



# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER  
MAINSTREAMING IN WATER  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

# REDATAM

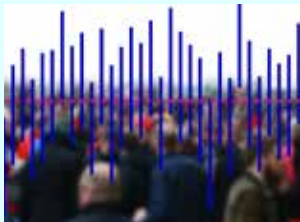
REDATAM WORKSHOP BENEFITS  
DOMINICA

# UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS

TRAINING SESSION INCREASES  
CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES TO APPLY FOR FUNDING



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Cover Image by Blaine Marcano of ECLAC Caribbean

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## ECLAC Caribbean Family

Seasonal Traditions

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic 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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## January Events

1

New Year's Day  
1 January 2020

14

Executive Board of UN-Women, Election of Bureau  
New York, 14 January 2020

20

83rd of the Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Geneva, 20 January - 7 February 2020

24

International Day of Education  
24 January 2020

27

XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America  
and the Caribbean.  
Santiago, 27 - 30 January 2020



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jan 5

2020 starts the Decade of Action for the #GlobalGoals. Here are 17 New Year's resolutions for you to help make the world a better place for everyone. [http://bit.ly/About\\_SDGs](http://bit.ly/About_SDGs)



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Dec 31

Wishing everyone, everywhere peace and happiness in 2020."  
- António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations



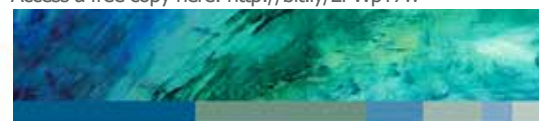
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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Dec 27

"Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean"  
Access a free copy here: <http://bit.ly/2PWpY7w>



**CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

CONTRIBUTIONS BY AND FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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# SNEAK PREVIEW ARTICLE

Look out for more  
in upcoming issues!

## STUDY ON DEBT SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**T**he high, and in many instances unsustainable, public debt of Caribbean countries has increasingly emerged as an issue of concern for regional policy makers. Despite undertaking fiscal reforms and debt reduction initiatives in recent years, many countries are still struggling to manage this onerous burden. In 2018, the total debt of the Caribbean stood at US\$56.2 billion; representing over 70.5 % of subregional GDP. In fact, at the end of 2018, thirteen Caribbean countries had debt-to-GDP ratios that exceeded the accepted sustainability threshold of 60%, and several ranked among the most highly indebted countries in the world.

In light of the challenges presented by this significant debt stock with accompanying high debt servicing costs, which averaged just under 30 percent of government revenue in 2018, the resultant narrowing of Caribbean economies' fiscal space has resulted in sharply contracted resources for investing in SDG implementation.

It is within this context of high public debt, persistent fiscal deficits, which on average were 2% of GDP in 2018, and anaemic growth rates (averaging 0.6% since the global financial crisis), that Caribbean countries are endeavoring to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to explore specific policy prescriptions to address these challenges, ECLAC Caribbean has undertaken a study entitled 'Impact of Debt Sustainability on Economic Growth and the Ability of the Caribbean to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

The study examines whether the high public debt, which has influenced fiscal spending, has the potential to undermine the ability of Caribbean economies to achieve key policy objectives in areas such as poverty, health and education as articulated in their National Development Plans. Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago are examined in case study.



ECLAC presents policy-related and other recommendations aimed at ensuring that development gains in education, health and poverty reduction, achieved in the countries examined are not reversed because of the spill-over effects of high and/or increasing public debt. The study will be available during this year. ■



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MOVES TO STEM DECLINE IN MANGROVE FORESTS

**T**he Planning Ministry of Trinidad and Tobago is taking action to reduce the threats to mangrove forests, and to promoting their sustainable use, as revealed in a recent press release. The Ministry reported that mangrove coverage has been declining in Trinidad in recent years. Reduction in mangrove cover recorded in Caroni Swamp was assessed primarily due to erosion.

There have also been large areas of mangrove loss north of the Blue River and Godineau Swamp when mangroves were cleared to facilitate construction of a highway, the Ministry added. This has also been the case at Cuesa River in Chaguaramas, Guaracara River, Marabella and North Claxton Bay due to development activity.

“In Waterloo, mangrove loss has resulted because of severe coastal erosion. In Tobago, notable decline was observed in Buccoo Bay, while minor declines were

recorded in Little Rockly Bay, Louis D’or, Minister’s Bay and Petit Trou Lagoon,” the release reported.

“While these may seem like small declines, the impacts of mangrove loss are significant. With an estimated 80 per cent of all socio-economic activities and 70 per cent of our population located near the coast, mangrove protection is vital for the safety and livelihoods of our communities,” the Ministry added.

The Ministry noted that through the Improving Forestry and Protected Areas Management in Trinidad and Tobago (IFPAMTT) project, management plans have been developed for six pilot protected areas including northeast Tobago marine area, Main Ridge Forest Reserve, Matura Forest and coastal zone, Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, and two wetlands containing mangrove forests - the Nariva Swamp and coastal zone and Caroni Swamp. ■

November 26



Symposium on gender mainstreaming in

# WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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**E**vidence demonstrates that differences in access, control and uses of resources determines the extent to which persons are vulnerable to hazards and how well and fast they can recover from a disaster. For example, female headed households are at a higher risk of poverty and more likely to live in inadequate housing in urban and rural areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related events. In the Caribbean, specifically, women are usually responsible for household activities related to the storage and retrieval of water, and so are typically engaged in identifying alternative sources in periods of drought or during the interruption of service, especially in rural communities.\* Water resources management policies and practices, as well as disaster and risk mitigation approaches, would therefore greatly benefit from the integration of gendered perspectives.

\* ECLAC (2019). Draft Background paper Toward Improving Caribbean SIDS policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, implementation and monitoring and reporting approaches to gender mainstreaming into selected sectors of water resources management and climate-related events and disaster risk reduction.

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# Symposium on gender mainstreaming in water resources management

These were some of the issues discussed when the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted, for the first time, a general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.\*\* The 2030 Agenda also encourages countries to promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in small island developing States(SIDs), focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

In this spirit, ECLAC Caribbean, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), jointly organized a `Symposium on Mainstreaming Gender in Water Resources Management, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies in the Caribbean', held in Trinidad and Tobago during 26-27 November 2019.

The Symposium drew attention to the fact that although the Caribbean is one of the regions of the world which is significantly impacted by natural disasters,

gender mainstreaming is not yet considered an integral component of the Disaster and Risk Management framework. The Symposium therefore discussed mechanisms and tools for gender mainstreaming into disaster and risk management frameworks, focusing on water resources management as an initial step and bringing examples of successful initiatives of countries in the region.

During the opening session of the Symposium, ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, outlined that in many of the Caribbean



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