



Suriname's in-country capacity building activities in the CARICOM region

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OUTLINE

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1. European Development Fund (EDF) programs

The CARICOM Secretariat, with funding from the 10th and 11th EDF, provided technical assistance to strengthen capacity and address data gaps in selected areas of environment statistics as outlined in the UNSD Framework for the Development on Environment Statistics (FDES 2013), the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as of 2022, the Global Set on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.

- 10th EDF- 2015-2017: As an output of this activity Grenada, Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines produced environment compendia and data gaps in this area were considerably reduced.
- 11th EDF-2023-2024: As an output of this activity three (3) Member States (St. Lucia, The Bahamas and Dominica), through **the Center of Excellence (CoE) programme** received technical assistance from Suriname to fill the data gaps and to enable the production of their next environment compendia.

Centre of Excellence programme:

- In 2022, the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) of Suriname was nominated as the Centre of Excellence in the area of Environment and Climate Change Statistics due to their years of experience in this area. GBS published 11 Environment Statistics reports since 2002, and their first Climate Change Statistics report in 2023 <https://statistics-suriname.org/milieustatistieken-4/>
- GBS is a member of the CARICOM Technical Working Group (TWG) on Environment Statistics and the TWG SDGs and contributed to the CARICOM CORE SET of SDGS.
- Furthermore, GBS/Suriname is also a member of the Expert Group of Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS) and is currently the Vice-Chair of the EG-ECCS.

2. Objective of the Center of Excellence

- Exchange of experiences about the statistical production processes of environment and climate change statistics for identifying best practices.
- Assess the current status of environment and climate change statistics production, and indicator measurement in Suriname to identify possibilities for implementing additional best practices.
- Improve the capacity of the NSO to fill data gaps using the **FDES 2013** and the **ESSAT**, the **Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators** and the **CISAT**.
- Discuss needs to strength quality protocols of primary data collected, interoperability processes, and dissemination of environment data.
- Discuss next steps to strengthen the production and dissemination of environment and climate change statistics at national level.
- Discuss obtaining funding from International Organizations for capacity building, or providing funding to host workshops etc.

3. Methodology

Training Methods : The training focused primarily on practical computation and examination of FDES 2013 statistics, selected climate change statistics and indicators, selected SDGs, national environment indicators and the CARICOM Programme list of indicators that are not currently being produced and sharing of best practices to improve the availability of these indicators. Participants are expected to prepare short presentations on the *data availability on Environment and Climate Change indicators* and are expected to work in groups on the ESSAT indicators.

Facilitators: Ms. Faustina Wiggins (CARICOM Secretariat) and regional expert & Ms. Anjali Kisoensingh from the General Bureau of Statistics, Suriname.

Focal points NSO: Responsible for coordination of venues for the workshop and the invitations

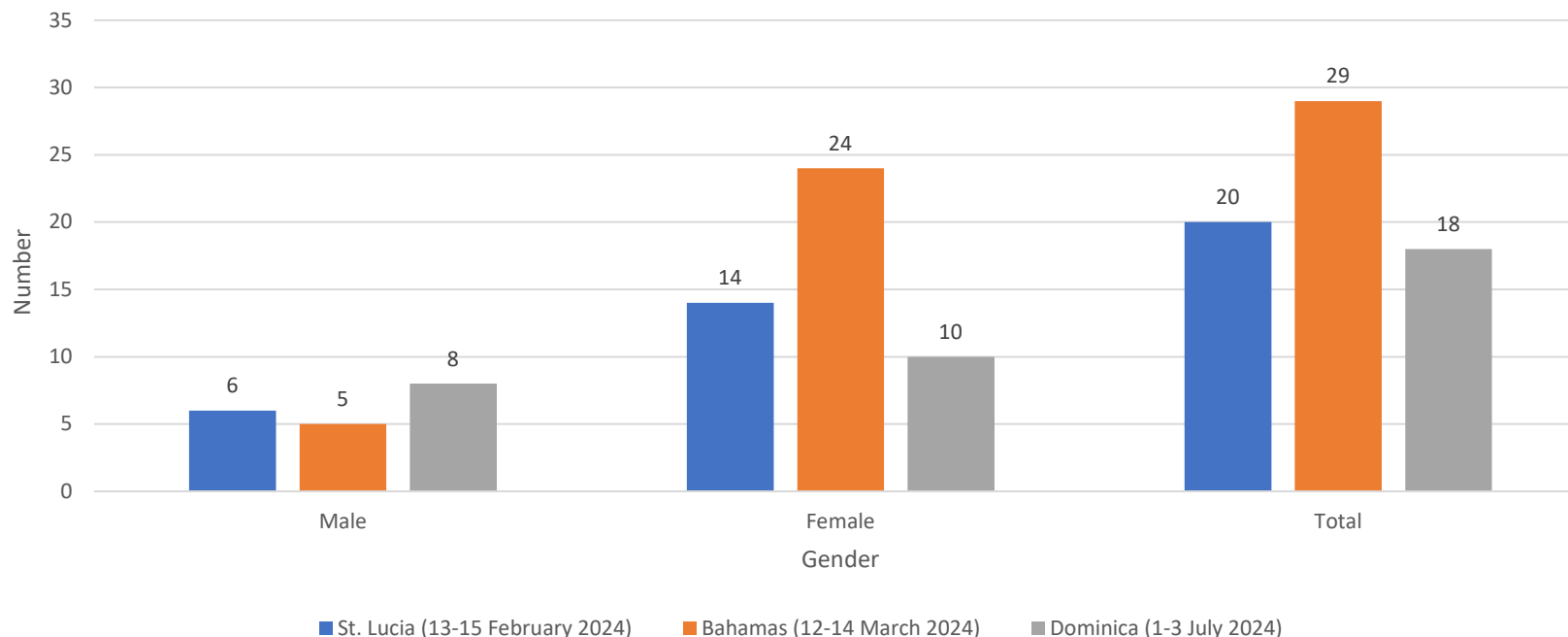
- Saint Lucia :Mrs. Olympia Joseph and Uranda Caesar (worked on First Environment Statistics comp.)
- Bahamas :Mrs. Brendalee Adderley (worked on the previous two Environment Statistics reports)
- Dominica :Mrs. Venice Taylor

Venues:

- Saint Lucia (13-15 Feb. 24) : Meeting Room of The Finance Administrative Center, Pointe Seraphine from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm daily. Afternoon sessions were conducted one-on-one with the focal points.
- Bahamas (12-14 March 24) : Training Room of The Bahamas National Statistical Institute, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily.
- Dominica (1-3 July 24) : Meeting Room of The Dominica Public Service Union Conference room from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm daily. Due to Hurricane Beryl, the afternoon session was cancelled on the last day.

4. Outputs, Outcomes and Results of the activity

Number of person sensitized in Saint Lucia, Bahamas and Dominica, Febr.-July 2024



Outputs	Outcomes	Result
NSO has: a national needs assessment by indicator relevance and core environment and climate change statistics and indicators	Enhanced capacity in the production and dissemination of environment and climate change statistics and indicators;	ESSAT for Saint Lucia, The Bahamas and Dominica completed by statistic
List of indicators with and without data that require capacity-building; and	Reduction in data gaps; and	
National work plans relative to the production and dissemination of the environment and climate change statistics and Indicators	Technical assistance provided for the production of environment and climate change statistics and Indicators	Have a Draft Environment Statistics Reports with selected tables

5. Workplan

Step 1

- Study the latest Reports of St. Lucia, Bahamas and Dominica. Created a draft report with updated data found on the NSO website or online like the UNFCCC website etc. The Suriname Environment Statistics report was used as a model. It was presented at the meeting and discussed with the participants.

Step 2

- Guide the NSO to compile the list of invitees, and draft the invitation according to the model used in Suriname when hosting its workshops.

Step 3

- Present Suriname's and CARICOMs experiences regarding data collection and utilizing the ESSAT/CISAT.

Step 4

- Complete the ESSAT (partially) and explain the CISAT/Global Set and the environment related SDGs. [The discussions were very fruitful and all participants learned from each other]

Step 5

- Discuss the draft reports, looked at data availability, dissertations and data sources. List the advantages and challenges.

Step 6

- Draft a workplan for producing the next Environment Statistics report.

6. Environment Statistics Reports

Saint Lucia:

The last environment statistics compendium for Saint Lucia was published in 2001, over two decades ago.

<https://stats.gov.lc/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/SAINT-LUCIA%E2%80%99S-COMPENDIUM-OF-ENVIRONMENTAL-STATISTICS.pdf>

Bahamas:

The second National Accounts Environmental Review

https://stats.gov.bs/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Environmental-Review-2015_for_website.pdf

Dominica:

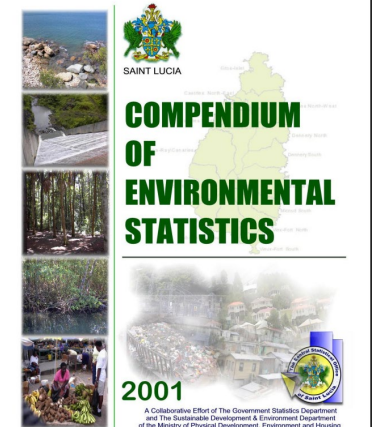
The latest and their fifth (5th) Environmental Statistics Report is from 2014.

<https://stats.gov.dm/subjects/environment/>

Note: Some updates of Environment statistics are available on the NSO website, not in reports but as indicators.



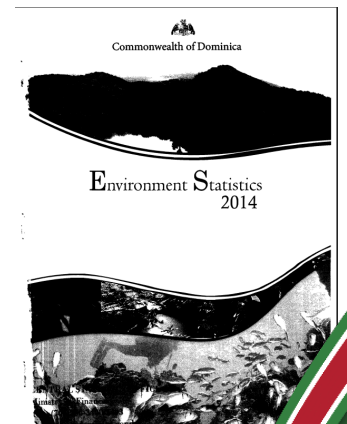
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS



Data

▲ Water, Energy & Land Use

- Water Output and Consumption (Gallons), 2012 to 2020
- Water Output and Consumption (Revenue) 2012 to 2020
- Distribution of Households by Type of Lighting and District, 2001 and 2010
- Distribution of Households by Type of Lighting (1991, 2001 and 2010)
- Protected Areas 1989, 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010 & 2015
- Land Cover 2015
- Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions in (Gg) 2000, 2005, and 2010
- Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Gg), 2000, 2005 and 2010
- Forest Reserves 1989
- Saint Lucia's Compendium of Environmental Statistics, 2001 (PDF – 4 kB)



7. Stakeholders present at the workshops

Chapter		ST LUCIA	BAHAMAS	DOMINICA
1	DEMOGRAPHIC & SOCIAL-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND	CSO	BNSI	
2	CLIMATE & NATURAL DISASTERS	Meteorological Service	Meteorology	Dominica Met Office
		NEMAC		Office of Disaster Management
3	TOURISM	Chamber of Commerce		
		Ministry of Tourism or Tourism Authority	Tourism	
4	TRANSPORT	Ministry of Infrastructure	Road Traffic	
5	ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH	Ministry of Health	NEMA	Ministry of Environment
		Environmental Health	Dept of Environmental Protection and Planning	Ministry of Health (Health Information Unit)
			Environment Health Services	
			Minsistry of Health and Wellness	
6	WATER	WRMA	Water and Sewage	Dominica Water and Sewerage Company
		WASCO (water company)		
7	ENERGY & MINERALS	Energy Ministry	Bahamas Power and Light	Dominica Electrical Services (DOMLEC)
		Oil import company (Buckeye)		
		LUCELEC (electricity)		
8	FORESTRY	Ministry resposibe for Forest and Land	Forestry Unit	Forestry Division
9	COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES	The Fisheries Department	Marine Resources	Ministry of Agriculture (Fisheries Division)
10	LAND USE & AGRICULTURE	Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture	
11	BIODIVERSITY	Department of Sustainable Development		
		College		
12	AIR			
13	WASTE	SLSWMA Solid Waste		Solid waste Management
14	Other		Gender and Family Affairs	
			Social Services	
			Bahamas National Trust	
			RBPF	
			Royal Bahamas Police Force	
		Sustainable Development Goals		

8. Challenges and Lessons learnt

- Small staff at the NSOs.
- The Environment focal points also have other competing responsibilities such as National Accounts, Gender, Census or Household Budget Surveys etc.
- Due to work overload, some focal points were not able to publish their next Environment Statistics report.
- Most stakeholders were not familiar with the ESSAT and CISAT tools, the FDES, the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and the Environment related SDGs.
- There was not enough time to focus on areas such as climate change and to do a comprehensive coverage of the ESSAT and CISAT.
- Some institutes were unaware that their country had submitted various reports to UNFCCC (persons did not know there was data available for GHG emission), others did not know that their country had one or more Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports.
- The websites of NSOs were not up to date and some of their environment indicators needed to be updated.

9. Advantages

- The importance of having good quality environment and climate change statistics was highlighted at a high-level (directors of the NSOs and ministers), especially because all three islands are vulnerable to extreme weather and climate change impacts and have experienced many tropical storms and hurricanes.
- All three countries underscored the importance of having this workshop and expressed the need for continuation of such support in the future.
- There was media presence available for all three workshops; additionally in The Bahamas the Minister of Environment did the opening session and these activities were reported in the main newspapers.
- All environment focal points received training and know the ESSAT and CISAT and all worked on at least one compendium.
- There was willingness from participants to provide the data. After going through the ESSAT they understood the indicators better and also why providing data was so important.
- Existing trust, confidence, similarity among countries, support of a coordinated CARICOM programme, common practices and statistical culture in the region, common language, common size of NSOs help in fostering this kind of (low-cost) approach towards capacity building activities of this nature.

10. Recommendations and Actions to be Taken

- The funding of the 11th EDF made this south-south cooperation possible and the CARICOM and Suriname extends their gratitude to the European Development Fund and hope that support for this kind of activity will continue in the future.
- Stimulate international/regional organizations to facilitate NSOs to host Environment and Climate Change Statistics workshops [e.g. in Saint Lucia the UNDP was even interested to also provide funding for their second report, just like the case of Suriname].
- Enhance statistical capacity of government officers through increased training, especially in the metadata to better understand the FDES 2013, Climate Change, SDG indicators and other regional and international frameworks to be able to calculate the indicators themselves.
- Update the NSO's websites with more indicators regarding Environment and Climate Change Statistics, if producing a report is not possible.

BEDANKT

Gran Tangi

Thank You

Gracias

Merci Beaucoup



QUESTIONS