

ECLAC contribution:
Request for inputs for the Secretary General's report on "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for the present and future generations"

In review on this request, agencies were requested to contribute to the preparation of the 2022 report. In this regard, we identified the following items where the contributions of ECLAC can be considered:

1. Blue Economy and the Wider Caribbean Region- to integrate the COVID-19 pandemic management and recovery measures into the sustainable development of the ocean economies of the Caribbean Sea.
 - a. Caribbean Outlook¹: Blue Economy - The recovery strategies post-COVID-19 will include increased dependence on coastal and ocean-based resources and services. For a sustainable ocean-based economy, the Caribbean region will need to commit to an integrated and interdisciplinary management structure. At the same, the economic valuation of marine and coastal resources, legislation, investments in human capital, technological readiness and institutional structures are necessary tools to harness the employment and sustainable development benefits of investing in innovative ocean and coastal economy sectors.

2. That the efforts for sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea is in keeping with the objectives and purpose of the Escazu Agreement.
 - a. The Regional Agreement (Agreement) on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2018 and in force since 22 April 2021, is the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, functions as the Secretariat to this Agreement.² The Agreement seeks to deepen environmental governance, particularly through the strengthening of community engagement in environmental stewardship, the generation and access to environmental information, and the prevention and remedy of environmental harm. Its implementation is centred on capacity building and cooperation, allowing for the streamlining of the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moving toward more just and sustainable development models with the timely and informed participation of all sectors of society will be essential for tackling issues as urgent as climate vulnerability, disasters, ocean acidification, pollution and the loss of biodiversity. This can also include the restoration of greener/bluer, fairer and better economies in a post COVID 19 world.³ States Parties to the agreement include countries with coastal areas on the Caribbean Sea: Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia

¹ The Caribbean outlook: Forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post COVID-19, ref: LC/SES.38/12

² Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf

3. CDCC- Regional Coordination Mechanism: to serve as a principal subregional mechanism for monitoring and supporting sustainable development implementation in the Caribbean SIDS. This will also include the ocean space.
 - a. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), in 2020, through Resolution 104 (XXVIII)⁴ repositioned the CDCC- Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development as the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development to serve as a principal subregional mechanism for monitoring and supporting sustainable development implementation in the Caribbean SIDS. Oceans and the blue economy have been identified as priority issues in supporting the sustainable development agenda for many SIDS within the Caribbean. In this regard, efforts are to be made to include the sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean Sea as an integrated component of this mechanism.

4. Data and Statistics: For the Caribbean region, information and data on research, science, technology and innovation on ocean related matters are limited. The countries of the Caribbean Sea region will need to strengthen their institutions, technological capacities, data management systems and research capacities.
 - a. Data and Statistics: Towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SAMOA Pathway, ECLAC continues to strengthen coordination with SDG custodian agencies and other partners and in supporting the sustainable governance in the Caribbean Sea Region. The conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (San José, 7–9 March 2022)⁵ agreed on priorities for ocean, seas and marine resources management and including:
 - i. Reaffirming commitments to **conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**; recognize the need to promote a structural progressive change towards sustainable development to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce deforestation, combat desertification, land degradation and drought, foster strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services in the region; and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;
 - ii. Expressed profound concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a devastating impact on health, including mental health and well-being, loss of life, economic growth and employment, resulting in the decimation of jobs and entrepreneurships, and the extended deterioration of public services, which, in the context of increased poverty in all its forms and dimensions and widening digital divides, **as well as ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, the deterioration of oceans**, and vulnerability to climate change and disasters, result in a critical incidence on the fulfilment of sustainable development and humanitarian needs and the enjoyment of human rights across all spheres of society and risk slowing down the progress made in achieving the SDGs and targets.

⁴ LC/CAR/2020/6: https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/sites/default/files/lcar2020_06_twenty-eighth_cdcc.pdf, pp 19

⁵ Intergovernmentally Agreed Conclusions and Recommendations Of The Fifth Meeting Of The Forum Of The Countries Of Latin America And The Caribbean On Sustainable Development; LC/FDS.5/4
9 March 2022