A CARICOM HANDBOOK FOR SCHOOLS
Third Edition

Compiled and edited by
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This CARICOM Handbook is meant to provide simple, basic information on the origins, growth and development of CARICOM.

It will be useful for our young people in schools and CARICOM citizens everywhere who would like to know more about the integration movement called CARICOM.

Material contained in this Handbook was adapted from documents produced by the CARICOM Secretariat.

First published by CARICOM Secretariat in 2003

Updated for a Second Edition: 2008

Revised and updated for a Third Edition: August 2010

Design and layout: Designz Unlimited (www.designzunlimited.net)
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The Caribbean Community is better known as CARICOM. Officially, it came into being in 1973, but in fact it is an integration process that has its roots in colonial times when this region was viewed as a single entity, The West Indies.

In modern times, however, a conscious and deliberate effort to forge a Caribbean Community out of the many states that were created during our colonial history, is often dated from 1958 when ten Caribbean islands, that were still British Colonies, joined together to form the West Indies Federation. For a number of reasons, the Federation of the West Indies came to an end in 1962. Ironically, this did not end the urge for regional integration, but seemed to strengthen and broaden the scope for integration at the economic, social and functional levels.

**Early Forms of Functional Cooperation in the Caribbean**

Functional cooperation is the creation of practical systems that could benefit a group of countries that share a common region. University Education, Shipping from one Caribbean country to another, and
weather patterns affecting the entire Caribbean Region were appropriate areas to begin functional cooperation. In 1962 a Common Services Conference was called to take decisions on the University of the West Indies (UWI), founded as far back as 1948, (then called “The University College of the West Indies” (UCWI)), to serve all the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. In addition, the Regional Shipping Service was set up during the West Indies Federation to control the operation of the two ships donated in 1962 by the government of Canada. The ships were “The Federal Palm” and “The Federal Maple”. Further, the Caribbean Meteorological Service was established in 1963 and along with the UWI and the Regional Shipping Service, represented the major areas of functional cooperation in the Caribbean directly after the end of the Federation.

The Idea of a Caribbean Community
By 1962 some of the larger English-speaking Caribbean countries were actively seeking their independence from Britain, and both Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica achieved their political Independence in 1962. Trinidad and Tobago, in particular, started to promote the idea of regional cooperation at the economic level. In announcing its intention to withdraw from the Federation, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had proposed the creation of a Caribbean Community, consisting not only of the 10 members of the old Federation, but also of the three Guianas and all the islands of the
Caribbean Sea - both independent and non-independent.

The First Heads of Government Conference of Caribbean Leaders

To discuss the idea of a Caribbean Community, the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams, convened the first Heads of Government Conference in July 1963, in Trinidad and Tobago. This Conference was attended by the leaders of Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This Conference in 1963 was seen as the first Conference of Caribbean Heads and proved to be the first in a series of Conferences among the leaders of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

THE CARIBBEAN FREE TRADE AREA (CARIFTA)

In July 1965, at a meeting of the Premiers of Barbados and British Guiana and the Chief Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the focus was on the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area in the Caribbean. The decision from the July 1965 meeting resulted in the announcement later that month of definite plans to establish a Free Trade Area.
In order to include a larger grouping of countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean territories, the actual start of the Free Trade Area was deliberately delayed to allow the rest of the Region, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and all the Windward and Leeward islands to become members of the newly formed Free Trade Area.

The Fourth Heads of Government Conference in 1967 agreed to formally establish CARIFTA, and to include as many Commonwealth Caribbean countries as possible. It was also agreed that the Free Trade Area was to be the beginning of what would become the Caribbean Common Market. The new CARIFTA Agreement came into effect on 1 May, 1968, with the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The Agreement was first signed at Dickenson Bay in Antigua on the 15 December, 1965, by V.C. Bird, Chief Minister of Antigua, E.W. Barrow, Premier of Barbados, and L.F.S. Burnham, Premier of British Guiana. On 1 August, 1968 Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Montserrat formally entered CARIFTA. British Honduras (Belize) joined in May 1971.

In summary, CARIFTA brought together 12 Commonwealth Caribbean Countries, covering the entire length and breadth of the Caribbean Basin, stretching from Belize on the coast of Central America in the northwest to Guyana on the coast of South America in the south-east. Ten islands that were once part of the West Indies Federation, and which were now members of CARIFTA covered the
Caribbean sea between Belize and Guyana. These were: Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St.Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago. At that time, The Bahamas was not a member of CARIFTA, but participated in several non-economic areas of regional cooperation and was a member of the Heads of Government Conference.

The objectives of CARIFTA were to:
1. promote the expansion and diversification of trade in the area of the Association;
2. ensure that trade between member territories takes place in conditions of fair competition;
3. encourage the progressive development of the economies of the Area; and
4. foster the harmonious development of Caribbean trade and its liberalisation by the removal of barriers to it.

The Origins of the CARICOM Secretariat and the CDB
In preparation for the coming into being of CARIFTA, the Heads of Government Conference in 1967 agreed to the establishment of the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat to service the Association. This Secretariat, which later became the CARICOM Secretariat was established on 1 May, 1968 in Georgetown, Guyana. The Leaders also agreed to the establishment of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).
Development Bank to serve the grouping. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was established in October 1969 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

**CARICOM in the making**

From 1968 when CARIFTA came into force to 1972, therefore, this Agreement dealt largely with Trade issues in the Caribbean. But the idea of a Caribbean Community was still the goal of many now independent and non-independent English-speaking Caribbean Countries. This was a topic that continued to be addressed by Caribbean Heads of Government at their on-going Conferences.

At the Eighth Meeting of the Caribbean Heads of Government in Georgetown, Guyana, in April 1973, the Heads agreed to the “Georgetown Accord” which gave voice and notice of the soon-to-be-established Caribbean Community and Common Market to replace CARIFTA.

The Georgetown Accord agreed that:

“The Caribbean Community including the Caribbean Common Market, shall be established” on the basis of a Draft Treaty set in an Appendix to the Accord.
The Treaty of Chaguaramas which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was signed at Chaguaramas, Trinidad, on 4 July, 1973 by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and came into effect on 1 August, 1973. The Treaty of Chaguaramas was first signed by Prime Minister Hon. Errol Barrow of Barbados, Prime Minister Hon. Forbes Burnham of Guyana, Prime Minster Hon. Michael Manley of Jamaica and Prime Minster Hon. Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago.

Subsequently, the other eight Caribbean territories joined CARICOM in 1974. These were Antigua and Barbuda, British Honduras (Belize), Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla (Anguilla later left the union with St. Kitts/Nevis) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Bahamas became the 13th Member State of the Community on 4 July 1983 but not a member of the Common Market. Suriname became the 14th Member State of the Caribbean Community on 4 July 1995. Haiti secured provisional membership on 4 July 1997 and became a full member on 4 July 2002.

A number of Caribbean territories have been granted Associate Membership status in CARICOM. These are Anguilla on 4 July 1998; British Virgin Islands on 2 July 1991; Turks and Caicos Islands on 2 July 1991; Cayman Islands on 16 May 2002 and Bermuda on 2 July 2003. CARICOM now has 15 Member States and five Associate Members.
The Caribbean Community has three General Objectives:-

- **Trade and Economic Cooperation**: This was the prime objective around which CARIFTA was established in 1968 and became the cornerstone of the Treaty of Chaguaramas which created CARICOM in 1973. It was further refined and enlarged in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the signing into effect of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) which now views CARICOM as a single economic space in which trade, business and labour can operate;

- **Foreign Policy Coordination**: This objective recognizes the record of foreign policy coordination by the Region in previous years which resulted in a number of positive steps for the Region, including the leadership which the Caribbean region took in the establishment of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries; the leadership role played by CARICOM Member States in the Commonwealth and in particular on issues related to human rights (apartheid) and democratic governance; and the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States with the main objective by the Community to reach out to the countries of the wider Caribbean. Recent challenges with which the region is now coping include the financial crisis; climate change and closely linked to that, natural disasters;

- **Functional Cooperation**: As the integration process has deepened with the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, CSME, and amidst main changes in the international environment, the improvement in the quality of life of each and every citizen has become more important. As such Functional Cooperation has assumed a
renewed vitality affecting all the activities and programmes in the social, environmental and economic areas. These include, sharing of knowledge, and best practices; inclusion of all stakeholders in development and application of policies and progress towards common services provision; and ensuring more direct impact of the benefit of these policies on the lives of the average Caribbean Citizen.

A fourth pillar has been recently added - Security: The security threats facing CARICOM and the larger Caribbean include those trans-border activities which threaten our Region, such as the illegal drug trade; and illicit trafficking in small arms and ammunition. These security threats are multidimensional in nature and call for regional and hemispheric collaboration. Other threats, such as the global spread of HIV/AIDS and the H1N1 flu virus also affect the Region's security because of their negative social and economic impact, and need collaborative responses as well.

The Specific Objectives of the Caribbean Community are:-
- Improved standards of living and work;
- Full employment of labour and other factors of production;
- Accelerated, co-ordinated and sustained economic development and convergence;
- Expansion of trade and economic relations with third States;
- Enhanced levels of international competitiveness;
- Organisation for increased production and productivity;
- The achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description;
- Enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and
[foreign] economic policies; and

- Enhanced functional co-operation including - more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its peoples; accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of their social, cultural and technological development; and intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation, and telecommunications.

HOW CARICOM WORKS

The principal Organs of the Caribbean Community are the Conference of Heads of Government, commonly called, The Conference and the Community Council of Ministers, commonly called The Council.

Conference of Heads of Government
The Conference of Heads of Government (or The Conference) is the highest decision-making body or Organ of CARICOM and consists of the Prime Ministers of all Member States of the Caribbean Community, except in the case of Guyana, Suriname and Haiti where it consists of the Executive President and in the case of Montserrat, the Chief Minister. The primary responsibility of the Conference is to determine and provide the policy direction for the Community. It is the final authority for the conclusion of treaties on behalf of the Community and for entering into relationships between the Community and International Organisations and States. The Conference is also responsible for making the financial arrangements.
to meet the expenses of the Community. Decisions of the Conference are generally taken unanimously.

**The Community Council of Ministers**
The Community Council of Ministers (or The Council) is the second highest Organ. The Council consists of Ministers responsible for Community Affairs and any other Minister designated by Member States in their absolute discretion. It is responsible for the development of Community strategic planning and co-ordination in the areas of economic integration, functional co-operation, external relations and security.

**Other Community Organs**
The two principal Organs of the Community are assisted in the performance of their functions by the following five Ministerial Councils:-

- **The Council for Trade & Economic Development [COTED]** which promotes trade and economic development of the Community and oversees the operations of the CARICOM Single Market & Economy [CSM&E].

- **The Council for Foreign & Community Relations [COFCOR]** which determines relations between the Community and international organisations and Third States.
The Council for Human & Social Development [COHSOD] which promotes human and social development.


The Council for National Security and Law Enforcement. (CONSLE)

INSTITUTIONS OF CARICOM

Under the Treaty there are several institutions responsible for formulating policies and performing functions in relation to cooperation. A Minister of Government represents each Member State on each Institution. The following entities established by or under the auspices of the Community are recognized as Institutions of the Community:

1. ASSEMBLY OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARIANS (ACCP)

The ACCP consists of representatives of Member States of the Community elected or appointed by their Parliaments. Each Member State is entitled to not more than four representatives at meetings of the Assembly and each Associate Member not more than two representatives. The inaugural meeting of the ACCP was held on May 27-29, 1996, in Barbados.

Major Objectives of the ACCP are to: involve the people of the Community through their representatives in the process of consolidating and strengthening the Community; provide opportunities for involvement in the issues of the integration process by Members of Parliament in...
each Member State and Associate Member of the Community; provide a forum for people of the Community to make their views known through their representatives; provide a more frequent mechanism to monitor policies of the Community; provide enhanced opportunities for the coordination of foreign policies of Member States; and promote greater understanding among Member States and Associate Members for the purpose of realising and safeguarding the ideals and principles of democratic governments in the Community.

2. THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)
CARDI was established in 1975. Its main aim is to contribute to agricultural development by conducting research and by exposing farmers and other persons involved in agriculture to appropriate technologies. CARDI’s Membership comprises all Members of the CARICOM as well the Associate Members of CARICOM.

The Institute is governed by Ministers of Agriculture from each Member State. It also has a Board of Directors comprising representatives of Member States, the CARICOM Secretariat, the CDB, the CFC, the UWI and the University of Guyana. In 1999 the Caribbean Food Corporation was absorbed into the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute. The Institute has its headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago with branches or units in all Member States.

3. CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (CARICAD)
CARICAD was established in 1980 by an agreement among CARICOM states. It provides technical assistance to support member governments in their quest to improve efficiency through initiatives which seek to transform and modernize the public sector.

CARICAD focuses, through its various interventions, on upgrading and strengthening the managerial capability of the public sector for the more effective implementation of public policy across the region. Its headquarters is located in Bridgetown, Barbados.
4. THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)
This is the new name of the regional disaster management body formerly known as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). The official transition of CDERA to CDEMA took place on September 1, 2009. The Headquarters of CDEMA is in Barbados. The expanded mandate of CDEMA positions the regional disaster management body more strategically to fully take up its role as facilitator, driver, coordinator and motivating force for the promotion and engineering of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in all Participating States.

5. CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (CEHI)
CEHI was set up in 1982, as a project, in response to the need seen by the Region's Ministers of Health to address in an organized manner, the environmental health concerns of the people of the English-speaking Caribbean. In 1989 the Institute became a legal entity. The Caribbean Environmental Health Institute has its headquarters in Saint Lucia. Its major objective is to provide technical and advisory services to Member States in all areas of environmental management, including but not limited to, Environmental Quality Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Health Information, Water Resources Management, Waste Management (liquid, solid and hazardous), Laboratory Services and Project Development and Management.

6. CARIBBEAN FOOD AND NUTRITION INSTITUTE (CFNI)
CFNI is a specialized Centre of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which was established in 1967 to forge a regional approach to solving the nutrition problems of the Caribbean. It serves a total population of about six (6) million in the Caribbean.

The institute aims to attain food security and achieve optimal nutritional health for all peoples of the Caribbean through collaboration with Caribbean countries to enhance, describe, manage and prevent the key nutritional problems and to increase their capacity in providing effective nutritional services. The Headquarters of the Institute is located on the Mona Campus, University of the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica, with a sub-centre on the St. Augustine Campus, UWI, Trinidad and Tobago.
7. CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY (CIMH)

The Caribbean Meteorological Institute was established in 1967 by the member states of the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO). It was amalgamated with the Caribbean Operational Hydrological Institute (COHI) in the mid-1980s to form the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), but the name was only officially changed in September 1999 to reflect the dual role of the Institute. Responsibility for the operation of the Institute, which is located in Barbados, rests with the sixteen Commonwealth Governments which comprise the CMO. The CIMH provides training for the Region's weather observers and technicians, weather forecasters, specialists in hydrology, agro-meteorology and other related disciplines and provides training to the Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in cooperation with the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus.

8. CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (CMO)

The Caribbean Meteorological Organization, with headquarters in Trinidad, is a specialized agency of the Caribbean Community that coordinates the joint scientific and technical activities in weather, climate and water-related sciences in sixteen (16) English-speaking Caribbean countries. It originated from the British Caribbean Meteorological Service, which was founded in 1951. The supreme body of the Organization, The Caribbean Meteorological Council meets once per year to define policy for the Organization. As weather and climate know no national boundaries, cooperation at a regional and international scale is essential for the development of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as to reap the benefits from their applications. CMO provides the framework for such regional and international cooperation.

Institutions within the Community

9. CARIBBEAN AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT SYSTEM (CASSOS)

Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS) was launched in February 2009. CASSOS, replaced the more informal arrangement of the seven national civil aviation authorities in the Region, and provides the platform for establishing a Regional Civil Aviation Authority. Its primary objectives are:- to assist States in meeting their obligations as contracting States to the Chicago Convention by achieving and maintaining full compliance with the International Civil Aviation
Organisation (ICAO) standards and recommended practices; and facilitate and promote the development and harmonization of civil aviation regulations, standards, practices and procedures amongst its States consistent with the Annexes to the Chicago Convention. CASSOS is open to all CARICOM Member States and Associate Members and other States and Territories in the Caribbean subject to certain conditions.

10. CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE (CCCC)
The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) coordinates the Caribbean region's response to climate change. Officially opened in August 2005, with offices in Belize, the Centre is the key node for information on climate change issues and on the region's response to managing and adapting to Climate Change in the Caribbean.

It is the official repository and clearing house for regional climate change data, providing climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to the CARICOM Member States through the CARICOM Secretariat. In this role, the Centre is recognised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other international agencies as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean.

11. THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY FOR CRIME AND SECURITY (IMPACS)
The Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) was established by the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July, 2006. It has offices in Trinidad and Tobago.

IMPACS was established as the implementation arm of a new Regional Architecture for the development and management of the CARICOM Regional Action Agenda on Crime and Security issues. The Agency is headed by an Executive Director and reports to the CARICOM Council of Ministers responsible for National Security and Law Enforcement.

12. CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (CXC)
The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) was established in 1972 by an Agreement among 15 English speaking Commonwealth Caribbean Countries and Territories. It has its headquarters in Barbados.
CXC’s objectives are to: provide regionally and internationally recognised secondary school leaving examinations relevant to the needs of the Caribbean Region; assist in Common Entrance and other types of examinations; produce teaching materials and train teachers to use the CXC syllabi; and advise regional governments on Education matters. The members of the CXC are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands.

13. CARIBBEAN ORGANISATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS (COTA)
COTA was established in 1971 at a meeting of the Heads of Regional Tax Administration convened in Saint Lucia. The Constitution was approved in October 1972 by the Standing Committee of Ministers of Finance in Trinidad & Tobago. Over the years COTA has been instrumental in formulating tax harmonization in various important areas of taxation through the CARICOM Double Tax Agreement. With the assistance of the regional organizations, COTA continues to organize regional training programmes in capacity building to strengthen and enhance the technical and administrative skills of senior tax administrators.

14. CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM)
The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was established in 2003 to further develop the Region’s institutional capacity in the fisheries sector. Three bodies together make up the Mechanism. These are: a Ministerial Body, a Fisheries Forum (the main technical and scientific decision-making body) and a Fisheries Technical Unit or Secretariat.

CRFM promotes the sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources among Member States, by developing, managing and conserving these resources in collaboration with stakeholders to benefit the people of the Caribbean region. Its membership includes all CARICOM countries, as full members. Other countries and territories in the Caribbean may join the Mechanism as Associate Members. The CRFM Secretariat is located in Belize.
15. CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY (CROSQ)
The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) was established in February 2002. Its primary objective is the establishment and harmonisation of standards to enhance the efficiency and improve quality in the production of goods and services in the Community, to protect the consumer and the environment and to improve trade within the Community and with third states.

The Organisation's membership includes all CARICOM Member States. Associate Membership of the Organisation is also available to the Associate Members of the Community as well as States and political entities of the Association of Caribbean States. The technical work and day-to-day operations of the Organisation are carried out by a Secretariat which is located in Bridgetown, Barbados.

16. CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (CTU)
The Caribbean Telecommunications Union was established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in 1989 in Nassau, Bahamas. The CTU established its Headquarters in Barbados, on agreement with that Government in 1990, but relocated to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where it continues to function in accordance with the terms of a Headquarters Agreement, dated April 8, 1993.

Some of the major objectives of the CTU are: to facilitate the coordination of the planning, programming and development of intra-regional and international communications networks to meet the immediate and future telecommunications needs of the Region; to assist the development of the national components of regional and international telecommunications networks; and to promote the general awareness of the telecommunications needs of the Caribbean Region and its potential for promoting the socio-economic development of the Region.

17. THE CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION
The CARICOM Competition Commission was established under Article 171 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. It was inaugurated on January 18, 2008 with headquarters in Paramaribo, Suriname. Major functions of the CARICOM Competition Commission are: to apply the rules of competition in respect of anti-competitive cross-border business conduct; promote and protect competition in the Community;
monitor anti-competitive practices of enterprises operating in the CSME; investigate and arbitrate cross-border disputes; keep the Community Competition Policy under review and advise and make recommendations to COTED to enhance its effectiveness; provide support to Member States in promoting and protecting consumer welfare; and develop and disseminate information about Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Policy.

18. THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

The Council of Legal Education was created by an Agreement signed in 1971 by Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana. The CLE was established in order to provide training in the Region (rather than in Britain) for Lawyers wishing to practise in the Region. The CLE operates three law schools in the Region: - the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica, the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad - both established in 1973 - and the Eugene Dupuch Law School in the Bahamas which was established in 1998.

To be admitted to these Law schools, persons must have first obtained a bachelors degree in law (LL.B). Graduates from the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana must then complete two years of study and practical training at one of the three schools. At the end of this period, a professional Legal Education Certificate is awarded by the CLE. Upon receiving the Legal Education Certificate an applicant is fully qualified to practice in the English-Speaking Caribbean.

ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS OF CARICOM

1. CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB)

The CDB is a regional financial development institution established by an Agreement signed on October 18, 1969 by eighteen countries and territories, including all the then CARIFTA Member States at that time, Belize (then British Honduras) and The Bahamas. The Agreement entered into force on January 26, 1970 with the Bank's headquarters located in Barbados.

The purpose of the Caribbean Development Bank is to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of the member countries.
in the Caribbean and to promote economic cooperation among them, having special and urgent regard for the needs of the less developed members of the region. The CDB finances specific projects in national, sub-regional, or regional development programmes in such fields as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, marketing, manufacturing, mining, refining, tourism, export services, transportation, housing, education, pure water, sewerage and infrastructure and services related to the development of those sectors of the economy, waste management, environment protection and poverty reduction.

2. CARIBBEAN LAW INSTITUTE (CLI)/CARIBBEAN LAW INSTITUTE CENTRE (CLIC)
The Caribbean Law Institute (CLI) was established in 1988 under a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to promote such activities that would further clarify the laws affecting trade, commerce and investment in the Region, while at the same time respecting the unique needs of local jurisdictions.

This joint project between Florida State University (FSU) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) has its offices in Tallahassee and at the Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLIC) in Barbados, which was created in 1994 as a unit of research in the Faculty of Law at UWI. The Centre works in parallel with the CLI office at FSU. CLI cooperates in its activities with CARICOM, OECS, regional governments and a number of professional associations in law, accounting, industry and commerce.

3. ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)
The OECS was established by the Treaty of Basseterre signed on June 18, 1981 in an effort to deepen the sub-regional arrangements among former members of West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers (WISA) and the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM). The Objectives of the OECS are to: promote co-operation among its Members and defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity; promote economic integration; assist them in meeting their international obligations and responsibilities; and establish wherever possible, arrangements for joint overseas representation and common services.
The OECS comprises Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands were admitted to the Organisation as Associate Members in 1995 and 1984 respectively. As Associate Members they participate in all the Committees of the Organisation except those related to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security. The Central Secretariat is the principal administrative organ of the OECS, with headquarters in Saint Lucia.

4. UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA (UG)
The University of Guyana (UG) was launched on October 1, 1963 and functioned in its early days as an evening institution. Classes were held at the Government Technical Institute and Queen's College, where laboratory facilities were available.

The University of Guyana moved to its full-time Turkeyen Campus in 1970. UG has Faculties of Agriculture, Education, Humanities, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Technology, as well as programmes in Accountancy, Architecture, Agriculture, Education, Engineering, Communications, Environmental Science, Forestry, Law, Medicine, Modern Language, Chemistry, Pharmacy and Social Work. There are also post-graduate programmes in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. In November 2000, the University's second Campus at Tain, Berbice, was opened, offering programmes in Education, Accountancy, Marketing, Public Management, Social Work, English and History, and the Post-graduate Diploma in Education.

5. UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI)
UWI was established in 1962 with Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone as the first Chancellor and Sir Arthur Lewis the first Vice Chancellor.

UWI comprises three main campuses (located at Mona, Jamaica, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago and Cave Hill, Barbados) as well as the Centre of Hotel and Tourism Management in the Bahamas in addition to University Centres/Schools of Continuing Studies in twelve other
Caribbean countries. The University has six Faculties offering first degree programmes in Agriculture, Arts, The Humanities, Education, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Natural, Pure and Applied sciences and Social Sciences. Certificates, diplomas and postgraduate degree programmes as well as a variety of specialist degrees are also offered. The University’s central administration is located at the Mona Campus in Jamaica.

THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT

The CARICOM Secretariat is the principal administrative organ of the Community. It is headed by a Secretary-General and broadly organised into three Offices and three Directorates.

Secretaries-General of CARIFTA/CARICOM

1. Mr. Fred Cozier of Barbados (CARIFTA) from 1968 - 1969.
4. Dr. Kurleigh King of Barbados from 1979 - 1983
6. The current Secretary- General, appointed in 1992, is His Excellency Edwin Carrington of Trinidad and Tobago.
The three Offices of the Secretariat are:-

- Office of the Secretary-General
- Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
- Office of the General Counsel

The three Directorates of the Secretariat are:-

- Foreign and Community Relations
- Regional Trade and Economic Integration
- Human and Social Development

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT**
To provide dynamic leadership and service, in partnership with Community institutions and groups, toward the attainment of a viable, internationally competitive and sustainable Community, with improved quality of life for all.

**GOAL OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT**
The development of a viable internationally competitive and sustainable community
The functions of the Secretariat are to:-

- Service meetings of the Organs and Institutions of the Community and take appropriate follow-up action on decisions coming out from such meetings;

- Initiate, organise and conduct studies on issues for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;

- Provide, on request, services to Member States of the Community on matters relating to the achievement of its objectives;

- Collect, store and disseminate to Member States of the Community information relevant for the achievement of its objectives;

- Assist Community Organs in the development and implementation of proposals and programmes for the achievement of objectives of the Community;

- Co-ordinate in relation to the Community, the activities of donor agencies, international, regional and national institutions for the achievement of objectives of the Community;

- Prepare the draft budget of the Community for examination by the Budget Committee;
Provide, on request, technical assistance to national authorities to facilitate implementation of Community decisions;

Conduct, as mandated, fact-finding assignments in Member States, and;

Initiate or develop proposals for consideration and decision by competent Organs in order to achieve Community objectives.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Thematic priorities of the Secretariat are:-

- Governance
- Advancing Human and Social Development
- Economic Transformation and Competitiveness
- Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change
- Security
- Enhancing the Strategic Position of CARICOM within the Wider Caribbean, Hemispheric and Global Environment
- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

The following Fundamental Elements will pervade each of the Thematic Priorities

- Functional Cooperation
- Information and Communication Technology for Development
- Public Education, Advocacy and Image Building
- Statistics
- Research, Innovation and Technology
- Harmonised Legislation, Implementation and Monitoring
EXISTING MISSION STATEMENT
WORK PROGRAMME 2009-2010
THEMATIC PRIORITIES

“To provide dynamic leadership and service in partnership with Community institutions and groups towards the attainment of a viable, internationally competitive and sustainable Community, with improved quality of life for all”

GOVERNANCE
ADVANCING HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS
SECURITY
ENHANCING THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF CARICOM WITHIN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN, HEMISPHERIC AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Functional Cooperation
Information and Communication Technology for Development
Public Education, Advocacy and Image Building
Statistics
Research, Innovation and Technology
Harmonised Legislation, Implementation and Monitoring
STRENGTHENING THE TREATY OF CHAGUARAMAS

The Caribbean Integration Movement gained increased momentum in the 1970's, but by the 1980's the Heads of CARICOM felt that there was need to strengthen and deepen the integration movement by instituting a series of measures aimed at preparing CARICOM for the challenges the 90's and the 21st Century. A series of planning meetings culminated in the Grand Anse Declaration which was issued at the completion of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference in Grand Anse, Grenada in 1989. The Grand Anse Declaration included
not only the issues to be addressed, but a time-frame for their conclusion.

Many of the major initiatives that have engaged the Caribbean Community since then, including the Single Market and Economy and the free movement of CARICOM nationals, were laid out in this Declaration. But this was not only a declaration on the issues that needed to be addressed by the Community, but a Work Programme for “The Advancement of the Integration Movement”.

THE GRAND ANSE DECLARATION

The Grand Anse Declaration, in 1989, aimed at the establishment, in the shortest possible time, of a Single Market and Economy for the Caribbean Community. A fully revised Treaty of Chaguaramas was essential for this to happen. In addition, arrangements were expected to be made by January 1991 for the free movement of skilled and professional personnel, as well as for contract workers on a seasonal or project basis; and within a short period of time, the elimination of the requirement for work permits for CARICOM nationals beginning with the visual and performing arts, sports and the media traveling to CARICOM countries for specific regional events.

There was to be the establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians, as well as the establishment of an Independent West Indian Commission for Advancing the Goals of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.
The goal of The Grand Anse Declaration was to create a programme for the Community “to work expeditiously together to deepen the integration process and strengthen the Caribbean Community in all of its dimensions”.

THE CONSENSUS OF CHAGAURAMAS

The Timetable for these developments as prescribed in this Declaration could not be met, but ten years later a stock-taking was done at a Special Session of the Heads, at Chaguaramas in Trinidad and appears in a document entitled: “Consensus of Chaguaramas”. Some of the achievements noted in the Consensus of Chaguaramas included:-

- The revision of two Common Market Instruments, namely, the Common External Tariff and the Rules of Origin;
- Strengthened Customs Co-operation and Customs Administration;
- Provision for the free movement of capital and its facilitation by cross-listing and trading of securities in the existing three stock exchanges (Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago);
- Establishment of a Caribbean Investment Fund to provide equity and venture capital; Arrangements for the free
movement of skilled and professional persons;
- Intensification of joint representation in international economic negotiations;
- Establishment of an Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians;
- Establishment and completion of the work of the Independent West Indian Commission;
- Creation of a Council for Finance and Planning and a Committee of Governors of Central Banks to enhance consultation, cooperation and coordination on economic policies;
- Removal of barriers to trade in goods;
- Establishment of the regional legal framework for the provision of air and sea transportation.

The Leaders also noted that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy were close to completion.

At the heart of the new direction of CARICOM was the completion of the revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

In 1989, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at their Tenth Conference in Grand Anse, Grenada declared their intention to deepen the integration process and strengthen the Caribbean Community in all its dimensions. The
Leaders, at that time, determined that the Region would work towards the establishment of a Single Market and Economy as one aspect of its response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the changes in the global economy. By 1992, at their Thirteenth Conference. The necessary technical work on, and conceptualisation of, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), was completed and presented for endorsement by the Heads of Government.

In essence, the CSME was conceived as an instrument to facilitate economic development of the Member States in an increasingly liberalised and globalised international environment.

The Benefits of the CSME to the Caribbean

- full employment in CARICOM;
- improved standards of living and work;
- accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development;
- increased economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States, groups of States and entities;
- expansion of trade and economic relations with other Caribbean Countries, Central and Latin American Countries;
- the achievement of increasing levels of competitiveness; and organisation for increased production.
Economic Integration among twelve states who are members of the Caribbean Community reached a major milestone in July 2006. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago declared that they were ready to be a part of CSME.

The declaration meant that a person or company from any one of these Member States was now able to produce and trade in goods, provide services, move capital, establish business enterprises and move skilled labour into any other national market. In addition these States should have implemented policy and laws regulating competition, standards and technical regulations. They would enable social security transfer across each others' borders and ensure that CSME Nationals’ income would be taxed only once wherever they earn their living. They would also enable qualifications earned in one Member State to be accepted in another Member State.

“The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) would establish a single economic space within which business and labour operate; in order to stimulate greater productive efficiency, higher levels of domestic and foreign investment, increased employment, and growth of intra-regional trade and of extra-regional exports. The Single Market component consists of freedom of movement of goods, services, capital, business enterprise and skilled labour within
an area bounded by a customs union. This has been largely completed, and the Community now looks forward to implementation of the Single Economy. Under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, this requires harmonisation of policies, laws, and regulations; enhanced monetary cooperation, and common external economic policies.

A single vision also provides a framework of shared objectives to guide policies, priorities and sequencing for further implementation of the CSME.

Nonetheless, if implementation continues to lag behind commitments undertaken, the credibility of the integration process will be further undermined and the nay-sayers will find vindication. Reform of Community governance that addresses the implementation deficit is, therefore, crucial to the realisation of the Vision.”

[From: TOWARDS A SINGLE ECONOMY AND A SINGLE DEVELOPMENT VISION by Prof. Norman Girvan of the University of the West Indies In Collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Special Task Force on the Single Economy - Revised 11 May 2007]

This Report, which was approved by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of The Conference of Heads of Government of The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in July 2007, also provides a schedule for implementation of measures by Member States to bring about the full CSME. This schedule is divided into two phases with broad-based time-lines as follows:-
PHASE 1: (MID 2007– END 2009): CONSOLIDATION OF SINGLE MARKET AND INITIATION OF SINGLE ECONOMY

Implementation actions:-

- Adoption of CARICOM Investment Code
- Adoption of CARICOM Financial Services Agreement
- Extension of free movement of labour to teachers, nurses and domestic workers
- Streamlining of procedures for free movement of labour including contingent rights and transfer of social security benefits
- Implementation of free movement of service providers, with streamlined procedures. Implementation of Legal status for the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society
- Implementation of recommendations of the Technical Working Group on Governance
- Establishment and commencement of operations of the Regional Development Fund
- Establishment of the Regional Stock Exchange

Preparatory activities

- Forging of social partnership by agreement among the social partners on a Regional Social Compact
- Further technical and consultative work, in collaboration with stakeholders, and decisions on regional policy frameworks for:
Energy-related industries; Agriculture; Sustainable tourism and agro-tourism; New export services; Transport and Small and medium enterprises

>>> Preparation, negotiation and political approval of the Protocol on Enhanced Monetary Cooperation, to come into effect no later than January 1, 2011.

>>> Agreement among Central Banks on common CARICOM currency numeraire, to come into effect no later than January 1, 2011.

>>> Finalisation of technical work on harmonisation of investment incentives, corporate tax code, revised Double Taxation Agreement, capital market integration and a financial regulatory environment.

>>> Further technical work, consultation with stakeholders, and political decisions on: Regional Environmental Regulatory regime; Common policy framework on Small and Medium Enterprises; Regional Competition Policy; Technical Standards; Regional Intellectual Property regime and Principles of Corporate Governance.


This will consist of a phased implementation of the decisions taken in Phase 1, namely:

>>> Implementation of common policies in Energy-related industries, Agriculture, Sustainable tourism and agro-tourism, Transport, and Small and medium enterprises.

>>> Harmonisation of taxation systems, incentives, and financial and regulatory environment.

>>> Harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies.
Implementation of Regional Competition Policy and Regional Intellectual Property Regime.
Implementation of CARICOM Monetary Union.

REGIONAL PORTFOLIOS

In order to hasten the pace of this new and broadened thrust for a Single Market and Economy, the responsibility for important areas of economic and social sectors in CARICOM were distributed among various CARICOM Heads of Government. The following is a list of Portfolios and the countries that were assigned the lead in these areas:-

- **SERVICES**
  - Antigua and Barbuda
- **TOURISM** (including Land, Cruise, ACP/EU Partnership Agreement provisions, etc.)
  - The Bahamas
- **SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY** (Including Monetary Union)
  - Barbados
- **JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE**
  - Belize
- **LABOUR** (including intra-community movement of skills)
  - Dominica
- **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** (including information and communications)
  - Grenada
AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION AND FOOD SECURITY (including the Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture - RTP and Bananas)
Guyana

EXTERNAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
Jamaica

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS
St. Kitts and Nevis

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (including Environment and Disaster Management and Water)
Saint Lucia

TRANSPORT (Maritime and Aviation)
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL COOPERATION (including Culture, Gender, Youth and Sport)
Suriname

ENERGY SECURITY (Drugs and Illicit Arms)
Trinidad and Tobago
Three priority areas that CARICOM has placed urgent and particular emphasis on have been the rapidly growing Information Society in which all Member States are now engaged; the on-going importance of Sustainable Development and Climate Change for both the growth and survival of members of CARICOM; and the essential focus on one of CARICOM’s greatest resources, Youth Development.

Information Society

The growing importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in human societies is undoubtedly one of the defining features of our present-day world. ICTs have become incorporated into all levels of human endeavour, and have had a great impact on the way humans communicate. Over the last decade the most obvious example of ICTs enormous transformative power has been the development of the Internet and World Wide Web (WWW). The prominence of information in today's society has led various scholars and leaders to claim that we now live in a new “Information Society,” a society where information dominates new modes of social organization. Components of the Information Society include blogs, podcasts, wikis, websites, search engines, games, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and peer-to-peer services, Email (e.g. yahoo, hotmail, gmail); online chat (e.g. MSN Messenger, Yahoo messenger) and file transfers.

Information Society and Youth: The Information Society has repeatedly been built by young and dynamic people: Sergey Brin and
Larry Page founders of Google are in their 30’s and so is the Dane, Janus Friis, co-founder of Skype is 30 and Linus Torvald created Linux in 1991, when he was only 22. And, of course, Bill Gates was only 19 when he founded Microsoft.

**Why is the Information Society important to young people?** Young people are creators and consumers of technologies ranging from mobile telephones to email, to instant messaging, radio and television. As both business and social entrepreneurs, youth are creatively using technology to address community needs.

**Sustainable Development and Caribbean Community**
Sustainable Development stands at the heart of many of the Caribbean Community's development initiatives for the present and future generations. This task is not about finding discreet actions to address a range of developmental challenges facing the Community such as trade, land degradation or poverty reduction. It is about adopting integrated approaches to address the multiple effects of the global, hemispheric and regional transformations taking place and to realize the benefits from those transformations for the Caribbean people. The Caribbean Community Member States are committed to building a strong economic foundation that includes not just the opportunities for high and stable levels of economic growth and employment, but also high standards of environmental quality and social equity.

In pursuing these goals the region's sustainable development programmes are guided mainly by the 1994 Barbados Programme of
Action (BPOA) for Small Islands and low-lying coastal developing states (SIDS). The BPOA was later reviewed after 10 year in 2005 in the form of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (MSI). These two UN documents were motivated by the outcomes of the 1972 United Nations Stockholm global conference on the environment and 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At UNCED, it was recognised that SIDS as a group had special needs that are different from the larger more diverse developed and developing countries, and if they were to develop in a sustainable manner, they require the sustained attention and support of the international community.

The BPOA and MSI are global frameworks that seek to create an enabling environment to fulfill the development aspirations of the small developing states like those in the Caribbean. The frameworks advocate “intersectoral action with an intergenerational perspective at the regional level”. In addressing these challenges, CARICOM Member States require special and sustained attention in fostering environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, culturally respectful and economically viable development to be provided with the support promised by the international community at the two UN SIDS Conferences. Since 1994, the CARICOM Secretariat has been fully engaged with a number of international and regional partners in designing, implementing and executing development programmes and projects to facilitate CARICOM Member States in meeting many of the goals set in the BPOA and MSI.
Climate Change

Climate Change, climate variability, sea level rise and extreme weather events are serious threats to the sustainable development of many countries including those in the Caribbean. Climate variability refers to the variation in the normal and expected states of our climate, particularly as it is associated with weather events and patterns.

On the other hand, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was established in 1992 by the UNCED and whose principal objective is the stabilization of greenhouse gases (GHGs) points out that climate change is “...a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that alters the composition of global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods ...". The UNFCCC also underscored that accelerated climate change, or 'global warming,' arising from the emission of 'greenhouse gases' (GHGs) posed threats to human wellbeing and ecosystem integrity and that, while the nature of the threats remains very uncertain, action should be taken in advance of scientific certainty though the adaptation of the 'precautionary principle'. In the application of this "principle" it was advocated that developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions of GHGs and that the 'incremental cost' of any actions taken by developing countries under the Convention should be complemented by the international community. However, the GHG emissions reduction targets set under the UNFCCC were not legally binding, but centered on the returns of industrialised countries'
emissions of CO2 in 2000 to the 1990 levels. These voluntary targets set for 2000 have not been met by many of the signatories to the Convention from the developed countries.

Meanwhile, the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC was agreed to in December 1997. In contrast to the approach by the Convention in setting the 2000 voluntary targets, the Protocol set mandatory targets through binding international law, using the period from 2008 to 2012 as the first 'commitment period'. However, while the initial responsibility for tackling climate change rests with the developed countries, proportionally, it is the people living in the developing countries that are likely to suffer more from the impact of climate change. Nonetheless, developing countries can benefit from climate change control policies in a direct manner if the international community provides the opportunities that create an enabling environment to facilitate those opportunities in small developing countries. This is the source of much of the on-going climate change negotiations.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) whose principal responsibility is to assess the scientific literature on climate change is another important institutional arrangement that provide guidance to the international community. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - a consortium of several thousand independent scientists that operates under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), says rising levels of industrial pollution are unnaturally enhancing climate change as a result of
increasing amounts of heat being trapped near the earth instead of escaping into space. The IPCC says that the main culprits are the burning of fossil fuels - oils, coal and gas - and the major changes in land use practices. The main greenhouse gas from human activity is carbon dioxide (CO2). Before the industrial revolution, atmospheric CO2 concentrations were about 270 - 280 parts per million (ppm). These concentrations now stand at almost 330 ppm and have been rising at about 1.5 ppm annually. The IPCC indicate in its latest report of 2007 that if these trends continue the global climate system will be severely disrupted and result in major global catastrophes. The IPCC also acknowledges that perusing sustainable development provides the most effective policy framework to address climate change.

The Caribbean Community Response to Climate Change

In the Caribbean Community, Climate Change is not viewed as just a global environmental problem, but as a major influence on the Region's development process. This is largely because the Region depends heavily on its natural resources for almost every economic and social activity and this highlights the risk that climate change poses to the Region. This situation is further compounded by the Region's limited institutional, human and financial capabilities and in some cases the geographic location.

To address these challenges posed by Climate Change, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in July, 2002 decided to establish the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) also known as the 5Cs. The 5Cs was established in March, 2003 with the mandate to:
1. Protect the climate system of the members of the Centre for the benefit of the present and future generations of their people.
2. Enhance regional institutional capabilities for the coordination of national responses to the negative effects of climate change.
3. Provide comprehensive policies and technical support in the area of climate change and related issues and spearheading regional initiative in those areas.
4. Performing the role of executing agency for regional projects related to climate change.

Climate Change and Energy
Energy services are essential for sustainable development. Energy services include things such as lighting, cooking, heating and cooling, water pumping, refrigeration, transportation and communications. All of these can be produced from both conventional and renewable sources of energy. However, the manner in which these services are produced, distributed and used affect the economic, environmental and social structure of societies. Energy in itself is not a basic human need. It is, however, essential for the fulfillment of other basic needs. Lack of access to diverse and affordable energy services underscores the vulnerability of many people living in developing countries to meeting their basic needs.

Many countries in the Caribbean Community are highly dependent on imported fossil fuels for energy supplies. In CARICOM these imports consume a significant percentage of foreign exchange. In addition, the use of fossil fuels contributes directly to the degradation of the environment through pollution and increased emissions, and
therefore is a significant factor in the economic, environmental and social vulnerability of many CARICOM Member States. Fossil fuel use is the principal contributor to greenhouse gases.

In the Caribbean Community, the potential to harness and develop renewable energy from resources such as biomass, hydro, ocean, solar and wind is vast. Some CARICOM Member States have made innovative use of solar and wind power, agricultural by-products and hydro-power sources.

These are welcome signs in the Caribbean Community which need to be further developed, since a reliable energy supply is essential to economic stability, growth, employment and improved living standards.

**Sea Level Rise**

In a publication of May 2009 titled "Low Carbon, High Growth - Latin American Responses to Climate Change" the World Bank pointed out that on the basis of recent information among the 25 most vulnerable countries in the Americas facing sea-level rise, six (6) are CARICOM Member States. These are the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname. Generally, rising sea levels and changing weather patterns can have particularly disastrous consequences for countries whose infrastructure, settlement patterns and economic well-being are concentrated in coastal areas as is the case in many of CARICOM Member States.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has also projected that sea level will rise between 11-77 cm for the rest of this
century. Marine and coastal areas, wetlands and coastal forests will be affected by changes in sea level. Mangrove swamps and coastal lagoons are expected to undergo rapid change and may be lost altogether. Low-lying coastal areas could also be displaced by salt water habitats which would disrupt fresh water based ecosystems. These changes are likely to result in the dislocation of migratory birds and aquatic species which cannot tolerate increased salinity or flooding. Migratory and resident birds, mammals and fish may lose important staging, feeding and breeding grounds that are difficult to replace under competing demands for scarce land. When combined, these factors will affect the sustainability of fisheries and result in the general loss of biodiversity in coastal ecosystems.

Youth Development
CARICOM currently has in place two special regional initiatives aimed at Youth Development.

First, the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development: The CARICOM Commission on Youth Development comprises eight experienced youth leaders and seven technocrats, all of whom have made outstanding theoretical, practical and research contributions to the development and empowerment of Caribbean youth. The mandate of the Commission is to undertake a comprehensive assessment of adolescents and youth across the Region and make a clear statement, advising Heads of Government of the kind of society that nationals aged 10-29, in and out of school (including those outside of institutional frameworks), wish to live in, and for this purpose:-
1) Identify gaps in existing policy, legislative and institutional frameworks;
2) Suggest policy options and strategic directions for creating an enabling environment for active and effective youth participation in development and integration systems and processes; and
3) Create a profile of the “ideal Caribbean youth”. The Commission was established by the Conference of Heads of Government in March 2007.

Secondly, the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP): The CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP) is an initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government, promoting youth participation in regional integration and development processes and equipping young Caribbean nationals with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources to:

1) Advocate for and educate young people about issues on the agenda of the Heads of Government;
2) Develop and coordinate the implementation of integrated youth-focused projects in collaboration with national and regional youth organizations NGOs; and
3) Channel youth ideas and perspectives to the Region's policy makers and share information on CARICOM policies and programme with young people.

Each Member State is eligible to nominate one male and one female for a maximum term of three years.
The Youth Ambassador Programme was launched in Saint Lucia in 1993 by the CARICOM Heads of Government as a component of the programme celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It is coordinated and driven by youth, and has HIV/AIDS, the CSME and Information and Communication Technologies as core thematic priorities. Capacity-Building, Youth Participation and Networking are cross-cutting strategies.

THE UNITED NATIONS
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that 192 United Nations member states, including all the Member States of CARICOM, and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. Each of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is attached to specific targets and indicators. The goals and targets give a clear picture of what the world could look like by 2015. There are 8 goals and 18 targets:

GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
  >>> Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day by 2015
  >>> Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015
GOAL 2 Achieve universal primary education
>>> Make sure that all boys and girls are able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015

GOAL 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
>>> Get rid of gender differences in primary and secondary education by 2005

GOAL 4 Reduce child mortality
>>> Reduce the number of under-five children who die by two thirds by 2015

GOAL 5 Improve maternal health
>>> Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters by 2015

GOAL 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
>>> Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015
>>> Halt and begin to reverse the spread of malaria and other major diseases by 2015

GOAL 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
>>> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources by 2015
>>> Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015
>>> Make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020
GOAL 8 Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies.

THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is seen as an essential part of the effort to deepen and strengthen CARICOM and provision is made...
for the CCJ under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The CCJ is meant to be the final arbiter of disputes concerning the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty, through the exercise of its original jurisdiction. At this juncture too, with CARICOM forging ahead with the creation of a Single Market and Economy in response to the fast pace of the globalisation of international trade, the establishment of a Caribbean Court of Justice has become a critical component in the way the Single Market functions.

The CCJ is also meant to be the highest Appeal Court in CARICOM. In the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction, the CCJ will consider and determine appeals in both civil and criminal matters from courts within the jurisdictions of Member States of the Community and which are parties to the Agreement establishing the CCJ. In the discharge of its appellate jurisdiction, the CCJ will be the highest municipal court in the Region. However, some Member States are still to implement the Agreement establishing the CCJ as the final court of appeal.

The Workings of the CCJ
The CCJ discharges functions of an international tribunal applying rules of international law in respect of the interpretation and application of the Treaty. In this regard, the CCJ would be performing functions like the European Court of Justice, the European Court of First Instance, the Andean Court of Justice and the International Court of Justice. The CCJ has its headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago. In the exercise of its original jurisdiction, the Court sits in...
Trinidad and Tobago, but will be an iterant court, sitting in any of the member states, as required, in the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction.

Article V (1) of the Agreement establishing the CCJ, provides for the establishment of a Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission which will have the responsibility for the appointment of the judges. This Commission will comprise nine members, many of whom are selected by institutions of civil society, and independent of governments. The judges are not only drawn from the Caribbean Region. They are appointed by the Commission and can only be dismissed on the recommendation of the Commission acting on the advice of a tribunal established for the purpose. This approach for the selection and removal of the Judges was conceived in order to safeguard the political independence of the Court. CARICOM is probably the only integration movement where judges are not appointed by the political directorate to interpret and apply the instrument establishing the movement.

A Trust Fund has been established, the proceeds of which will defray expenses of the Court and make it independent of Governments. Sections of the international donor community have already contributed to the fund. As part of the judicial process too, the Agreement establishing the CCJ itself stipulates that States must take legislative steps to ensure that the judgements delivered by the CCJ are enforced.
THE CULTURAL BONDS OF CARICOM

Predating the Treaty of Chaguaramas by hundreds of years has been the cultural bonding of the Caribbean people in Song, Dance and Sports, particularly Cricket. CARIFESTA and West Indies Cricket are two shining symbols of CARICOM that touch the hearts of all Caribbean citizens.

THE CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS (CARIFESTA)

The Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) was conceived out of an appeal from a regional gathering of artists who were at the time participating in a Writers and Artists Convention in Georgetown, Guyana in 1970 which coincided with Guyana’s move to Republican status.

The three main considerations with regard to the staging of the first CARIFESTA in 1972 were:
The Festival should be inspirational and should provide artists with the opportunity to discuss among themselves techniques and motivations;

It should be educational in that the people of the Caribbean would be exposed to the values emerging from the various art forms; and

It should relate to people and be entertaining on a scale and in a fashion that would commend itself to the Caribbean people.

It is a vision of the peoples with roots deep in Asia, Europe and Africa, coming together to perform their art forms and embracing literature inspired by the Caribbean's own peculiar temperament; paintings drawn from the awe-inspiring tropical ecology; and the visionary inheritance of our forefathers.

The regional creative festival was first held in Georgetown, Guyana in 1972, attracting creative artistes from over 30 Caribbean and Latin American countries. The symbol of the first CARIFESTA was a dark hand rising and grasping the sun, depicting the skills and aspirations of the tropical man with talent untold.
WEST INDIES CRICKET

The Commonwealth Caribbean Countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have made their largest and longest single investment in cricket culture. The Caribbean people, in making this game their greatest single cultural investment for over eighty years, have come to associate the game, and its wider social relationships, with the principal projects of nation-building and identity formation. From 1928, when the Caribbean was granted Test status, each generation produced a superstar cricketer who became a social icon capturing the imagination of an expectant local society and receiving recognition of excellence the world over. Learie Constantine inherited the mantle from George Challenor and passed it to George
Headley who in turn secured it in the hands of the '3 W's' - Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes, and Clyde Walcott. They in turn, consolidated it in the person of the unparalleled Gary Sobers who passed it to Viv Richards and then to the world record holder, Brian Lara.

The rise to international prominence and leadership by the West Indies Test team in the 1970's and 1980's was understood within the Caribbean Community as a reflection of something much larger and more significant than mere cricket - it was the self-confident assertion of Caribbean citizens of the right to occupy a dignified place in the modern world.

The Community, through its many informal channels, has initiated a search for a remedy to the recent drop in standards and performance of the Regional Cricket Team on the International stage.

To this end, the CARICOM Secretariat and the University of the West Indies (UWI) mounted the Regional Cricket Conference in May-June, 2000, to assist citizens across the Region in debating the critical issues in a formal and coherent manner. The forum sought to focus on the state of West Indies cricket as both performance sport and as popular culture. This is consistent with the people's understanding of the on-going process of nation-building, and due respect for the importance of cricket as identity and social markers.
Committee on Governance of West Indies Cricket

By letter of 16 February 2007, the then President of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) Inc, Mr. Ken Gordon, announced the decision of the WICB to establish a highlevel Committee, with the following Terms of Reference:-

1) To review the performance of the WICB, past and current, and to assess its strengths and weaknesses
2) To consult at whatever level may be considered desirable with past or present administrators, past or present players, cricketing organisations or the general public.
3) To consider the composition and structure of the WICB and to make recommendations which will improve its overall operations, governance effectiveness, team performance and strengthen its credibility and public support.

The Committee comprises:-

- The Most Hon. P. J. Patterson, ON, PC, QC - Chairman
- Sir Alister McIntyre, OM, OCC
- Dr. Ian McDonald, AA

The Governance Committee completed its work and presented its report to the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in 2007. The WICB in its turn pledged to examine and implement various aspects of the recommendations.
Integration of the Peoples of the Caribbean

Culture and Sports are only two aspects of the integration and common interests of the peoples of the Caribbean at the grass-root level. In the end, true economic and other forms of integration can only come about through the support and involvement of the majority of the CARICOM population. Secretary General of the Caribbean Community, His Excellency Edwin Carrington, summarized it this way:

But building that Caribbean structure requires much more than the bricks supplied by the political, economic and legal masons. It requires the people of the Region to be the mortar which holds the bricks together and makes the structure sturdy...

CARICOM AWARDS

The Order of Caribbean Community

The Order of Caribbean Community is the highest honour of CARICOM and is one of two awards with which the Community recognises and honours the outstanding work done by persons in helping to build the organisation and the Region.
The CARICOM Triennial Award for Women
The second award is the CARICOM Triennial Award for Women, and is presented every three years. Through this award, the Caribbean Community honours Caribbean women who have contributed to the socio-economic and socio-cultural development of women in the Region.

ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

1992

Mr. William G. Demas - Trinidad and Tobago
Sir Shridath S. Ramphal - Guyana
Dr. Derek Walton Walcott - Saint Lucia

1994

H.E. Dame Nita Barrow - Barbados
Justice Philip Telford Georges - Dominica
Sir Meredith Alister Mc Intyre - Grenada
The Most Hon. Michael Norman Manley – Jamaica
ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

1998
The Rt. Hon. Vere Cornwall Bird Snr. - Antigua and Barbuda

Sir Philip Manderson Sherlock - Jamaica

Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers - Barbados

H.E. Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson - Trinidad and Tobago

2001

Sir George Allenmoore Ogaren Alleyne - Barbados

Rt. Hon George Cadle Price - Belize

Dr. Slinger Francisco - “The Mighty Sparrow” - Trinidad and Tobago
ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

2003
Dame Mary Eugenia Charles - Dominica

Sir John Melville Compton - Saint Lucia

Mr. Lloyd Algernon Best - Trinidad and Tobago

2008
H.E. Dr Nicholas Joseph Orville Liverpool - Dominica

Hon. George Lamming, CHB - Barbados

Prof. The Hon. Ralston (Rex) Nettleford - Jamaica

Mr Brian Lara - Trinidad and Tobago

President Fidel Castro Ruiz - Cuba (Honorary OCC)

2009
The Most Hon. Percival Noel James Patterson - Jamaica
CARICOM Triennial Award for Women

HONOUREES

1984  Ms. Nesta Patrick - Trinidad and Tobago

1987  Dame Nita Barrow - Barbados

1990  Dr. Peggy Antrobus - St. Vincent and The Grenadines

1993  Ms. Magda Pollard – Guyana

1996  Hon. Dr. Lucille Mathurin-Mair O.J. – Jamaica

1999  Professor Joycelyn Massiah – Guyana

2002  Professor Rhoda Reddock - Trinidad and Tobago

2005  Hon.Madam Justice Desiree Bernard - Guyana

2008  Professor Barbara Bailey - Jamaica
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: The island of 365 beaches

Area: 442 km² (170 miles²)
Capital: St. John's
Airport: V.C Bird International (Antigua); Codrington (Barbuda)
Membership date: 04/07/74

Motto: Each Endeavouring All Achieving

Status: Independent since 1 November 1981


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
Located in the Eastern Caribbean at the southern end of the Leeward Islands, 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Puerto Rico.

History:
Columbus landed on Antigua in 1493 and named the island after the church of Santa Maria de la Antigua in Seville, Spain. It was colonised by the English in 1632 and apart from a brief French occupation in 1667, remained British until becoming an 'Associated State' in 1967. The islands attained full independence on 1 November 1981. In the late 18th century the islands served as a major naval dockyard for the British fleet in the Eastern Caribbean.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2009. Next elections due in 2014.

Ruling Party:
United Progressive Party (UPP)
Major Political Parties:
United Progressive Party (UPP), Antigua Labour Party (ALP), Barbuda People's Movement (BPM)

Head of State:
H.E. The Hon. Louise Lake-Tack, Governor-General

Head of Government:
Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister

Economic Summary:
In the late 1970s and 1980s, GDP increased by 7 per cent per year, but growth slowed to an average of half of this rate during the period 1990-1994. In 1995 the productive sectors suffered extensive damage caused by Hurricane Luis. The economy however regained growth during the period 1996-1998, resulting in an estimated increase of 2.8% in 1998. Tourism is the main national income earner. Dry climate and a large number of white sand beaches play an important role in the growing container cargo and cruise passenger traffic. Agriculture, fishing and a growing manufacturing sector are also contributing to national economic development.

GDP: EC$ Mn 3002 (2007)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-12:00 hrs; 13:00-16:00 hrs (Monday to Saturday). Closed on Thursday afternoons.
Government: 08:00-16:30 hrs. (Monday to Thursday); 08:00-15:00 hrs (Friday)

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Labour Day (First Monday in May), Whit Monday (First Monday in June), CARICOM Day (First Monday in July), Summer Carnival (Monday and Tuesday of first week of August), Independence Day (01 November), Christmas Day (25 December), Boxing Day (26 December). Holidays that fall on a Sunday are observed the following Monday

National Anthem:
Fair Antigua and Barbuda
(Words by Novelle H. Richards; Music by Walter P. Chambers)
Highest National Award:
Order of the Nation

Favourite dish:
Antigua pepperpot

Government web page:
http://www.antigua-barbuda.com
THE BAHAMAS: The place where worlds meet

Motto: Forward, Upward, Onward Together

Status: Independent 10 July 1973

Currency: Bahamian dollar

Location:
An archipelago of 700 islands and more than 2,000 islets spread over a total area of approximately 161,000 square km (100,000 square miles), 80 km (50 miles) off the southeast coast of Florida at its closest point and extending in a 1,200 km (750 miles) arc towards the northern edge of the Caribbean Sea.

History:
The islands were colonised by the English in the 16th century and was a British Crown Colony from 1717 until internal self-rule in 1964. It gained independence on 10 July 1973.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2007. Next elections due in 2012.

Ruling Party:
Free National Movement (FNM)

Major Political Parties:

Economic Summary:
Tourism is the mainstay of the economy, providing employment directly and indirectly for over 50,000 persons. The industry is oriented mainly
towards short-stay visitors and is concentrated in Nassau and Grand Bahamas. There is a strong offshore financial services sector which contributes an estimated 7% to GDP. There is a container transshipment port on Grand Bahamas, as well as some export manufacturing. Agriculture is limited to about 3% of GDP.

Head of State:
H.E. The Hon. Arthur Dion Hanna, Governor General

Head of Government:
Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 19,532 (2007)

Business Hours: Commercial: 09:00 hrs-17:00 hrs Monday to Saturday. Shops close on Thursday afternoons and open on selected Sundays to accommodate cruise ship visits. Government: 09:00 hrs-17:30 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Whit Monday; Labour Day (02 June); Independence Day (10 July); Emancipation Day (04 August); Discovery Day (12 October); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December) Holidays that fall on Saturday or Sunday are observed on the following Monday

National Anthem: March on Bahama Land
(Words and music by Timothy Gibson)

Highest National Award:
Governor General Award

Favourite Dish:
Steamed Conch 'n Tomato Paste

Government web page:
http://www.bahamas.gov.bs
BARBADOS: Land of the flying fish

Motto: Pride and Industry

Status: Independent since 30 November 1966


Currency: Barbados Dollar

Location:
Most easterly of the Caribbean islands, immediately east of the Windward Islands and 460 km [285.7 miles] northwest of Venezuela.

History:
Barbados, first sighted by the Portuguese, was settled by the English in 1627 and remained under British Control until independence in 1966. The Barbados House of Assembly is the third oldest legislature in the Americas, dating from 1639.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2008. Next elections due 2013.

Ruling Party:
Democratic Labour Party (DLP)

Major Political Parties:
Democratic Labour Party (DLP), Barbados Labour Party (BLP), National Democratic Party (NDP)

Economic Summary:
Tourism is the main industry of this broad-based economy, accounting for an estimated 15.4 per cent of GDP and 50.6 percent of foreign-exchange earnings in 1996. Off-shore financing and informatics are also important foreign-exchange earners. There is a light manufacturing
sector which is focused mainly at the local market although there is some exporting to other Caribbean countries. The products include foodstuff, beer, flour, animal feeds and chemicals. The main agro-industries are sugar refining and rum distilling, each with substantial export production. The construction sector is basically tourism-related and has recorded an average growth of 4.3 per cent in 1993-6. Cement is produced locally and is a substantial boost to the industry.

Head of State:
Hon. Sir Clifford Husbands, GCMG, KA., Governor-General

Head of Government:
Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 8,265 (2005)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday; 08:00-13:00 hrs Saturday. Government: 08:15-16:30 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year’s Day (01 January); Errol Barrow Day (21 January); Good Friday, Easter Monday, National Heroes Day (28 April), Labour Day (01 May); Whit Monday (01 June); Emancipation Day (01 August); Kadooment Day (First Monday in August); Independence Day (30 November); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December). Holidays that fall on a Sunday are observed the following Monday

National Anthem:
In plenty and in time of need (Words by Irvine Burgie; music by Van Roland Edwards)

Highest National Award:
Knight of St. Andrew

Favourite Dish:
Cou-Cou and Flying Fish, Jug Jug

Government web page:
http://www.barbados.gov.bb
BELIZE: Mother Nature’s best kept secret

Area: 22,966 km² (8,867 miles²)
Capital: Belmopan
Airport: Phillip Goldson International
Membership date: 01/05/74

Motto: Under the Shade I Flourish
Status: Independent - 21 September 1981
Currency: Belize Dollar

Location:
On the Caribbean coast of Central America with Mexico bordering on the north and part of the west, and Guatemala on the southwest.

History:
Belize was part of the Mayan empire of Central America, which flourished between 300 and 900 AD. The country changed hands between Spain and Britain from the early 1600s until 1862 when the country became British Honduras. The country was renamed Belize in 1973 and gained independence in 1981.

Elections:
Last elections 2008. Next elections due 2013

Ruling Party:
United Democratic Party (UDP),

Major Political Parties:
United Democratic Party (UDP), People’s United Party (PUP)

Economic Summary:
Agriculture is the leading sector, accounting for 21.5 per cent of GDP and about 70 per cent of export earnings. Sugar cane accounts for about half
of arable land acreage. Sugar is a major agricultural export, contributing 28.7 per cent of domestic export earnings valued at US$44.5 million for 1998. Bananas, another major export earner, brought in 15.8 per cent of domestic export earnings valued at approximately US$24.5 million for just over 50,000 tonnes produced in 1998. Citrus - orange and grapefruit - production reached almost 265,000 tonnes. The fruit is processed and exported as frozen concentrate. In 1998, 3.3 million gallons were produced, accounting for 13.9 per cent of domestic earnings valued at US$21.3 million. Meanwhile, efforts are advancing to diversify into nontraditional crops such as papaya, cucumber and ginger. Other export crops include cocoa, vegetables and tropical fruit. Marine products have become an important source of foreign exchange as well as being a vital domestic food source. Lobster and shrimp are the main marine exports which totaled almost 2,000 tonnes in 1998. There are 13 fishing cooperatives, four of which boast a total membership of 800, and are the major contributors to the export industry. There are six shrimp farms in operation.

The forestry industry has been growing in recent years. Government has initiated a national reforestation programme, adding new impetus to this sector's development. Re-export trade have been making a significant impact on merchandise exports, yielding approximately US$13 million in 1998, equivalent to 7 per cent of total merchandise exports. Tourism is on the upswing, realising some of the nation's potential as a specialist holiday destination. The barrier reef (coral) - the second longest in the world - is a popular site for scuba diving. Mayan archaeological sites are among a number of important tourist attractions being promoted.

Head of State:
H.E. Sir Colville N. Young Snr., GCMG, MBE, PhD, Governor-General

Head of Government:
The Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow, Prime Minister


Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00 to 16:00 hrs Monday to Friday; Government: 08:00 to 17:00 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Baron Bliss Day (09 March); Good Friday;
Holy Saturday; Easter Monday; Labour Day (02 May); Sovereign's Day (24 May); National Day (10 September); Independence Day (21 September); Columbus Day (12 October); Garifuna Settlement Day (19 November); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
Land of the Free

Highest National Award:
The Queen's Award

Favourite Dish:
Rice and beans with meat and potato salad

Government web page:
http://www.belize.gov.bz
DOMINICA: Nature Island of the Caribbean

Motto: After the Good Lord, we Love the Earth

Status: Independent Republic - 3 November 1978


Currency: Easter Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
The most northerly and largest of the Windward Islands situated between Guadeloupe to the north, and Martinique to the south.

History:
Dominica was occupied first by the Amerindians. It was sighted and named by Christopher Columbus in 1493. The island changed hands several times in the 18th century, but it finally became British in 1805. It was joined to the Leeward, then the Windward Island, and achieved separate status in 1960. Dominica became a British Associate State in 1967, and gained independence on November 3, 1978.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2009. Next election due 2014

Ruling Party:
Dominica Labour Party (DLP)

Major Political Parties:
Dominica Labour Party (DLP), United Workers Party (UWP),
Dominica Freedom Party (DFP)

Economic Summary:
Agriculture and fishing accounted for 20.5 per cent of GDP in 1997. Bananas are the main export crop. Copra, produced from local coconuts, supports the main manufacturing industry, soap. Eco-tourism is being promoted, with rainforests, volcanic scenery and scuba diving as the main attractions. A deep-water harbour and a cruise-ship terminal are two of the infra-structural development efforts impacting on the national economy.

Head of State:  
H.E. Dr. Nicholas Joseph Orville Liverpool, DAH, President

Head of Government:  
Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 914 (2007)

Business Hours:  
Commercial: 08:00-17:00 hrs Monday to Friday; 08:00 - 13:00 hrs Sat.  
Government: 08:00-14:00 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:  
New Year's Day (01 January); Carnival (Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday); Good Friday, Easter Monday; Labour Day (01 May); Whit Monday (50 days after Easter Sunday); August Monday (First Monday in August); Independence Day (03 November); Community Day of Service (04 November); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:  
Isle of Beauty  
(Words by W.O.M. Pond, Music by L.M. Christian)

Highest National Award:  
Sisserou Award of Honour

Favourite Dishes:  
Mountain Chicken; Lobster Dominic

Government web page:  
http://www.ndcdominica.dm
GRENADA: The Spice Isle

Area: 345 km² (133 miles²)
Capital: St. George's
Airport: Point Salines International
Membership date: 01/05/74

Motto: Ever Conscious of God We Aspire, Build and Advance as One People

Status: Independent since 7 February 1974


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
The most southerly of the Windward Islands, 135km (83.8 miles) north of Trinidad and Tobago

History:
Columbus landed on the island in 1498. Grenada was settled by the French in 1650. It was alternately ruled by the French and British until 1783 when, under the Treaty of Versailles, the island became British. It was joined to the Windward Islands in 1833, and was a part of the West Indies Federation from 1958-62. It gained independence on 7 February 1974. The Maurice Bishop Government which came to power in 1979 was toppled by an internal coup in 1983, and an interim government prepared the way for 1984 elections.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2008. Next elections due in 2013

Ruling Party:
National Democratic Congress (NDC)

Major Political Parties:
National Democratic Congress (NDC), New National Party (NNP),
Grenada United Labour Party (GULP)

Economic Summary:
Tourism is the main source of foreign-exchange earnings, recording modest growth at an average of 4.6% in 1997-1998. There is a small offshore financial sector, legislation of which was updated in 1996. Agriculture accounted for 8.3% of GDP in 1997 and about one-sixth of employment.

Nutmeg and mace are major exports. Grenada is the world's second largest producer of these crops after Indonesia, supplying one-quarter of world demand. These crops have benefited from higher prices, caused by Indonesia production shortfalls. There is a small manufacturing sector, with some food processing, beverages, garments and assembly industries.

Head of State:
H.E. Sir Daniel Williams, GCMG, QC, Governor General

Head of Government:
Hon. Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 1,612 (2007)

Business Hours:
General: 08:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Thursday. 08:00-17:00 hrs Friday. There is a one-hour break from 12:00-13:00 hrs.

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Independence Day (07 February); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour Day (01 May); Whit Monday; Corpus Christi (as decreed); Emancipation Day (04 August); Carnival (11-12 August); Thanksgiving Day (25 October); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
Hail! Grenada land of ours

Highest National Award:
Grenada does not have a system of national awards. Instead, the achievement of citizens in various areas of national development is recognised each year in a grand awards ceremony held to coincide with

80
Independence Day.

Favourite Dish:
Oil Down

Government website:
http://www.gov.gd

NOTES:
GUYANA: Land of Many Waters

Motto: One People, One Nation, One Destiny

Status: Republic.
Independent since 26 May 1966; Republic status since 23 February 1970


Currency: Guyana Dollar

Location:
On the northern coast of the South American continent bounded by the
Atlantic Ocean on the north, Brazil to the southwest, Suriname to the
east and Venezuela to the northwest.

History:
Guyana was originally inhabited by Amerindians. It was settled by the
Dutch in the 16th century and changed hands between the Dutch, British
and French from the late 16th to 19th century and was finally ceded to
Britain in 1814. Independence was achieved in 1966 and the Cooperative
Republic of Guyana declared in 1970.

Elections:
Last elections held in 2006. Next elections due 2011

Ruling Coalition:
People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)

Major Political Parties:
People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), People's National Congress
Reform - One Guyana (PNCR-1G), Alliance for Change (AFC), Guyana
Action Party (GAP)/Rise, Organise and Rebuild (ROAR), The United Force
(TUF)
Economic Summary:
Over 1994-1997 agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors grew by an average of 8% per year; mining and quarrying grew by 6.4%; manufacturing by 5.9% and construction by 14.2%. Agriculture is the main sector with a share of 34.7% of GDP in 1998, slightly lower than the average of 38.1% in 1994-1997.

Sugar and rice, the two main crops, have been seriously affected by adverse weather conditions. In 1998 sugar accounted for 10.4% of GDP from an output of 255,655 tonnes (notwithstanding adverse weather conditions). Forestry has become more significant, and is a potential growth sector. The mining sector accounted for 16% of GDP in 1998 and is estimated to employ about 4% of the workforce. The sector grew by an impressive 9.5% between 1990-96, but slowed between 1997-98 due to soft world prices.

The two main subsectors, gold and bauxite, have experienced growth in output during the 1990s but at differing rates, influenced mainly by world prices. Manufacturing contributed about 11% to GDP over the 1994-1998 period. The main activities are processing and refining of agricultural products such as sugar and rice.

Head of Government:
H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, President

GDP: EC$ Mn 2,921 (2007)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday; 08:00-12:30 hrs Saturday; Government: 08:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Thursday; 08:00-08:15:30 hrs Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Republic Day (23 February), Good Friday (as decreed), Easter Monday (as decreed), Labour Day (01 May), Phagwah (as decreed), Eid-ul-Azah (as decreed), Youman Nabi (as decreed), CARICOM Day (first Monday in July), Freedom Day (01 August), Diwali (as decreed), Christmas Day (25 December), Boxing Day (26 December)
National Anthem:
Dear Land of Guyana
(Words by A.L. Luker, music by R.C.G. Potter)

Highest National Award:
Order of Excellence

Favourite Dish:
Pepperpot; Cook-up; Curry and Roti

Government web page:
http://www.op.gov.gy
HAITI

Motto: L'Union Fait La Force (Union is Our Strength)

Status: Independent Republic since 31 December, 1804

Population: 8,357,000 (2000)

Currency: Gourde

Location:
Haiti an 80% mountainous country is located on the Western half of the island previously known as Hispaniola, 80 km (50 miles) east from Cuba and 1425 km (750 miles) south-east from Miami (Florida)

History:
Columbus encountered the island of Hispaniola, populated by Arawaks in 1492. In 1503 the Spanish brought the first African slaves to the island and in 1697 the colony was ceded to France. In 1791 a voodoo priest by the name of Boukman started an uprising that was to be led by Toussaint L'ouverture, who launched a general slave revolt. On 1st January, 1804 Jean Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the island independent. Haiti is the world's first “Black Republic” and the second oldest Republic in the Western Hemisphere.

Elections:
Last elections held 2006. Next elections due 2011

Ruling Party:
Coalition Government drawn from six parties

Major Political Parties:
Lespwa; Struggling People's Organisation (OPL), Fusion of Socialist Democrats (FUSION)/FANMI Lavalas, Union, LAA, ALYANS, MOCHRENAH, RESPE, RDNP
Economic Summary:
Agriculture remains the key sector in the economy, accounting for approximately one-quarter of the GDP. Forestry and fishing account for a further 7%. The sector is the principal source of employment for about two-thirds of the population. Coffee is by far the most important export crop. Approximately 380,000 peasants are engaged in its production. Sugar and rice are also traditionally important agricultural commodities. However, they have both been facing stiff competition from imported commodities. The Tourism sector also offers much possibilities.

Head of State:
H.E. Rene Garcia Preval, President

GDP: EC$ Mn 13,394 (2006)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00hrs to 17:00 hrs Monday to Friday.
Government: 08.00 hrs to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday.

National Holidays:
Independence Day, January 1; Founding Fathers Day, January 2;
Agriculture and Labour Day, May 1; Flag and University Day, May 18;
Commemoration of the Battle of Vertieres Day, November 18; Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
La Dessalinienne

Highest National Award:
L'Ordre National Honneur et Merite, au grade de Grand-Croix; Plaque d'Or

Favourite Dishes:
Fried spiced pork - served with fried plantain; rice and red beans
JAMAICA: Land of Wood and Water

Area: 10,991 km², (4244 miles²)
Capital: Kingston
Airport: Norman Manley International; Donald Sangster International
Membership date: 01/08/73

Motto: Out of Many One People
Status: Independent - 6 August 1962
Currency: Jamaican Dollar

Location:
In the Caribbean Sea, 150 km south of Cuba and 160 km (100 miles) west of Haiti.

History:
Jamaica was first settled by Amerindians. Columbus visited the island in 1494, and it fell under Spanish possession from 1509-1655, before becoming a British sugar colony. During the social unrest of the 1930s, two major political parties were formed - the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) by Alexander Bustamante, and the People's National Party (PNP) by Norman Manley. Jamaica joined the West Indies Federation in 1958, but withdrew following a referendum in 1961. The country gained independence in 1962. The PNP instituted a democratic socialist government from 1974-80, and the JLP established free-enterprise government from 1980.

Elections:
Last elections were held in 2007. Next elections due 2012.

Ruling Party:
Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)

Major Political Parties:
Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), People's National Party (PNP)
Economic Summary:
The tourism industry is of vital importance to the economy as it is the main source of foreign exchange, contributing US$1.13 billion in earnings in 1996. The manufacturing sector is the second largest, after distribution. Activities include the processing of sugar, food, beverages and tobacco, as well as production of chemicals, metals and construction materials; and the assembly of electrical appliances and apparel. Bauxite is the principal industry and merchandise export earner. Reserves is estimated at 1.9 billion tonnes. This country ranks as the world's third largest producer of bauxite, after Australia and Guinea. Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 8.4% of GDP in 1996, earning some US$225 million in foreign exchange, and providing 23% of total employment. Approximately 270,000 hectares of land are cultivated, while nearly one-fifth of the total land area is forested. There are considerable resources of both freshwater and sea fish. Production of freshwater fish has remained fairly constant throughout the 1990s while the marine catch recorded a small growth level.

Head of State:
H.E. The Most Hon. Kenneth Octavius Hall, ON, OJ, Governor-General

Head of Government:
Hon. Orette Bruce Golding, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 27,954 (2006)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday; Government: 08:30-17:00 hrs Monday to Thursday; 08:30-16:00 hrs Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Ash Wednesday; Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour Day (23 May); Emancipation Day (01 August); Independence Day (06 August); National Heroes Day (16 October); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
Jamaica Land We Love
(Words by Hugh Sherlock; music by Robert Lightbourne)

Highest National Award:
Order of the National Hero
National Dish:
Ackee and Salt Fish

Government webpage: http://www.cabinet.gov.jm
MONTSERRAT: Emerald Isle

- Area: 103 km² (39.5 miles²)
- Capital: Plymouth (abandoned)
- Seaport: Montserrat - Antigua and Barbuda Ferry Service
- Heliport: Gerald's Heliport
- Membership date: 01/05/74

Motto: Each Endeavouring, All Achieving

Capital: Plymouth (abandoned in 1997 due to volcanic activity). Interim government buildings built at Brades Estate at the northwest end of Montserrat.

Status: British Dependency


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
One of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies, 40 km (25 miles) southwest of Antigua.

History:
Sighted by Columbus in 1493. Settled by Anglo-Irish colonists from 1632. The island fell under French occupation twice, but was otherwise continuously British. In 1967, Montserrat opted for colonial status instead of Associated Statehood. In 1995 the Soufriere Hills Volcano came to life and by 1997 the majority of the population was forced to leave the island. Approximately two thirds of the island, including the capital, Plymouth, and the W.H. Bramble Airport is covered with ash. Only the northern section of the island is now inhabited.

Elections:

Ruling Party:
Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP)
Major Political Parties:
Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP), New People's Liberation
Movement (NPLM), Montserrat Democratic Party (MDP)

Economic Summary:
From about mid-1995 normal life was disrupted due to severe volcanic eruptions on the island. By mid-1998 volcanic activity subsided and normalcy returned, but with a significantly reduced population and economic activity. A new factory shell houses a number of small businesses. The once vibrant tourism industry is re-emerging as a major contributor to national economic growth. The fledgling industry caters mainly for day excursionists.

Head of State:
H.E. Mr. Peter Waterworth, Governor

Head of Government:
Honourable Reuben Meade, Chief Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 124 (2007)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-17:00 hrs Monday to Friday; Government: 08:00-14:00 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); St. Patrick's Day (17 March); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour Day (04 May); Whit Monday; Queen's Birthday (second Saturday in June; Emancipation Day (First Monday in August); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December); Festival Day (31 December)

National Anthem:
God Save Our Queen

Highest National Awards:
Montserrat Badge of Honour

Favourite Dish:
Goat Water
ST. KITTS and NEVIS: Mother Colony of the West Indies

Motto: Country above Self

Status: Independent since 19 September 1983


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location: St. Kitts and Nevis is a part of the Leeward Islands group lying about 427.5 kilometres (225 miles) south-east of Puerto Rico and to the north of the Windward group of islands.

History: Originally settled by Caribs, and by the British in 1623 who fought with the French for possession. The island was finally ceded to Britain in 1783 and gained independence in 1983.

Elections: Last elections held 2010. Next elections due 2015

Ruling Party: St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party


Economic Summary: Both islands have pleasant scenery, good beaches and historic buildings, which have favoured the development of tourism as the economy's most
promising growth area. A deep-water harbour, cruise-ship and container facilities are significant features in this sector's growth. Agriculture is another important sector. Sugar, the most important crop, in 1998, recorded production of an estimated 24,600 tonnes. On 30 July 2005 the sugar industry was closed. The manufacturing sector is also another potential growth sector, the main areas being food processing and production of beverages, and electronic components.

Head of State:
H.E. Sir Cuthbert Montraville Sebastian, Governor General

Head of Government:
The Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 1415 (2007)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-12:00 13:00-16:00/16:30 hrs Monday to Friday;
Government: 08:00-12:00 13:00-16:00/16:30 hrs Monday to Thursday;
Friday 08:30 - 16:00 hrs

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Carnival Day (02 January); Good Friday;
Easter Monday; Labour Day (05 May); Emancipation Day (first Monday in August); Whit Monday; Independence Day (19 September); National Heroes' Day (16 September); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
O Land of Beauty!

Highest National Award:
Order of the National Hero

National Dish:
Goat Water (Stew)

Government web page:
http://www.stkittsnevis.net
SAINT LUCIA: Helen of the West Indies

Area: 616 km² (238 miles²)
Capital: Castries
Airports: Hewanorra International; George F. L. Charles (Vigie)
Membership date: 01/05/74

Motto: The Land, The People, The Light

Status: Independent since 22 February 1979


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
One of the Windward Islands between Martinique (39.9 km (21 miles) to the north) and St. Vincent (49.4 km (26 miles) to the south). It is 209 km (110 miles) northwest of Barbados.

History:
Amerindians were the first inhabitants. French colonisation began in 1650 and the struggle for possession between the French and English ended in 1803 with the island becoming an English colony. It gained independence in 1979.

Elections:
Last elections held in 2006. Next elections due in 2011
Ruling Party:
United Workers Party (UWP)

Major Political Parties:
United Workers Party (UWP), St. Lucia Labour Party (SLLP).

Economic Summary:
Generally, the economy is diversified with Tourism being the main source of foreign exchange. Pleasant climate and sandy beaches are among the natural features supporting the development of this sector. In 1997, agriculture accounted for 8% of GDP and employed a similar...
proportion of the labour force. Bananas are the leading export. There is also some export production of flowers and foliage plants. The Manufacturing Sector spans a range of activities. These include paper products, food processing, beverage production, clothing and assembly of electronic components. There is also a small offshore financial sector with much growth potential. Initiatives are also being directed at developing an informatics sub-sector. Economic activities are supported by strategic infrastructure such as the ports in Castries and Vieux Fort which have container trans-shipment terminal facilities catering for banana exports. At Cul de Sac, south of Castries, there is an oil trans-shipment terminal.

Head of State:
H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy, CGMG, PhD, Governor General

Head of Government:
Hon. Stephenson King, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 2,593 (2007)

Business hours:
Commercial: 08:00-16:00 hrs Monday Friday; Government: 08:30-12:30, 13:30-16:30 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); New Year's holiday (02 January); Carnival Day (10-11 February); Independence Day (22 February); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour Day (01 May); Whit Monday; Corpus Christi (29 May); Emancipation Day (04 August); Thanksgiving (06 October); National Day (13 December); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December) Holidays that fall on Sunday are celebrated on the following Monday.

National Anthem:
Sons and Daughters of St. Lucia

Highest National Award:
Grand Cross of St. Lucia

National Dish:
Green Fig and Salt Fish

Government website:
http://www.stlucia.gov.lc
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES: Jewels of the Caribbean

Motto: Peace and Justice

Status: Independent since 27 October 1979


Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC$)

Location:
St. Vincent is situated in the Windward Islands at the lower end of the Caribbean chain; the Grenadines comprise a chain of little islands and rocks between St Vincent and Grenada.

History:
St. Vincent was originally settled by Amerindians. Struggle for possession by the French and British ended with British control in 1783 (apart from French occupation from 1778-83). The island gained independence in 1979.

Elections:
Last elections held in 2006. Next elections to be held in 2011.

Ruling Party:
Unity Labour Party (ULP)

Major Political Parties:
United Labour Party (ULP), New Democratic Party (NDP), United Progressive Movement (UPM).

Economic Summary:
Economic activity is predominantly in Agriculture, with bananas being the main export crop. It is the world's main supplier of arrowroot (now of 96
minor importance). Flowers and foliage plants are also exported. Other fruits and vegetables, including plantains and sweet potatoes are exported to Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional markets. There is a small manufacturing sector catering primarily for the regional markets. A brewery and a rice and flour mill are in full operation along with electronic components assembly ventures. Tourism is concentrated mainly on the Grenadines island chain, where there are high quality beaches featuring luxury villas, hotels and yachts. A small offshore financial sector came on stream from about the mid 1990s.

Head of State:
H.E Sir Federick Ballantyne, Governor-General

Head of Government:
Dr. The Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister

GDP: EC$ Mn 1,489 (2007)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-12:00; 13:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday;
Government: 08:30-12:00, 13:00-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (1 January); National Heroes' Day (22 January); Good Friday; Easter Monday; National Workers Day (1 May); May Day (5 May); Whit Monday; CARICOM Day (first Monday in July); Carnival Tuesday (day after CARICOM Day); Emancipation Day (1 August); Independence Day (27 October); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December) Holidays that fall on Sunday are celebrated the following Monday.

National Anthem:
St. Vincent, Land so Beautiful

Highest National Awards:
Order of British Empire; Member of British Empire

National Dish:
Fried Jack Fish and Roasted Breadfruit

Government website:
http://www.gov.vc
SURINAME: Beating Heart of the Amazon

Motto: Justice, Compassion, Loyalty

Status: Independent Republic - 25 November 1975


Location:
On the northern coast of South America, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the North, Guyana to the West, French Guiana to the East and Brazil to the South.

History:
Originally, Amerindians inhabited the country up to the 15th century. Settlers came from England, The Netherlands and Germany among others. African slaves, indentured labourers from India, Indonesia and China were brought to Suriname during the 18th century. Struggle for possession by the French, British and Dutch ended with control by the Netherlands in 1815. Slavery was abolished in 1863. The country gained independence in 1975. In February 1980 a military coup brought commander Desi Bouterse into power. In 1987 national elections were held and democracy was restored. In October 1997 an attempt to overthrow the government was foiled.

Elections:
Last elections 2010. Next elections due 2015

Ruling Party:
Mega Combination (De Mega Combinatie)

Major Political Parties:
Mega Combination (De Mega Combinatie), Nieuw Front multi-party Coalition (NF), Democratic Party (DP), National Democratic Party (NDP),
Reformed Progressive Party (RPP), Party for Revival and Democratization (BVD), Democratic alternative - 91 (DA-91), Democrative Alternative (DA), People's Alliance

Economic Summary:
Agriculture accounts for about 7% of GDP and employs about 15% of the labour force. The main crops are rice, fruit (including bananas) and vegetables. Rice accounts for approximately half of total cultivated land and about 10% of total exports. Shrimp made up 7.6% of total exports in 1996, and scalefish accounted for a further 0.8%. There is a small fish-farming sector producing fish, shrimp and crabmeat mainly for domestic consumption.

The timber industry is a potential growth sector, supported by the abundance of tropical forestry resources. As the world's eighth largest bauxite producer, in 1998 total world production share was estimated at 3.2%. Alumina and aluminum are crucial to the economy, accounting for more than two-thirds of export earnings. Gold continues to be a potential growth area despite suffering severely from weak world prices in 1998 and 1999. Production in 1998 was estimated at 770,000 ounces. Manufacturing accounts for approximately 10% of GDP. Food processing is about 60% of manufacturing activities. This sector includes aluminum production, import-substituting industries using local and imported inputs, and processing of local agricultural products. Tourism is a prime potential growth sector. The interior rainforest and coastal wetlands augurs well for a vibrant eco-tourism industry.

Head of Government:
H.E. Desi Bouterse, President


Business Hours:
Commercial: 07:30-16:30hrs Monday to Friday; 07:30-12:30 Saturday;
Government: 07:00-15:00 hrs Monday to Thursday; 7:00-14:30hrs Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Phagwah; Ash Wednesday; Good Friday;
Easter Monday; Id-Ul-Fitr; Labour Day (01 May); Emancipation Day (01 July); Diwali; Independence Day (25 November); Christmas Day (25
December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
God zij met ons Suriname

Highest National Award:
Drager van het Groot Lint in de Ere; Orde van de Palm

Favourite Dish:
Dholpuri and curry

NOTES:
TRINIDAD and TOBAGO: Land of the Humming Bird

Area: 5,128 km² (1,980 miles²)
Capital: Port-of-Spain
Airport: Piarco International; Crown Point International
Membership date: 01/08/73

Motto: Together we Aspire, Together we Achieve

Status: Independent since 31 August 1962; Republic since 1 March 1976


Currency: Trinidad and Tobago Dollars (TT$)

Location:
Southernmost islands of the Lesser Antilles. Separated from Venezuela by the 11 km (7 miles) strait of the Gulf of Paria. 30 km (19 miles) separate the two islands.

History:
Both islands were settled by Amerindians. Trinidad became a Spanish outpost from the late 16th century. French and British settlers; African slaves, indentured labourers came during the 18th century. The two islands became one state in 1888 and gained independence in 1962. In 1976 the twin-island State became a Republic within the Commonwealth with the President as Head of State. Executive power lies with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The Legislature consists of an elected House of Representatives and an appointed Senate. Tobago has a separate House of Assembly which is responsible for some of the island's domestic affairs.

Elections:
Last elections held in 2010. Next elections due in 2015.

Ruling Party:
People's Partnership
Major Political Parties:
People's National Movement (PNM), People's Partnership - a coalition between the United National Congress- Alliance (UNC-A) and the Congress of the People (COP)

Economic Summary:
The petroleum sector is by far the most important sector with an average contribution to GDP of 25% over the period 1994-1998. During the same period, petrochemicals contributed export earnings at 23.7%, and together with natural gas are enjoying prime economic focus. This shift in emphasis away from crude oil production is to cash in on the abundant natural gas supplies which are used as a feedstock in the domestic production of methanol and ammonia for export. In 1998 production of these products amounted to 1.9m tonnes and 2.9m tonnes respectively, making Trinidad and Tobago one of the world's largest producer of both commodities. In 1999, a huge Atlantic Liquefied Natural gas project came on stream, catering for export production of the gas as a fuel. This is a significant boost to output in the natural gas sub-sector. The energy sector has been boosting some sub-sectors, namely distribution, transportation and construction, earning a total share of over one-third of GDP. Local manufacture (excluding oil refining and petrochemical industries) accounted for 9% of GDP in 1998, while Agriculture share was 2.4% for the same period with direct employment amounting to 8.1% of the labour force. Sugar is the major cash crop. Others include coffee, cocoa and citrus. Tourism is an important growth sector. A good blend of cultural diversity and special interest areas are among the features supporting this sector. Additionally, the ability to attract large-scale international events has been proven. The famous annual carnival offers much potential for boosting this sector.

Head of State:
H.E. Dr. George Maxwell Richards, TC, CMT, President

Head of Government:
Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister


Business Hours:
Commercial: 08:00-16:30 hrs Monday to Friday; Government: 08:00-
12:00hrs; 13:00-16:30 hrs Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Year's Day (01 January); Carnival (Monday and Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday); Eid-ul-Fitr (as decreed); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Spiritual Baptist Liberation Day (30 March); Corpus Christi; Indian Arrival Day (30 May); Labour Day (19 June); Emancipation Day (01 August); Independence Day (31 August); Republic Day (24 September); Diwali (as decreed); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
Forged from the love of liberty.
(Words and Music by Patrick S. Castagne)

Highest National Award:
Trinity Cross

Favourite Dish:
Callaloo; Pelau; Roti and Curry

Government website:
hhttp://www.gov.tt

NOTES:
ANGUILLA

Area: 102 sq.km (39.4 sq.miles)  
Capital: The Valley  
Airport: Wallblake Airport  
Associate Membership date: 04/07/99

Motto: Strength and Endurance

Status: British Dependent Territory  
Currency: East Caribbean Dollar (ECD)

Location:  
The most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean  
Latitude 18 degrees North, Longitude 63 degrees West.

History:  
In 1493, Christopher Columbus sighted the island and named it for its eel-like shape: Anguilla means “eel” in Spanish. No attempt was made to colonize it, probably because it was controlled by the notoriously fierce, warlike Caribs, who knew the island as Malliouhana, the Carib word for eel. The Caribs, a tribe of cannibals, had captured the island from the peaceful Arawak tribe and had completely eradicated them, not only from Anguilla but also from the entire Caribbean. English settlers arrived from nearby St. Kitts in 1650, followed by Irish invaders in 1688. Fleeing from Cromwell and religious persecution, they sought and found in Anguilla a faraway British territory in which they could live peacefully. This settlement is today known as Island Harbour. The French then made unsuccessful attempts at invasion in 1745 and 1796. Thereafter, the island was left in peace. British colonial rule was difficult to manage effectively from London, so “federations” of islands were established, with local, legislative councils managing affairs in these faraway colonies. In 1871, Anguilla and St. Kitts were brought together as such a federation, to which Nevis was added in 1882. Never happy with this arrangement, Anguilla twice petitioned the British Colonial Office, in
1875 and 1958, for direct British rule. Ignored and misunderstood, Anguilla finally rebelled and declared itself independent in 1967, as the three-island unit of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla was granted statehood. Anguilla's aim: to remain under direct British rule as a Crown Colony. Anguilla achieved its political objective in 1969 when the British Armed Forces invaded and established a separate, direct administration. Formal separation from St. Kitts-Nevis was finally achieved in 1978 when by an order in Council, Anguilla became a Crown Colony once again. What many regarded as turning back the hands of time, the Anguillians heralded as the first step to real political freedom when Anguilla became a Dependent Territory of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Elections:
Last held 2010. Next election to be held 2015

Ruling Party
Anguilla United Movement (AUM)

Major Political Parties:
Anguilla United Movement (AUM), Anguilla Patriotic Movement (APM), Anguilla United Front (AUF) - a coalition of the Anguilla Democratic Party (ADP) and the Anguilla National Alliance (ANA), Anguilla Progressive Party (APP), Anguilla Strategic Alternative (ANSA), Movement for Grassroots Democracy

Economic Summary:
With few natural resources, Anguilla's economy depends heavily on luxury tourism, offshore banking, lobster fishing and remittances from emigrants. Increased activity in the tourism industry has spurred growth in the construction sector. Substantial efforts have been put into developing the offshore financial sector, which is small, but is growing.

Head of State, Representing H.M. The Queen:
H.E. William Alistair Harrison, Governor

Head of Government:
Hon. Hubert Benjamin Hughes, Chief Minister

GDP: $7,500 (2002 est.)
National Holidays: New Year's Day (1 January), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Labour Day (1 May), Anguilla Day (30 May), Whit Monday, Queen's Birthday, CARICOM Day, Christmas Day (25 December), Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
God Save the Queen

National Song:
God bless Anguilla

Highest National

Favourite Dish:
Rice and Peas and Fish

Government website:
http://www.gov.ai

NOTES:
BERMUDA

Area: 53.3 sq.km (21 miles)
Capital: Hamilton
Airport: L.F. Wade International Airport
Associate Membership date: 02/07/03

Motto: 'Quo fata ferunt' (Whither the Fates carry [us])

Status: Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom

Population: 64,209 (2008 est.)

Currency: Bermudan dollar (BMD)

Location:
Group of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean.

History:
Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists headed for Virginia. Tourism to the island first developed in Victorian times, and continues to be important to the island's economy, although international business has overtaken it in recent years. Bermuda has developed into a highly successful offshore financial centre. A referendum on independence was defeated in 1995.

Elections:
Last general election held 2007. Next elections due 2011

Ruling Party:
Progressive Labour Party (PLP)

Major Political Parties:
Progressive Labour Party (PLP), United Bermuda Party (UBP)

Economic Summary:
Bermuda enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Its economy is primarily based on providing financial services for international business and luxury facilities for tourists. Most capital
equipment and food must be imported. Bermuda's industrial sector is small, although construction continues to be important. Agriculture is limited, only 20% of the land is arable.

Head of State, Representing H.M. The Queen:
H.E. Sir Richard Gozney, Governor

Head of Government:
The Hon. Dr. Ewart F. Brown, JP, MP, Premier

GDP: $36,000 (2003)

National Holidays:
Bermuda Day (24 May)

National Anthem:
God Save the Queen
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Motto: Vigilate (Watchful)

Status: British Overseas Territory


Currency: US Dollar (US$)

Location:
The British Virgin Islands (BVI) archipelago is comprised of approximately sixty (60) islands, rocks and cays. These islands are located in the north eastern Caribbean Sea between 18° 20' North Latitude and 64° 30' West Longitude. The BVI is situated 60 miles East of Puerto Rico and North East of the USVI at the Eastern end of the Greater Antilles.

History:
The territory was originally inhabited by Caribs and Arawaks. In 1648, the Dutch established the first permanent European Community. In 1666, British planters took control of the islands which became a British colony in 1672. A ministerial system of government was introduced in 1967.


Ruling Party:
Virgin Islands Party (VIP)

Major Political Parties:
Virgin Islands Party (VIP), National Democratic Party (NDP).
Economic Summary:
Since the early 1980’s, the economy of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) has recorded rapid economic growth based upon tourism development and the advent of a strong financial services sector. Although the economy remains service oriented, significant growth continues to be seen in the annual registration of Business Companies with registration increasing from 32,523 in 1995 to 51,697 in 2002. The Real Gross Domestic Product has grown from US$385 million in 1995 to US$629 million in 2002 with an average growth of 7.4% per annum between 1996 and 2002. GDP per capita income at market prices was estimated at above $20,000 over the period 1995 to 2002. During the period 1995 to 2002, services recorded an average contribution of over 90% to GDP, over 70% of this contribution being attributed to Financial Services and Tourism which was the largest employer of persons in the Territory. Unlike many of the Caribbean countries, agriculture does not play a significant role in the economy.

Head of State, Representing H.M. The Queen:
H. E. David Peary, Governor

Head of Government:
Hon. Ralph Telford O’Neal, OBE, Premier

GDP: $38,500 (2004 est.)

Business Hours:
Commercial: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Government: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday

National Holidays:
New Years Day (1 January); H. Lavity Stoutt's Birthday (1 March); Commonwealth Day (8 March); Good Friday; Easter Monday; 31 May, Whit Monday; 12 June, Sovereign's Birthday; 1 July, Territory Day; first Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in August: Festival Monday, Festival Tuesday, Festival Wednesday; 21 October, St. Ursula's Day; 25 December, Christmas Day; 26 December, Boxing Day Holidays falling during the week/Sunday will be observed on the Monday.

National Anthem:
God Save the Queen
Highest National Award:
BVI Badge of Honour

Favourite Dish:
Fish and Fungi

Government website:
http://www.gov.bm
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Motto: He hath founded it upon the seas

Status: Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom

Population: 51,900 (2006 est.)

Currency: Caymanian dollar (KYD)

Location:
Island group in Caribbean Sea, nearly one-half of the way from Cuba to Honduras. 19 30 N, 80 30 W

History:
The Cayman Islands were colonized from Jamaica by the British during the 18th and 19th centuries. Administered by Jamaica from 1863, they remained a British dependency after 1962 when the former became independent.

Elections:
Last elections held 2009. Next elections due 2014

Ruling Party:
United Democratic Party (UDP)

Major Political Parties:
United Democratic Party (UDP); People's Progressive Movement (PPM);

Head of State, Representing H.M. The Queen:
H.E. Stuart D.M. Jack, CVO, Governor

Head of Government:
Hon. William McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP
Economic Summary:
With no direct taxation, the islands are a thriving offshore financial centre. More than 40,000 companies were registered in the Cayman Islands as of 1998, including almost 600 banks and trust companies; banking assets exceed $500 billion. A stock exchange was opened in 1997. Tourism accounts for about 70% of GDP and 75% of foreign currency earnings. About 90% of the islands' food and consumer goods are imported.

GDP: $39,100 (2006 est.)

National Holidays:
Constitution Day (first Monday in July)

National Anthem:
God Save the Queen

Highest National Award:
Order of Knighthood, bestowed by Her Majesty, the Queen

Favourite dish:
Turtle Stew

NOTES:
THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Area: 430 sq.km (170 sq.miles)
Capital: Cockburn Town, Grand Turk
Airport: Providenciales International
Associate Membership date: 02/07/91

Motto: Beautiful by Nature

Status: Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom


Currency: United States Dollar (US$)

Location:
Turks and Caicos are located 575 miles southeast of Miami Florida, 30 miles south of the Bahamas and 90 miles north of the Dominican Republic. The main islands consist of two groups separated by the Columbus Island Passage: The Turks Group, which includes Grand Turk and Salt Cay, and the Caicos Group, which includes West Caicos, Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, East Caicos, and South Caicos. The total land area of the main islands is 193 square miles.

History:
The name Turks is derived after the indigenous Turk's Head “fez” cactus, and the name Caicos is a Lucayan term “caya hico,” meaning string of islands. Columbus was said to have discovered the islands in 1492, but some still argue that Ponce de Leon arrived first. Whichever it was, the first people to truly discover the islands were the Taino Indians, who unfortunately left little behind but ancient utensils. Then the Lucayans eventually replaced the Tainos but by the middle of the 16th Century they too had disappeared, victims of Spanish enslavement and imported disease.

The 17th century saw the arrival of settlers from Bermuda, who established themselves on Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos. They used slaves to rake salt for British colonies in America, and were later joined by British Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution. The economy
of the island revolved around the rich cotton and sisal plantations, their harvests sold in London and New York. Due to competition and the thin soil, however, the cotton plantations slowly deteriorated, most of them finally perishing in a hurricane in 1813. Solar salt became the main economy of the islands. In 1766, after being controlled by the Spanish, French and British, Turks and Caicos became part of the Bahamas colony, but attempts to integrate failed and were abandoned in 1848. London - Kingston boats frequently visited Turks and Caicos, so links with Jamaica were well developed.

The Turks and Caicos were annexed to Jamaica in 1874 until 1962, when they assumed the status of a separate crown colony upon Jamaica's independence. The governor of the Bahamas oversaw affairs from 1965 to 1973. With Bahamian independence, the islands received a separate governor in 1973. Although independence was agreed upon for 1982, the policy was reversed and the islands are presently a British Overseas Territory. The Turks and Caicos Islands prides itself on having been stable for 250 years.

Elections:
Last held - Feb 2007. Next election due - 2011

Ruling Party: Progressive National Party

Major Political Parties:
Progressive National Party (PNP); People's Democratic Movement (PDM)

Economic Summary:
Tourism is the main industry with off-shore finance and fishing also providing strength to the country's economy. The offshore finance sector continues to grow due to the favourable laws which facilitate international business transactions. The Turks and Caicos Islands has no income, wealth or inheritance tax. Most capital goods and food for domestic consumption are imported.

Head of State, Representing H.M. The Queen:
H. E. Gordon Wetherell, Governor
Head of Government: Hon. Oliver Galmo Williams, Premier


National Holidays:
New Years Day (01 January); Commonwealth Day (Monday nearest to 12 March); Good Friday; Easter Monday; National Heroes Day (last Monday in May in honor of the First Chief Minister, The late Hon J.A.G.S. McCartney); Queens Official Birthday (mid June); Emancipation Day (01 August); National Youth Day (Last Friday of September); Columbus Day (Monday nearest the 10th of October); International Human Rights Day (24 October); Christmas Day (25 December); Boxing Day (26 December)

National Anthem:
God Save the Queen

Favourite dish:
Peas and Rice

NOTES:
The CARICOM Standard

The Standard of the Caribbean Community features a blue background - the upper part being of a light blue representing the sky and the lower part of a dark blue representing the Caribbean Sea. The yellow circle in the centre of the Standard represents the sun on which is printed in black, the logo of the Caribbean Community - two interlocking c's. The two c's are in the form of broken links in a chain, symbolising both unity and the break with our colonial past. The narrow ring of green around the sun represents the vegetation of the Region. The Conference of Heads of Government Meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad in November 1983, approved the design of the CARICOM flag. The original design was done by the firm of WINART Studies in Georgetown, Guyana but this was substantially modified at the Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 1983.