

the Humming Bird



OCEAN COORDINATION

ECLAC CARIBBEAN SUPPORTS NEW
PROJECT AIMED AT A REGIONAL OCEAN
COORDINATION MECHANISM

STATISTICAL LITERACY

EXPERT GROUP MEETING REVIEWS
STUDY ON ADVANCING STATISTICAL
LITERACY IN THE CARIBBEAN

SDGS IN THE CARIBBEAN

CARIBBEAN SIDS TAKE DECISIVE
ACTION IN IMPLEMENTING SDGS



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Contents

- 4 Expert group meeting reviews study on advancing statistical literacy in the Caribbean
- 6 ECLAC Caribbean supports new project aimed at a regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism
- 10 Caribbean SIDS take decisive action in implementing SDGs
- 12 New Caribbean airline launched in the Dominican Republic

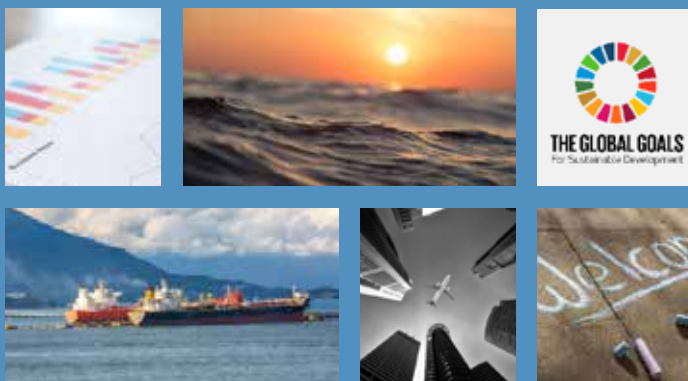
About us

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: Johann Brathwaite
Copy Editor: Denise Balgobin
Publication Design: Blaine Marcano

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



International Days

3 March

World Wildlife Day

8 March

International Women's Day

25 March

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Upcoming Meetings

4 March

Preparatory meeting of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement (PreCOP1)

16 March

Sustainable Recovery and Resilience towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Commonwealth of Dominica

22 March

Sustainable Recovery and Resilience towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Trinidad and Tobago

Like us on Facebook 

 **ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Mar 8

ECLAC Caribbean's Side Event on SDG14: Strengthening Regional Governance Mechanisms for Ocean-based Sustainable Development and COVID-19 recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Like · Comment · Share

 **ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Mar 7

The Fifth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Find out more: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2022/en>



Like · Comment · Share

 **ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Mar 1

#CostaRica hosted the fifth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of #LatinAmerica and the #Caribbean on SustainableDevelopment. Watch this video and get all the details in <https://bit.ly/35fYh5n>



Like · Comment · Share



Expert group meeting reviews study on advancing statistical literacy in the Caribbean

ECLAC Caribbean is strongly advocating the promotion of statistical literacy among the general Caribbean population.

In a recent study entitled “Advancing statistical literacy towards promoting sustainable development in the Caribbean”, ECLAC examines how staff of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the Caribbean engage in statistical activities.

This research was the subject of review at an expert group meeting (EGM) organized by ECLAC Caribbean.

Participating in the meeting were Caribbean statistical experts and professionals from Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. Representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat also participated. The study assessed the level and range of statistical competence in Caribbean NSOs and sought to gauge the level of statistical literacy of NSOs, stakeholders in ministries, departments, and agencies.

The study revealed that while NSO staff activities adequately reflect their levels of competency, there

were still challenges in such areas as survey sampling, methodology, and statistical analysis.

Statistical reasoning, thinking, and literacy are essential elements of the critical reasoning needed for public participation in effective decision-making. The document therefore urges that more emphasis be placed on promoting statistical literacy to increase the public’s ability to understand and critically evaluate statistical results.

This effort should be in addition to the targeting of specific groups of NSO stakeholders, including decision-makers, opinion leaders, journalists, and students, who would benefit from more specific interventions to enhance their statistical literacy.

The study asserts that NSOs in the Caribbean facilitate continuous education for staff to enhance their skills and are engaged in promoting statistical literacy among the general population.

At the policy level, the lack of data sharing agreements and coordinating mechanisms in the national statistical system (NSS) appear to present challenges for statisticians in communicating data and statistics to data users.

Staff members of NSOs have a fair to good opinion of the statistical literacy of staff of government ministries, departments and agencies that they interact with on data needs and requests. They also perceive this group to be the least likely to misuse or misinterpret data and statistics. The findings suggested measures to promote statistical literacy that meet the needs of a range of data users, including businesses and government, mass media, civil society, academia, and the ordinary citizen.

Chairing the EGM was ECLAC Caribbean’s Coordinator for Statistics and Social Development Unit, Abdullahi Abdulkadri. He stated that enhancing the statistical capacity of member States in the subregion is one of the key objectives of ECLAC, and observed that pursuing this objective would be a daunting task in an environment where statistical literacy is at a low level.

“It is even more challenging in the current era where advancement in technology has made data collection an easier task for non-statisticians and those with little to no knowledge of statistics,” Abdulkadri said. He explained that statistical information and messaging is everywhere, and citizens should be able to understand, interpret, critically



Photo of Antigua and Barbuda carnival courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Barbuda Caribana returns after pandemic lockdown

evaluate, and make sense of data and statistics.

Abdulkadri acknowledged the limitations of the study, noting that it was intended more as exploratory rather than inferential research. He cautioned against conducting a study that tests staff of NSOs on their statistical competencies and recommended instead, that such tests be commissioned by the NSOs themselves. He also explained that a means of cross validating the perception responses was built into the study, but limited responses on the validation questions undermined the effectiveness of that assessment.

In the Caribbean, technical competency in statistics is often limited to the statisticians. Therefore, to ensure the better use of statistics, he urged that greater effort be put into improving statistical literacy among all actors in society. He added that the NSO is a key player in helping to ensure that statistical literacy is improved at the national level. ■

One of the biggest cultural events on Antigua's sister isle, Barbuda, returned this year, following the protracted lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson of the Tourism and Culture Committee Calsey Beazer-Joseph confirmed that Caribana was organized this year by the Barbuda Council, having last been held in 2019.

"The committee comprised of Barbudans who planned the Caribana, along with several related cultural activities that will take place throughout the year," Beazer-Joseph said.

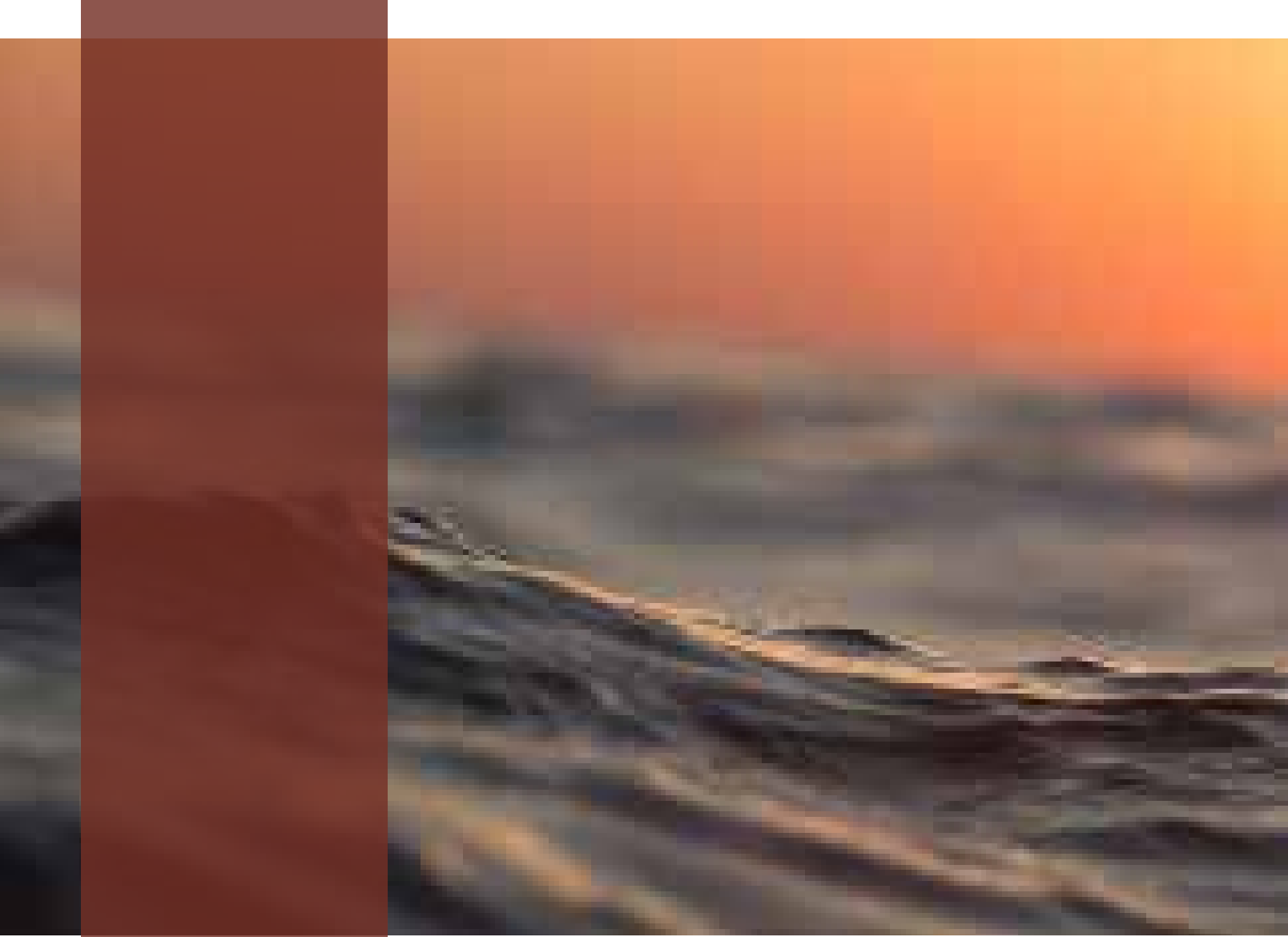
Although much effort was made to ensure its success, she admitted that the event was scaled down. "It's not Caribana in its entirety as we were accustomed to, because we used to have the queen show, calypso competition, and more. This year we've just toned it down a bit, for various reasons," she explained.

Some of the events were held during the first week in June, including the Little Mr and Miss Barbuda pageant, that took place on 3rd June. Caribana's customary fishing tournament, commonly known as the Johnny DeSouza Fishing Tournament and Beach Bash, was held on 4th June.

One of the main events, the horse race, was also well-received, and, according to Beazer-Joseph, it was the talk of the town. Later that same day, 5th June, the Calypso Melting Pot took place.

On 6th June, "we went right into J'ouvert in the morning, followed by a food fair, from around midday," Beazer added.

Antiguans who had challenges finding accommodation in Barbuda for the event were able to journey on Whit Monday to enjoy J'ouvert and the food fair, before jumping back on the inter-island ferry, to be back home in time for work the next morning. ■



ECLAC Caribbean supports new project
aimed at a
**REGIONAL OCEAN COORDINATION
MECHANISM**



Director of ECLAC Caribbean Diane Quarless recently pledged her support for the development of a regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism, that will bring together more than 20 countries and multiple UN and local and regional agencies. These countries will take on the challenge of achieving the regional long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of people.”

[READ MORE](#)



ECLAC Caribbean supports new project aimed at a regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism

It is not a secret that declining ocean health has triggered a vicious cycle. Falling yields and climate-linked disasters make it harder to earn money from traditional marine activities, which has led to increased pressure on marine resources and their environment, and ultimately to more damage.

Addressing and changing these trends will require good governance, improved management, and trust-building among the many countries, organizations, and communities with a stake in the health of this vast marine space.

These have been the aims of engagement between the Global Environment

Facility and UN Development Programme (UNDP) with national governments, civil society organizations, and regional and international partners. These partners have been working to lay the foundation for scaled-up efforts to build a more sustainable, blue economy in the wider Caribbean.

In June 2021, as the multilateral fund marked its 30th anniversary, the GEF Council agreed to support a new UNDP-GEF initiative - known as PROCARIBE+ - to build on these past efforts. PROCARIBE+ stands for "protecting and restoring the ocean's natural capital, building resilience and supporting region-wide investments for sustainable blue

socio-economic development."

This initiative is expected to support regional efforts directed at a collaborative, coordinated implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water, as well as the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework from the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Quarless has expressed her support for this initiative. "Better collaboration between international organizations will help advance the region's transition towards sustainable ocean-based development. This holistic approach will allow us to make important



“ *Better collaboration between international organizations will help advance the region’s transition towards sustainable ocean-based development.* ”

Diane Quarless - Director, ECLAC Caribbean

progress supporting sustainable fisheries and other ocean-based livelihoods, the protection and restoration of key marine habitats, and ocean-based climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions,” she said.

To say a healthy marine environment is vital to life in countries of the subregion would be an understatement, given their dependence on marine-based tourism and fisheries and the large number of people – 95 million – who live within 100 kilometers of the coast.

Yet the marine resources these communities depend on are increasingly at risk by human activities, including coastal development, land and sea pollution, over-fishing, and climate change.

While there is growing awareness and application of the blue economy concept around the Caribbean and Atlantic oceans, efforts to encourage the sustainable use of marine resources have often been hampered by factors including a lack of capital, inadequate data gathering, and limited public awareness of just how much value and opportunities marine

ecosystems can provide.

The term “blue economy” encompasses all income-generating activities tied to the ocean – including fishing, shipping, marine and coastal tourism, and offshore wind farms – that can be implemented in a sustainable way.

It recognizes the enormous importance of the bodies of water covering 72 per cent of the Earth, that provide livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people as well as a means of transport for 70 per cent of global trade flows.

The expanded UNDP-GEF efforts under PROCARIBE+ will include training on environmental reporting and natural capital accounting to increase awareness about the value of marine natural resources, plus support for participatory planning exercises for the more sustainable use of marine space.

The PROCARIBE+ project will also work with the GEF Small Grants Programme to engage communities on ways to preserve marine and coastal habitats in support of improved

health and livelihoods.

PROCARIBE+ will also support regional efforts to build a more effective network of marine protected areas. Efforts will also go into improving the tracking and monitoring of fishing activity, and to countering ghost fishing – a phenomenon where marine animals get stuck in lost or discarded traps and fishing gear. There will also be initiatives to improve the flow of blue economy investments, including through the creation of micro-financing schemes, the mobilization of small grants and loans, and the testing of a private sector or blended finance funding mechanism. ■



Caribbean SIDS take decisive action in implementing SDGs

Countries of the Caribbean are facing challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), due to abnormally low economic growth, high unemployment, and growing exposure to climate change impacts.

This extreme vulnerability and increasing high exposure of people, assets and livelihoods to natural hazards has resulted in tremendous costs in terms of loss of human lives, population displacement, physical infrastructure, and negative effects on economic activities - especially in agriculture and tourism.

The 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has added a new dimension to these vulnerabilities, widening inequalities and demanding new approaches to Caribbean governments and people must

grapple with the pandemic's economic and social fallout.

Institutional strengthening is seen by Caribbean policy makers as one of the keys to addressing resilience building. Enhanced institutional capacities assure reinforced integrated response in disaster and emergency situations. Progress has been recorded in the subregion in the formalization of institutional arrangements for SDG implementation, in mainstreaming the SDGs, and in building national ownership of the global agenda.

In the Caribbean, ECLAC has contributed to the establishment or strengthening of institutional frameworks for SDG implementation, the integration of the SDGs in national development planning processes, and the strengthening of institutional capacities for national development planning.

A recent ECLAC Caribbean study reviewed the status of institutional mechanisms for sustainable development in the Caribbean and the role they play in entrenching integrated decision-making processes. The study focused on eight Caribbean SIDS, namely Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. It also examined their shared experiences in institution building in order to identify good practices in institutional arrangements for integrated policy and decision-making in the subregion.

All the focus countries have established - or are in the process of establishing - sustainable development frameworks, adopting the principles of multi-sector and inter-ministerial collaboration. They all have

national development strategies, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. They have also established a national coordination mechanism for implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

Most of these mechanisms have entrusted planning institutions with responsibility for coordination or assigned a technical secretariat to coordinate various sectors, convening stakeholders and defining the strategies and partnerships for achieving the SDGs as well as monitoring and ensuring accountability of the Goals.

The study also found that Caribbean countries recognize the need to invest in the reinforcement of systems that can assess the performance of national development plans and national progress towards the SDGs.

The study concluded that the pandemic has highlighted longstanding vulnerabilities linked to poverty and inequality, and resulting from limited investment in essential services. It has also emphasized the need for integrated systemic approaches in addressing sustainable development, in order to effectively inform decision-making and policy measures, while transforming behaviours at all levels of government and society.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects have impacted all countries across the subregion. However, Caribbean countries are resilient and despite of the numerous setbacks in their development efforts, remain committed to their longer-term development aspirations. ■



Regional agencies partner to respond maritime crime

Two regional agencies recently partnered to discuss the issue of criminal activity related to the fishing industry. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), hosted a Technical Meeting on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Organized Crime in the fishing industry recently.

It was an important milestone in the subregion's effort to fortify its response to this very challenging and costly problem, through coordinated action at both the national and regional levels, with the support of the Government of Norway and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Blue Justice Initiative.

The CRFM, its Member States, and partner agencies both at the CARICOM and international levels

committed to advancing their collaboration using modern digital technology, to strengthen the subregion's response to illegal fishing and transnational organized criminal activities, such as drugs, human

and small arms trafficking, trade in contraband goods, document fraud and forgery, tax crimes, and money laundering, which use commercial and recreational fishing as a cover for such activities.

Last October, during a high-level meeting of CRFM Ministers, twelve (12) Member States signed the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, also known as the 'Copenhagen Declaration'. They also endorsed the Blue Justice Initiative, which supports developing countries in operationalizing the Copenhagen Declaration, aimed at "promoting a sustainable and fair Blue Economy for all, that is free from fisheries crime."

The CRFM and CARICOM IMPACS convened the technical meeting of senior fisheries and maritime law enforcement officers to identify priority actions to strengthen regional and international cooperation to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector. Participants engaged in interactive sessions and contributed to charting the way forward. ■



New Caribbean airline launched in the Dominican Republic

A new Caribbean airline was launched in the Dominican Republic in March 2022. Called Arajet, it is being billed as the “first ultra-low-cost airline in the Caribbean.”

According to the company, the plan is to kick off with flights to Caribbean and Central American destinations.

Later this year, Arajet expects to add flights to key North American markets, particularly those destinations with “populations having significant familial ties to the Dominican Republic,” according to a statement. That includes New York, Boston, Miami and Chicago, the company said.

Arajet will be launched with a fleet of new Boeing 737-8 aircraft; the company says it has “firm orders, purchase options and lease agreements in place” for its first 40 aircraft.

“The Dominican Republic and the wider Caribbean region is underserved by low-cost airlines and passengers deserve a more affordable way to travel in our market,” said Victor Pacheco, founder and CEO of Arajet. “We believe Arajet is well-positioned to transform the Santo Domingo Airport into a modern, new hub for destination and connecting traffic.” The business is led by Pacheco and Mike Powell, the former chief financial officer of Wizz Airlines. The company is backed by Griffin Global Asset Management and Bain Capital.

“We are excited to support Arajet as they build a leading ULCC in the Dominican Republic by providing the necessary financial and operational resources that will enable the airline to significantly scale its operations and serve more customers,” said Matt Evans, a Managing Director at Bain Capital. ■



Welcome to Jônatas De Paula

Mr Jônatas De Paula recently joined the ECLAC Caribbean family in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, as P2 Associate Environmental Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit (SDDU).

Jônatas brings to ECLAC 10 years of professional experience in development and social sciences. His most recent position was Programme Analyst with UN-Habitat, Brazil to implement a partnership with the State of Alagoas to promote sustainable and inclusive policies and urban prosperity.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat in Brazil, he was an intern at UN-Habitat Sri Lanka, where he carried out an

independent assessment of the Sri Lankan government's housing programme for slum dwellers, which aimed to contribute to a more effective and participatory approach to project design and implementation. He also worked at the Danish Consulate General in São Paulo as Advisor for Energy, Sanitation and Environment where he gained a number of project management skills.

Jônatas is a holder of a Master of Science in Regional and Urban Planning Studies from the University of London, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of São Paulo. ■

Lentil peas burgers



8 to 10 burger patties

What you will need:

- 1 cup dry lentils, rinsed
- 2 ½ cups water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ medium onion, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- ¾ cup rolled oats, finely ground
- ¾ cup breadcrumbs

How to Make it:

Step 1: Boil lentils in water with salt for around 45 minutes.

Step 2: Fry the onions and carrot in the oil until soft, for a few minutes.

Step 3: In a bowl, mix the cooked ingredients with the pepper, soy sauce, oats and bread crumbs.

Step 4: While still warm, form the mixture into patties.

Step 5: Burgers can then be shallow-fried for 1-2 minutes on each side, or baked for 15 minutes.



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



SOCIAL MEDIA



[CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE...](#)

