

the Hummingbird

GRENADA TO PRESENT

ITS FIRST VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

DOMINICA'S MULTI-HAZARD ENVIRONMENT REFLECTED IN ITS VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

INTERVIEW WITH

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DILLON ALLEYNE



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<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>
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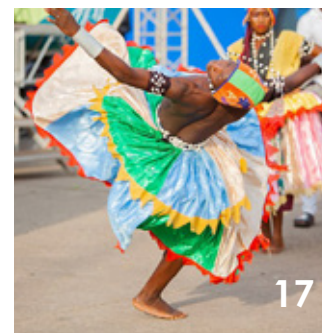
ABOUT US

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.

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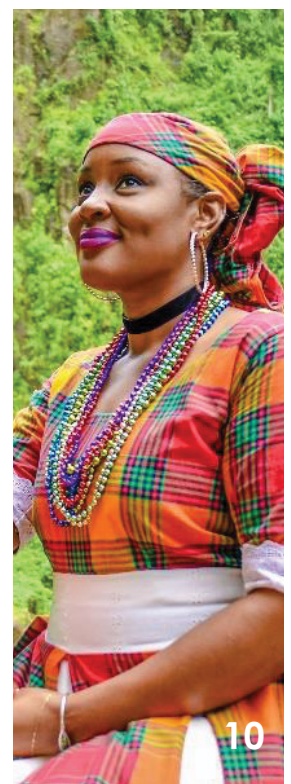
Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine.



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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

26 JULY 2022

High-level meeting on the ECLAC Caribbean Resilience Fund

27 JULY 2022

Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors V InterCODIA

29 JULY 2022

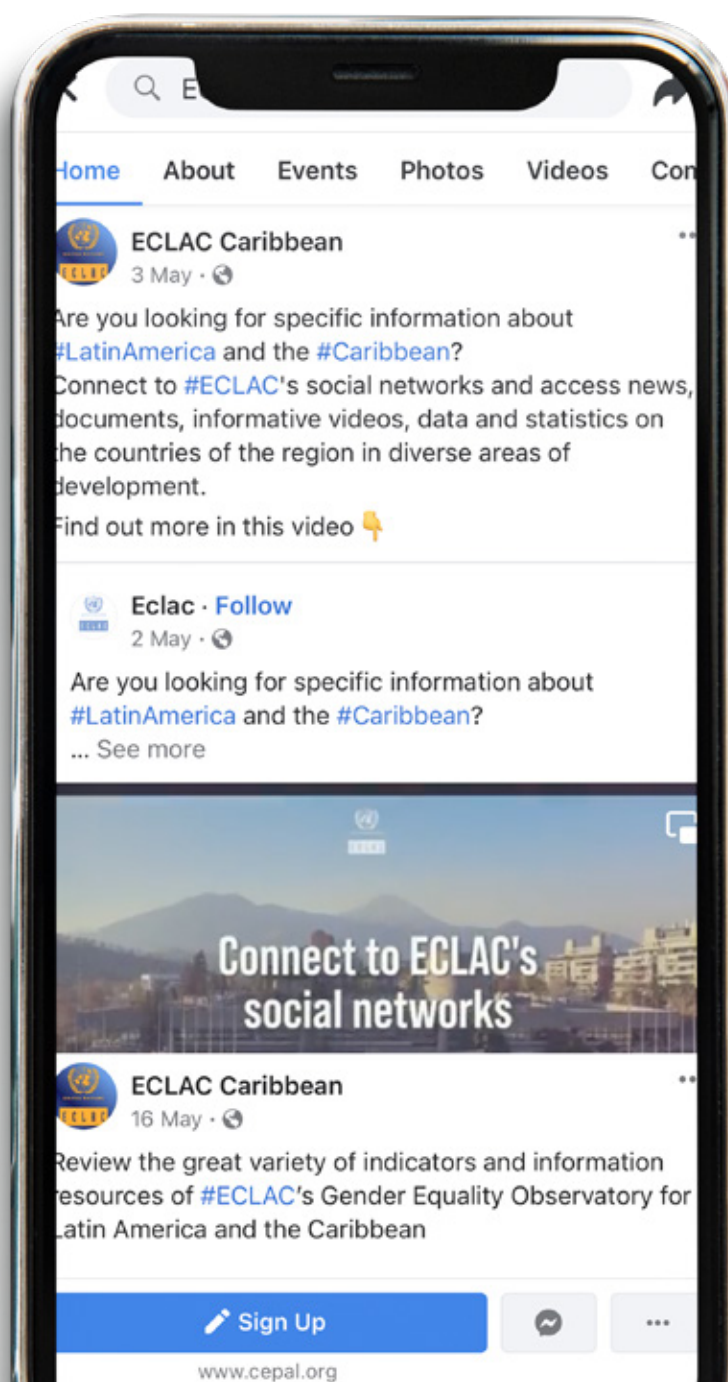
XX Ordinary Meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Council for Potable Water and Sanitation (CONCARD-APS)



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ECLAC



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA BENEFITS

FROM ECLAC AND UN DESA
NATIONAL CONSULTATION

ECLAC Caribbean and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) have been conducting consultations in countries of the Caribbean that would assist them in sustainable recovery and resilience building. They are also aimed at supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Subsequently in Belize, the UN partners, in close coordination with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (A&B), held a similar exercise. These meetings are Phase II of the UN DESA and ECLAC cooperation with the Government, and aims to strengthen the recovery planning and decision-making capacity of the stakeholders; a critical step in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better.

In response to the pandemic, the Government of A&B introduced measures to support its people and key economic sectors. These included the closure of borders; an increase in health spending representing about 0.5 per cent of GDP; a 20 per cent reduction in



electricity costs to the public and fuel costs to fishermen for 90 days; one-year investment incentives for home renovation and construction; suspension of the common external tariff on food imports and new tax measures announced in the 2020 budget; provision of food cards, food vouchers and cash vouchers to ensure vulnerable children have access to food, given the closure of schools; and expansion of social safety net programmes.

The Government considers its management of COVID-19 as the single most important accomplishment in 2020 and 2021.

The country is one of the few in the world with a low rate of death (136 deaths since the start of the pandemic), a relatively low rate of infections (7,626 total infections since the start of the pandemic), a high rate of recovery, and about 63 per cent of its population fully vaccinated. COVID-19 infections are also on the decline.

Participants included representatives of Government, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and the private sector. These groups are actively engaged in national development planning and other COVID-19 recovery plans, plus pursuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



BRITISH AIRWAYS' BIG MILESTONE

IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

British Airways just set a major milestone in Antigua and Barbuda, celebrating the 60th anniversary of its first flight to the twin-island country.

The carrier first touched down at VC Bird International Airport on 1 June 1962, then called the British Overseas Airways Corporation.

"British Airways has for 60 years connected travelers from the UK and Europe to Antigua and Barbuda, allowing us to share our culture, our heritage, our hospitality, and the beauty of our destination," said Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.

"As a trusted partner, British Airways is interwoven into our tourism story. We share a rich history – from destination partnerships, marketing campaigns, to unwavering support during times of need, they have without a doubt contributed to the success of our tourism product. As we share in this momentous occasion, we congratulate and applaud BA. We look forward to many more years of partnership, and a mutually rewarding relationship with our

twin-island paradise."

At a cocktail celebration to mark the occasion, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority CEO shared tales of the airline from its first voyage in 1962 to its first corporate sponsorship of Antigua Carnival to the 1984 arrival of Concorde to the island.

It's a "marriage made in heaven, with an airline that has always served the destination well," James said.

The celebration included a British Airways airline-sculpted cake and the presentation of a replica of a historic photo of 1965 Carnival Queen Hyacinth Barrow, waving to onlookers as she prepared to board a flight to England.

"British Airways has always had a very strong relationship with Antigua and Barbuda and for sixty years – three generations – we have flown visitors to enjoy holidays, and we have reunited our Caribbean friends and family both here in the region and in London and beyond," said Patrice Skerritt, regional director for British Airways.





A Hummingbird
FEATURE

GRENADA TO PRESENT ITS FIRST



VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEW
TO THE HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM



The Government of Grenada is set to be one of 45 countries that will present its Voluntary National Review (VNR), during the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for sustainable development. The HLPF will be held under the theme, “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

ECLAC Caribbean provided technical assistance to the country during the preparation of the VNR and also assisted with the development of Grenada’s first ever long-term National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2020-2035, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and which is the anchor for the country’s development agenda.



GRENADA TO PRESENT ITS FIRST VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Grenada's first VNR focuses on seven SDGs: Goal 4 – Quality Education; Goal 5 – Gender Equality; Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 13 – Climate Action; Goal 14 – Life below Water; Goal 15 – Life on Land; and Goal 17 – Partnerships to achieve the Goals.

In reporting the country's progress thus far, the VNR provides updates on various issues, including Grenada's response to COVID-19.

Like many other countries in the subregion, Grenada began feeling the effects of the pandemic in March 2020.

According to the VNR, taking note of the potential negative social and economic consequences, the Government quickly adopted a multi-dimensional approach in its response to the global pandemic. The approach incorporated a suite of health, social and macroeconomic measures.

The pandemic affected Grenada's progress in pursuing the SDGs. Several initiatives, either ongoing or scheduled for upcoming implementation, were paused as a result of COVID-19 containment measures, which restricted movement. In addition, project funds were reallocated to address critical sectors such as health.

The Government has also faced challenges with implementing





several of the SDGs, including Quality Education (SDG 4). In this regard, they have implemented the Grenada Education Enhancement Project (GEEP), which commenced in 2016. This project facilitates the refurbishment, as well as construction of new schools across the island.

This project, financed in part by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is currently in the implementation stage for phases 1 and 2, which cover rehabilitation works for approximately ten schools. A key component of the refurbishment incorporates fortification of school infrastructure to be simultaneously hazard-resistant and energy efficient.

Grenada has been attempting to improve the situation for women and youth. This effort has been pursued through a partnership with the Grenada National Organization of Women

(GNOW), a non-governmental organization (NGO), which aims to address the needs of Grenada's female population through gender equality and women's empowerment.

In response to the NGO's recognition of increased incidences of gender-based violence (GBV), GNOW has organized a series of workshops since 2021 to train teachers on GBV with a specific focus on ways to assist child victims.

In the overall VNR report, the Government reiterated its commitment to achieving sustainable development, driven by the SDGs. Prime Minister Keith Mitchell said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened our resolve to work together at national, regional and global levels to achieve a sustainable future. The national ownership of the SDGs is embedded in the

principle of:

“no one left behind”

as we adopt an all-of-society approach to advance the cause.”

“This first VNR represents a significant milestone for Grenada as it not only documents our progress but also highlights our challenges, opportunities and areas for increased collaboration with our stakeholders. To that end, we call on all our development partners to support our efforts in implementing the NSDP 2020-2035, in alignment with the SDGs, by providing technical, material, and financial assistance in the different thematic areas highlighted in this first VNR, and more broadly in promoting our institutional mechanisms for promoting sustainable development and the implementation of the SDGs.”

DOMINICA'S MULTI-HAZARD

ENVIRONMENT REFLECTED IN ITS VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Dominica has been working towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In keeping with its mandate of support for Member States, ECLAC Caribbean recently assisted the country with its Voluntary National Review (VNR) process.

The VNR will be presented to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which will be held in New York from 5 to 15 July 2022. The VNR was designed to help Dominica share its experiences with building forward stronger, sharing some better practices and lessons learned. It was also a measure/method by which the country could share its progress to advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with the world.

Dominica's VNR acknowledges the multi-hazard environment which exists, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

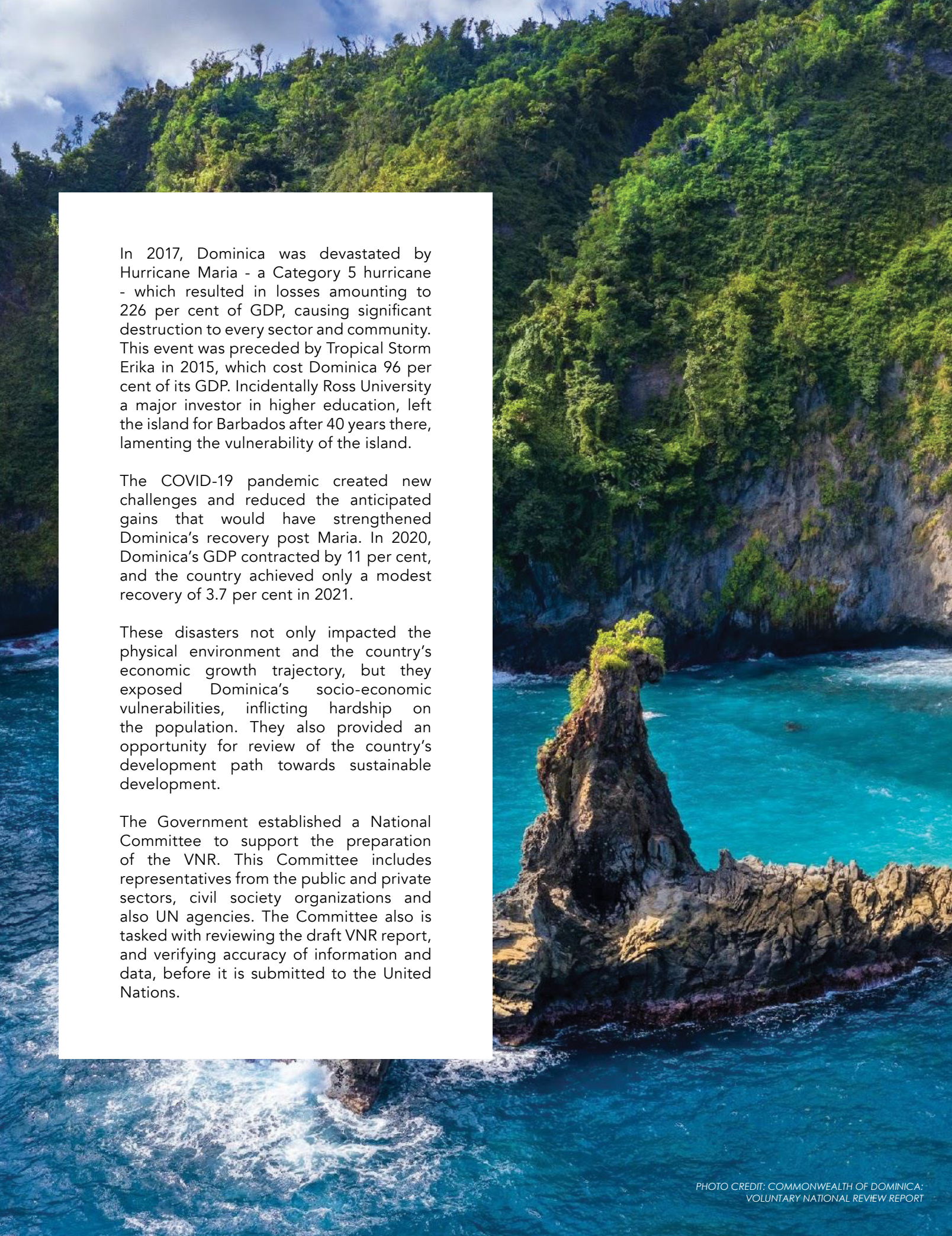
Dominica, known as the nature island of the Caribbean, is also in the process of building the world's first climate resilient small island State – an example for other regions around the world. The island boasts lush rainforests, 365 rivers, and the Caribbean's highest mountain peak, Morne Diablotin.



PHOTO CREDIT: COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA:
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT



PHOTO CREDIT: COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA:
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT



In 2017, Dominica was devastated by Hurricane Maria - a Category 5 hurricane - which resulted in losses amounting to 226 per cent of GDP, causing significant destruction to every sector and community. This event was preceded by Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, which cost Dominica 96 per cent of its GDP. Incidentally Ross University a major investor in higher education, left the island for Barbados after 40 years there, lamenting the vulnerability of the island.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges and reduced the anticipated gains that would have strengthened Dominica's recovery post Maria. In 2020, Dominica's GDP contracted by 11 per cent, and the country achieved only a modest recovery of 3.7 per cent in 2021.

These disasters not only impacted the physical environment and the country's economic growth trajectory, but they exposed Dominica's socio-economic vulnerabilities, inflicting hardship on the population. They also provided an opportunity for review of the country's development path towards sustainable development.

The Government established a National Committee to support the preparation of the VNR. This Committee includes representatives from the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and also UN agencies. The Committee also is tasked with reviewing the draft VNR report, and verifying accuracy of information and data, before it is submitted to the United Nations.

SAINT CROIX EVENT SERVES

EVENT SERVES UP TASTY TREATS FOR ALL PALATES

Hundreds of guests flocked to the East End of Saint Croix island recently, for a tantalizing showcase of culinary creativity during the recent 22nd annual “Taste of Saint Croix” event, at the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino.

The well-known US Virgin Island (VI) event featured a collection of tastings from 20 different island restaurants, which served guests under white canopies situated outdoors. The clink of glasses couple with delectable cuisine were balanced by a steady stream of smooth Caribbean music hits, as well as attendees’ chatter and laughter.

As with years prior, the event culminated with the results of the winning eateries, which this year was judged by a panel of 14 cuisine enthusiasts.

VI Boxer Julius “The Chef” Jackson, author of “My Modern Caribbean Kitchen”, has been a judge for



PHOTO CREDIT: COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA:
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

several years, but each year is subject to different criteria and this year was no different.

“ **The dishes are judged on appearance of course - they have to look really presentable - taste, as well as teamwork. That is another category that gets judged on, how well the team works together and how well they present themselves, which is really interesting because you usually don't get that in competitions.** ”

Jackson said.



Molly Buckley, owner of three Saint Croix businesses, is new to the panel of judges this year and judged the dessert and beverage categories.


“ I’m excited to judge beverages because I love wine. ”

Buckley said. “Wines are so personal. It doesn’t matter what you like or how you like it – whether it is over ice at the pool – but personally I like and look for the mineral quality. Plus, I love trying new stuff so I’m excited to see what the entries are.”

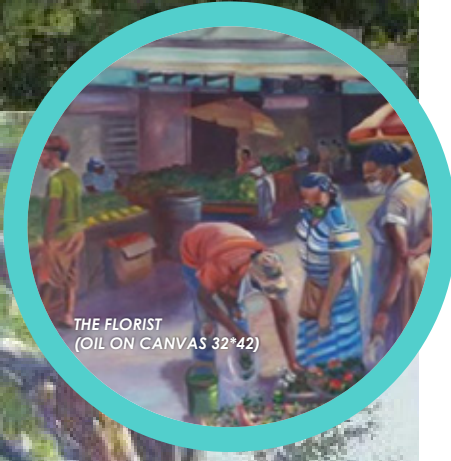


THE ECONOMIST ARTIST


INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR DILLON ALLYNE... REFINING HIS CRAFT



RAINY AFTERNOON IN BELMONT PORT OF SPAIN
(OIL ON CANVAS)



THE FLORIST
(OIL ON CANVAS 32*42)




ROOFTOPS FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW
(OIL ON CANVAS 14*19)

Hello Dillon. Hope you have been working on refining your art like you intended. I understand you also had an exhibition of your work.

Yes, my interview was some time ago. I remember saying then that I was not keen on an art exhibition to display my works. However, with encouragement from my wife, I organized a solo exhibition at the headquarters of the University of the West Indies between 5 and 19 March 2019 in Jamaica. I mounted about 27 pieces, capturing a panorama of Caribbean experiences. These were mostly a combination of landscapes, still life, and figures in oil on canvas. Here is a copy of the poster promoting the exhibition and showing some of the pieces exhibited.

I notice that the title of the exhibition was *dis-equilibrium*. What is the significance of that to you or your work and how did the exhibition turn out?

*This title was the idea of my son, who is also an economist. As you know *dis-equilibrium* means things out of balance. It speaks to the presumed dissonance between art and economics. However, I feel that this is not so. In fact, underlying every creative piece is a careful attention to composition and design, no matter how spontaneous a piece of art looks. The same discipline of careful assessment is necessary to produce meaningful economic analysis. The exhibition excited some interest, and I was subsequently interviewed on a popular morning television program in Jamaica. An article was also carried in the entertainment section of the *Daily Observer*. I was very surprised at the response, especially since I had not publicly shown any of my works before.*



A few years ago, the Hummingbird presented a feature on the Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Mr. Dillon Alleyne, who is also a very talented artist. (That interview was from 2016, in the Hummingbird Vol 3 Issue 7). At that time Dillon indicated that he was still refining his craft as an artist.

As a follow-up to that interview, the Hummingbird recently sat with Dillon, who shared some of his experiences over the years since then.

What were the two best pieces in the exhibition, and what was the general response?

I think the piece "A man and his donkey", was a hit. I suppose it brings back the nostalgia of the rural Jamaican countryside. The other piece was "Rainy Afternoon in Belmont, Port of Spain, Trinidad". I think most people can relate to the mood of a cold rainy afternoon, which was what I sought to capture in this piece. In terms of the general response, since quite a few friends were there from the Department of Economics at Mona - where I taught for some time, before coming to ECLAC - they were quite surprised that I was able to put such effort into my art. Of course, most of my pieces were done at nights.

Sounds exciting. Was there anything else?

Oh yes. In light of that show, I was interviewed by the popular magazine, "Interviewing the Caribbean", in its winter edition. In that interview, they were exploring my views on art especially as it relates to children. I have very strong views on the role of the arts in the education of children. I feel that they should be exposed to the fundamentals of the arts, and as you know we now recognize the role of the creative industries in our development. Ultimately, children must have fun while doing art, and be given the opportunity to express their individuality. More importantly, we must provide the resources, both financial and human, to teach the arts with the same seriousness with which we teach other subjects. We must also encourage those persons

who have the experience, but may have retired and wish to volunteer, to help support teaching the arts.

All that was just before COVID-19 struck. How have things changed for your art since then?

That is a great question and I have been reflecting on that. As you know, travel was restricted and for two years we were practically locked in at home. I must admit that living alone, I cannot imagine how I would have weathered the pandemic mentally, without being able to paint. On the other hand, creativity is stifled if one cannot interact with others or with the environment. COVID-19 has also meant social distancing and the wearing of masks. As a result, in many of my pieces the figures wear masks as a reference to COVID-19.

Can you show us a few pieces that captured this?

Of course. I have "the Florist", "Saturday Market in the Queen's Park Savannah" and "Rooftops from my Bedroom Window". In the Florist, we see women buying flowers with masks on. In the market scene, we see shoppers social distancing and wearing masks as they await their turn to enter the market and a lady washing her hands in the background. The scene also has a hazy atmosphere to suggest the uncertain times. In the third piece, I am lamenting the state of emergency that was on in Trinidad and Tobago, at the height of COVID-19, at which time I could not go out -- not even to walk on the Queen's Park Savannah. All I could do was to watch the rooftops from my bedroom window.

Your work is quite varied. Are there any specific projects or themes you are working on at the moment?

Oh yes. I have been concerned about the number of homeless persons who are on the streets of Port of Spain. Some of them have been around for many years. As a result, I have been working on 10 portraits, which I call the "Street People Series", and so far, I have done about four.

Can we have a sneak preview of one of these portraits?

Sure. I saw this homeless man in the vicinity of Charlotte and Queen Janelle Commission Streets, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He was clearly on a mission picking up bottles and moving along quickly. People avoided him but his gait intrigued me as it appeared to be that of a dancer.

What is next for the artist?

Well, while COVID-19 has been a great challenge for all of us, it has also given me the time to paint and to reflect. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, and the lifting of travel requirements, I shall be very busy, as ECLAC Caribbean supports Member States in their economic recovery and repositioning, post pandemic. High on my agenda will be the launch of our proposed Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF), which is a vehicle to leverage much needed affordable long-term finance for resilience building. As you can imagine, I will have less time to paint, but it will be in my consciousness, nonetheless.



SATURDAY MARKET IN THE QUEEN'S PARK SAVANNAH
(OIL ON CANVAS 36"X40")



THE MAN AND HIS DONKEY
(OIL ON CANVAS 22.5"X30.5)



WAS HE A DANCER
(OIL ON CANVAS 43"X21.5)



PLANS ANNOUNCED

FOR BARBADOS
CROP-OVER
FESTIVAL

Plans for the staging of Crop Over 2022 were recently announced by the Government of Barbados, with changes to the previous format of the main cultural events, as well as the COVID-19 protocols that will be in effect. However, stakeholders are already reporting a significant reduction in the number of bands participating in this year's event.

At a press conference for the festival, Chief Executive Officer of the National Cultural Foundation (NCF), Carol Roberts-Reifer, disclosed that there would be one Grand Kadooment jump and two Foreday Morning jumps. She also announced that revellers will now have the option of

either being fully vaccinated, or presenting a negative antigen test.

According to Roberts-Reifer, this year's Grand Kadooment parade will leave the ABC Highway at Warrens, Saint Michael, and move south to the Emancipation Statue, before making an about-turn toward Waterford Bottom and onto the National Stadium.

One of the two Foreday Morning routes will leave the King George V Memorial Park and end at Bushy Park Raceway, while the other will begin and end at Searles, Christ Church.

"For both Foreday Morning and Grand Kadooment, it is the intention of the NCF and stakeholder groups to canvass the neighbourhoods and communities in these locations, to ensure that we don't seem to be invading, without first interacting or speaking with the residents in those areas. This is to ensure that their day-to-day living and the staging of this event for one day only, can coexist peacefully," said Roberts-Reifer.

President of the Barbados Association of Masqueraders, Anthony Layne, praised the NCF for its commitment to this year's festival, noting that, already, bands have started to launch.

“We agreed at times and we disagreed at times, but at the end of the day it is about what happens for 2022, and I am very pleased to see where we are today.”

said Layne.

"It is a little short in terms of time we have for August 1st, but I believe it is time enough that we can execute and make this festival as good as we possibly can. As I have said to our members, which is about 14 bands that should be coming, we will still produce the best possible costumes for 2022, because this is our stepping stone for 2023," he added.



BONAIRE'S MAJOR

CARIBBEAN RUM FESTIVAL

The Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire hosted its most anticipated event in years: Bonaire Rum Week, a week-long celebration of premium rum and culinary culture from 14 to 17 June.

Bonaire Rum Week brought some of the region's top rums across the island, shining a new light on Bonaire's exciting gastronomic culture.

The event kicked off on 14 June, with a party at Rum Runners, the island's premier waterfront bar, presented by Aruba's Papiamento Rum. The rest of the week was filled with rum-fueled events around the island, including a Rum on the Beach at Plaza Beach Resort, presented by Rum San Pablo; the Bonaire Rum Week Cocktail Challenge at Tiki and Co, presented by Diplomatico; and star Chef Britt Thomassen's rum-infused lunch at the Harbour Village Beach Resort.

On the afternoon of 17 June, Bonaire's leading local rum brand, Rom Rincon, presented a Rum Happy Hour at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Bamboo Bonaire, one of the hotel partners of Bonaire Rum Week.

The event concluded with a multi-course rum pairing dinner at a top Caribbean's restaurant, the Brass Boer, owned by three-Michelin-star Chefs Johnny and Therese Boer, followed by a cigar-and-rum party presented by Papa's Pilar.



ECLAC FAMILY

WELCOMES
DANIEL LEON BARBOZA

The ECLAC Caribbean family welcomes Daniel Leon Barboza to the Port of Spain office from June 2022. Daniel holds the position of Associate Social Affairs Officer in the Statistics and Social Development Unit (SSDU).



Daniel brings to ECLAC eight years of professional experience in socio-economic analysis, research and statistics.

He also worked on multilevel panel regression models to test how different types of international rents, moderate populist parties' effect on democratic backsliding in 18 Latin American countries after accounting for socio-economic conditions. He has advanced his knowledge of statistics during his studies at the University of Greifswald, Germany. Moreover, he is proficient in the use of the R statistical programme.

Daniel is a holder of a Doctor of Philosophy in Global Studies from the Universität Leipzig Germany, a Master of Arts in Political Science from the American University in Cairo, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the Florida International University. Daniel is multilingual with native level proficiency in English and Spanish, fluency in German, and proficiency in French and Portuguese.



**DANIEL LEON
BARBOZA**
ASSOCIATE AFFAIRS OFFICER
SSDU

THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



FISH AND FUNGI

The national dish of Saint Croix, in the United States Virgin Islands is fish and fungi. This is the same dish as the national dish in the British Virgin Islands. The origins of this dish date back to a time when all of the islands were under Danish rule.

What you will need:

FISH

- 2 ¼ firm white fish.
- ½ Teaspoon "Accent Seasoning".
- 1 cup water.
- 1 teaspoon margarine.
- 1 medium onion cut into large chunks.
- 1 small tomato, chopped.
- 1 ½ teaspoons vinegar.
- 4 1/2 teaspoons lemons or lime juice.
- 1 lime, sliced.
- ¼ teaspoon salt.

FUNGI

- 5 ounces frozen cut okra.
- ¾ cup fine yellow cornmeal.
- 1 ¼ cup boiling water.
- 1 tablespoon butter.
- 1/8 teaspoon salt.
- Pepper.

How to Make it:

BREAD PUDDING:

Step 1: To make the fish, put all the ingredients into a large saucepan and bring to a boil.

Step 2: Cover and reduce heat, simmering for 20 to 30 minutes or until the fish flakes with a fork. Garnish with sliced lime.

Step 3: For the fungi, bring the water to a boil and add okra.

Step 4: In a separate bowl, blend 2 tbsp of the cornmeal with 6 tbsp water. Pour into the pot with the boiling water and okra and let cook for one minute. Step 5: In a mixing bowl beat eggs with sugar add milk, vanilla, orange zest and spices.

Step 6: Stirring constantly, slowly pour the rest of the cornmeal into the pan. Add pepper, salt and butter and continue cooking for about 6 minutes.

Step 7: Serve hot.





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