



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC
SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN***

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Biennial Programme Plan¹

Biennium 2010-2011

¹ General Assembly document A/64/6 (Sect. 20).
(Programme 17 of the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011) [A/63/6/Rev.1]

2010-2011 BIENNIUM

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Introduction

The Caribbean subregion operates within a dynamic global and regional environment, characterized by the erosion of preferential market access for its goods and services; weak public-policy frameworks for regional cooperation; high levels of indebtedness; increasing challenges to social cohesion and human security; susceptibility to natural disasters and other external shocks, such as fluctuations in international commodity prices, which contribute to the vulnerability of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Additionally, the negative effects of climate change, in the form of sea-level rise, destruction of the region's fragile ecosystem and increased intensity of storms severely hamper the development potential of the subregion.

Moreover, Caribbean Governments have faced great challenges translating global commitments arising from the internationally agreed development goals, into broader regional objectives and country-specific goals and priorities. Although substantial progress has been made in regional integration through the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) many gaps remain in the form of weak regional policy frameworks to facilitate a common development agenda, the application of evidence-based approaches in policymaking and the availability and use of statistical data and standard indicators with which to measure progress in development. Consequently, Caribbean Governments have expressed their need for technical support from the United Nations system and other development partners in overcoming these challenges and in fostering greater coherence and coordination in external support.

In the 2010-2011 biennium, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will continue to analyse issues of special relevance to the economic, social and sustainable development concerns of the subregion. In this context, the subprogramme will seek to: (i) support member countries in using evidence-based approaches to policy formulation; (ii) enhance national capacities to generate the indicators and statistics essential for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (iii) provide an increasingly modern and efficient information and knowledge management service to CDCC member countries; (iv) promote analysis, design and implementation of social policies, including gender mainstreaming, poverty reduction, population and ageing policies; and (v) facilitate the attainment of sustainable development goals as set out in the Barbados Programme of Action and further elaborated in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI).

The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 described below.

Objective of the organization: To promote and further strengthen the development process within the Caribbean and enhance the subregion's cooperation with Latin American countries

<i>Expected accomplishments of the secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
1. Strengthened capacity of policymakers and other ECLAC stakeholders in the subregion to formulate and implement economic and social development measures and improve integration in the Caribbean as well as between the Caribbean and the wider Latin American region	<p>1. (i) Increased number of countries formulating or adopting policies and measures in the areas of economic and social development, trade and integration in line with ECLAC recommendations</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2006-2007: not applicable Estimate 2008-2009: 5 countries Target 2010-2011: 9 countries</p> <p>(ii) Number of references in policy documents, academic literature and mass media to ECLAC publications and data whose contents provide analysis and policy recommendations on development in the Caribbean</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2006-2007: 274 references Estimate 2008-2009: 300 references Target 2010-2011: 400 references</p>
2. Enhanced capacity and technical expertise to follow-up on the major international programmes of action in the economic, social and environmental fields, particularly related to SIDS and the Mauritius strategy	<p>2. (i) Increased number of policies and programmes adopted by Caribbean countries to follow-up on the relevant international programmes of action</p> <p>2006-2007: not applicable Estimate 2008-2009: 4 policies and programmes Target 2010-2011: 7 policies and programmes</p>

Strategy

Responsibility for the implementation of this subprogramme is entrusted to the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which also serves as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). It will continue to provide technical cooperation and support to member and associate member Governments of the subregion to facilitate public policymaking and decision-making in response to meeting the challenges of sustainable development, globalization and subregional and regional integration.

A key element of the strategy is to enhance the role of CDCC as a forum for Governments to set priorities on key development issues in the subregion and for assessing and reviewing regional progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. Through the partnership arrangements, the subprogramme will promote information and good practices sharing among member countries in the Caribbean and with countries of the wider Caribbean and Latin America. For the success

of the partnership approach it will be crucial to actively engage subregional institutions such as the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), universities and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), as well as the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. The strategy will also involve the promotion of debate and policy dialogue on critical development issues that are of concern to the Caribbean, through the conduct of analytical work and the transmission of wider regional experiences. In this connection, the strategy will include applied research for the formulation of public policies and the facilitation of their practical implementation by making available technical advisory services, capacity-building initiatives and training in the areas of competency. Efforts will be accelerated to ensure that member countries have the capacity to access reliable data and information, reporting and monitoring systems or to generate the required indicators and statistics essential for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals. In this respect, the subprogramme will continue to be engaged with the other bodies of the United Nations system in preparing and implementing UNDAF for CDCC member countries. Lastly, the subprogramme will ensure the integrated follow-up to the implementation of the programmes of action derived from the major international conferences and summits sponsored by the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that:

(a) The excellent rapport and trust existing between the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and the key national authorities are maintained and strengthened;

(b) The collaboration and cooperation existing between regional and international organizations operating in the sub-region and which are crucial to the overall success of the subprogramme are further strengthened.

Activities

Subject area 12.1: Economic development

1. Meetings

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

(i) One session of CDCC, involving the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation in keeping with the focus of the ECLAC biennial session. The meeting will address the progress made on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) One meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) A meeting of experts on trade and economic competitiveness in the context of a knowledge economy (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A meeting of experts on the importance of sports and cultural industries as a vehicle for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Other substantive activities

(a) Recurrent publications

Annual publication of the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* (two issues in the biennium) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A comprehensive study on socio-economic management, competitiveness and restructuring in the context of subregional integration (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study of the impact of natural disasters on macro-economic performance in the Caribbean linking environmental vulnerabilities to economic vulnerabilities (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on rethinking financial sector regulation and the relationship between the financial sector and the real sector to reduce the risks of financial crises. (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) A study on the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and its impact on trade and development cooperation between the Caribbean and the European Countries, especially on middle income Caribbean SIDS (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(v) A study on the importance of sports and cultural industries as a vehicle for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(vi) A study on the management of economic cycles/trends to catalogue long-term growth (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(vii) An analytical study of the investment incentives policies and mechanisms in the Caribbean; (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(c) Technical material

(i) Design and implement a process of consultation with key stakeholders in the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) member and associate members, representatives of the UN system, funds, programmes and agencies in the Caribbean and others actively involved in technical cooperation and research for development programmes in the subregion. (low correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Regular updating and maintenance of the trade statistics databases (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(d) Information services and material

Publication of the quarterly bulletin *UN Focus on the Caribbean*, covering activities carried out by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (8 issues in the biennium, in English only) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Technical cooperationAdvisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to: countries of the region, upon request, in macroeconomic policy areas, including trade and integration within the Caribbean and between the Caribbean and Latin America and in the area of investment and sectoral policies; to the Working Group of Associate Member Countries to support specific initiatives (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

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

Subject area 12.2: Sustainable development1. Meetings(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

High level meeting of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) to review progress towards implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCM) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A meeting of experts on the applicability and implementation of the clean development mechanisms in Caribbean countries (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Other substantive activities(a) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the applicability and implementation of the clean development mechanisms in Caribbean countries (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study on the impact of science and technology initiatives on development in CDCC member countries; (low correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on the implications of climate change for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2)

(iv) A study on the importance and application of early warning systems in reducing vulnerability in the Caribbean subregion (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(v) A study to determine the adequacy of current environmental regimes and the impact of globalization on sustainable tourism development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(vi) Review and progress report on the implementation of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(vii) Two non-recurrent publications on climate change in the Caribbean

(b) Technical material

(i) Regular updating and maintenance of the sustainable development databases (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Preparation of a work programme for Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) taking into account the agenda of the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy Initiative (MSI); the priorities of the Caribbean region and priorities set by national authorities (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(c) Information services and material

Preparation and presentation of public education materials and information on sustainable development (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Technical cooperation

(a) Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to policies oriented to promoting environmental technologies in the Caribbean, including disaster-preparedness and risk reduction (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

(b) Courses, seminars and training workshops

A workshop with regional partners on the implications of climate change for the sustainable development of Caribbean economies (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(c). Execution of technical cooperation projects

A technical cooperation project is to be implemented in the areas of adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impact.

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

Subject area 12.3: Statistics and social development

1. Meetings

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) A meeting of experts to review achievements in improving social and gender statistics for measuring and monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and to plan the way forward (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A meeting of experts to examine critical areas in the provision of social services and economic security programmes particularly for vulnerable population (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) Meeting of experts to identify key areas of crime and violence and elaborate on methodologies to assess their scope in the sub-region. (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) High level meeting to review achievements in implementing major global and regional programmes of action in the area of population and development (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(v) A meeting of experts on gender equality and economic, decision-making, and physical autonomy (within the context of the gender equality observatory.) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

2. Other substantive activities

(a) Recurrent publications

(i). Caribbean Development Review (one issue in the biennium) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on the linkages between gender equality, poverty and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) A study to assess the degree of implementation of various programmes of action in the area of population and development and prevailing constraints (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) An examination of the critical areas in the provision of social services and economic security programmes, particularly for vulnerable populations (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A review of the achievements in improving social and gender statistics for measuring and monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and to plan the way forward (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study to identify key areas of crime and violence and to provide an overview of selected methodologies within and outside the Caribbean to assess their scope in the sub-region.(high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on women's unrecognized contribution to the economy, particularly their participation in the informal sector (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(iv) A study on the capacity of statistical offices of the Caribbean to produce environmental, social, economic and gender statistics (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(c) Technical material

(i) Development of online access for sharing information on gender issues in the subregion; (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Updating and maintenance of the Caribbean social statistical database (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) A report on the use of databases of social and gender statistics in the development of policies and programmes; (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) Online database of Selected Statistical Indicators (SSI) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(v) Online database of Statistical Publications of Caribbean Countries (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1)

3. Technical cooperation(a) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to requesting countries of the region with respect to statistical capacity-building and social policies in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(b) Courses, seminars and training workshops

(i) Regional (3) and national training workshops (3) on collection, processing and analysis of MDG and other IADGs related data for CSO and development ministries;

(c) Implementation of technical cooperation projects

It is expected that technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacities of the countries of the subregion to collect, disseminate and analyse social statistics will be in execution during the biennium (moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

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

4. Intermediate activities [non-programmed activities]

(i) Provision of inputs for ECLAC databases on social statistics and for the ECLAC flagship documents *Social Panorama* and *Statistical Yearbook* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Integrated follow-up to the major global summits, international conferences and agreements in the social field, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Millennium Summit (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

Subject area 12.4: Knowledge and Information Management1. Meetings(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

Intergovernmental conference on knowledge strategies for development (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Other substantive activities(a) Recurrent publications

A regional study on measuring progress in the Caribbean information society and knowledge economy (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) One study on the advances in information and communications technologies for development in the period 2000 -2010 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) One study on Caribbean knowledge networks (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) One study on approaches to knowledge management in the Caribbean (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(c) Technical material

(i) Caribbean Development Profiles (web-based) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Regular updating and improvement of the website and the Caribbean Digital Library (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) Regular updating of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Bibliographic Database (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) Regular updating and maintenance of the Caribbean Skills Bank (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(v) One system will be prepared for implementing knowledge management policies in the sub-regional setting

(d) Material and information services

Monthly online publication of the *Current Contents Newsletter* (24 issues in the biennium) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Technical cooperation(a) Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to policies and national strategies on knowledge economies in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Courses, seminars and training workshops

(i) Regional Seminar on Knowledge Management in the Public Sector (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A workshop on measuring the knowledge economy (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).