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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

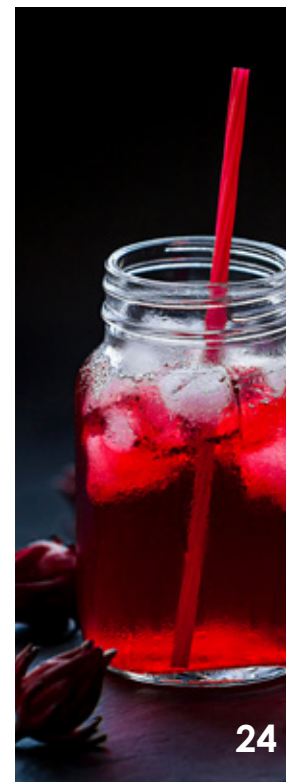
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# INTERNATIONAL DAYS

## 4 January

World Braille Day

## 24 January

International Day of Education

## 26 January

International Day of Clean Energy

## 27 January

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

# RECENT MEETINGS

## 12 DECEMBER 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Launch PISA 2022

## 8 DECEMBER 2023

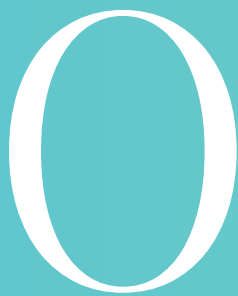
From Mining to the Electric Mobility Industry in Latin America: The Role of Parliaments in Seizing Opportunities and Addressing Challenges

## 3 DECEMBER 2023

UNFCCC COP28 Side event: "What Human Rights at 75 means for Climate Justice Now"







Over the course of 2023, we have published 12 issues of the Hummingbird magazine that we thoroughly enjoyed producing for your reading pleasure and information. You have journeyed with us, and we have updated you on all the work we have been doing to aid the sustainable development of the Caribbean. In 2024, we commit to bringing you more of the same: interesting articles and appealing design that you have become accustomed to. We will strive to improve and expand our content. Don't forget to share this magazine with your networks and to check out our other publications: The Focus Magazine – a researched, yet reader-friendly publication on issues of Caribbean sustainable development; and ECLAC Series Documents - a series of monographs bringing together documents arising from ECLAC studies and research. Don't forget to follow us on social media!

Best wishes and continued sustainable development to you and your slice of the Caribbean in 2024!



A  **Hummingbird**  
FEATURE

# ECLAC CARIBBEAN EXPERT GROUP MEETING

DISCUSSES SDGS





**E**CLAC Caribbean recently convened an expert group meeting (EGM) virtually, to discuss the findings of “A study on challenges and opportunities in financing Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 9 in three Caribbean countries”.

Representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Education and Sports, the Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority, the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, the Barbados Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, the Barbados Statistical Service, the Barbados Water Authority (BWA), the Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited and the Saint Lucia Water and Sewage Company Inc. (WASCO).



## ECLAC CARIBBEAN EXPERT GROUP MEETING DISCUSSES SDGS



Chairing the meeting was Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit at ECLAC Caribbean, Abdullahi Abdulkadri, while an overview of the study was presented by Economic Affairs Officer, Michael Hendrickson. Abdulkadri highlighted the importance of the study and expressed hope that it was preliminary to a more extensive research agenda in the area being discussed.

Hendrickson in turn, explained that the study was an exploratory analysis of the challenges and opportunities which Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Saint Lucia face in financing two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (quality education for all) and SDG 9 (resilient electricity and water infrastructure).

As these three countries recover from the pandemic, he said, they will need to bridge the financing gap to continue achieving these goals. In particular, these three Caribbean

nations face numerous challenges in generating the financing needed to achieve the SDGs.

Their common challenges include high public debt and debt service, which constrains fiscal budgets, slow economic growth and high unemployment. With respect to education, they are comparable to member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in several key indicators, including spending on education as a per cent of GDP.

In the infrastructural sector, countries have been seeking to expand access and improve reliability of the electricity and water utilities. The challenge is to strengthen the resilience of these sectors to natural hazards, climate change and economic shocks.

Hendrickson acknowledged that the three countries of focus have been making steps to shift to renewable energy sources and

increase the efficiency of delivery. He concluded that they all require a major change in their financing to achieve quality education for all and resilient infrastructure systems.

This change will require substantial mobilization of domestic resources, alongside the raising of traditional and innovative international funding along with a substantial improvement in the efficiency with which resources are used.

Six main recommendations for increasing financing for quality were shared with the meeting. These were (i) in the short term, funding should be allocated to build out a robust hybrid education system; (ii) governments should allocate increased funding and other resources to early childhood education, which would serve to improve quality education overall; (iii) over the medium to longer-term governments should invest in revamping the education curriculum and teaching and learning approaches to

transition to a more student-centred learning environment; (iv) for infrastructure resilience, legislation should be enacted to require credit ratings for infrastructure utilities to incentivize private financiers to invest in them; (v) focus on the continued development of the nascent regional capital and bond market, blended finance and public-private partnerships to leverage additional finance for the green energy transition and for resilience upgrades in electricity, water and other infrastructure; and (vi) the use of public expenditure reviews, incentives and assessments should be encouraged to promote greater efficiency of spending.

To address the challenges, participants discussed ways to improve data collection mechanisms and systems in Caribbean countries. Capacity building emerged as a key strategy to bolster these efforts, alongside the proposal of purposeful mechanisms to enhance data collection.

Sustainability concerns also emerged, particularly regarding projects aimed at enhancing statistical capacity. The need to sustain skills and capacity, particularly post-project completion was highlighted as an important issue to be addressed.

Finally, the overall consensus was that enhancing data collection, utilization, and statistical literacy were crucial steps towards achieving the SDGs in the Caribbean subregion.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



UNITED NATIONS

**ECLAC**



# TIGER WOODS RETURNS TO GOLF

IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS

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Tiger Woods recently made a historic return to professional golf at his HERO World Challenge tournament in Nassau.

Woods has not played since the 2023 Masters, from which he withdrew in the third round and then underwent fusion surgery on his ankle.

The HERO tournament was a limited-field event, held at the Albany Golf Course and community where Woods is a co-investor and resident.

This year's HERO World Challenge was held from 27 November to 3 December, with a field of 20 players, including eight of the top 10-ranked players in the world.

Viktor Hovland also returned to the field this year, in an attempt to try and win his third consecutive HERO.

It was another boost for the profile of Nassau Paradise Island as a golf destination; the area is home to three of the top golf courses in the Caribbean, including the Ocean Club on Paradise Island and the Royal Blue course at the Baha Mar on Cable Beach.



# HELPING COUNTRIES STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The two-week-long conference got underway with the World Climate Action Summit, which brought together 154 Heads of States and Government. Parties reached a historic agreement on the operationalization of the loss and damage fund and funding arrangements – the first time a substantive decision was adopted on the first day of the conference. Commitments to the fund started coming in moments after the decision was gavelled, totaling more than

USD 700 million to date. There was more progress on the loss and damage agenda with an agreement also reached that the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Office for Project Services will host the secretariat of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. This platform will catalyze technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Parties agreed on targets for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and its framework, which identify where the world needs to get to in order to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate and to assess countries' efforts. The GGA framework reflects a global consensus on adaptation targets and the need for finance, technology and capacity-building support to achieve them.

# COP28 – THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

## THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF FOSSIL FUEL

**UNFCCC**



UN Climate Change News, 13 December 2023 – The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) closed today with an agreement that signals the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.

In a demonstration of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together in Dubai with a decision on the world’s first ‘global stocktake’ to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade – with

the overarching aim to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach.

“Whilst we didn’t turn the page on the fossil fuel era in Dubai, this outcome is the beginning of the end,” said UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell in his closing speech. “Now all governments and businesses need to turn these pledges into real-economy outcomes, without delay.”

The global stocktake is considered the central outcome of COP28 – as it contains every element that was

under negotiation and can now be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans due by 2025.

The stocktake recognizes the science that indicates global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to limit global warming to 1.5°C. But it notes Parties are off track when it comes to meeting their Paris Agreement goals.

The stocktake calls on Parties to take actions towards achieving, at a global scale, a tripling of

# DUBAI 2023



renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030. The list also includes accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power, phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and other measures that drive the transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, with developed countries continuing to take the lead.

In the short-term, Parties are encouraged to come forward with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets,

covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with the 1.5°C limit in their next round of climate action plans (known as nationally determined contributions) by 2025.

# JAMAICA LOOKS TO GROW TOURISM

FROM THE UNITED  
KINGDOM



Jamaica is planning a major push to increase its market share in the United Kingdom and Ireland, according to Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett.

The island received about 229,000 visitors from the United Kingdom last year. By 2025, Jamaica is looking to welcome more than 250,000 visitors combined from the UK and Ireland.

Bartlett said

**"Jamaica was the "number one destination" for UK visitors in the Caribbean last year. We plan to aggressively build on this number, with additional airlift and upcoming Norse flights. Along with our other long standing airline partners, I am confident we will be able to meet this target."**

Bartlett made this statement at the annual World Travel Market conference, held in London a couple of weeks ago.

He explained that the service on Norse Atlantic Airways will be operating four times each week between London Gatwick and Montego Bay.

**"We are truly grateful to be number one in the Caribbean for British travellers, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team. With this new target, it means pushing even more to achieve this goal and retain the number one spot."**

said Elizabeth Fox, Regional Director, UK and Nordics, Jamaica Tourist Board.



# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 DECEMBER

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The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) a milestone document, which proclaimed that every human being is entitled to certain inalienable rights, is being celebrated this year, as usual on 10 December. This year's theme is Freedom, Equality and Justice for All.

"The Declaration shows the way to common values and approaches that can help resolve tensions

and create the security and stability our world craves," says UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, as he spoke about the anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges.

This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin,

property, birth or other status. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. A year-long initiative focusing on universality, progress and engagement, will culminate in



HUMAN  
RIGHTS

75

FREEDOM,  
EQUALITY  
AND JUSTICE  
FOR ALL



a high-level event in December 2023, which will announce global pledges and ideas for a vision for the future of human rights.

In the decades since the adoption of the UDHR, human rights have become more recognised and more guaranteed across the globe. The UDHR has since served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today

focuses also on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants.

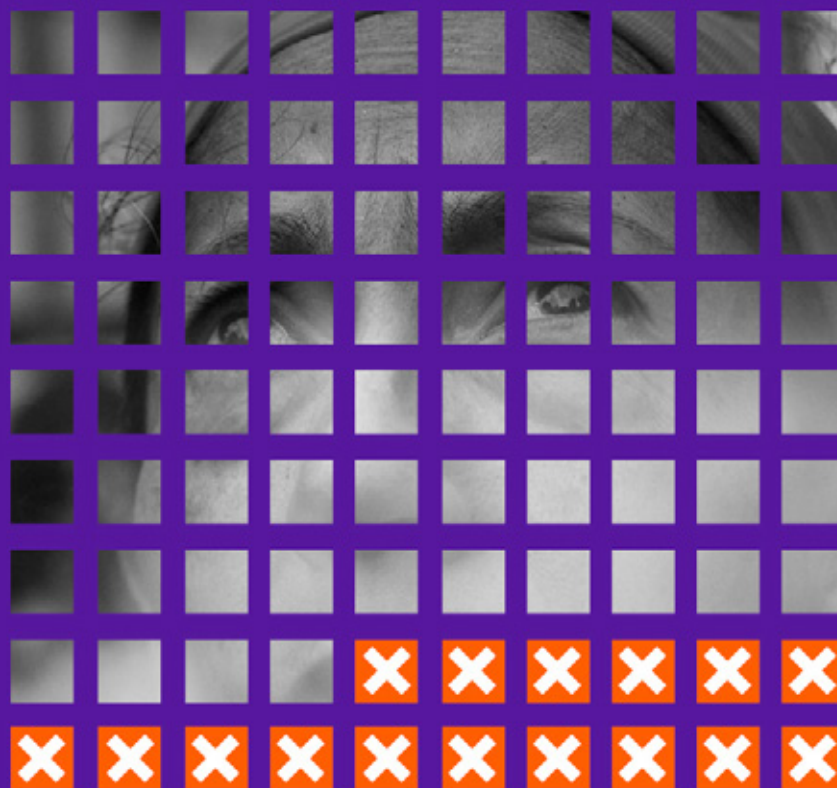
However, the promise of the UDHR, of dignity and equality in rights, has been under a sustained assault in recent years. As the world faces challenges new and ongoing – pandemics, conflicts, exploding inequalities, morally bankrupt global financial system, racism, climate change – the

values, and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide guideposts for our collective actions that do not leave anyone behind.

The year-long Human Rights 75 initiative seeks to shift the needle of understanding and action towards greater knowledge of the universality of the UDHR and the activism associated with it.



# #NOEXCUSE



UN Women/John Alarcón

In 2012, ahead of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which focused on ending violence against women, UN Women launched the COMMIT initiative, asking governments to take a stand by making new and concrete national commitments to end violence against women and girls.

By the end of 2013, the European Union as well as 63 nations had joined the initiative, announcing specific measures to address and prevent violence against women and girls. These ranged from passing or improving laws, ratifying international conventions, launching public awareness campaigns, providing safe houses or free hotline services and free legal aid to survivors, supporting

education programmes that address gender stereotypes and violence. It has also led to increases in the number of women in law enforcement, peacekeeping forces and frontline services.

To address the escalation of violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, urged all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women and girls a key part of their national pandemic response plans. The appeal was answered in a statement by 146 Member States and Observers, expressing strong support. As a follow up, the Secretary-General's Executive Committee adopted a "Political engagement

strategy" for the UN system in order to mobilize commitments and action to end gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19.

All governments are called to make commitments and undertake policy actions around four key action areas: Fund, Prevent, Respond and Collect.

Today, Say NO-UNiTE, has transitioned into a network for social mobilization that continues to showcase advocacy, news, and actions on ending violence against women and girls by people from all walks of life.

# ECLAC PRESENTS FLAGSHIP REPORT:

## SOCIAL PANORAMA OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

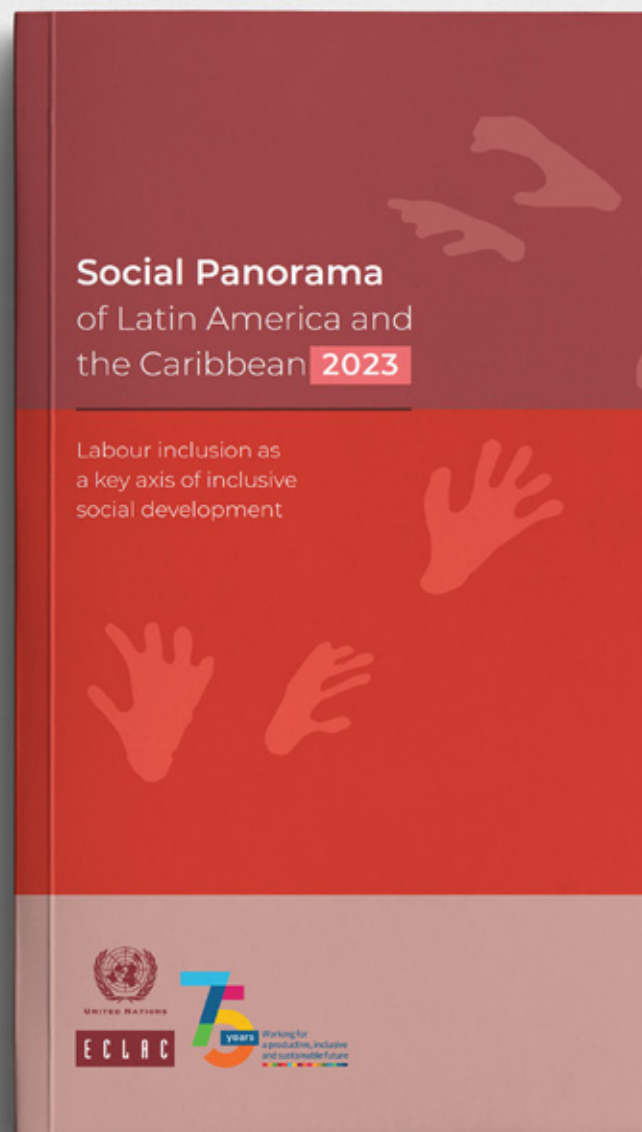
Poverty in Latin America returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, according to ECLAC's recently published flagship report, "Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2023: Labour inclusion as a key axis of inclusive social development".

This is an improvement, despite the fact that more than 180 million people in the region do not have enough income to meet their basic needs and 70 million of them lack the income needed to acquire a basic food basket.

ECLAC Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, who presented the report, said indications were that in 2022, the percentage of people living in poverty fell to 29% of Latin America's population (181 million people), 1.2 percentage points lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic began, while extreme poverty declined to 11.2% of the region's population (70 million people), remaining at levels similar to 2019.

Nonetheless, ECLAC warned that the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate forecast for 2023 in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.7%), which is significantly lower than the 3.8% seen in 2022 and could even slow to 1.5% in 2024, means that further improvements to poverty in the region are not anticipated for this year.

"Although we point to the reduction of poverty in 2022, there is no reason to celebrate. More than 180 million people in our region do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, and 70 million of them lack the



income needed to acquire a basic food basket. In total, nearly one-third of the region's population is living in poverty, a percentage that rises to 42.5% in the case of children and adolescents – a reality we cannot tolerate. The incidence of poverty is also higher among women, the indigenous population and people who live in rural areas," stated Salazar-Xirinachs.

According to the report, job creation between 2014 and 2023 hit its lowest level since the 1950s. In 2020, during the pandemic, job creation fell by 8.2%, marking the only decline recorded in the last 70 years.

Also, among the 292 million people employed in the region, 1 out of every 2 has an informal job, nearly one-fifth lives in poverty, 4 in 10 have labour income below the minimum wage, and half does not contribute to pension systems.

Although improvements can be seen in certain labour market dimensions between 2020 and 2022, the region is living through a slow-motion crisis in terms of labour inclusion, which is understood to encompass not just labour market insertion but also the conditions in which employment is accessed in the labour market, the report explained.

This means that while entering the paid labour market is vital, it is not enough to achieve labour inclusion. Access to productive, well-paid jobs with access to social protection is needed, particularly for women and

young people, ECLAC underscored. In 2022, 54.2 million households in the region (39% of the total) depended exclusively on informal employment. Furthermore, the majority of children (under 15 years of age) and people 65 years or older live in households that are either completely informal or mixed (61.2%).

And while income inequality fell in 2022 to levels below those recorded in 2019, it continues to be very high, the study indicated.

In addition, the study said that migrants have increased their presence in the region's labour markets, contributing to the economy and society in destination countries. However, they tend to experience more difficulties for achieving labour inclusion, due to their more precarious and unstable labour conditions, which are worsened by the conditions associated with irregularity in migration status.

Finally, the Social Panorama 2023 indicated that central government social spending increased in response to the pandemic, peaking in 2020, but it has been declining since. In 2022, there was much heterogeneity across countries and subregions: three countries surpass 14.5% of GDP, while five others are below 10% of GDP.

The challenge, therefore, is to maintain growth in public social spending to give financial sustainability to policies for labour inclusion, the report concluded.

# A MOST DELICIOUS ROAD

## IN PUERTO RICO

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Arguably the best way to get to know the people and culture of Puerto Rico is through the island's food, and the main road to culinary discovery is called the Ruta de Lechón — the Pork Highway.

In Spanish, lechón traditionally refers to suckling pig, but in Puerto Rico lechón asado means roast pork, and it's generally a fully grown pig on the spit. Like mofongo and other traditional Puerto Rican dishes, you can find lechón at restaurants all over the island.

However, one of the best places to enjoy the full-on lechón experience is at a "lechonera," a roadside restaurant where the roast pig is the undisputed star. You'll literally see the whole pig, head to tail, roasting behind glass as you go up to order. This may not be a great experience for vegetarians or anyone who doesn't like to come face to face with their food, but the cafeteria-style



PHOTO CREDIT: COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA; VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

restaurants do serve a full selection of Puerto Rican food, including options like roast chicken for those who don't eat pork and several meatless choices, as well.

Typical sides include rice and pigeon peas, pasteles (tamale-like cornmeal pies filled with savory meat and wrapped in banana leaves), mofongo (mashed green plantains with garlic, olive oil and pork rinds, yuca al mojo (cassava with onions, olive oil, and vinegar), boiled sweet potatoes, guineítos (boiled savory bananas), cuajito (stewed pig stomach), morcilla (blood sausage), and longaniza (spicy sausage).

It is certainly a menu that ranges from the more familiar to the rather adventurous, especially for a first-time visitor. Medalia beer and the non-alcoholic Malta malt beverage are among the favorites for washing it all down.



The Pork Highway has an actual name — it's Highway 184, a snaking two-lane road that winds into the mountains from the larger north-south route, Highway 52. Lechoneria Los Amigos is the first cafeteria you'll hit once you get off the exit for 184, and if you just want to try some lechón without having to drive more than an hour from San Juan, it will do just fine.



# THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



## A CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas traditions in the Caribbean basin vary greatly, from celebrating on the evening of 24 December or the day of the 25th, to the wide variety of food, drink and music. However, one common tradition around the region is a favourite Christmas drink... Sorrel, Flor de Jamaica, Gwozey, Roselle, Hibiscus. Sorrel is a favourite Caribbean drink, essentially consumed as a sweetened iced tea. The flower is boiled, sometimes dried, sometimes fresh, with aromatics and spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, star anise, ginger, bay leaf and sweetened to taste with sugar. It is frequently spiked with a bit of Caribbean rum and a few dashes of aromatic bitters. The boiled flowers are also used to make fruit compotes, chutneys and jams to accompany favourite Christmas dishes.

Even among the English-speaking countries, there is variety in how it is prepared. Here are a couple sorrel recipes for your Christmas enjoyment!

### JAMAICAN SORREL

- 1/2 pound Dried Sorrel
- 5 ounces Fresh Ginger pounded
- 5 whole Allspice Berries pimento seeds
- 12 cups Water

#### How to Make it:

**Step 1:** Bring a large pot of water to a rapid boil. Add ginger, sorrel (dried or fresh), and allspice berries (pimento seeds). Give a stir, and let simmer for 15 minutes. Then remove from heat and let sit, covered for 12 hours to overnight.

**Step 2:** Strain the sorrel mixture with a fine mesh strainer and discard the sorrel, ginger and allspice berries. Sweeten with sugar, to taste and add in rum and/or wine.

**Step 3:** Serve over ice and garnish with lime/orange wedge or peel, and enjoy.

#### To Flavour and Sweeten

1 cup White Granulated Sugar or sweeten to taste  
1 cup J. Wray & Nephew Red Label Wine or wine of choice  
1/4 cup Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum or rum of choice

#### Optional Add-Ins

1 whole Orange Peel  
5-10 whole Cloves



# GUYANESE SORREL



- 1 Cup Dried Sorrel Blossoms
- 3 Cinnamon Sticks
- 1 Tablespoons Whole Cloves
- A 2-5 inch piece of dried orange peel
- 8 Cups Water
- 1 1/4 Cups Demerara Sugar Sugar to taste

## How to Make it:

**Step 1:** Add cinnamon sticks and whole cloves to a large stock pot on medium heat, then bring up to temperature. While the pot is coming up to temperature it will warm up the spices for a better flavour pay off.

**Step 2:** Then add, water, orange peel and dried sorrel blossoms to the pot, increase the heat to high and bring to a rolling boil.

**Step 3:** Allow the mixture to boil for 10 minutes, then remove from the heat and allow to cool completely.

**Step 4:** When the mixture is completely cool, and the sugar and mix until the sugar completely dissolves. Then let sit over night or for at least 8 hours. Then strain with a fine mesh strainer or a strainer lined with muslin.

**Step 5:** Serve chilled or over ice.

## Recipe Variations and Substitutions

Optional Add-Ins – consider adding in orange peels, cloves, cinnamon sticks, fresh mint, star anise, bay leaves, and vanilla extract to name a few.

Add Fruit – slice fruit like lemon, lime, oranges, and pineapples and throw them in for a tropical punch.

Natural Sweetener – add maple syrup, agave, cane sugar, coconut sugar or honey.



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