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

2002 - 2003 biennium

[As at 31 March 2004]

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY ECLAC/CDCC

Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and ECLAC

A DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL STATISTICAL DATA BASES AND A METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR A SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX (SVI) FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, NET/00/035

I. Summary

Improving the availability and quality of statistics in the field of social development was the overarching objective of the project, “Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for the Construction of the Social Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean” (NET/00/035). The project has already established fully searchable databases of social statistics at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; social planners and statisticians from the subregion had also been trained 49 persons in evidence-based social policy formulation.¹ During the last stages of the project, the secretariat is elaborating the methodological approach for an the development of the social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island States (SIDS).

To date, 10 countries - Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago - have agreed to release data to the subregional databases project. In addition, regional institutions and organizations such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) which continue to participate in activities related to the project as well as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) via its Derek Gordon Data Bank.

II. Project objectives

1. To improve the social conditions of persons living in ECLAC/CDCC member States by strengthening the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate social policies;

¹ See: “Caribbean Social Statistical Databases Project: Training Component Begins,” FOCUS Newsletter, July –September 2002, 9-10.

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

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTPUTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

Outputs of the project

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

Status of implementation

The activities undertaken thus far in the project are geared towards ensuring that social statistical data are reliable, accessible, and comparable and support social analysis. The secretariat has already established three functional databases, containing population census,

survey of living conditions and labour force survey data. It is expected that the social databases will become fully searchable during the first semester, 2004.

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

The next phase in the development of an SVI methodological approach, therefore, should focus on two objectives: determining the readiness of the 23 CDCC member and associate member countries to participate in the project, and testing the methodology in those countries that had reasonably developed systems of official statistics. These initiatives would yield insights that could be used when replicating and testing SVI measurement models in regions beyond the Caribbean.

Meetings

In an effort to ensure that the project meets all its objectives, the secretariat convened 10 ad hoc meetings to seek guidance on the development of the statistical databases and the development of the methodology for the Social Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States.

Workshops

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

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

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

Statistical Databases. Participants for the training workshops were senior technocrats who work in the field of social development.

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

Publications

The following publications have been produced:

1. Establishing Social Statistical Databases for evidenced-based social policy formulation in the Caribbean [LC/CAR/G.661]. The paper presents the challenges and lessons learnt from the Project NET/00/035.
2. Quality of Life: A compendium of selected social statistics for five selected Caribbean countries - 1995-2001. [LC/CAR/G.680]. The publication is the second in a series on social statistics to be published by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. It demonstrates that even with the limited data sets, which exists in the subregion, a significant amount of information can be gleaned about the quality of life of persons.
3. Data collection system for domestic violence. [LC/CAR/G.691]. The report reviews the various options at developing a reliable data collection system for consideration by governments in the Caribbean subregion.
4. Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs: An examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean SIDS LC/CAR/G.776
5. A brochure on the Caribbean Subregional Social Statistical Databases

IV. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

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

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

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

B SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN THE CARIBBEAN [DEVELOPMENT OF A TRADE DATABASE], NET/00/81

I. SUMMARY

Project number NET/00/81, entitled “Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean” came to an end on 31 December 2003. The project was an outstanding success from the standpoint of its achievement in putting in place a measure of rigour and quality in the presentation of a database on international trade for the Caribbean countries. The design of the project sought to provide a web-based platform for querying the database without compromising the concerns for confidentiality as raised by some of the very small countries in the group.

This report covers the activities of this project undertaken up to 31 December 2003. After extensive discussions with key stakeholders in the external trade statistics, the secretariat convened a meeting of experts in Port of Spain, 26 June 2001, to consider the findings of the Report on the production of trade statistics in the Caribbean region. A major outcome of the discussions was the development of terms of reference for the construction of the trade database. A consultant assisted with work on the design and construction of the database. This involved the unification of the coding schemes used in the countries that supplied the data. Another aspect of the project was the preparation of the study: Report on the Netherlands Antilles: Trade and Negotiation with CARICOM [Document LC/CAR/681].

The web-based solution to the problem of access to the database was well received by the countries, especially in the light of their relatively small staff size and the need to devote much of the human resource and time to the answering of queries. Queries of the database up to the third digit of the SITC Rev. 3 and the second digit of the Harmonized System (HS) are available on

the web to the remote researcher. The facility allows the researcher to build a query and therefore an output table exactly matching the data need.

Of particular benefit to the project were the consultative meetings that were held early in the life of the project. Discussions with persons knowledgeable in trade statistics and an ad hoc expert group meeting assisted in the refinement of the ECLAC approach to the design of the database. Three seminars and three data quality missions at which the draft database was demonstrated benefited from valuable observations and suggestions for improvement from participants. The result has been the production of an elegant solution to the problem of analysis of trade statistics for Caribbean countries.

The solution to the problem of the staff time involved in answering queries on the trade database at national level is a welcome one. A report produced by CARTAC drew reference to the time taken to process and administer trade data at national level in the OECS countries. The database resides on the ECLAC Website and is accessible by the general public up to the third digit of the SITC Rev. 3 and up to the second digit of the HS. Data at a lower level of disaggregation constitute value-added data and must be accessed through a direct request to the Chief Statistician in the country whose data are being sought.

Governments and other researchers now have a facility that can enhance their analysis of developments in international trade and assist them to formulate strategies to position their economies suitably.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

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

- Trade data by country and by product, for the years 1995 to 2001 and continuing;
- Analysis of the trade information
- The identification and calculation of a number of indicators that describe market share and competitiveness
- One intangible product was the enhanced ability of the countries to provide the dataset for incorporation into the Caribbean Trade Database.

Development (longer term) objective:

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

Immediate objectives:

- i. To improve the capability of the countries to provide current and detailed trade data and improve the comparability of the data produced
- ii. To provide a fully searchable database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain
- iii. To provide users with improved trade statistics on the Caribbean and improved analytical documents on trade and economic performance
- iv. To undertake studies to promote trade among CDCC countries and assess the implications for the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) of membership in hemispheric trade agreements
- v. To improve the capacity of trade policy makers to formulate appropriate policies to participate effectively in trade negotiations so as to benefit from membership in trading blocs and arrangements.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTPUTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

The data from the database have been used both in the countries that have supplied the data and at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. In the supplier countries, the inspection of data and the normalization process have shown up instances of erroneous coding. For example invalid country codes have been found. Country groupings have been observed that were in fact not country groupings when investigated further. Some of these codes were really an attempt within country to capture non-trade items such as in-bond sales. The effect at the supplier country level has been to improve the source data.

At the office in Port of Spain as well as in the three seminars held throughout the Caribbean, the data have been used to demonstrate to several countries the trading performance of the subregion and the country situation within the subregional performance. The data have been used to demonstrate how the analysis of trade can be accomplished in a manner more thorough and meaningful than ever used before. The importance of the data as a strategy tool has been communicated to stakeholders at the highest level and there is now an atmosphere of expectancy that ECLAC will take the lead in equipping the subregion with the analytic capability

to use the data to the fullest extent possible. Already there have been several expressions of interest from countries to receive training along these lines, utilising the newly created database.

The database exercise has alerted several countries, some relatively large Caribbean countries included, to the need to revise their data capture regime in the interest of providing their trade negotiators with the analysis of aspects of the economics of transportation of merchandise trade. This is directly supportive of the work and concerns of the transportation unit in Santiago.

An important output would comprise the production of ECLAC reports that place the export performance of Caribbean countries against the backdrop of global markets and trends. Both the Economics Unit and the Statistics Unit are poised to use this information to contribute to the ongoing FTAA sessions and to the examination of Caribbean trade.

As a result of the work of the project, the Office was requested to assist a relatively large Caribbean country to recommend solutions to a number of data capture and possible organizational problems that would lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the production of its trade data.

Major work programme activities undertaken

A schedule for the major activities undertaken in 2002 is as follows:

Year 2002	Activities
January- August	Collection of data and normalisation of databases Design and develop query system for database Design of website access Mission to collect trade data from selected countries Testing of the database
April- July	Acquisition of hardware and software
August – October	Convening of regional Seminar Design of User Manual
October to December	Conduct of training workshops Collection of data (initiated) Preparation of Final Report of work done in 2002
Year 2003	
January to November	Inspection of the database and fine-tuning for maximum accuracy and internal consistency Editing presentational aspects of the website Conduct of data quality seminars Answering data requests for Trade Statistics using the database Commenced collection of 2002 data
September	Debugging some elements of programming and addressing poor data quality in some cases
November	Finalized User Manual
December	Project Closeout planned

Main outputs

Among the outputs were:

1. Report on the production of trade statistics in the Caribbean Region. (LC/CAR/G.678). This document was the discussion piece that gave rise to the final determination of the structure of the database.
2. System Documentation of Reference Tables Sub-System
3. Documentation of Database Creation System
4. The refined databases on CD, by country by year.
5. Training Seminars (3).
 - Port of Spain, 14-15 October 2003: 16 persons trained, LC/CAR/G.705
 - St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 28-29 October 2003, 16 persons trained, LC/CAR/G.712
 - Kingston, Jamaica, 2-3 December 2003, 19 persons trained, LC/CAR/G.713

6. Report on the Netherlands Antilles: Trade and Negotiation with CARICOM [Document LC/CAR/681].
7. Proposed Trade Indicators.
8. A fully searchable database at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain.
9. A User Manual for navigating the database, LC/CAR/G.758

The outputs of the database include:

- Time series by country, of data at HS and SITC 3-digit level
- Across country analysis by year
- Analysis by trading blocs
- Exports and Imports to trading blocs by commodity generally screened to show the top ten exports in terms of value and the top 100 imports by the same criterion. A more exhaustive list by less "important" items in terms of value is always possible through the modification of the query script.
- Intra-CARICOM trade with a table builder for the number of years and countries
- CARICOM trade by trading blocs, by year

Contents of the database

The database contains some 15 million records from sixteen countries. The time series stored in the database ranges from 1995 to 2001, with not every country supplying data for each of the years. The table below illustrates.

Table 1. Countries from which databases have been collected

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Aruba	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anguilla	X	X		X	X	X	X
Antigua & Barbuda					X		
Bahamas						X	
Barbados	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belize	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
British Virgin Islands		X	X	X			
Dominica	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grenada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guyana			X	X	X	X	X
Jamaica	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montserrat					X		X
Netherlands Antilles				X	X	X	X
St. Lucia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Vincent & Grenadines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Kitts and Nevis				X	X	X	X
Suriname		X					
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

A number of countries experienced difficulty in providing the data because of a lack of necessary hardware such as CD writers. The project has provided the necessary hardware to countries in accordance with their assessed needs. Some countries were well equipped with the necessary hardware to provide the data on the required medium.

Countries that received CDs or computers

COUNTRY	RECEIVED CD WRITER & SET OF 25 CDs	RECEIVED COMPUTER	RECEIVED HARD DRIVE
Anguilla	Yes		
Antigua & Barbuda	Yes		
Barbados	Yes		
Belize		Yes	
Dominica	Yes		Yes
Grenada	Yes		
Guyana	Yes		
Jamaica		Yes	
Montserrat			
St. Kitts and Nevis	Yes		
St. Vincent & Grenadines			
Suriname	Yes		
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes		

IV. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Given the recurrent and growing demand for up-to-date and detailed trade data, which could be accessed by governments, international organizations and individuals, the project has developed a fully searchable trade database at ECLAC Port-of-Spain. This has meant some strengthening of the trade units of statistical offices in the subregion to the extent that they can save much research time to answer requests for trade data. The data quality seminars have promised higher quality data in the third round of data submission to ECLAC to continue the series established by the project. This will ultimately result in better and more effective use of the data and an increased understanding of trade issues. It will allow for the formulation of appropriate policies to benefit from trade agreements and encourage more effective participation of Caribbean countries in the negotiation of trade agreements

C DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL MARINE-BASED TOURISM STRATEGY, NET/00/79

I. SUMMARY

Within the framework of the objectives of the ECLAC Caribbean programme the expected accomplishments of this sub-activity were threefold. The first was to provide data and information on marine-based tourism, a tourism niche that is least understood and known in the region. The second was to use the collected information to increase awareness of the costs and benefits of the subsector and to articulate national policies. The final accomplishment was to identify issues for regional cooperation. The activity was carried out in the eastern Caribbean from St. Maarten in the North to Trinidad and Tobago in the south. Other countries directly affected by the activity were Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada and a minor activity in Martinique.

ECLAC focused its activities on national tourism authorities in the aforementioned countries, other public sector officials directly involved in tourism (e.g. from customs, immigration, environment, port and fisheries) and private sector associations, with senior tourism officials acting as focal point for national activities. Other intermediaries included the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and Caribbean Compass, a regional yachting magazine.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Development objective

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

Immediate objectives

- 1 Provide bases for national policies to promote sustainable marine-based tourism.
- 2 Address weaknesses of marine-based tourism while maintaining the strengths and dynamism of the subsector.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTPUTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

Project outputs

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

National yachting sector reports have been completed for the following countries:

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| ▪ | Antigua and Barbuda | LC/CAR/G.704 |
| ▪ | Saint Lucia | LC/CAR/G.706 |
| ▪ | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | LC/CAR/G.707 |
| ▪ | Saint Maarten | LC/CAR/G.708 |
| ▪ | Martinique | LC/CAR/G.710 |
| ▪ | Trinidad and Tobago | LC/CAR/G.711 |
| ▪ | Dominica | LC/CAR/G.762 |
| ▪ | Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique | LC/CAR/G.738 |

Output 2: Draft national marine-based tourism strategies

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

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

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

The document “Yachting in the Eastern Caribbean – A regional overview”, LC/CAR/G.775, was prepared

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

The Draft regional strategy for the yachting sector has been prepared. LC/CAR/R.79

All outputs have been accomplished. The full set of documents will be made available to participating countries and other interested member countries on CD-ROMS.

Prior to undertaking the national studies public – private sector consultations were carried out in all countries to focus, within a regional framework, on country specific issues and to adjust the terms of reference. In all the earlier referred to countries national studies have been carried

out. In all countries, but Martinique, the national studies were followed by national private public sector consultations to review the conclusions and recommendations of the national reports and to propose follow up activities to implement the recommendations.

Finally the national reports were placed in a regional context at an expert meeting on the contribution of the yachting sector to the Eastern Caribbean held in Port-of-Spain 12 and 13 December 2002.

IV. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

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 sub-sector 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, which were widely publicised and also addressed in the consultation, have resulted in institutional changes in the participating countries, foremost in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. In both countries governments have appointed dedicated yachting officers who serve as liaison between the private and public sector. 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. Particularly in Saint Lucia and in Antigua and Barbuda governments have begun to make legislative changes as well as to focus on counterproductive bureaucratic procedures.

One area of improvement, already implemented during the last study, was to conduct a national study by a team of two or three staff members or consultants who, before they leave, present the major recommendations and conclusions. In effect this implies the conduct of a final national consultation within the one to two week time period.

V. EXTERNAL FACTORS

External factors included the support from governments for the national consultations. The support was forthcoming after the initial briefing on the objectives of the activity and later the review of the national studies. Since then all countries engage in regular private and public sector discussions.

The conduct of the national consultations, both prior to and after completion of the field work, was a major factor to the success of the activity since a large segment of the stakeholders was reached. It gave of ownership to the studies and the opportunity to review strengths and weaknesses of a country's product.

UNDP-funded projects**1. THE ELABORATION OF A NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR BELIZE, BZE/01/001**

- (a) In January 2001, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belize office, embarked on a programme of technical assistance to the Government of Belize for the elaboration of a National Human Development Agenda (NHDA). This project, an initiative of UNDP, evolved out of the partnership between UNDP and the Government of Belize in developing the National Human Development Reports.
- (b) This project is of particular importance for the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, since it represents a useful approach for consideration by other governments in the region that wish to clarify their human development goals and to define more rigorously the most effective strategies.
- (c) A series of national consultations have been undertaken and draft reports presented to the government for its consideration.
- (d) The final draft of the National Human Development agenda for Belize was presented to the Government in February 2004.