Regional Seminar

Strengthening environment, climate change and disaster information in the Caribbean

SUMMARY NOTE

ABOUT THE EVENT

This event brought together national stakeholders from 13 Caribbean countries and regional and global partners to discuss the assessment and strategic capacity development for better and more effective climate change data for decision-making.

32 participants from Statistical Offices, Ministries of Environment, and regional and global partners development partners.

13 Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The various tools and frameworks presented at the event, such as the online course, regional network, the CCDE assessment framework, and the Global Set, among others, showed **complementarity in supporting countries** to produce and use more and better climate change data for policymaking while contributing to institutionalise National Statistical Systems in the Caribbean
- Equip countries and provide sustained and more effective capacity development on the ground requires **more funding and a coordinated approach** between development partners in the region
- The unequal statistical capacities in environment and climate change in the Caribbean region, with some countries having environmental or climate change statistical compendia and environmental information system, while others are embarking on the development process, allow for **fruitful peer learning and knowledge sharing**
- Effective production and use of climate change data requires **good collaboration and greater synergies between Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment** as well as statistical units from other Ministries
- Lack of resources, data literacy, data sharing agreements, continuous statistical training, harmonized data collection formats were among the **most common challenges** shared by countries

MAIN MESSAGES DAY 1

- **ECLAC´s achievements in the Caribbean region** – As part of the United Nations Development Account 12th project, ECLAC is working with eight Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname) to strengthen statistical capacities. Main results from this project include an Environment Statistics assessment at the country level, training of technical staff on the production of climate change and disaster indicators using national data and the development of online tools.
- **ECLAC learning tools** – ECLAC´s environment and climate change statistics unit officially launched the Regional Network of Environment and Climate Change Statistics and the online course "Introduction to Environment Statistics" for the Caribbean region. Presented tools aim to strengthen statistical capacity and knowledge sharing on environment, climate change and disaster statistics and indicators within and between Caribbean English-speaking countries. The member states present welcomed the initiatives and expressed their willingness to actively participate in the online course and contribute to the Network.
- **Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians** – UNSD presented its Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians, and the Global Network Webinars. The platform offers an online network to all people interested in events, publications and general information related to statistics.
- **PARIS21´s Climate Change Data Ecosystem Approach** – PARIS21 presented an assessment framework to help countries make their climate change data ecosystems more inclusive and coherent to facilitate data availability for climate action. The framework builds on the PARIS21´s Climate Change Data Ecosystem Approach. And it proposes three steps to assess the national priorities and statistical capacity needs and develop an action plan to mobilise actors and resources for more and better climate change data in countries.
- **Advantages of having a National Environmental Information System (NEIS)** – Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Suriname shared their experience on the development of a NEIS, the hurdles, good practices and lessons learned. Having a NEIS facilitates reporting to the global commitments, contributes to having a more robust review process of national policies and strategies, facilitates tracking climate related incidents. Continuous work on data sharing procedures with the various producers, strengthening collaboration with the private sector and enhance the user of satellite technology are key to maintain benefits NEIS over time.
- **NEIS depend on administrative data -** around 80% of climate change data comes from admin data. Hence, statistical training and data literacy to units beyond the statistical office is crucial to ensure quality data, better data sharing process. Countries can have perfect systems but keeping them updated requires further efforts, continuous training, and resources.
- **Need for further peer learning and knowledge sharing** - Experiences on the procedures to source data for the NEIS from different types of sources, effective data collection process for a NEIS and/or an environment or climate change statistics compendia and enhancing coordination among national agencies were among the areas where countries showed greatest interest in learning from their peers and understanding what works best.

MAIN MESSAGES DAY 2

Main contributions from regional partners to strengthen environment, climate change and disaster statistical capacities in countries:

- **CARICOM** – developing an *e-training platform* in collaboration with the virtual Caribbean Institute of Statistical Training and Research and an online knowledge base to offer countries a continuous statistical training. Both initiatives fall under the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics.
- **OECS** – working on a *regional environmental information system* that facilitates reporting to the Escazú Agreement, progress measurement of the Saint George Declaration 2040 and the 2030 Agenda. The goal is that countries benefit from having access to a data platform for environmental, social, and economic data – all in one place.
- **CDEMA** – putting in place a *Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS)*. An integrated platform for geo-spatial data, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation information. And to improve prediction of the impacts of climate change and disasters, CDEMA is working on improving digital modelling technologies and urban planning policies in countries.
- **UNSD** – proposes a *Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators* covering five areas relevant for climate change: drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation to support countries in developing robust indicators for reporting and policymaking. UNSD is also developing an assessment tool to evaluate the state of play and capacities associated to specific indicators of the Global Set.
- **ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean** – works on studies and policy briefs, training, and technical assistance to countries on production and dissemination of data. Trainings and technical assistance focus on the use of REDATAM census dissemination, sensitization of legislature and policy makers, strengthening policy and legislation for a more sustainable economy.

LINKS OF INTEREST

Related to the Seminar

- **Agenda and materials:** https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/en/groups/event/eclac-paris21-regional-seminar-strengthening-environment-climate-change-and-disaster
- **Summary video from the regional seminar:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVA330igoIE&ab_channel=PARIS21
- **Photos of the regional seminar:** https://www.flickr.com/photos/eclac/albums/72177720301535808 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gMEw9zig7Oo5_JyRFjCN9qa8daBSNeQ3

Frameworks, tools, and publications:

- **Regional Network of Environment and Climate Change Statistics -** https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/en
- **Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators -** https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/ClimateChange_StatAndInd_global.cshtml
- **Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians -** https://www.yammer.com/unstats/ (sign in directly with your corporate e-mail, example domains .gov)
- **Climate Change Data Ecosystem Approach -** https://paris21.org/climate_change_data
- **Envisioning a climate change data ecosystem** - A path to coordinated climate action (Paper): https://paris21.org/ccde