National Workshop

Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SUMMARY NOTE

3 days of workshop
27 – 29 June 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 St Vincent and the Grenadines brought together 21 participants from the Statistical Office, the Sustainable Development Unit, Central Water & Sewerage Authority (CWSA), Urban Development Energy Unit, Forestry, National Parks Rivers & Beaches, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Health Division, Physical Planning and the National Emergency Management Organization 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:
    - (Mitigation) SVG Municipal Waste Collected Per Capita for the years 2017-2020
    - (Vulnerability) Proportion of the Population Living in the Coastal Areas
    - (Adaptation) The Proportion of Forested Land Area in St. Kitts & Nevis

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

- **National** policies and agendas **driving the demand** for climate change and disaster indicators include: the National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) with one objective particularly focusing on climate change and building resilience, the National Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), (draft) Agriculture Sector NAP, (draft) Water Sector NAP, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Ocean Policy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the (draft) National Physical Development Plan.
- Most relevant **global and regional commitments** demanding climate change and disaster data are the OECS St. Georges Declaration (SGD) 2040, the Escazú Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Combat Desertification, and the CARICOM Regional Climate Change Strategic Framework/Implementation Plan for Development Resilient to Climate Change and the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy 2014 – 2024.
- Most **critical climate change issues** in the country identified by the participants were sea-level rise, droughts, ocean acidification, flooding, coastal erosion, intense rainfall and increase in tropical storms and hurricanes.
- The **most significant data gaps** on climate change are on gender and other disaggregated data, ecosystem health indicators and valuation (damage & loss). For example, there is need for data to accurately define the scope of the problem, design plans and strategies to address the issue, implement them and monitor their success on **ocean acidification**. Other issues with significant data gaps are flooding and sea-level rise, as well as the linkages between environmental and economic data and better geoinformatics data at appropriate scale.
- Main **challenges** preventing the sustained production and dissemination of the new built indicators identified by the participants are lack for standardized definitions of different cadastral units, lack of data literacy, low demand for environment and climate change indicators, unavailable data or not regularly shared, the need to set a timeframe for updating data and dissemination in coordination with data providers, and the need for greater network among national data producers and users.
- **Recommendations** and good practices identified with the participants in the workshop to tackle the challenges include:
    - Establish MOUs and data agreements that ensure confidentiality of data
    - Implement the use of methodological sheets
    - Promote greater investment in data to maintain and upgrade technological equipment and acquire technology to store data
    - Set up a technical committee to facilitate data sharing and exchange through frequent meetings between relevant bodies to review funding needs and seek areas for cooperation.
    - Develop capacities on data analysis and interpretation

- Increase awareness on the importance of using environment and climate change indicators
- Promote the independence of the statistics department and other data producers

LINKS OF INTEREST

- **Workshop materials:** https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/en/groups/event/saint-vincent-and-grenadines-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