

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

June 2021

Contributions to the Report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of Sea- 2021

1. **Enhanced Support for Resilient Post COVID-19 Recovery in the Caribbean.** The advent of COVID-19 exacerbated the vulnerability of the Caribbean. ECLAC undertook a comprehensive analysis of the multidimensional impact of the pandemic on the countries of the subregion in its 2020 flagship publication, *The Caribbean Outlook: Forging a people-centered approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19* (ECLAC, 2020). It makes recommendations for policy response, recovery and resilience-building post pandemic, including strategies to help ensure that the countries' commitments towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway stay on target.
2. **2a Regional Outlook of Agenda 2030 - SDG 14 and Climate change mitigation.** In response to the call of the Second UN Ocean Conference on scaling up ocean actions based on science and innovation for the implementation of Agenda 2030 - SDG 14, ECLAC published *The outlook of oceans, seas and marine resources in Latin America and the Caribbean* with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December 2020. The study is a tool for regional mechanisms and coordination efforts, offering new ideas as alternative indicators for some SDG 14 targets and considering the oceans as solutions for climate change mitigation. It presents an opportunity to advance in the transversal and blue implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the oceans at the core.

2b Caribbean Small Islands Developing States and Sustainable Ocean Governance:

To assist the Caribbean delegations with generic preparation for Second UN Ocean Conference, ECLAC prepared an Information Document on the United Nations Oceans Conference: Scaling up ocean action, based on science and innovation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14; Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions: *Caribbean in Brief: an information document for Caribbean Small Island Developing States*

3. **Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME):** ECLAC has officially communicated its intent to become a member of the CLME- Interim Coordinating Committee (ICM), in response to the official invitation extended by the CLME-ICM Secretariat. The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ region) is supporting a multilevel institutional approach to coastal and ocean ecosystem management in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The CLME+ region covers the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBLME). Co-funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP). Approximately 10% of the world’s coral reefs, and around 20% of the world’s remaining mangrove forests are located within the CLME+ region. In the management of the CLME + Region,¹ participating member countries developing partners and other stakeholders have established that in order to achieve sustainability and equity in the management of the shared resources, a long-term, intergovernmental mechanism is necessary. Currently this intergovernmental mechanism is managed under an Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) and with on-going developments for the establishment of a regional “Ocean Governance” Coordination Mechanism.

4. **Disaster Risk Management:** ECLAC provides support to Caribbean countries in Damage and Loss Assessments (DaLA). In multi-island States, such as The Bahamas, the characteristics of the territory, ocean space and the dispersed nature of the population poses further challenges for disaster risk management including planning and recovery. In the conduct of the DaLA, ECLAC recognizes that the economic, social and environmental dependence of SIDS on their marine resources and ocean spaces is more complex when compared to continental countries. For the Caribbean States, the DaLA are conducted to include the impacts on the marine, coastal resources and economies. ECLAC’s Publications of Disaster Risk Management and DaLA’s can be found at:

- Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45968/4/S2000587_en.pdf
- Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Matthew in The Bahamas: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45966/4/S2000589_en.pdf
- Assessment of the effects and impacts caused by Hurricane Irma: The Bahamas 2017: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45967-assessment-effects-and-impacts-caused-hurricane-irma-bahamas-2017>
- Planning for disaster risk reduction within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46639-planning-disaster-risk-reduction-within-framework-2030-agenda-sustainable>
- The use of technology and innovative approaches in disaster and risk management: a characterization of Caribbean countries’ experiences: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45990-use-technology-and-innovative-approaches-disaster-and-risk-management>

5. **Ocean based- Education, Communication and Outreach:** ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has also the following published materials supporting sustainable ocean governance.

- a. ECLAC POS -FOCUS magazines:

: *A Blue Path for the Caribbean: Ocean Sustainability for Prosperity and Resilience*

This edition of the explores the Caribbean Sea, a vital and unique asset of the wider Caribbean. https://issuu.com/eclaccaribbean/docs/focus_2020_-_issue_3_-_sddu

¹ **Renewal of the CLME-** This version is the (pre-clearance) version that was submitted to the GEF Secretariat on 28 April 2021. At this point, formal endorsement letters for the concept note had already been provided by 16 GEF eligible countries from the region, see link at: <https://clmeplus.org/doculibrary/undp-gef-procaribe-pif-as-submitted-for-consideration-by-the-gef-on-28-april-2021/>

: *SAMOA Pathway Prioritized*, included an examination on the importance of healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems for a thriving ocean-based economy and the continued well-being of Caribbean people. It also discussed the need for a multi-country, regional cooperative approach to marine and ocean resource management for the Caribbean region; https://issuu.com/eclaccaribbean/docs/focus_2019_-_issue_1_-_sddu

b. Caribbean Ocean Literacy: Communication and Awareness Raising Materials and targeting Caribbean SIDS Youth; available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/oceanliteracy> and YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/PtU5MVUa7XQ>, April 2021

c. [*Economic implications of the ban on single-use plastics in the Caribbean: A case study of Trinidad and Tobago*](#), November 2020. Single-use plastics have become a major global threat to public health and the natural environment. This ECLAC's study examines the economic implications of a ban on single-use plastics proposed for implementation in Trinidad and Tobago. The results and recommendations from this study can also be applied to other Caribbean SIDS countries.

Annex 1: Caribbean SIDS membership in global and regional ocean related agreements

Caribbean SIDS ²	Global and Caribbean Regional Ocean Related Agreements (Selected)															
	UNCLOS ³	UNFCCC ⁵	UN CDB ⁷	NAGOYA PROTOCOL ⁹	FAO Compliance ¹⁰	MARPOL 73/78 ¹²					Cartagena Convention ¹³				CRFM ¹⁴	ESCAZU Agreement ¹⁵
						Annex I/II	Annex III	Annex IV	Annex V	Annex VI Protocol	Convention	Oil Spill Protocol	LBS Protocol	SPAW Protocol		
Countries																
Antigua and Barbuda	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	B	S/P
Bahamas	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N
Barbados	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	N

² For the Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Economic Commission of America and the Caribbean: The legal obligations to agreements are usually considered as: Netherlands Antilles including St. Maarten, Aruba, and Curacao, United Kingdom Overseas Territories including Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. France including: Guadeloupe and Martinique, United States of America territories: Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands

³ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, cited April 25, 2020 available at: https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, Paris Agreement, cited April 25, 2020, available at United Nations Treaty Collection: treaties.un.org

⁷ UN Convention Biodiversity, cited April 25, 2020, available at United Nations Treaty Collection: treaties.un.org

⁹ Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity: cited April 25, 2020, available at United Nations Treaty Collection: treaties.un.org

¹⁰ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Compliance: Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, cited April 25, 2020, available at [fao.org/iuu-fishing/international-framework/fao-compliance-agreement/en](https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/international-framework/fao-compliance-agreement/en)

¹² International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), cited April 26, 2020, available at: www.imo.org
Annex 1: Regulation for the Prevention of Pollution of Oil
Annex II: Regulations for the Control of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk
Annex III: Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form
Annex IV: Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships
Annex V: Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from ships
Annex VI: Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships

¹³ Cartagena Convention (and its Protocols), date cited April 25, 2020: [cep.unep.org/Cartagena-convention](https://www.cep.unep.org/Cartagena-convention)

¹⁴ Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, cited April 25, 2020, available at: [crfm.int](https://www.crfm.int)

¹⁵ Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú, Agreement), cited April 25, 2020 (this agreement is not yet in effect and as of November 25, 2020)

Belize	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	S
Cuba	B	B	B	B	N	B	N	N	B	N	B	B	N	B	N	N
Dominica	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	N	B	N	B	B	N	N	B	S
Dominican Republic	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	N	S
Grenada	B	B	B	S	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	S
Guyana	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	S/P
Haiti	B	B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	N	N	N	B	S
Jamaica	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	B	S
St. Kitts and Nevis	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	N	B	S/P
St. Lucia	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	B	B	B	S/P
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N	B	B	S/P
Suriname	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	B	B	N	N	N	N	N	B	N
Trinidad and Tobago	B	B	B	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	N
B: Binding agreement by ratification, accession, acceptance or adoption ¹⁶ S: Signatory; N: Not a Party; S/P State Party.																

Source: Authors interpretation based on Table adapted from Fanning, L., Mahon R.,
Implementing the Ocean SDG in the Wider Caribbean: state of play and possible ways forward,
IASS, IDDRI, TMG, 2017 (pp 22)

¹⁶ See UN Treaty Collection for definitions available at: <https://treaties.un.org/>