

the Humming Bird



MEXICAN AMBASSADOR & DIRECTOR

TALK COLLABORATION

ECLAC CARIBBEAN DIRECTOR:

CARIBBEAN MUST TACKLE
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES
TOGETHER

ECLAC DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

VISITS PORT OF SPAIN OFFICE



UNITED NATIONS

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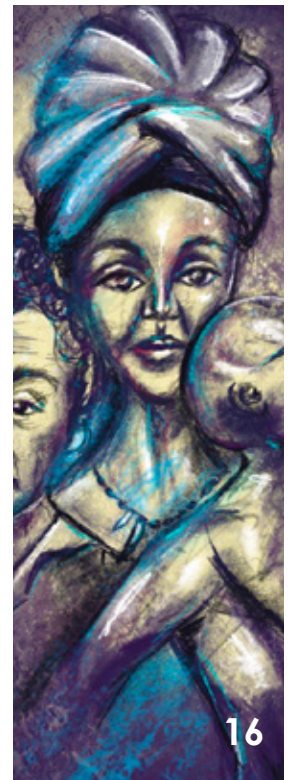
ABOUT US

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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INTERNATIONAL DAYS

5 September

International Day of Charity

8 September

International Literacy Day

12 September

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

21 September

International Day of Peace

UPCOMING MEETINGS

31 AUGUST 2023

Webinar No 3 – Caribbean Geoportal for data producers

31 AUGUST 2023

Open virtual meeting of the open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters

4 SEPTEMBER 2023

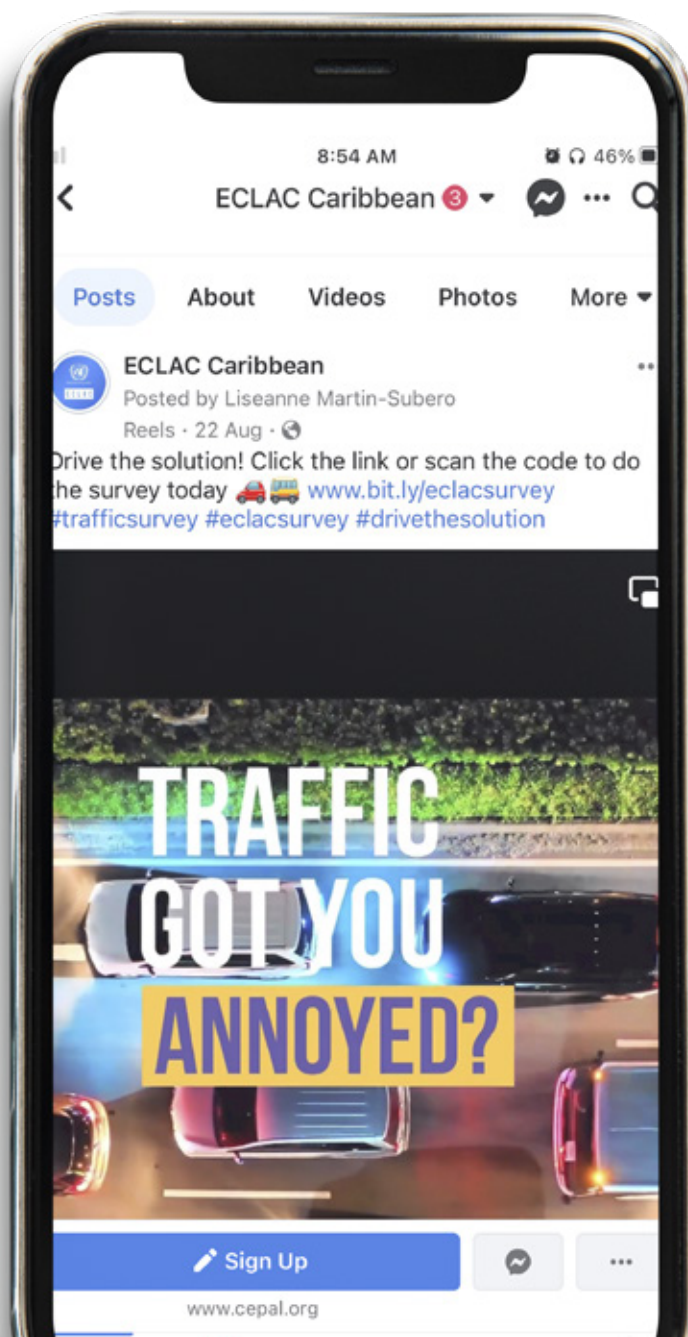
Regional Workshop: Strengthening agrifood trade in the region to enhance its role in sustainable development and food security



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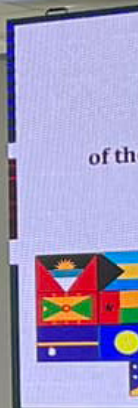
His Excellency Víctor Hugo Morales Meléndez, Ambassador of Mexico to Trinidad and Tobago paid a courtesy call on Diane Quarless, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain. In a relaxed yet substantive exchange, Ambassador Morales and Director Quarless renewed the connection between Mexico and the countries of ECLAC Caribbean.

They also celebrated the recent appointment of Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena Ibarra, who previously served as the esteemed Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Their discussion covered the ongoing work of the ECLAC Caribbean office, opportunities for collaboration and issues of international interest including the Bridgetown Initiative.





A Hummingbird
FEATURE



ECLAC CARIBBEAN DIRECTOR:

CARIBBEAN MUST TACKLE
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES
TOGETHER & CAPITALIZE ON
RESOURCES



Director of ECLAC Caribbean Diane Quarless says Caribbean SIDS (Small Island Developing States) should work in integrated and collaborative fashion to effectively tackle development challenges and unlock the full potential of the region. Director Quarless was speaking in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at a meeting of Caribbean SIDS, where representatives from 16 countries were assessing progress on sustainable development and planning for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024.



ECLAC CARIBBEAN DIRECTOR: CARIBBEAN MUST TACKLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES TOGETHER & CAPITALIZE ON RESOURCES

“We are not small island states, we are large ocean states. We need to be taking full advantage of the potential and the possibility that you get from utilization of the resources of the sea. We need to sit down and plan that. When last did we have a meeting that speaks to the potential of the blue economy among ourselves? And we need to stop working in silos,

that’s the next thing. That is one of the things that we need to look at going forward. You don’t work at the national level when you can work regionally, you know, or inter-regionally. We all share the same challenges.”

Presenting excerpts from the Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report, on progress in sustainable development, Director Quarless

said Caribbean SIDS must be the ones setting the best practice for SIDS,

“We need to lead by example, it is very important.”





"Climate action. What can I say? The need for investment in adaptation and mitigation is vital. We need support... and funding adaptation, loss and damage, green climate funding needs to be replenished... The energy transition - all the climate adaptation issues that are being discussed in the COP are critical... We need to be going green."

Director Quarless also touched on other major challenges in Caribbean development including the vulnerability of the tourism-based economy, youth development, education, gender inequality and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

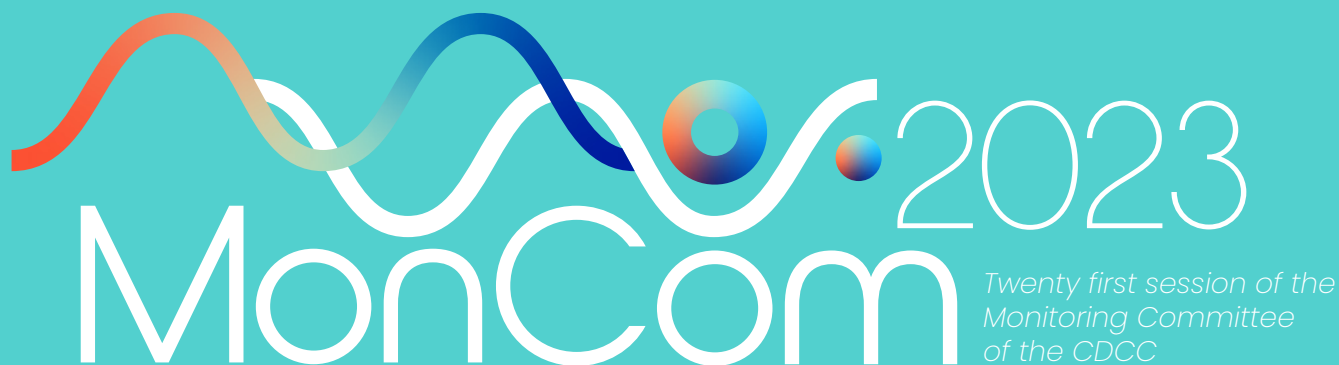
The countries and territories attending the meeting included Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten. All these countries are SIDS, which are challenged by the issues of climate change, while trying to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs (17 areas for improvement of human and environmental life) by 2030.

The UN Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, Li Jinhua said,

"By fostering regional collaboration and partnerships, Caribbean nations can leverage

their collective strength to overcome common challenges and embrace sustainable solutions. The United Nations is committed to supporting these initiatives to improve the livelihoods of SIDS communities and contribute to efforts towards a more resilient and sustainable future."

Antigua and Barbuda will host the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024. The Conference will bring world leaders together to focus on practical and impactful solutions to create a sustainable and safe future for all Small Island Developing States.



INTRODUCING... THE MONCOM LOOK

The dates have been decided and the themes prepared... The twenty-first Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee is set for November 1-3, and it has a new logo and look!

In keeping with the objective in the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC, "the Monitoring Committee to maintain an up-to-date CDCC strategy, with a clear vision of actions in the short, medium and long term, in fulfillment

of the resolutions approved at the CDCC sessions of ministers" ECLAC Caribbean has decided to brand the "MonCom", using its shortened and commonly-known name.

The new logo incorporates a clean logotype and elements for modern, powerful and dynamic visuals. The elements in the logo were chosen to be an abstract representation of a monitoring graph and at the same time reflect the letters found in the meeting's name: MonCom.



The brand's main colour palette contains shades of blue, orange and yellow. These colours represent the vitality of our multiculturalism in the Caribbean and the power and potential of the sun, sea and sand.

The aqua blue represents the vitality of the Caribbean Sea and its importance in the sustainable development of our Caribbean region. From this new and strong brand identity, the MonCom Seminar will also get its branding.



SAINT LUCIA AGRICULTURE

GONE BANANAS

Saint Lucia is moving away from bananas to the unknown, albeit the pronouncement to 'Eat more Bananas' and the 'Banana Festival'.

So, the question is; what's the alternative? Is it pineapple, cocoa, avocado, breadfruit, soursop, watermelon, pumpkin, plantain, cabbage, sweet peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, cantaloupe, or honeydew melons?

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development Alfred P. Prospere stated recently, "The whole dependency was on just bananas in the past, we need to move away from that. We saw what happened to the bananas in terms of the UK. Fortunately for us, we have a very good market in the region that can take our bananas."

The minister did not provide information about export tonnage, transportation/shipping, the readiness of farms/farmers, and the mechanism for inputs.

A recent press release from the Ministry for Agriculture highlighted partnering with the National Fair Trade Organization (NFTO) to provide more than US \$400,000 of vital input subsidies to banana and plantain farmers.

It stated: "This collaboration signifies a momentous step as the government extends its support beyond conventional boundaries, recognizing the pivotal role played by plantain farmers in the agricultural sector. Through the newly-established subsidy program, both banana and plantain farmers will receive essential supplies including, two 50kg bags of fertilizer per acre and two litres of nematicide per acre.

This comprehensive package aims to address the immediate requirements of farmers, particularly in revitalizing the health and productivity of their crops."





IN THE BAHAMAS...

A FESTIVAL OF BREAD

It just might be the best bread you've ever tasted. And if you've been to the island of Bimini in The Bahamas, you should be familiar with this topic.

This is Bimini Bread, the doughy, fluffy, perfectly-sweet and endlessly-delicious bread for which the island is famous — and now the subject of a new festival.

It's called the Bimini Bread Festival, and it is scheduled for this October. The festival, set at the Healing Hole in the Fisherman's Village area of Resorts World Bimini, will run from 6 to 8 October, a weekend of events with the famous delicacy at the epicenter.

The event begins with a welcome Bahama Mama cocktail party in the resort's piano lounge. The second day features Executive Chef, Curtis Smithen and Executive Pastry Chef, Brenton Samuels, demonstrating how to make the bread from scratch.

That will be joined by food specials featuring Bimini Grilled Cheese (with lobster, bacon or chicken) and other traditional Bahamian foods, drinks and more, accompanied by music from the Primetime Band.

The festival concludes with a beach party led by a DJ at Bimini Beach.

ECLAC DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

VISITS PORT OF SPAIN OFFICE

ECLAC Deputy Executive Secretary, Raúl García-Buchaca, who is based at the Commission's head office in Santiago, Chile, visited ECLAC Caribbean's Port of Spain office in early July, as he was in town to attend the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Meeting.

He was happy to reunite with some of his long-time colleagues, as he is in fact a former staff member of the Port of Spain office. Newer staff members were also pleased to meet one of their senior Santiago colleagues. Chief of Section, Human Resources Management, Irene Barquero Tercero was also part of the visiting team to the ECLAC Caribbean office, and they both took part in team-building workshops.



A MONTH OF CELEBRATION & RECOGNITION

OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

This month, the UN celebrates the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August and the International Day for People of African Descent on August 31. The aim of the recognition of these days is to eradicate racism and intolerance, advance social justice and inclusion, promote human rights and assist in creating better communities.

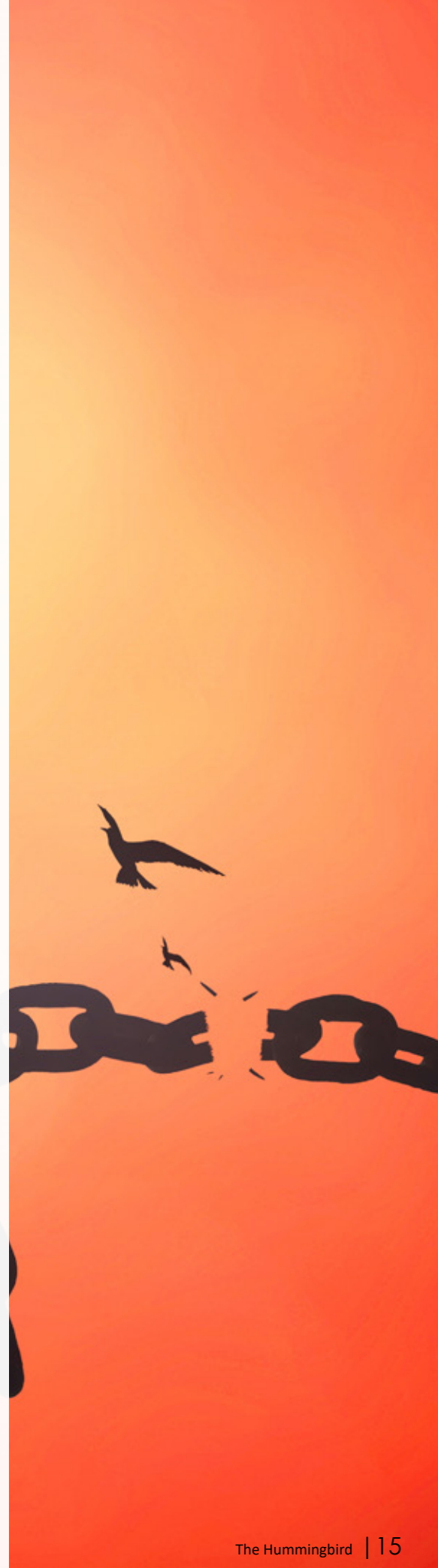
August is a significant month on the calendar for Caribbean people, especially those of African descent.

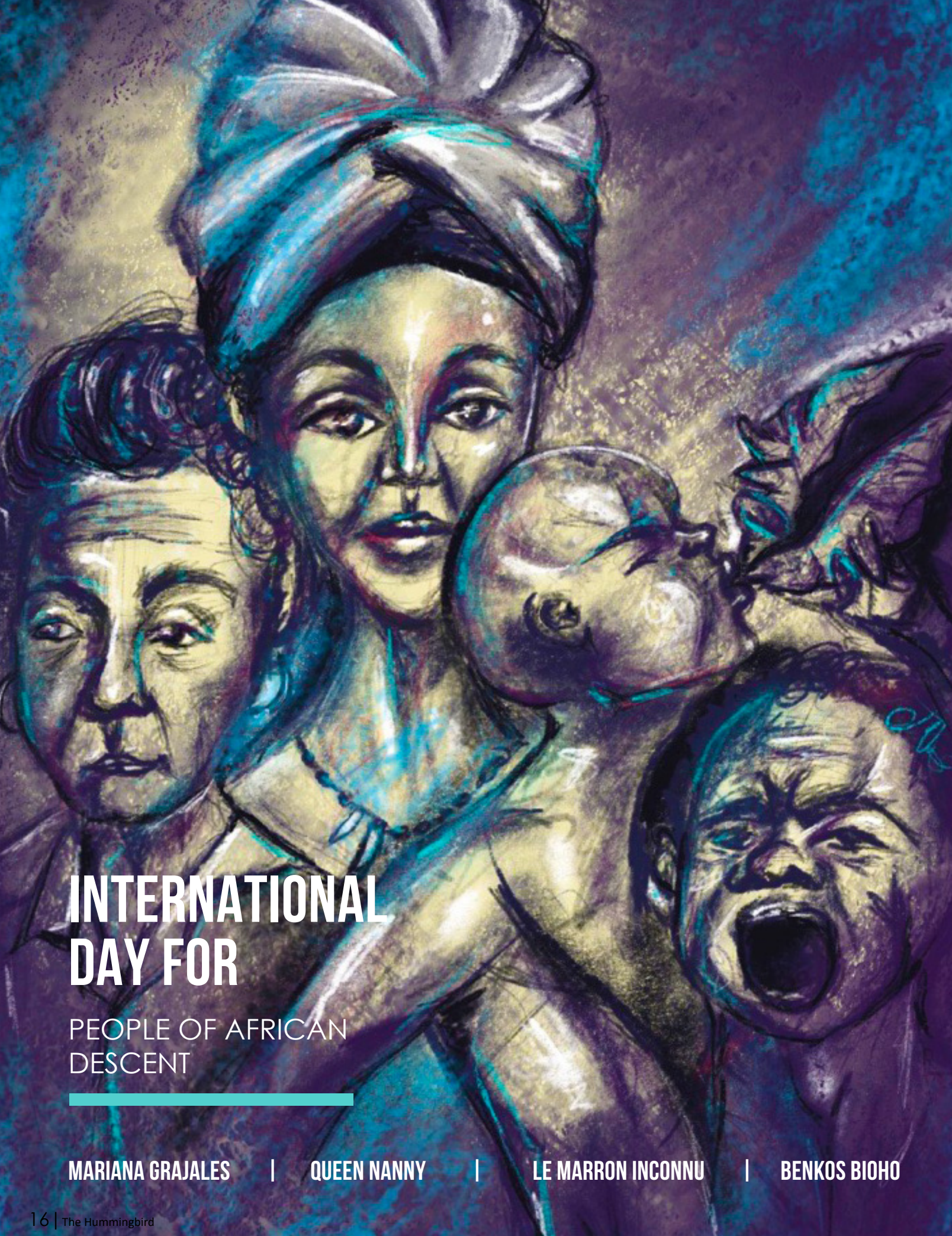
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

This international day is celebrated on August 23, to pay tribute to the people of Saint Domingue, who began the Haitian Revolution on the night of 22 into early morning, 23 August 1791. The revolution in Saint Domingue, today the Republic of Haiti, saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (23 August 1999). Between the early 1500s and 1867, approximately 12.5 million men, women and children captured on the African continent were loaded

1 August, 2023, marked 185 years since the end of the Apprenticeship Period, in which freed African slaves were forced to work for their ex-masters in a period of transition. Celebrating Emancipation and the end of the Slave Trade in the Caribbean, it's a significant month not only for the English-speaking Caribbean countries that mark Emancipation on the first day of the month, but for the recognition of the contributions of the African diaspora around the world.

onto ships. It is estimated that some 10.7 million made it alive to the Americas. This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The International Day offers an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy. It also allows for analysis of the interactions and relationships among Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.





INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT

MARIANA GRAJALES

| QUEEN NANNY

| LE MARRON INCONNU

| BENKOS BIOHO

First celebrated in 2021, this “Observance the United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.”

The year 2020 marked the midterm of the International Decade for People of African Descent. While some progress has been made at legislative, policy and institutional levels, people of African descent continue to suffer intersectional and compounded forms of racial discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion. Five years

into the Decade, the UN says there is still need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full participation in all aspects of society. The lack of recognition remains one of the major barriers impeding the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by people of African descent.

The Wider Caribbean has countless heroes of resistance, liberation, scientific, creative and human achievers of African descent. Here are some well-known artistic interpretations of emancipation era heroes from around the Wider Caribbean.

QUEEN NANNY

Jamaican national heroine and emblem of Maroon resistance. She was an outstanding military leader and was a wise woman of the village, who passed down African customs to the generations. The statue of Nanny is in Kingston. Nanny’s face is also on the \$500 dollar bill.

BENKOS BIOHO

Born into nobility in Guinea-Bissau, Benkos became a revolutionary leader of the maroon community in Caribbean Colombia. He is the hero of San Basilio de Palenque, which became the first free village of the Americas in 1713. The Benkos statue is in the main square.

LE MARRON INCONNU/ NEG MAWON

The “Unknown Maroon” statue is located in Port-au-Prince, near the National Palace. The statue depicts a man blowing a conch shell, which represents the call to revolution in Haiti in 1791. The United Nations adopted the statue for use on postage stamps.

MARIANA GRAJALES

Afro-Cuban revolutionary who championed rights of both slaves and free blacks during her nation's struggle against Spanish rule and is universally regarded by Cubans as “Madre de la Patria” (Mother of the Nation). Name variations: Mariana Grajales de Maceo; Mariana Grajales y Cuello. She was born in Santiago de Cuba, on 26 June, 1808; died in exile in Kingston, Jamaica, on 28 November, 1893. Her statue is prominently placed in the revolutionary square in Havana, Cuba.

ANGUILLA'S MAJOR CULINARY FESTIVAL RETURNS

Anguilla's popular new culinary festival is making its return in 2024. The Anguilla Culinary Experience (ACE) will be held 23 to 26 May 2024, and is expected to be an action-packed event featuring chefs' dinners, resort parties, beach barbecues and cooking competitions.

"We are delighted with Anguilla Culinary Experience's success and how this island-wide labour of love has celebrated Anguilla's culinary heritage, forged international connections, and raised critical financial support for Anguilla's rising stars." said ACE co-chair and Villa Alegria owner, Wendy Freeman.

"2024 will be the best Anguilla Culinary Experience yet. We can't wait to share a table and our beautiful island with both first-time ACE goers and returning guests."

Next year's ACE will kick off with an opening-night party at the Aurora Anguilla Resort and Golf Club.

"We are looking forward to once again hosting the opening night of the Anguilla Culinary Experience here at Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club," said Aurora Anguilla General Manager Kevin Carty.

"We are thrilled to see the continued growth of this incredible event, and it is our pleasure to help celebrate the island's impressive culinary scene."



TWO NEW WAYS

TO EXPLORE SABA'S UNDERSEA WORLD

One of the best-kept secrets in Caribbean diving is possibly the experience on the tiny Dutch Caribbean island of Saba, just a short ferry or flight away from St. Maarten.

And now the island's enviable dive offering is getting better, with well-known operator, Sea Saba, adding a pair of new dive boats to its fleet.

The two boats: Fin & Tonic and Shark Bait, are Aventura cat

UPCOMING ECLAC CARIBBEAN STUDY

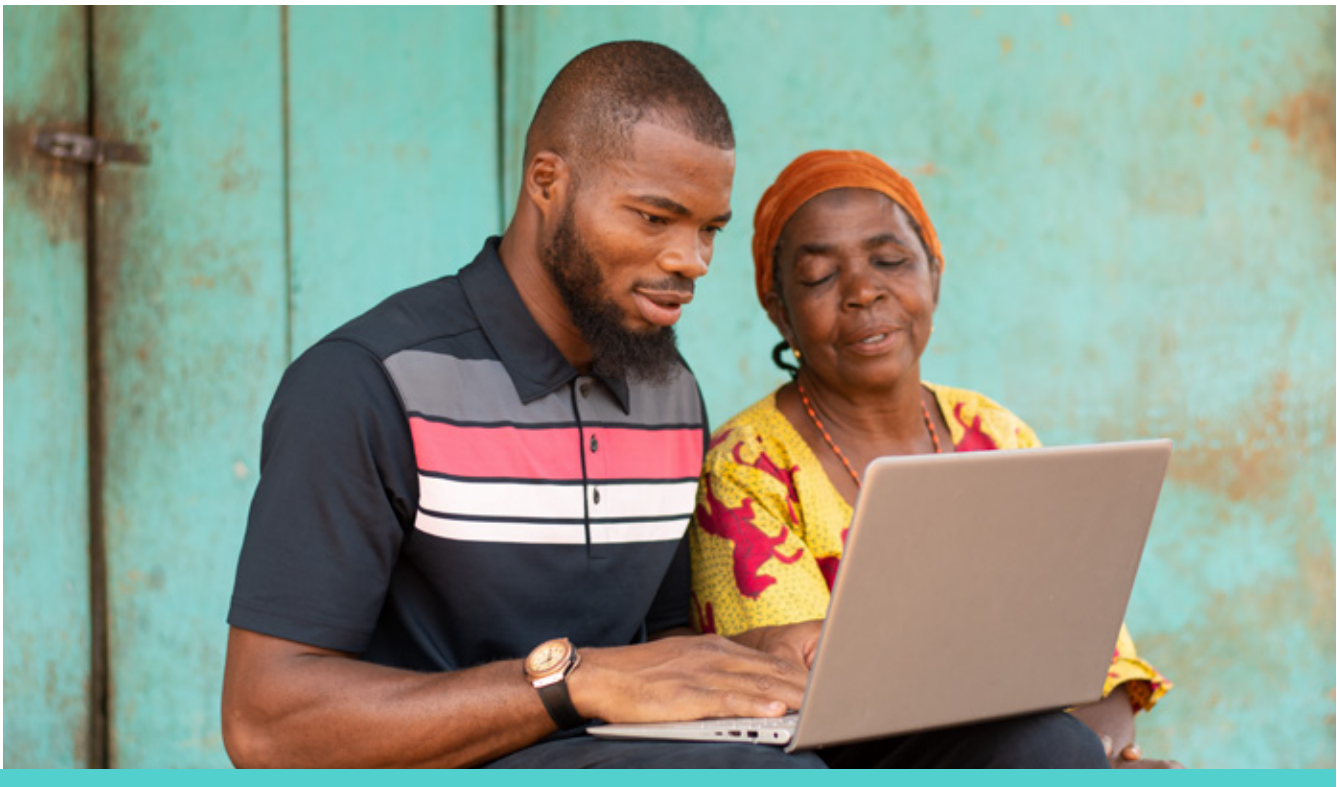
MEASURES THE DIGITAL SOCIETY
FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION

The question of how we can ensure that digital transformation empowers people and has a positive effect on our societies is on the minds of policymakers and regulators across the Caribbean. This topic has been explored in several different fora within recent time, including at a joint workshop organized by ECLAC and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) earlier this year.

The topic of the workshop was “Measuring the digital society for digital inclusion”. It discussed the implications of a recent ECLAC study on digital inclusion for measurement, the importance of data for digital inclusion, and several existing frameworks developed to measure different elements of the digital transformation.

Representatives from 10 member States, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and one associate member: Montserrat, attended the workshop.





Also in attendance were representatives from: Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Saint Kitts and Nevis (NTRC - Saint Kitts and Nevis), National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Saint Lucia (NTRC - Saint Lucia), Telecommunications Authority of Suriname (TAS), Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

In her opening remarks to participants, ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, extended her gratitude to CTU for partnering in the hosting of the workshop, and shared that the ECLAC Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC) had embarked on a multi-year research agenda into digital inclusion in the Caribbean.

With reference to a 2022 study that was conducted by ECLAC Caribbean, Director Quarless advised that digital inclusion was not explicitly articulated in the public policy environment of most Caribbean countries. She underscored that the premise of the research agenda was to support the operationalization

of key principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first”.

Recalling the United Nations Secretary General’s Roadmap on Digital Cooperation, which asserts that “digital divides reflect and amplify existing social, cultural and economic inequalities”, she emphasized the importance of understanding the context and consideration of the unique situation of each country.

The objective of the workshop was to define a list of priorities and indicators to measure the digital society and digital inclusion in the Caribbean, data from which could serve as input to evidence-based policy development and decision-making.

The outcome of the workshop included a draft list of priorities and an agreement to explore the best ways to disaggregate some indicators with the support of National Statistical Offices.

The outcomes of the workshop will be analysed in an upcoming ECLAC study, which will also serve as input to a follow-up workshop, jointly organized with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union.

THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



CONCH SALAD

NATIVE DISH OF THE BAHAMAS

There's perhaps nothing as quintessentially Caribbean as conch and nothing as refreshing and delicious as fresh Bahamian conch salad on a hot and sunny day. This dish is colorful, bright, and full of flavor. One bite and you'll be dreaming of the white sandy beaches and warm turquoise waters of Nassau Paradise Island.

What you will need:

- 8 oz. Cleaned conch, diced
- 10 tbsp. Fresh lime juice
- 5 tbsp. Fresh orange juice
- ½ c. Diced tomato
- ¼ c. Diced onion
- 1 Cucumber peeled, seeded, and diced
- ½ c. Bell peppers, diced
- 2 Jalapeño peppers, minced (add a third for extra spice)
- Salt and Pepper, to taste

How to Make it:

Combine ingredients in a large bowl and mix thoroughly. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for at least 15 minutes or up to 2 hours. (We find that the longer it marinates the more tender the conch and punchy the flavor). Serve and enjoy!

This authentic recipe is the best way to taste The Bahamas until you can visit, but conch can be hard to come by. Put your own spin on this recipe by substituting crab or shrimp. Add some extra ingredients—even in Nassau you'll find tropical versions of conch salad with pineapple and mango. Play with the spice level, try some avocado for creaminess, cilantro or parsley for some herbaceous flavor...The world is your oyster, err, conch shell! Of course, when you visit us in Nassau Paradise Island you'll have to try the real thing; there's nothing quite like it! Start planning your Bahamas vacation and make sure you add The Fish Fry to your to-do list. Life is better in The Bahamas, and when it comes to refreshing seafood dishes, conch salad is just about the best!





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