

the Humming Bird

A stylized white hummingbird logo with its wings spread, perched on a small white flower with five petals.

NEW STUDY EXAMINES GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
IN THE CARIBBEAN

HOW LABOUR INCLUSION POLICIES CAN REDUCE

INEQUALITY AND INFORMALITY

UN AGENCY HOSTS ANNUAL MSDGF

COORDINATION MEETING
IN GUYANA



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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ABOUT US

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers 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.

EDITORIAL TEAM

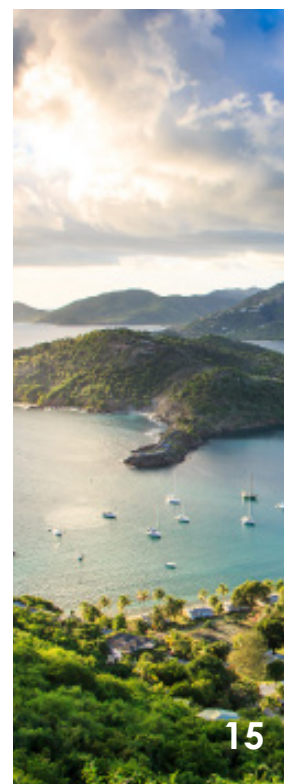
Editor: Jabari Fraser

Writer: Denise Balgobin

Proof Reader: Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser

Design and Layout: Liseanne Martin-Subero

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



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

11 July

World Population Day

15 July

World Youth Skills Day

18 July

Nelson Mandela International Day

30 July

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2 AUGUST 2023

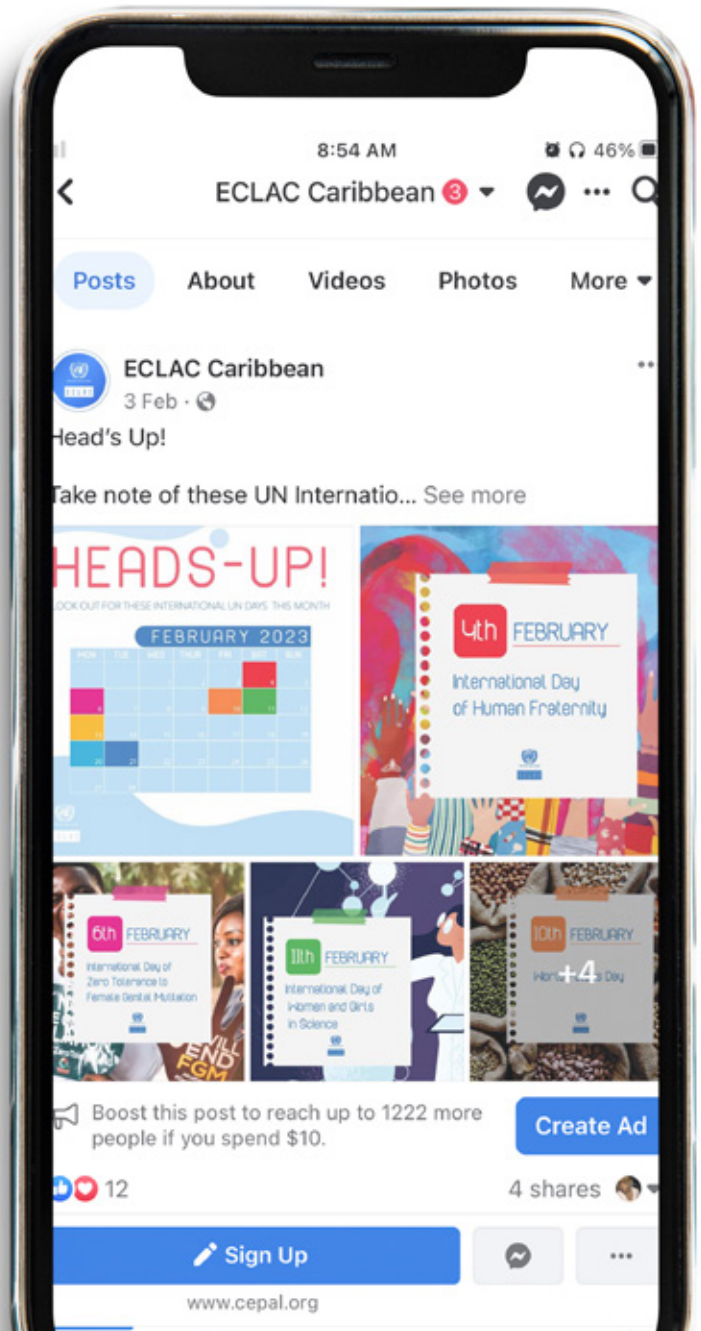
Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

6 AUGUST 2023

Advancing the realization of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the Amazon basin

7 AUGUST 2023

ECLAC: Promoting Circular Economy in the Potable Water and Sanitation Sector (Mexico)



NEW STUDY EXAMINES GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean is highly vulnerable to extreme hydroclimatic events, with flooding being the most frequent, and hurricanes the most damaging. The subregion is also subject to other natural hazards including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, drought, sea-level rise and the annual inundation of sargassum blooms.

A new study from ECLAC Caribbean provides an introduction to the status and use of Geospatial Information Management (GIM) in support of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Caribbean.

Entitled “Advancing geospatial information management for disaster risk management in the Caribbean,” the study examines the subregion’s unique ecosystems and its socioeconomic dependence on tourism. It also looks at the marine environment and coastal areas, from the perspective that disaster risk management (DRM), including risk reduction mechanisms, are paramount in the shaping of its sustainable development agenda.



Considering that 60% of the subregion's population and 70% of its economic activity are located at or near the coastline, the impacts of hazards due to climate change in particular are projected to intensify (CDEMA, 2014).

With a view to addressing the requirements for effective and sustainable management of the impacts of natural disasters, countries and development agencies of the subregion have made progress in developing DRM, normative and institutional frameworks (ECLAC 2019). The effective functioning of these frameworks must be data driven and serve to support

a reduction in vulnerability, and enhanced capacity for recovery and resilience building following the impacts of disasters.

The study posits that data acquisition, access, visualization, analysis, reporting, and storage are necessary for effective DRM.

The data obtained can be used in several ways. These include conducting damage and loss assessments, trend analysis of the occurrences of disasters over a geographic region, natural hazard prediction and modelling, simulation of response rate to vulnerable communities, storm run-off

prediction from watersheds and site suitability screening for hazardous waste facilities (Hamilton, 2000).

Also, the accessibility of high-quality data and information from authoritative sources facilitates more systematic and integrated approaches to data collection, storage, retrieval and sharing capabilities and use for informed DRM decision-making. In support of these requirements, DRM operations are currently benefiting from the use of GIM to advance efficiency and effectiveness in data-acquisition, data analysis and data management systems before, during and after disasters (UN-GGIM, 2017).

The data and information in the study, which were mostly obtained from online surveys and desk studies, indicated that Caribbean countries are at varying stages of progress towards the integration of GIM in DRM.

Policy setting, legislation, education, capacity-building, technological investment and institutional strengthening driving geospatial data management are priority areas identified for further advancing this progress.

The study offers recommendations aimed at strengthening the use of GIM in DRM both nationally and across the Caribbean.



BAHAMAS PINEAPPLE FEST

IS BACK IN ELEUTHERA

The Caribbean's biggest celebration of pineapples is back again for its 34th annual edition on the island of Eleuthera.

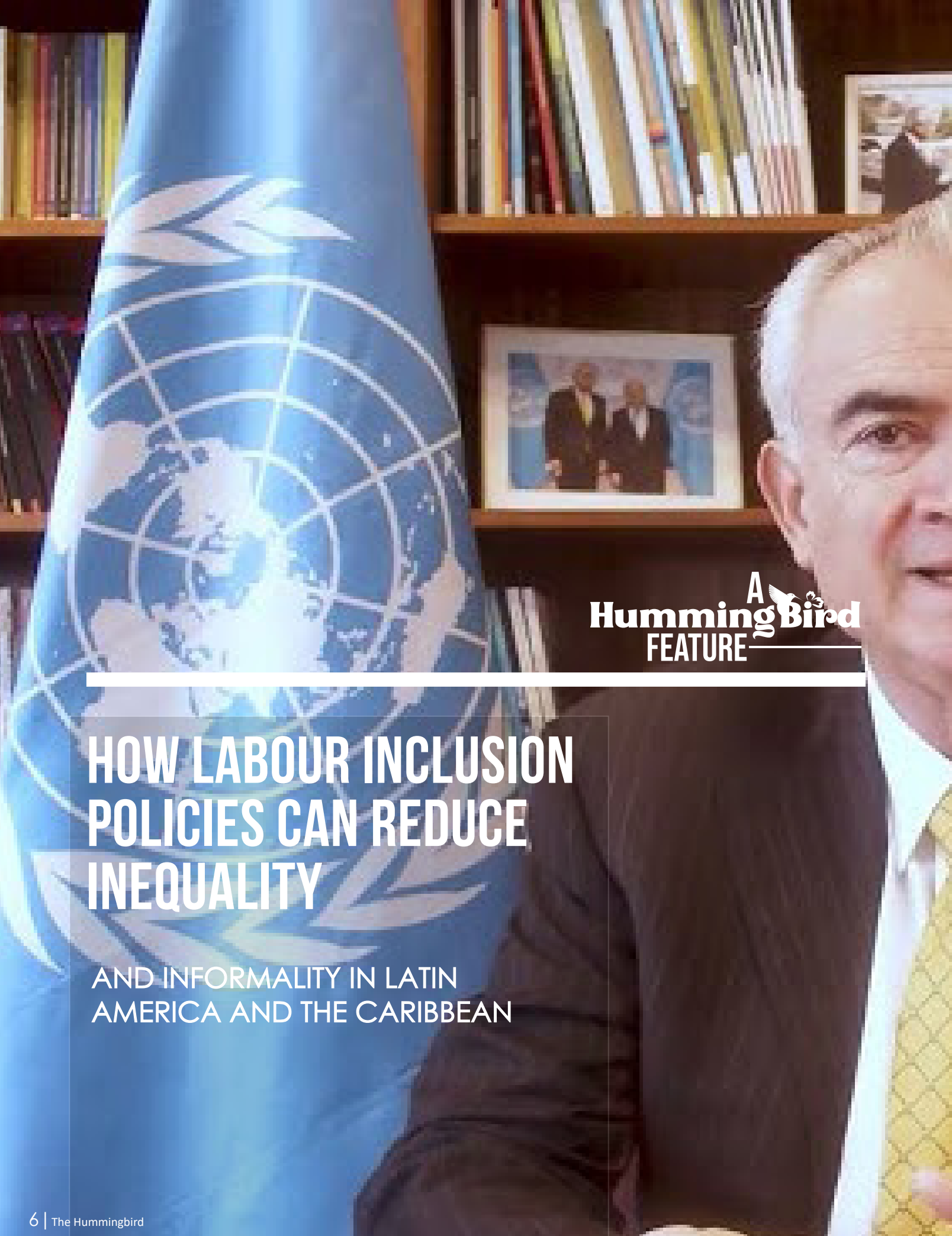
This year's Pineapple Fest runs from 23-24 June, in Gregory Town, Eleuthera, under the theme "preserving our heritage, sustaining our future."

Eleuthera is one of the Caribbean's capitals of pineapple production, home to an industry with a rich heritage and history.

This year's event will include pineapple-infused dishes, activities and a vibrant array of vendors, artisans and local craftsmen.

There will also be Authentic Bahamian Crafter's Tent with unique creations of local artistic talent and a Kiddies Corner. Chef demonstrations and pineapple-eating competitions are among some of the other featured activities.

The festival will conclude with a boisterous Junkanoo rush-out.



A Hummingbird
FEATURE

HOW LABOUR INCLUSION POLICIES CAN REDUCE INEQUALITY

AND INFORMALITY IN LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Labor inclusion policies, along with productive development and social protection policies, were topics discussed during the Third Regional Seminar on Social Development, organized by ECLAC in June 2023.

These are all key to reducing inequalities and the high degree of informality seen in Latin American and Caribbean countries, as affirmed by the scholars and international policy makers who attended the event, held in Santiago, Chile.



HOW LABOUR INCLUSION POLICIES CAN REDUCE INEQUALITY AND INFORMALITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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Participating in the opening session were José Manuel Salazar-

Xirinachs, ECLAC's Executive Secretary (via video); Gilbert Hounbo, Director-General of the ILO (video); Fabio Bertranou, Director of the ILO's Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America; Gundula Weitz, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Division of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (virtual); Jostein Leiro, Norway's Ambassador to Chile; and Javier Ciurlizza, the Ford Foundation's Director for the Andean Region.

"From ECLAC's perspective, labour inclusion is a goal of social development that aims for all members of the workforce to

be able to access decent jobs to ensure adequate levels of pay and social protection coverage," José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs affirmed, warning that "women, young people, persons with disabilities, those living in poverty, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples and other populations at the intersection of the axes that structure the social inequality matrix face greater obstacles and barriers to labour inclusion" in the region.

Labour inclusion, guided primarily by Labour Ministries but highly determined by productive development processes and policies, is an essential component



Third Regional Seminar on Social Development

Promoting labour inclusion
as a **way to overcome**
inequalities and
informality in
Latin America and
the Caribbean

27-29 June 2023



of any strategy to tackle the challenging social and labour situation faced by Latin American and Caribbean countries, he underscored.

Gundula Weitz, of Germany’s BMZ, welcomed Germany’s long history of cooperation with ECLAC and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and highlighted the regional seminar as a platform for exchanging experiences. In this regard, she lamented that the economic recovery process in Latin America and the Caribbean has been marked by the creation of informal jobs, in a region with more than 40% labour informality. Following the seminar’s opening session, a high-level panel was convened with remarks by several regional Labour Ministers, with Caribbean representatives

including Colin E. Jordan, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector of Barbados (virtual), and Norman Dunn, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Jamaica.

During the discussions, ECLAC emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic unleashed the biggest crisis that Latin America and the Caribbean’s labour markets had experienced since 1950. In 2020, during the pandemic, job creation fell by 8.2%, marking the largest decline recorded in the previous 70 years. Between 2014 and 2023, the growth rate in the number of employed persons will be 1.26%, compared with 3.2% in the “lost decade” of the 1980s.

Between 2002 and 2014, the labour market was key to reducing

poverty and inequality. Starting in 2015, that trend began to change, further deteriorating with the onset of the pandemic, pointing to deepening of inequalities.

ECLAC data indicates that in 2022, 81.7 million people between the ages of 15 and 59 (28%), in 9 of the region’s countries, were outside the labour market. Of that total, 57.1 million were women (70%).

During the three-day event, participants also addressed issues such as labour informality, child labour, youth labour inclusion, the present and future of work, skills development for labour inclusion. In addition they also discussed labour policies and social protection.



UN AGENCY HOSTS ANNUAL MSDCF

COORDINATION MEETING IN GUYANA

The Annual Coordination Meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the UN Multicountry Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF), was held in Guyana on 22 May 2023. The meeting assessed the UN's response to regional development priorities during the first year of implementation of the UN MSDCF.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Roberto Valent, Regional Director for the UN Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the

Caribbean thanked participating governments for their continued partnership with the UN. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, who co-chaired the meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Guyana, Yesim Oruc said, "We, in the Caribbean, are proud members of the UN and active participants in its various institutions and organs. We welcome the opportunity to meet through this annual consultation to take stock of where we are and to articulate our vision in relation to how we move forward".

Minister Singh also pointed out the peculiarities and vulnerabilities of the region due to the climate change phenomena and other externalities as he lamented the non-implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the delivery of the 0.7% GNI (Gross National Income) of ODA (Official Development Assistance) rich countries to assist poor countries.

Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Diane Quarless encouraged the meeting to take the discussions beyond mere opportunities for deliberation and make them stimuli for action. She said that having thoroughly diagnosed the many facets of the data challenge which exists in the Caribbean, it is high time that we move purposefully and systematically to address them in a sustainable way.



“As a call to action, we in the Caribbean need to address the limitations that exist in the statistical legislation that governs the work of most of the National Statistical Offices, and by extension the National Statistical Systems in our member States,” Quarless said.

Another concern Quarless mentioned is the fact that the timeline between the conduct of a survey and the release of the survey results is far too long. In many cases, no data release calendar or schedule exists for which NSOs and other data producers might be held accountable.

“I must therefore emphasize the need to strengthen statistical capacity to address the data challenge that we face in the subregion. We will need to be more strategic in modernizing the National Statistical Systems to take advantage of global trends. The use of technology in data-collection, analysis, and dissemination should be a core component of this strategy. Investment and training in the use of geospatial technology in official statistics is now a priority need for the Caribbean.”

The Joint Steering Committee is part of the governance mechanism of the implementation of the Caribbean MSDCF and comprises ministerial representatives of the 19 country signatories to the

Cooperation Framework, as well as representatives from 23 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes that implement development projects in the region.

The hybrid meeting saw discussions on food systems, data and digitalisation, and how the UN can support countries across the region to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and agreed on strategies for strengthening this mechanism.

The Multi Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) is the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean.

IN NEVIS

THE ART OF THE TINY CARIBBEAN ISLAND

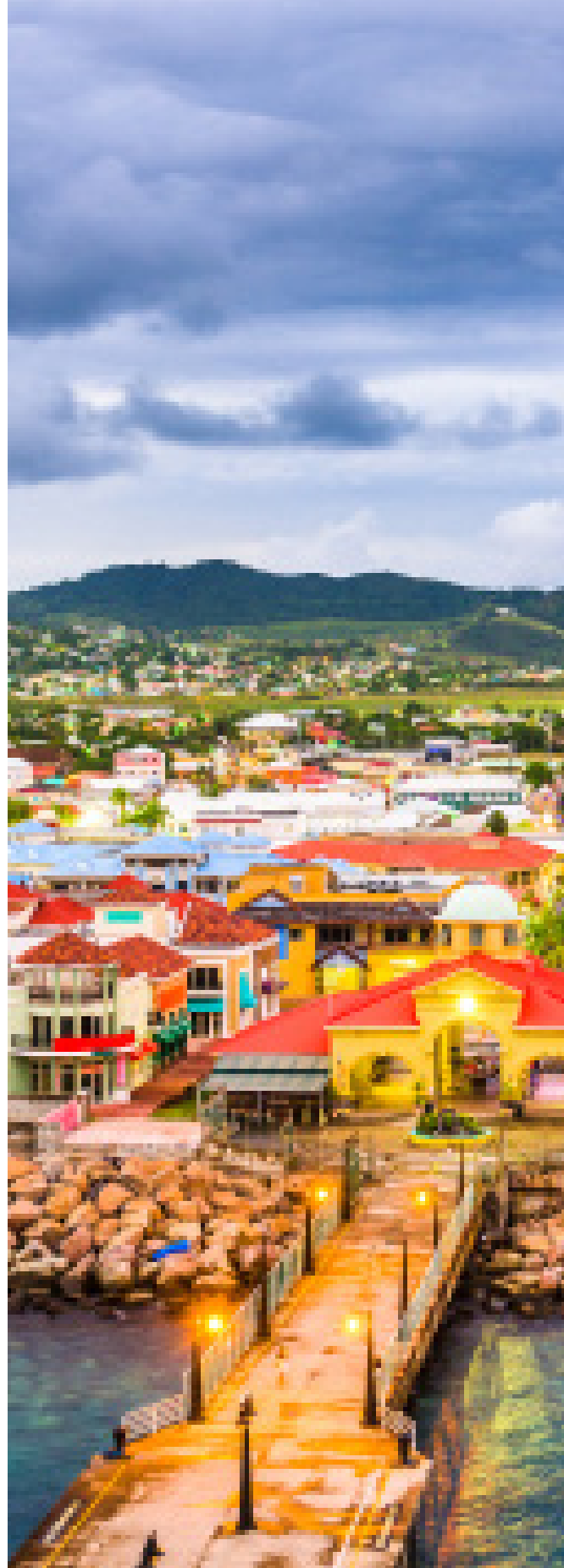
Princess Diana found quiet sanctuary here three decades ago. Last year, Kelsey Grammer escaped here in "Christmas in Paradise."


Many popular Hollywood entertainers from Jay Z to Beyonce to John Cleese, have come to the shores of Nevis, looking to indulge in the island's particular brand of small-island charm.

Because in Nevis, being a small island is an art form. Whether you're indulging in grand comfort at the Four Seasons Resort Nevis or exploring an historic inn on the foothills of Nevis Peak, you'll find a magnificently uncrowded, ecologically pure and elegantly laid-back destination.

Indeed, the island made famous by Hamilton (if you haven't seen the Broadway show, US founding father Alexander Hamilton was born and spent his early childhood on the island) has quietly become one of the region's more sought-after tiny islands, rewarding those who make the trip here with a blend of seclusion and sophistication that is not so easily matched.

There is a newly-inaugurated statue of Hamilton in the heart of the island's capital, Charlestown. Then there's the Golden Rock, a spectacularly-designed hotel conceptualized by a pair of artists that is a truly enchanting retreat, right on the foothills of the dormant volcano that crowns the island.





There's a culinary scene, too: no trip to the island is complete without an evening at Bananas Restaurant or the stunning oceanfront eatery called Mango at the Four Seasons, all exemplifying the best of contemporary Caribbean fare, buoyed by the island's burgeoning farm-to-table movement (one that has its epicenter in neighboring Saint Kitts).

That brings us to a Nevis party piece: its outstanding collection of beach bars. Even for an island that has long been a celebrity magnet, there is no bigger celebrity on the island than Sunshine, the proprietor of the eponymous Sunshine's beach bar on Pinneys Beach, world-renowned for its Killer Bee rum punch, a cocktail that is as delicious as it is potent.

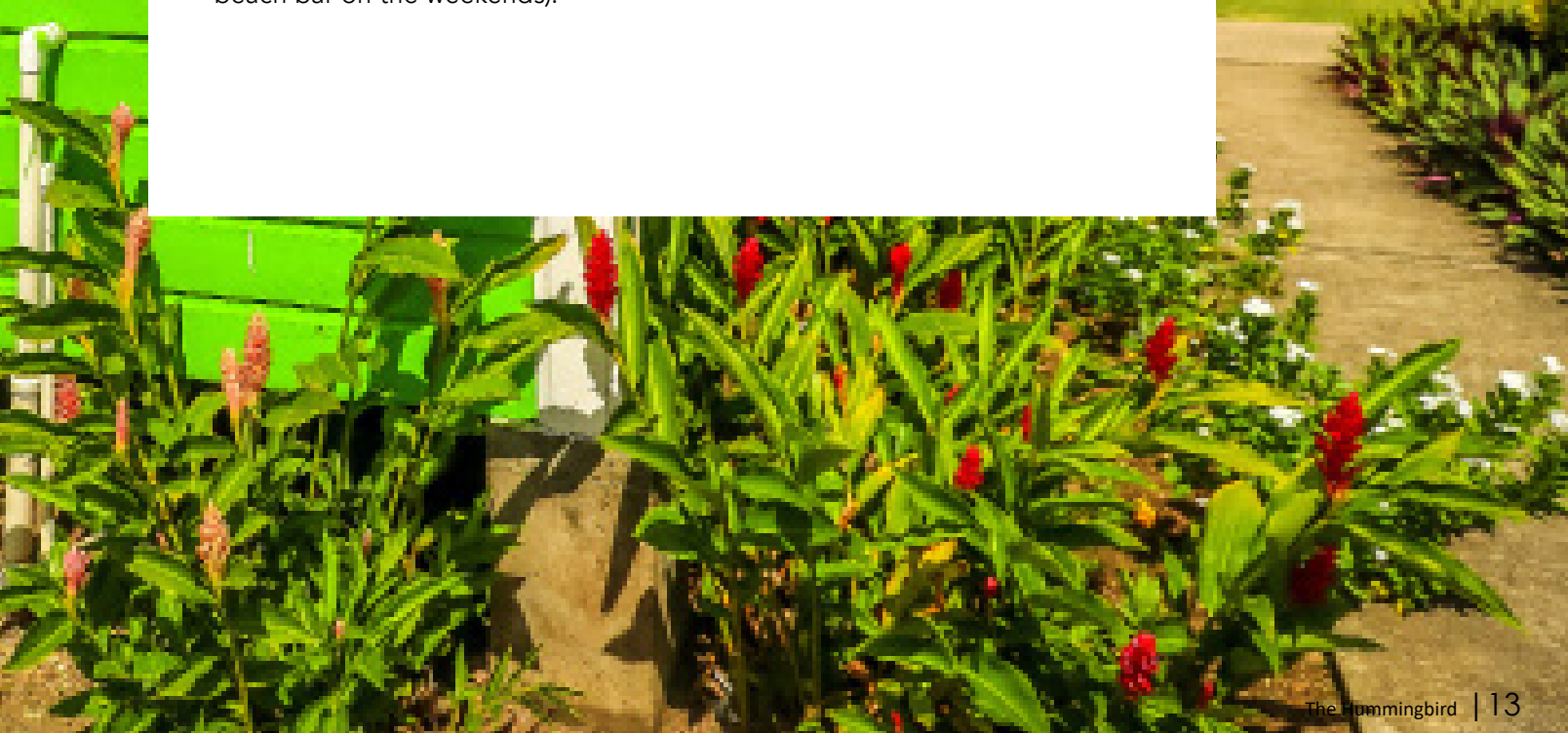
It's part of a dynamic group of beach bars in greater Pinneys beach, joined by lovely watering holes around the island like the Yachtsman Grill and the Gin Trap Club. (The latter is a cocktail-forward private club that doubles as a beach bar on the weekends).

There's even a fine local rum, Mark Theron's award-winning Clifton Estate, which has quickly become one of the most popular spiced rums coming out of the Caribbean (and whose headquarters is another essential stop on any Nevis getaway.)

This summer, the 36-square-mile island heats up in its own way, with the Nevis Mango Festival (Nevis has more varieties of mangos than anywhere else on earth) running at the end of this month, joined by the vibrant festival called Culturama at the end of July.

There is even a Sea Turtle Summer Camp at the Four Seasons, where you can spend a week learning about the critically endangered sea turtles that nest on Nevis and take a deeper dive into the marine conservation movement on the island.

Because, while Nevis is the perfect place for doing nothing, there's always something to do



AIR CANADA IS COMING BACK TO TRINIDAD

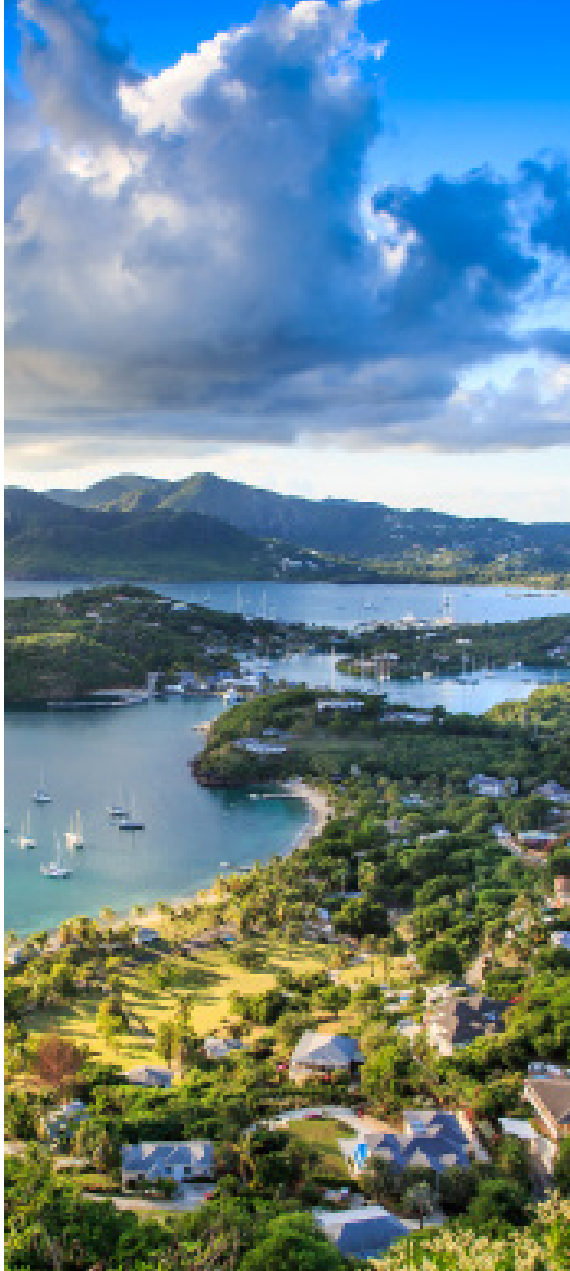
After a four-year hiatus, Air Canada is making a comeback in Trinidad for the upcoming winter season. The airline will be relaunching service to Port of Spain on 1 November 2023.

Air Canada's return will include three flights each week between Toronto and Port of Spain, with service on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Return flights from Trinidad to Toronto will run on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

That will expand beginning 3 December, when Air Canada will operate four flights each week between Toronto and Trinidad. Randall Mitchell, Trinidad's Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts said:

"We welcome back Air Canada to our destination. This is a positive development for our tourism industry, and we look forward to using this connection to continue to promote Trinidad as a top travel destination."

The return to Trinidad is part of a much larger Caribbean ramp-up for Air Canada for the upcoming winter, one that includes new routes and expanded frequencies to a host of islands in the region.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S NEW TOURISM CAMPAIGN ASKS

“WHY CHOOSE?”

The newest tourism campaign from Antigua and Barbuda plays on the destinations' twin-island identity, with locals from both Antigua and Barbuda showcasing their favorite things about their respective islands.

The spot, which features Junior Weathered from Antigua and Shakira James from Barbuda, takes travelers across the two islands, stopping at Valley Church Beach, Shirley Heights, Devil's Bridge, Barbuda's famous Pink Sand Beach, Barbuda Belle and Barbudan institution 'Uncle Roddy's', Sheer Rocks restaurant, Stingray City and the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra.

Antiguans and Barbudans go up against one another to talk about what's best about their islands.

“The unifying message behind the campaign is “Why choose when you can have the best of both islands. Visitors to Antigua are reminded that our sister-island Barbuda is only minutes away, and that both offer visitors two unique experiences in one vacation”. said Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.

THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



CASSAVA FLOUR BREAD



What you will need:

- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups cassava flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon Himalayan pink salt
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey or maple syrup
- ½ cup avocado oil
- ½ cup filtered water, room temperature

How to Make it:

Step 1: Grab a medium and a large mixing bowl.

Step 2: Beat eggs in the medium mixing bowl. Add apple cider vinegar, honey, avocado oil and water to the bowl (not necessary to mix).

Step 3: Add cassava flour, salt and baking powder to the large mixing bowl. Whisk to mix the dry ingredients together.

Step 4: Slowly add the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir to combine, breaking down larger lumps.

Step 5: Put the batter into prepared loaf pan and place in preheated oven for 1 hour.

Step 6: Remove from oven. Carefully remove bread from loaf pan and place on a cooling rack to cool for at least an hour before cutting. Allow bread to come to room temperature (at least 2 hours) before placing in an airtight container.



CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters
for the Caribbean,

1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago.

MEDIA CONTACT

Tel.: 1 868 224 8075

E-mail: eclac-media-pos@eclac.org



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