National Workshop

Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 22 – 24 June 2022

SUMMARY NOTE

3 days of workshop
22 – 24 June 2022

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

4 indicators and their Methodological Sheets built during the workshop

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The national workshop in St Kitts and Nevis brought together 23 participants from the Department of Statistics, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Health, Nevis Disaster Management Department, St Kitts Solid Waste Management Corporation, Ministry of Health, St Kitts Department of Physical Planning, Water Services Department, Marine Resources, and the National Emergency Management Agency 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

- Four **(4) new climate change and disaster indictors** based on the UNSD´s Global Set were built and their methodological sheets developed:
    - (Divers) Share of electricity generated by fossil fuel
    - (Mitigation) Municipal Waste Collected per Capita in St. Kitts
    - (Driver/Mitigation) CO_2 Emissions from land use, land use change and forestry
    - (Adaptation) The Proportion of Forested Land Area in St. Kitts & Nevis

- 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: (17) Population growth, (38) Water quality, (47) Sea level rise, (73) Increase in are affected by coral bleaching, (106) Coastal area vulnerable to climate change, (109) Production of renewable energy as a proportion of total energy production, and (153) Water monitoring systems.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

- Areas where policy action is needed are climate change **legislation** that governs mitigation measures, sand mining policy and **monitoring** and enforcement of existing policies and plans.
- National policies and agendas **driving the demand** for climate change and disaster indicators include: the National Conservation and Environment Protection Act #5 (1987), Draft National Conservation and Environment Management Act (2022), St. Kitts and Nevis National Climate Change Policy (2017), National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for St. Kitts and Nevis (2018), and the Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (2021).
- Most **critical climate change issues** in the country identified by the participants were droughts, coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, sea-level rise, decrease in ground water resources, climate change effects on agriculture, illegal dumping, erosion of coastal areas, increase frequency of disasters (e.g., fires).
- The **biggest data gaps** on climate change and disaster along the policy cycle are mostly on Implementation of the policies, monitoring and evaluation. However, in some cases such as on the **effects of climate change on agriculture**, data is only partially available along all the different phases of the policy cycle (i.e., problem definition, policy formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation).
- Main **challenges** preventing the sustained production and dissemination of the new built indicators identified by the participants are lack of data from both islands, timely data, lack of financing and human resources, lack of policies demanding the indicator, inconsistent data collection, lack of metadata, data gaps, non-existent platform for public access to data, lack of protocols and policies awareness for data collection and sharing and high staff turnover.
- Areas where **action is most needed** to tackle the identified challenges include constant work between relevant departments, MOUs for data sharing, an online platform for data providers to regularly update their data, updated technology (GIS, computers, and software programs), mutual agreement between divisions (e.g. Forestry and Environment) on data collection, regular monitoring and enforcement, a centralized information system for both islands, standardize data collection formats, and the encouragement for cabinet to pass the National Conservation and Environmental Act.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- **Workshop materials:** https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/en/groups/event/saint-kitts-and-nevis-generating-climate-change-and-disasters-indicators-policy
- **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