



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
UNLOCK NEW OPPORTUNITIES

SDG REVIEW

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES DISCUSS
THEIR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS
PROGRESS

COVID-19 & CLIMATE

ECLAC LAUNCHES NEW BOOK ON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND POST-
COVID-19 RECOVERY

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About us

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine

International Days

5 June

World Environment Day

8 June

World Oceans Day

12 June

World Day Against Child Labour

15 June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

20 June

World Refugee Day

Upcoming Meetings

8 - 11 June

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, Twentieth session - New York

15 June - 3 July

Human Rights Council, Forty-fourth session - Geneva





Caribbean countries discuss their Voluntary National Reviews progress

Later countries from Latin America and the Caribbean will present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) when this Ministerial Meeting convened by the General Assembly of the United Nations is held virtually during July 2020. These countries are Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

ECLAC recently convened a virtual meeting for Caribbean countries with national authorities in charge of follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, technical government representatives and experts from ECLAC and the United Nations System. Termed a 'communities of practice' event, the meeting was intended to support peer learning and sharing of experience to enhance the countries' preparation for presentation of their VNRs at the HLPF.

Speaking at the meeting, on 12 May 2020, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, noted the timeliness of the event, given the current crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. She underscored the importance of ECLAC's Caribbean First strategy, adopted in May 2018, "to consider the subregion's specific needs and respond better to them, increase and enhance participation in our subsidiary bodies, and propose concrete measures, in particular on debt relief, building resilience, for instance with a proposal of creating a Caribbean resilience fund with a view to a globally coordinated debt deleveraging mechanism with a climate component to address the global debt overhang problem: standstills and debt moratorium."

She further noted that ECLAC was undertaking extensive research and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on the wider Latin American and Caribbean region and the multi-sectoral challenges that the pandemic implied for the

region. She spoke specifically to its impact on economic, social and environmental matters in the short and medium term, and more broadly to its effect on the region's sustainable development trajectory in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Bárcena committed ECLAC's continued support to member States for planning and building national statistical systems. She also offered assistance with the production of analyses on the impacts of the pandemic, and to providing evidence-based public policy advice in response to the crisis.

This event was part of a series of monthly virtual meetings first launched in December 2019, which offer an opportunity to exchange experiences, best practices and challenges encountered in the process of preparing VNRs. ■



The Escazú Agreement

Strengthening climate action



ECLAC



Public participation and access to information and knowledge are essential to design and apply effective climate policies. The **Escazú Agreement** is an unprecedented tool to catalyse climate governance and action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional developments

100%

All 33 countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement

22

22 of 33 countries have signed the Escazú Agreement, 8 have ratified it and 11 are needed for it to enter into force

5

5 of 33 countries include express references to climate change in their constitutions

9

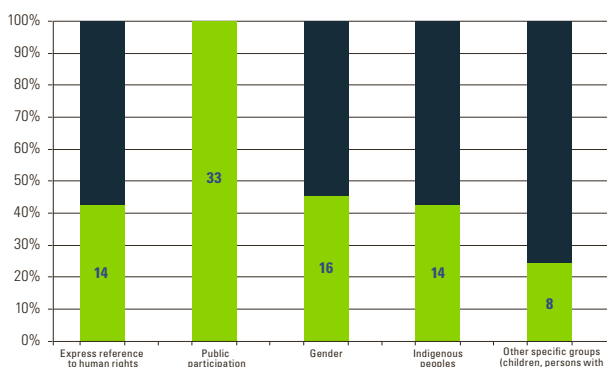
9 of 33 countries have climate change laws, all of which include provisions on information and participation

25

25 of 33 countries have set up multi-stakeholder committees or councils to address the challenges of climate change

Updated as of May 2020.

The human rights-based approach in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Latin America and the Caribbean, as of May 2020 (Number of countries)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Recommendations for updating NDCs (2020-2021)

- ✓ Strengthen public participation in their development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation
- ✓ Give particular consideration to vulnerable groups to move towards a just transition
- ✓ Actively involve women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in climate action
- ✓ Ensure a safe environment for environmental human rights defenders and climate defenders in accordance with the Escazú Agreement

More information:

www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
<https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en>





Restarting the economy after flattening the infection curve

The month of June has ushered in the reopening of the borders of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, and the US Virgin Islands (USVI) – all of which appear to have had notable success in keeping spread of the highly contagious COVID-19 virus under control. Since 13 March, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded 39 cases, Saint Lucia has 18 confirmed cases, and USVI has 8 active cases. Other islands that have succeeded in limiting the spread of the virus, and which are now COVID-19 free, include Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Sint Maarten.

The economies of both Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Lucia rely heavily on the tourism industry for buoyancy. Closing their borders to control the spread of the virus therefore had significant impact on their economies.

“Coronavirus has sucked the oxygen out of our economy,” Dominic Fedee, Saint Lucia’s Minister of Tourism, shared in a recent interview. “Last year we had 1.2 million visitors, including stay-overs and those on cruise ships. At the moment we have zero.”

The first phase of Saint Lucia’s plan to re-open the economy includes welcoming international flights exclusively from the United States at Hewanorra International Airport. The observance of safety protocols is an integral part of the phase one plan. Some 1,500 hotel rooms in the island have already been subject to stringent hygiene protocols in order to receive guests. These hotels must obtain a “COVID-19 certificate” from the government.

The incoming guests are required to present certified proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of boarding their flight. They are also expected to follow standard hygiene protocols including the wearing of face masks and physical distancing. They will also be subject to screening and temperature checks by port health authorities.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez has reported that an American Airlines flight from Miami landed on 04 June. This was the first flight with tourists to arrive in the island in 10 weeks.

And if you are considering a vacation in the US Virgin Islands, Saint Croix might be your best bet; the U.S. territory officially reopened to visitors on



1 June. Of the three islands in the USVI — Saint Thomas, Saint Croix, and Saint John - Saint Croix has the most hotels currently open.

"Like most Americans, we are cautiously optimistic about re-opening the territory to tourism," says Topher Swanson, co-owner of The Fred, an 11-room boutique hotel in Frederiksted.

"Although not scientifically proven to prevent COVID-19, many of the things that people come to the Caribbean to enjoy — wide open spaces, fresh sea air, plenty of UV sunlight, etc. — are things that many people naturally believe can be used to fight the spread of COVID-19, so I can't think of a healthier place to be right now."

(It's worth noting that Saint John has recorded only two positive COVID-19 cases through 19 May, compared with 38 in Saint Thomas and 29 in Saint Croix.)

USVI Commissioner of Tourism, Joseph Boschulte, announced that although tourists will be allowed to return to the USVI, the territory's COVID-19 state of emergency will remain in place until at least 17 July, as will the imposition of safety protocols.

Buffets and live music will be banned at restaurants and bars, for example. Children's recreational areas will remain closed. Mini-bars in hotel rooms will be locked. Employees and guests will be required to wear masks in public areas.

Hotels will be required to retain guest information for contact tracing in the event that an outbreak of illness occurs. And any guests who show symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

"Our goal to ensure our visitors have a wonderful and safe experience when they visit the USVI," said Lisa Hamilton, president of the USVI Hotel & Tourism Association. "We have extensive safety protocols to ensure this. Visitors can enjoy restaurants, bars, beaches, boat rentals, activities, and attractions. We are temperature checking via thermal imaging on arrival and this will be communicated to [visitors]."

Earlier, Aruba had also announced its plans to open its borders to foreigners in mid-June. The Caribbean is re-opening with tentative steps. ■



*The
Hummingbird*



Technology and innovation unlock
new opportunities for
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



An upcoming ECLAC Caribbean study will assess and review the application of technologies and innovative approaches to the five pillars of disaster risk management (DRM); risk identification, risk reduction, preparedness, financial protection and resilient recovery in the Caribbean.

[READ MORE](#)



Technology and innovation unlock new opportunities for Disaster Risk Management

To discuss the study, entitled 'The Use of Technology and Innovative Approaches in Disaster and Risk Management - A characterization of Caribbean countries' experience', an online expert group meeting (EGM) was recently convened.

In her opening remarks to the EGM, ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, identified "technology and innovation" as necessary and fundamental tools for disaster risk management. She also highlighted

the importance of debating the type of architecture and resources needed by governments and civil societies in order to apply and foster technology usage and innovative approaches to DRM in the Caribbean.

"Some key impediments to this goal have already been identified, including gaps in research and development performance in the region; difficulties in collecting and sharing data and information needed at both the national and

regional levels; gaps in human and institutional resources to successfully deploy and utilize certain technologies; and financial barriers in general," she emphasized.

Quarless also noted that improvements across these areas will strengthen the foundations of innovation ecosystems in the region and accelerate progress in achieving development and more resilient societies.



“

Some key impediments to this goal have already been identified, including gaps in research and development performance in the region...

- Diane Quarless, Director - ECLAC Caribbean

”

EGM participants affirmed that the study represented a good starting point for the collection of information on the use of technology and innovative approaches for DRM. One of the suggestions raised during the EGM, was for ECLAC to build on this research by systematizing its information into a digital repository of DRM projects in the Caribbean. Moreover, an integrated data system of such initiatives, backed by robust legislation, is expected to facilitate movement of information across institutions.

The meeting was attended by 15 representatives from different private sector and regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean including The Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) of Trinidad and Tobago and The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). ■



SNEAK PREVIEW ARTICLE

Look out for more
in upcoming issues!



Study on selected issues of ICT for development in the Caribbean

In 2018, the European Union adopted the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For Caribbean countries, implementing data protection legislation aligned with the GDPR will facilitate trade and data flows with EU entities. More importantly, it will create an enabling environment for data sharing and e-governance both within and among Caribbean countries.

For these reasons, ECLAC Caribbean recently examined the data protection and sharing frameworks of select Caribbean countries with a view to identifying gaps and weaknesses and making targeted recommendations for revision of existing legislation or adoption of new legislation in order to bring it into compliance with regional and international standards, including the GDPR.

The project will build on CARICOM's gap analysis of cybercrime laws of Member States by providing analysis and guidance for Caribbean countries on requirements for modern, appropriate data

protection and sharing regimes. This will include a detailed analysis of the gaps and weaknesses in their frameworks vis-à-vis regional and international standards, as well as guidance on regulatory and policy frameworks to complement legislation.

The study will allow ECLAC Caribbean to provide guidance on the implementation of regulatory and policy frameworks to complement data protection legislation and to modernize legal and regulatory frameworks for data sharing and protection. This would include data protection and sharing strategies, principles and guidelines, technical frameworks, and privacy impact assessments.

The study will examine the situation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and the Cayman Islands, on a case study basis, and will be published in the coming months. ■



Jamaica Brands Future Travelers as “Generation C”

The world has changed in myriad ways since the arrival of COVID-19, inspiring Jamaica to coin a new term for travelers in the time of COVID: Generation C.

Jamaica Tourism Minister, Edmund Bartlett, says the term is intergenerational, and may be described as “a merging of the demographics the island traditionally targeted and importantly one which was essentially ageless.”

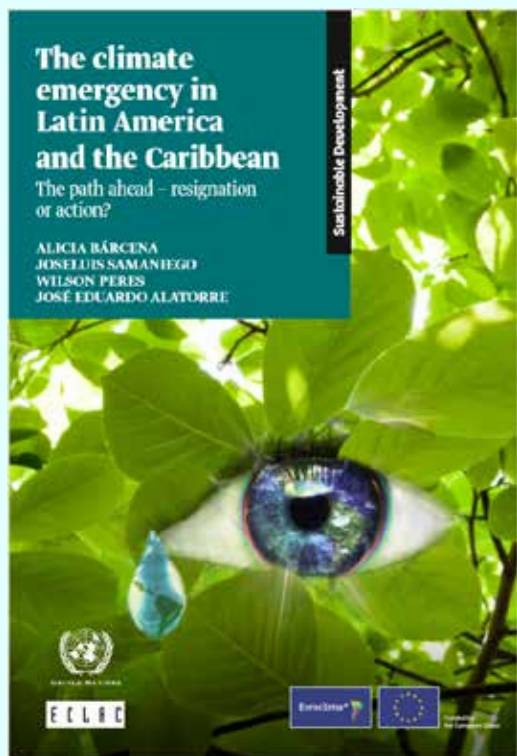
What it means is a radical shift in how to think about the spectrum of travelers in the wake of the pandemic, focusing more on those who are ready and willing to travel and less on their specific demographics.

“We as an island and as part of the global tourism industry need to adapt swiftly to the requirements of this new type of traveler post pandemic. GEN-C will be unsettled by the crisis they have

lived through this year; they will need reassurance and evidence that their experience overseas will enhance their lives, not put themselves or their loved ones at risk,” Bartlett said.

The “branding” comes as Jamaica has made no secret of its desire to play an integral role in the global recovery of the tourism industry.

“We are working hard to create new protocols for our industry to be implemented as soon as we can safely welcome visitors back,” Bartlett said. “These measures will tackle sanitation and hygiene requirements, protocols for behavior at swimming pools, beaches and restaurants. We are responding to the new sensitivities of the post-COVID-19 traveler and will holistically cover all aspects of the vacation experience. Without a doubt these measures will become the new norm.” ■



ECLAC launches new book on climate change and post-COVID-19 recovery

The response to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) is an opportunity to move towards a big push for sustainability. What is needed is a deep transformation in the development paradigm and in the investment that make it possible, since the environmental impact of the prevailing development pattern endangers the well-being of much of humankind and, in some cases, its survival.

This message is at the center of a new book published by ECLAC Caribbean on 18 June 2020, which comprehensively the effects of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the policies addressing it

The publication dedicates a special chapter to the cases of Central America and the Caribbean, two subregions that stand out because of their high degree of vulnerability to climate change and their limited participation in producing emissions, and which have climatic, geographic and socioeconomic particularities that require separate analysis. In the case of the Caribbean, the document analyzes ECLAC's debt for climate adaptation swap initiative.

Entitled 'The climate emergency in Latin America and the Caribbean: The path ahead – resignation or action?', the book was presented by ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, at a virtual conference which saw the active participation of senior climate change decision makers. These included Kishan Kumarsingh, Head of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit of the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago and Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action; Teresa Ribera, the Fourth Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge; Horst Pilger, Head of the Climate Change and Environment Section at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development; and Alfonso de Urresti, Chair of the Environment and National Assets Commission in the Chilean Senate.

António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, also sent a message for the occasion. "The study that ECLAC is presenting today reflects more than a decade of research, follow-up and proposal building. It articulates a perspective from the regional level with the biggest global challenge of our time, climate change; and, as always, it does so by gathering together countries' own assessments, their needs, and tracking their own responses, while also imagining and proposing more ambitious paths for action and revealing the urgency of providing

greater responses," the UN Secretary-General stated.

Guterres further added that "this book contributes notably to available knowledge, both for those in charge of designing and executing public policies as well as for our societies as a whole, which are essential protagonists in the change to production and consumption patterns that cannot be delayed any longer."

The book indicates that the current health and climate crises are part of an unsustainable development model associated with a declining growth rate for production and trade, since even before this crisis, a recessionary bias and the decoupling of the financial system could be seen.

In light of this, the publication proposes actions for a new, more sustainable and egalitarian development model, in line with the long-term vision of ECLAC and the 2030 Agenda. In addition, it sets out essential guidelines for reactivating with equality and sustainability.

In this regard, Alicia Bárcena emphasized that in the face of the now unavoidable effects of climate change, one of the region's priorities is to increase society's resilience and adaptive capacity, while also exploring the existing synergies between adaptation processes and other development goals. Moreover, she noted that Latin America and the Caribbean has assumed adaptation and mitigation commitments that will be impossible to fulfill without structural change.

To this end, the ECLAC publication identifies policies for strategic sectors that reduce emissions, create jobs and boost investment, and would allow for undertaking the reactivation with equity and sustainability to move towards a new development pattern. ■



Antigua Training Taxi Operators on New Protocols

The advent of the global COVID-19 pandemic has had significant implication for the entire Caribbean tourism industry, including the on-island transportation industry, which has to adopt a range of new practices to safeguard both visitors and workers in the industry.

Officials in Antigua and Barbuda have begun training sessions for taxi operators focused on passenger safety and “minimizing occupational health risks.”

The program provides taxi drivers with information about the novel coronavirus, how it is transmitted and what is expected of drivers to “minimize their risk of infection, and protocols they are expected to follow to protect their passengers,” the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism has advised.

“The taxi operators and their passengers are required to wear masks at all times and we are

insisting that the operators clean and disinfect their vehicles as often as possible especially after dropping off passengers and we want them to pay close attention to surfaces that are touched often by passengers and sanitize after each trip in preparation for the next passenger,” said Dr. Adelle Blaire, Sustainable Tourism Officer within the Ministry of Tourism and Investment and Liaison Officer for the National Office of Disaster Services in the Tourism Ministry.

Antigua is training some 280 taxi operators who operate at the island’s airport and at hotels across the island.

“We want our guests to feel comfortable and at ease knowing protocols are being followed while they are being transported”, Dr. Blair Said. ■

SNEAK PREVIEW ARTICLE

Look out for more
in upcoming issues!

Economic Implications of the Ban of Single-Use Plastics on the Economies of the Caribbean – A Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago

Over the past 50 years, the global production of plastics has increased dramatically, from 15 million tons in 1964, to roughly 311 million tons in 2014.* This growth in production and use reflects plastics' unrivalled physical properties which allow it to be widely applied in diverse economic production processes at low cost.

Plastics have therefore taken their place as the global 'work horse of the modern economy', and projections are for a doubling of plastic production over the next 20 years.

Cognizant of the above, ECLAC Caribbean has undertaken research on the 'Economic Implications of the Ban of Single-Use Plastics on the Economies of the Caribbean – A Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago'. The study will look at the possible economic

impacts of policy to limit single use plastics in Trinidad and Tobago.

Plastic use is extensive and includes industries such as food handling, storage, information technology, health care, transportation, energy management, building construction, and packaging – to name just a few. The use of plastics for packaging is significant, since it represents the largest share of plastic applications, estimated at 26% of the global volume of plastics used.

More importantly, as much as 95% of plastic packaging – estimated at US \$80 - \$120 billion annually – is for single-use, with only a mere 5% collected and retained from recycling. While figures for recycled plastic are unavailable for Trinidad and Tobago, it is

estimated that plastics constitute as much as 17.5% of total wastes delivered in Trinidad and Tobago, during the past decade.** Such low rate of reuse implies that plastic disposal constitutes a significant negative externality to global economies, with its impacts now being manifested both in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

ECLAC Caribbean will identify relevant stakeholders and sectors in Trinidad and Tobago who apply single-use plastics in the conduct of their business. The study will also consider the impact of the control of single-use plastics from a public health perspective, in light of recent challenges presented by efforts to control the spread of COVID –19.

The study will be available later this year. ■

* Ellen McArthur Foundation, 2016: "The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastics" - <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics>.

** Organization of American States and Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016, "Closed Loop Cycle Production in the Americas Program: Sustainable alternative packaging to replace the expanded polystyrene foam containers produced within the printing and packaging industry of Trinidad and Tobago".

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Antigua and Barbuda

UK CONTRIBUTES \$3.8M FOR COVID-19 AID - May 23 -

Antigua and Barbuda will be one of eight Caribbean countries to receive assistance from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to fight the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This help will come courtesy the Government of the United Kingdom which has agreed to contribute USD \$3.8 million to PAHO. The other countries to be assisted from UK funding include Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

CDB LENDS US\$67M TO SEVEN NATIONS - May 19 -

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) intends to make available approximately US\$67 million in emergency loans to seven Caribbean countries, to finance the response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The bank's board of directors approved US\$66.7 million for Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. The emergency loans will provide vital liquidity and increase governments' fiscal space to allow these countries to promptly meet their urgent financing needs.



The Bahamas

GOVERNMENT SEEKS IMF LOAN - May 25 -

The government of The Bahamas has applied to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for US \$252 million to support its ongoing COVID-19 response and budgetary operations. The Bahamas intends to take advantage of a low-cost emergency loan facility that is available to all member countries. According to a statement made by the Ministry of Finance, US \$252 million falls within the borrowing authorization approved in the Supplementary "Hurricane Dorian" Budget made in February and will support the Government's ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, some 27 countries have accessed financial assistance using the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI), including other CARICOM countries.

GOVERNMENT RECEIVED 1.7B IN PLEDGES - Jun 16 -

Forty-nine donors have pledged a combined \$1.77 billion in value toward The Bahamas' recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, a record storm that laid waste to communities of Abaco and Grand Bahama. Reporting on the source of the funding, the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Iram Lewis, explained that US \$1.67 billion was pledged from a single donor; US \$42.8 million was pledged by grants; US \$53.2 million from technical assistance and gifts in-kind; and \$109,000 in cash and sponsorship.



Dominica

COVID RELIEF FUNDING - Jun 15 -

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has provided a US \$5 million loan facility as part of its Covid-19 economic relief measures. The funds will be disbursed through the Dominica Agricultural, Industrial & Development Bank (AID Bank).

According to the AID Bank Manager, Marie-Therese Johnson, over \$900,000 in loans have already been approved. The loan agreement will allow small business owners to benefit from a \$15,000 loan facility at a 1 percent interest rate and no down payment for 6 months.

WORLD BANK LOAN - Jun 1 -

The World Bank will provide the Commonwealth of Dominica with a concessional loan worth US\$13 million. The loan's purpose is to improve the overall regional air connectivity and upgrade the airport infrastructure to safely accommodate for diverted flights and other emergencies. Dominica is one of the four countries benefiting from the World Bank's first financing of Caribbean airport projects, along with Grenada, St Lucia and Haiti. The island had been planning on building its first international airport for some time.



Ocean health at a crossroads

The United Nations has proclaimed 2021-2030 the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'. Over the next ten years, significant global effort will be needed to reverse the decline in ocean health and to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable ocean development.*

At the First Global Planning Meeting of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development held in May 2019, in Denmark, it was decided that a series of Regional Consultative Workshops would take place. Among them was the Western Tropical Atlantic** Workshop, which was convened on 28-29 April 2020. The event

was hosted by the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM) and co-organized by the Government of Mexico with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) as coordinating body for the Decade and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (UN Environment).

By applying a multi-stakeholder approach, the workshop offered countries a crucial opportunity to co-design ocean research strategies.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the workshop was the Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Artie Dubrie. Dubrie discussed the importance of scientific

information in the management of ocean pollution, including as a requirement for Blue Economy policy-making in Caribbean SIDS.

The two-day forum offered businesses, civil society, donors, and other key stakeholders in sustainable ocean management an opportunity to discuss and prioritize the issues of relevance to ocean science in the region. The workshop facilitated regional, interdisciplinary discussions across sectors, such as: technology; policy; ocean economy; and capacity development and training to address regional ocean science priorities. ■

* United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), available at: <https://www.oceandecade.org/>

** Associated States and Territories of the Western Tropical Atlantic: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherland, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela. Puerto Rico (United States of America), Anguilla (United Kingdom), British Virgin Islands (United Kingdom), Cayman Islands (United Kingdom), French Guiana (France), Guadeloupe (France), Montserrat (United Kingdom), Martinique (France), Bonaire, Saint Eustatius, Saba (Special Municipalities of the Netherlands), Saint Barthelemy (France), Saint Martin (France), Turks and Caicos (United Kingdom), United States Virgin Islands (United States of America), available at: <http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/undecade>

THE PLACENCIA AMBITION FORUM

APRIL 20-22

*Keeping the Drumbeat
of Ambition Alive*

#SIDSLead

'Keeping the drumbeat of Ambition Alive' at Placencia Forum

The Placencia Ambition Forum 2020 brought together major climate change stakeholders with a view to enhancing the ambition and focus of the Paris Agreement.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the forum was Economic Affairs Officer, Willard Phillips, who told the Hummingbird that the event was very timely given the COVID-19 pandemic, which has magnified the importance of the global climate change agenda.

Held on 20-22 April 2020, the Forum, which was hosted by the Government of Belize as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), provided an opportunity to highlight the synergies between the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impacts of climate change, and how responses to COVID-19 can strengthen the case for more sustainable climate action in the lead up to COP26.

As the first major climate event this year, the Forum spotlighted the importance of "Keeping the Drumbeat of Action Alive," as the global community contends with the most consequential health pandemic of the century. The COVID-19 pandemic is a systemic crisis that both demonstrates the vulnerabilities of small island and low-lying coastal developing states and the potential for decisive and ambitious global action. The same sense of urgency should be applied to the climate crisis.

Belize Prime Minister, Dean Barrow, who was the keynote speaker at the event, pointed out that while the focus now is on COVID-19, stakeholders must also not forget the sort of calamity that nations can face if climate change is not addressed.

The virtual Forum also facilitated discussions on practical opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation in the areas of energy, transport, adaptation and resilience building, and finance.

Participants included Government representatives, international organizations, NGOs, academia, indigenous groups, and the private sector. The Forum was organized in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom, Climate Analytics, NDC Partnership, Climate Ambition Support Alliance, Wilton Park and Independent Diplomat. ■



DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts on the occasion of:

International Mother Earth Day

05/06



"Celebrate Biodiversity! The theme of this year's World Environment Day aims to remind us that mankind's attitude toward its natural environment should focus not only on efforts to protect it; but should also acclaim its splendid beauty and diversity. The planet's ecosystems and the many gifts they provide are essential for all life – not least human life. The earth's biodiversity ensures a constant source of public goods that we use for food and nutrition; fuel and income; even for cultural and spiritual upliftment."

#DirectorsTake

<http://vrb.al/directors-take>



Cheddar Meat Loaves

What you will need:

- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 lb ground beef
- 2/3 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons prepared mustard

Method:

1. In a large bowl, whisk egg and milk. Stir in the cheese, oats, onion and salt.
2. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well.
3. Shape into eight loaves; place in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish.
4. In a small bowl, combine the ketchup, brown sugar and mustard; spoon over loaves.
5. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until no pink remains and a thermometer reads 160°.



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SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean>

