 to 5 July 2002. This revised paper incorporates a proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development.

4.5 Disaster assessments and training workshops

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued its programme of providing support to member States, upon request, in the preparation of assessments as a consequence of natural disasters. These actions have been followed up by the conduct of training workshops to ensure that the

relevant technocrats were sufficiently trained in addressing the difficulties that are experienced by these countries after the occurrence of natural disasters.

4.5.1 Disaster assessment

A rapid assessment was carried out in Jamaica following the extensive damages to several parts of western Jamaica caused by heavy rains during May and June 2002. The findings of the assessment were contained in the report "Jamaica - macro-socio-economic assessment of the damage done by flood rains and landslides, [LC/CAR/G.698] submitted to the Government on 20 June 2002. The report highlighted the cause of the damages to the infrastructure as well as recommended changes to aspects of physical development planning

4.5.2 Capacity building workshops

ECLAC/CDCC provided training workshops in the use of the revised version of the ECLAC Methodology for the Conduct of post-disaster macroeconomic, social and environmental assessment entitled Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS, developed by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to the following countries:

- (a) Jamaica: 23-25 April 2002 for 43 senior technocrats, drawn from a wide cross section of the public and private sectors;
- (b) Saint Lucia, 17 - 19 December 2002 for 42 persons, drawn from the public and private sectors;
- (c) Trinidad and Tobago, 17 - 19 March 2003 for 47 persons from a wide cross section of the public and private sectors.

4.6 Physical planning in the Caribbean

4.6.1 Caribbean Planners Network (CPN)

At a meeting of the Caribbean Planners Network (CPN) in Port of Spain on 21 January 2002 it was decided to establish a structure for managing and promoting the CPN Website as well as to set up a membership policy. The CPN will function mainly through two communication channels: an interactive Website for planners and an electronic newsletter. Report of meeting - LC/CAR/G.689, (25/3/02).

4.6.2 Review of Planning Legislations

At the request of several governments in the subregion, the secretariat undertook an exercise to assist in the review and redrafting of physical planning legislation in the subregion. To date the following assignments have been completed:

a) Government of Saint Lucia

- i. Preparation of the Draft Plan and Appropriate Standards for the Greater Rodney Bay area (Local Area Plan). It is expected that this Plan will be formally adopted under section 5(1)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, Ch.175 or will be declared a zoned area under section 24 of the Land Development (Interim Control) Act, 1971 or the new Physical Planning and Development Legislation.
- ii. A revised Draft Physical Planning and Development (Land Development) Act 2001 - Regulations

b) Government of St Kitts and Nevis

- i. Draft Physical Planning and Development (Land Development) Regulations for St. Kitts and Nevis.
- ii. Draft National Land Policy for St. Kitts and a report on the proposed uses of the sugar lands.
- iii. For the Nevis Island Administration, the secretariat provided assistance for the completion of the Draft Nevis Physical Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2003.

c) Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines

- i. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Evaluation of the Tobago Cays National Park.

4.7 Meetings

- (a) A Joint Meeting of the SIDS of the Caribbean and the agencies members of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG) was convened on 11 April 2003, in Puerto Rico. The meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and preparation of the SIDS of the Caribbean subregion for SIDS + 10 and the International Meeting that will convene in Mauritius, in August-September 2004
- (b) The proposed second Caribbean ministerial meeting for SIDS was subsumed by the interregional meeting which convened in the Bahamas during 26 - 30 January 2004.

4.8 Workshops/seminars

Two seminars were conducted for the political directorate, senior officials, and civil society in Montserrat, in the context of a mission which spanned the period 3-6 December 2002.

- (a) The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME): Laying the Foundations for Enhanced Productivity, Competitiveness ...and Profit; and
- (b) Protocol, Diplomacy and Ethics: Preparing for More Effective Participation in the Regional and Wider International Arena.

4.9 Project implementation

Marine-based tourism

The secretariat successfully completed the Development of A Regional Marine-based Tourism Strategy [study on the yachting industry] project, NET/00/79, which was funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. To date, seven national yachting reports have been completed for Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines St. Maarten and Trinidad and Tobago. A short report was completed for Martinique. The three main objectives have been achieved and included in the regional strategy prepared for consideration by the respective countries. In all the countries, but Martinique, the national studies were followed by national private and public sector consultations to review the conclusions and recommendations of the national reports and to propose follow-up activities to implement the recommendations.

Some of the more significant findings of the project were that marine-based tourism contributes more to the economy in terms of revenue, employment and quality of employment than cruise ship tourism, although the latter was in receipt of large public sector investment and incentives. Another finding was that the subsector was characterized by an almost complete lack of understanding by the public sector often resulting in or from an unintended bias against yachting.

These findings have so far resulted in institutional changes in the participating countries, foremost in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the government has appointed a marine tourism committee while in Trinidad and Tobago, an officer within the Ministry of Tourism serves as a de facto yachting officer. The governments of Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda have begun to make legislative changes as well as to focus on counterproductive bureaucratic procedures.

4.10 Technical cooperation

During the period under review, the secretariat continued to provide assistance to member States in conducting studies and providing other types of support, upon request.

5. Subject Area 12.5: Application of science and technology to Caribbean development

For the biennium 2002-2003, the secretariat's work in the field of science and technology centred around two main themes, which form an integral part of the SIDS/POA, namely:

- (a) Improving efficiency and capacity building;
- (b) Identification of new technologies.

5.1 Capacity- building

- (a) To improve efficiency and capacity building, a workshop was conducted on the role of technology transfer and technology innovation in small business geared to improve the performance of that sector. The workshop provided a platform for networking at both the individual and institutional levels to help improve performance. Following from this workshop and previous efforts, governments undertook new policy directives, established new institutions, as in the case of Belize, and technical assistance increased within the subregion, especially between the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) and some entrepreneurs, especially in the context of the CARTIF programme.
- (b) Another aspect of work on that theme is the focus on measurement of the application and effectiveness of science and technology to the development process in the subregion. To that end, a manual for the development and application of science and technology indicators was developed and training sessions conducted for its use. A number of countries have begun to apply the manual and have taken stock of their expenditure and returns on science and technology investments as well as making necessary changes to their policy framework based on the preliminary results of the exercise. The programme has taken hold in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Guyana, and is in the initial stages in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

5.2 Identification of new technologies

- (a) The secretariat concentrated on the identification and bringing to the forefront those technologies that can be easily adapted and can play a significant role in advancing the development agenda in the subregion. Such technologies as biotechnology, especially for the agricultural sector, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the management of natural resources, solar and wind energy as technologies that can reduce dependency on gas imports, as well as information technology that can significantly reduce vulnerabilities and deficiencies in the development paradigm, were the main focus of research and information sharing. To that end, a series of papers were published on new technologies, information technology, integrated water resources management and information technology.

- (b) Specific to IWRM the efforts have led to the formation of the Caribbean Water Partnership that will serve as a network of institutions involved with water and natural resources management in the subregion. Copies of the papers mentioned are available for those interested.
- (c) As noted, the activities took into consideration the various actions that were identified in the SIDS POA, with particular reference to agriculture, water and natural resources, institution and capacity building, and the general need to promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as a means of reducing poverty, especially within the more disadvantaged sectors of Caribbean societies. The activities also allow for measurement of efforts in the area of science and technology and the opportunities for making adjustments in both policy and implementation, as necessary, in order to meet the needs of the subregion.

5.3 Publications

- (a) A study on the Impact of new technologies on the development process in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.719). The paper sought to demonstrate how the application of new technologies in the areas of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and energy can impact on the development process in the subregion
- (b) A study on the Adoption and application of information technology in the Caribbean and its contribution to scientific, technological and human resource development (LC/CAR/G.716). The paper focused on the computer and its use in product delivery or as a tool for achieving success in scientific, technological and human resource development in the subregion. It sought to show that the introduction of the tools of information technology into a society could not be divorced from the general level of technological advancement of the society.
- (c) A Review of the energy policies in the subregion and the impediments to introduction of new and renewable energy sources (LC/CAR/G.745). The paper traced the history of electricity generation in the subregion and sought to explain the lack of linkages with downstream activities in agriculture since these would have required on-site energy provision. It attempts to show that energy policy in the subregion continues to be made more on the basis of the needs of utility companies rather than on a proper appreciation of the role of energy in the development process and may also explain, to a large extent, the lack of stated policy on renewable energy use.

- (d) A Comparative study of policies on technology and industry in the Caribbean and their effects on development (LC/CAR/G.752). The policies studied show a focus on incentives to foreign investors rather than on research and development and indigenous capacity building. In so doing policies have ignored, to a large extent, the agricultural base of the Caribbean economy and the institutions and investments needed to transform that base from raw materials to value-added products, and have helped to perpetuate low-scale activities. The paper concludes that capacity-building initiatives should not only respond to the demands of those that can voice their concerns.

5.4 Group training

- a. Regional workshop on small and medium size enterprises in the Caribbean in Saint Lucia in April 2002. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the initiation of the establishment of a network of SME agencies and practitioners that would address specific issues and promote SME development in the subregion.
- b. Workshops on the preparation and use of science and technology indicators and their contribution to economic development in the subregion, in particular those of specific reference to small island developing States (LC/CAR/G.753 and LC/CAR/G.777). The objectives of the workshops were to analyse the experience acquired in the collection and use of the science and technology indicators; train participants in the use of the manual that was developed and also to provide training in the analysis and use of the data collected as a tool for policy formulation. The ultimate objective of the programme is an annual publication on science and technology indicators for the Caribbean that can be used by technicians and policy makers.

5.5 Collaborative activities

For the 2002-2003 biennium, specific collaborative projects were undertaken with the following agencies, organizations and institutions:

- (a) The European Union - The promotion of SMEs in the subregion. The joint implementation of a project with ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, Chile, that included the production of three videos on the development of SMEs in the Eastern Caribbean, the Netherlands Antilles and Haiti.
- (b) The Embassy of the Netherlands, the Inter-American Bank (IDB) and the Global Water Partnership - The secretariat assisted in the formation of a Caribbean Water Partnership (CWP) Programme. A core group comprising persons from agencies with responsibility for water resources management in the subregion was established to undertake preparatory work for the launching of a CWP.
- (c) Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)/the University of the West Indies (UWI)/Global Environment Change and Food Systems (GECAPS)

- The secretariat in collaboration with CARDI, UWI and GECAFS co-hosted a regional meeting to develop a research agenda for the Caribbean, focusing on global climate change and food systems. The objective of the collaboration was to enable policy makers to factor in the possible effects of global climate change into their recommendations for meeting the long-term needs of the region, as well as exploring the opportunities that may present themselves in agricultural export, within a global climate change.
- (d) University of the West Indies (UWI) - The secretariat continues to collaborate with the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of UWI in the study and analysis of sustainable development economic issues, through seminars and workshops hosted by SEDU.

6. Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean

For the biennium 2002-2003, the secretariat concentrated its output on three main thematic areas in the field of social development

- (a) Improving the evidence-based capacity of policy makers in the social sector;
- (b) Gender equality; and
- (c) Increasing awareness and commitment to population and development.

6.1 Improving the evidence-based capacity of policy makers in the social sector

6.1.1 Evidence-based capacity

- (a) In addition to the establishment of fully searchable social statistical databases, which involves the collection and harmonization of social statistical data sets, ECLAC/CDCC has been engaged in providing training in evidence-based policy formulation. Forty-five persons from 20 member and associate member States were trained in 2002. These were social planners, social policy analysts and statisticians with responsibility for socio-demographic data. The training had as its objective the enhancement of the skills of senior technocrats in the field of social development in evidence-based social policy formulation and the workings of the Caribbean social statistical databases.
- (b) The other significant component of the secretariat's task was the development of a methodological approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for SIDS. The development of the methodology has been completed and scholars, who have been engaged in the development of other vulnerability indices, environmental and economical, have perused the ECLAC/CDCC document and commented positively.

6.1.2 Domestic violence protocol

An initiative to develop a reliable data collection system for data on domestic violence became a reality following the Working Group Meeting on Data Collection Systems: Domestic Violence. It is being piloted in three countries in the subregion: Belize, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

6.1.3 Social statistical database

- (a) Over the last two years (2002-2003), the establishment of fully searchable databases of social statistics has been accomplished. This was done in collaboration with the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and regional institutions such as the CARICOM Secretariat and UWI. The databases include Surveys of Living Conditions (SLCs), Population Census Data, and Labour Force Data.
- (b) Governments that have completed the 2000/2001 round of the population and housing census have agreed in principle to deposit it with the database and have begun to do so. The databases currently hold the 2000/2001 population and housing censuses for Belize, the Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Lucia. Aggregated census data have also been received from the Netherlands Antilles.
- (c) It is the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat's intention that the database will act as the overarching mechanism that will facilitate the more efficient use of social statistics in the subregion, thus strengthening the capacity for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

6.1.4 Sugar industry audit

- (a) The skills of the secretariat were in demand for the conduct of a social audit of the sugar industry for the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. In its efforts to ensure an integrated approach to restructuring the sugar industry, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis requested the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to undertake a social survey of sugar workers. Such a survey was considered necessary since sugar workers are estimated to make up some 15% of the labour force¹.
- (b) The report (LC/CAR/R.66) presented the findings of the social survey and analysed the employment experience of the workers, their educational and training levels and their flexibility for employment in other sectors. It made programmatic recommendations that took into account the needs, experiences and interests of sugar workers, their households and communities. The report stressed the need for capacity building among all sectors of workers with particular attention to women, young people and to those workers with the greatest level of family and household dependency.

¹ Based on the 1990/1991 Population and Housing Census of St Kitts and Nevis

6.2. Gender equality

6.2.1 Gender-based violence and administrative justice

Emphasis was given to the issue of gender equality by addressing gender-based violence and administrative justice. At a meeting held to review the justice system and to develop an integrated plan of action to address this form of violence, specific focus was placed on police training and social service support to the justice system. The participants were persons with responsibility for implementing and monitoring policies and programmes for the eradication of violence against women in the justice system - police, social workers, psychologists, magistrates and representatives of national machineries for women.

6.2.2 Gender and agricultural policies

A workshop on Gender and Agricultural Policies and Planning in the Caribbean was held on 26-28 November 2003, to raise awareness among participants, on the main concepts, definitions and methods related to gender analysis in agricultural policy and planning and the implications for policy formulation and planning; and to discuss and reach common understanding on the crucial factors/areas that need further attention in the formulation of national agricultural policy and programmes, so as to respond more adequately to gender differentiated needs and potentialities. Representatives of the national machineries attended the workshop for women and agricultural ministries from nine CDCC member States.

6.3 Increasing awareness in population and development

6.3.1 Review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

The Declaration in support of the ICPD Cairo Programme of Action was adopted by all ECLAC/CDCC member States.

6.3.2 Migration

- (a) Based on the most recent estimates provided by the United Nations Population Division (United Nations, 2002) the Caribbean has lost more than five million people over the last 50 years through migration. The present net-migration rate for the Caribbean is one of the highest worldwide, however, with a great variation within the subregion.
- (b) ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in supporting governments' concern for out-migration has been conducting a study to explore the causes and consequences of the burden caused by the movement of nurses out of the subregion.

6.3.3 Population ageing

- (a) Population ageing is a global phenomenon, which is having and will have major implications on all aspects of human life in every society. Mandated by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the Population Division of ECLAC (ECLAC/CELADE) has convened the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in November 2003 in Santiago, where a regional strategy for the implementation of the commitments reached in Madrid has been adopted (ECLAC, 2003b). Further, a background document (ECLAC 2003a) has been prepared on the situation of the elderly in the Latin American and Caribbean region, of which the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean document, "Population Ageing in the Caribbean: An Inventory of Policies, Programmes and Future Challenges (LC/CAR/G772), is a substantive part.
- (b) The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continues to support governments in their efforts to address population ageing in line with the regional strategy on ageing for Latin America and the Caribbean.

6.4 Development of social statistical databases

ECLAC/CDCC continues to implement the Dutch-funded project Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States, NET/00/035

Through this project, fully searchable databases of social statistics were constructed at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and social planners and statisticians were trained in the use of the databases to formulate social policy that was evidence-based. The project was also designed to develop a methodological approach for the creation of an SVI for SIDS.

6.5 Human development agenda

At the request of the Government of Belize, and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat completed the preparation of a Draft Report on the development of a National Human Development Agenda for Belize.

6.6 Newsletters

6.6.1 Gender Dialogue Newsletter

The secretariat continued to publish the newsletter Gender Dialogue. The newsletter has been prepared in response to calls from participants at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Trinidad in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women. All issues of Gender Dialogue can be found at <http://www.eclacpos.org/gender>

6.6.2 *Population and Development Newsletter*

The secretariat renewed its efforts to produce the Population and Development Newsletter with the preparation of four issues in 2003. It is anticipated that three issues will be published in 2004 with the generous support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

6.7 Technical cooperation

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to member States, most often in response to specific requests. Exceptionally, the secretariat may also, in anticipation of an emerging area of need, embark on a scope of work intended to strengthen its own capacity to provide technical assistance. One such example is the development of a data collection protocol for domestic violence.

6.7.1 *Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)*

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is continuing its work with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Project with respect to the implementation of its Family and Domestic Violence Legislative Reform Project. In this regard, the secretariat has completed an evaluation of the domestic violence legislation in selected Caribbean countries and is presently undertaking in-depth studies on violence against women initiatives (VAW) in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica Suriname and the Turks and Caicos.
- (b) The main objectives of the research are: To examine the institutional changes across key institutions, concentrating on the administration of justice (judges, police and related services) and social service (delivery counselling, probation, social work, etc.) and to identify strategies, (including media strategies) focuses and alliances that have contributed to progress in the area of VAW. These issues could guide the future work of UNIFEM and other key actors that work on this issue – as well as possible alliances that were never consolidated.

6.7.2 *British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands*

Technical assistance is being provided to the Division of Gender Affairs in these countries, at their request, to develop National Gender Policies and Plans of Action and to prepare an analytical report on the status of law and social service delivery around gender-based violence.