National Workshop

Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Dominica, 19 – 21 July 2022

SUMMARY NOTE

3 days of workshop
19 – 21 July 2022

21 registered participants
from **11** different national institutions

3 indicators and their Methodological Sheets built during the workshop

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The national workshop in Dominica brought together 21 participants from the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment, Physical Planning Division, Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation (DSWMC), Dominica Electricity Services Ltd. (DOMLEC), Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Ltd. (DOWASCO), Forestry Wildlife and Parks Division, Fisheries Division, Independent Regulatory Commission, Agriculture Division and Meteorological Service to:

- **Train** the participants to build selected environment, climate change and disaster indicators and its metadata.
- Identify **data and capacity gaps** to develop an Environmental Information System (EIS) and build a regional resilience platform.
- Have a better understanding of how geospatial data can **enhance the use** of environment, climate change and disaster indicators for effective decision making.

MAIN RESULTS

- Three **(3) new climate change and disaster indictors** based on the UNSD´s Global Set were built and their methodological sheets developed:
  1. (Divers) Contribution of diesel fuels in total electrical energy supply
  2. (Vulnerability) Proportion of Population living in coastal areas
  3. (Mitigation/Adaptation) Percentage change in Forest Cover

- Participants got familiarized with the 158 indicators from the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and indicators highlighting the following **seven indicators as the most relevant** for the country: (8) Carbon footprint, (33) Reduction of surface water bodies, (87) Vulnerable Species, (106) Coastal area vulnerable to climate change, (109) Production of renewable energy as a proportion of total energy production, (135) Climate change funds received, and (151) Meteorological monitoring network.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

- Some of the national policies and agendas **driving the demand** for climate change and disaster indicators by area include: (draft) National Agriculture Policy Framework, Forestry and Wildlife Act, National Forestry Policy, Energy Policy and Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Hydrofluorocarbons Phase Out Management Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, Solid Waste Act and Regulations, Fisheries Act, and the National Land Use Plan.
- Most **critical climate change issues** in the country identified by the participants were sea-level rise, air quality, coastal erosion, use of fossil fuel, marine litter, intensity and frequency of storms, loss of ocean biodiversity, land use change, rise in temperature and invasive species.
- The **more significant data gaps** on climate change and disaster issues along the policy cycle are mostly on Implementation of the policies, monitoring and evaluation. For example, while there is enough data to identify that **sea-level rise** is becoming a problem for Dominica, there is a need for further information available on regular basis to design policies and strategies to tackle its effects as well as to implement, monitor and evaluate those policies.
- Main **challenges** preventing the sustained production and dissemination of the new built indicators identified by the participants are insufficient environmental data on websites, limited awareness within the country on the importance of the indicators, need for more consistent and frequent data to be available, lack of efficient allocation of human resources and lack of investment in existing ones, and the need for better data storage.
- **Recommendations** and good practices identified with the participants in the workshop to tackle the challenges include:
  o Implement proper documentation of the data (metadata)
  o Link different data sources into one centralized system, for example, Dominode
  o Make data available in user friendly formats for data management (e.g., Excel)
  o Establish a coordination mechanism for data collection
  o Encourage sharing information through policy
  o Leverage social media for data dissemination
  o Invest in proper hardware and software (e.g., computers, drones, ArcGIS, QGIS)
  o Strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector
  o Tap into finances available through MEAs, regional and international projects and financing institutions such as GEF, GCF

LINKS OF INTEREST

- **Workshop materials:** https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/en/groups/event/dominica-generating-climate-change-and-disasters-indicators-policy-decision-making
- **2022 Voluntary National Review of Dominica:** http://planning.gov.dm/announcements1/voluntary-national-review-2022
- **Manual 61:** Methodological Guide for developing Environmental and Sustainable Development Indicators in Latin American and Caribbean countries: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/37890/SLCL3021_en.pdf
- **Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics** (FDES): https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes.cshtml
- **Basic Set of Environment Statistics:** https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/basicset.cshtml
- **Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool** (ESSAT): https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/essat.cshtml
- **Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators**: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/ClimateChange_StatAndInd_global.cshtml