



FOOD SECURITY

REGIONAL TALKS ON FOOD SECURITY
AHEAD OF GLOBAL UN SUMMIT

OCEAN CRISIS

ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO
ADDRESS THE OCEAN CRISIS

GREEN RECOVERY

ECLAC AND PARTNERS DISCUSS
BIODIVERSITY TOWARDS GREEN
RECOVERY

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About us

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this newsletter.

International Days

4 June

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June

World Environment Day

8 June

World Oceans Day

20 June

World Refugee Day

Upcoming Events

6 July

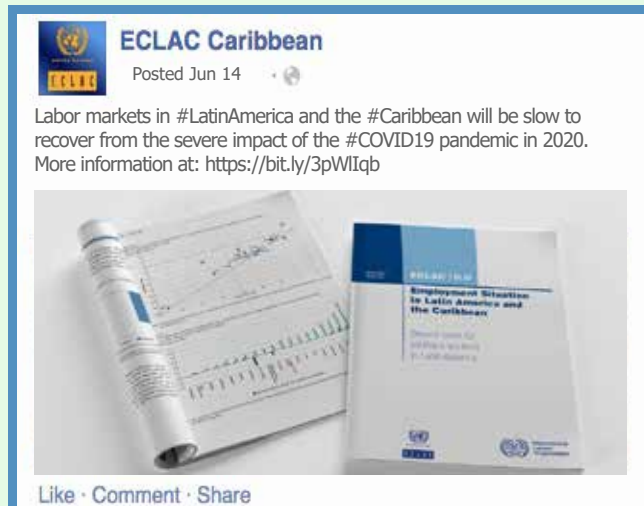
Regional Integration for Economic Recovery

14 July

Reclaiming Industrial Policy for Latin American Development

15 July

2021 HLPF official side event:
"Empowering people to protect the planet in a COVID-19 context: the contribution of SDG 16 and environmental access rights to sustainable and resilient recovery"





REGIONAL TALKS ON FOOD SECURITY AHEAD OF GLOBAL UN SUMMIT

Food security, climate resilience, and financing were the primary areas of focus for stakeholders across the Caribbean, when they convened for a Regional Food Systems Dialogue on 28 May 2021. The regional forum was a precursor to the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit, to be held in September as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The ideas, solutions, and action plans arising from this dialogue will feed into the Global forum, as well as a pre-Summit event held in July in Rome, to ensure that the voice of the Caribbean is heard.

Key stakeholders who partnered to convene the forerunner event were UN Resident Coordinators, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Member States' views on key aspects of the subregion's food systems challenges, along with regional-level proposals that should be highlighted in the international fora, formed part of the main discussions.

The forum featured an interactive session with stakeholders, including farmers groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and civil society. Discussions also promoted knowledge transfer and the sharing of best practices critical to the welfare of Caribbean SIDS. Suggestions were made on improving productivity, along with opportunities and constraints in agriculture forestry and fisheries.

With respect to climate resilience, focus was on the commitment to set the economies of the subregion on a low-carbon development path, with climate-smart production processes and digitized data to anticipate threats, manage risks and support shock responsiveness. ■



CCRIF MEMBER COUNTRIES RENEW RISK INSURANCE POLICIES

Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) is pleased to announce that its member governments have renewed their parametric insurance coverage for tropical cyclones, excess rainfall, earthquakes, and the fisheries sector ahead of the upcoming 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

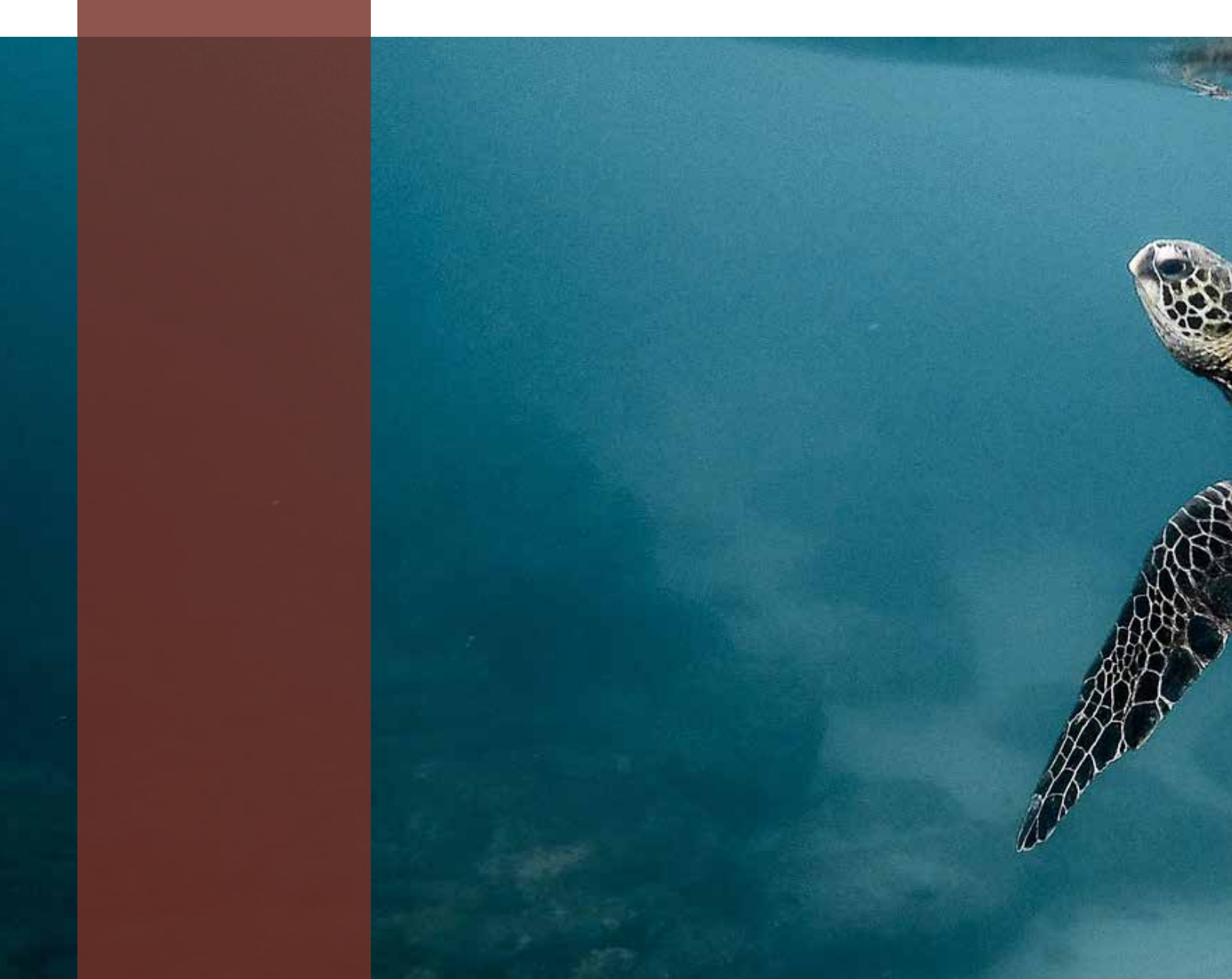
This is the second year in a row that members have ceded over US\$1 billion in risk to CCRIF. The Facility's first non-government member, ANGLEC – Anguilla's electric utility company – not only renewed but increased its coverage. ANGLEC joined CCRIF in 2020, purchasing the newest product that offers coverage for electric transmission and distribution systems.

CCRIF started operations in 2007 with 16 Caribbean member governments and just under US\$500 million in coverage for tropical cyclones and earthquakes. Fourteen years

later, CCRIF now offers five parametric insurance products to 23 members (19 Caribbean governments, 3 Central American governments and 1 electric utility).

CCRIF's members continue to grapple with the socioeconomic challenges brought about by COVID-19 and are well aware that a natural disaster can further impact their recovery, which is being projected to be slow and may last until 2024 by some estimates. The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, although it does not anticipate the historic level of storm activity that occurred in 2020.

As the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins, CCRIF's members are assured that they are covered for another year against tropical cyclones and excess rainfall events—and against earthquakes as well. ■



Actionable solutions needed to
ADDRESS THE OCEAN CRISIS



Photo courtesy Pixabay.

A high-level debate on oceans was convened by the United Nations on 1 June 2021; a precursor to the Second Ocean conference. This meeting had been scheduled to convene during 2021 and was postponed because of COVID-19. The organizers therefore considered that the high-level virtual debate ad interim offered an invaluable opportunity to have a focused discussion on the important role science could play in preserving and managing the oceans and its resources, while at the same time keeping ocean related issues on the front burner.

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Actionable solutions needed to address the ocean crisis

by Elizabeth Thorne

During the debate it was unanimously agreed that saving and securing the oceans and its resources was critical to the survival of all life on Earth. The health of the oceans was intrinsically linked to a healthy planet. Notably, coastal and marine ecosystems provide ecosystem services to the planet, they provide food, support livelihoods, and serve as coastal protection.

The value of the oceans and its resources were further endorsed by the economic value of the blue economy earning more than US \$1.5 trillion annually. However, the significance of the marine environment goes beyond its economic value, beauty and the enjoyment, as it secures the overall well-being and resilience of

present and future generations.

Unfortunately, current trends show that human activities are exerting many pressures on the marine environment, for example, over one-third of the global fish stock is under stress, ocean acidification is at critical levels and increasing volumes of plastic waste enter the ocean annually, all signaling an ocean crisis. However, confidence remains high that the application of ocean science can provide workable solutions, with appropriate financial investment.

Scientific research, capacity building, indigenous and traditional knowledge are all deemed necessary to craft a new paradigm in ocean management. It is against this background that the second ocean conference was

scheduled, as a forum to facilitate the promotion of sustainable development, harmonizing the dynamic between people and nature sustaining all life on Earth. It was viewed as an opportunity for leveraging scientific innovation and partnership while setting a course towards sustainable oceans by 2030.

Currently, the management of the ocean and its resources are divided into defined spaces under national jurisdiction and beyond, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, the ocean in its functioning knows no boundaries; ecologically there is no border. Therefore, acidification and pollution affect the entire marine environment and as such, the management of



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