

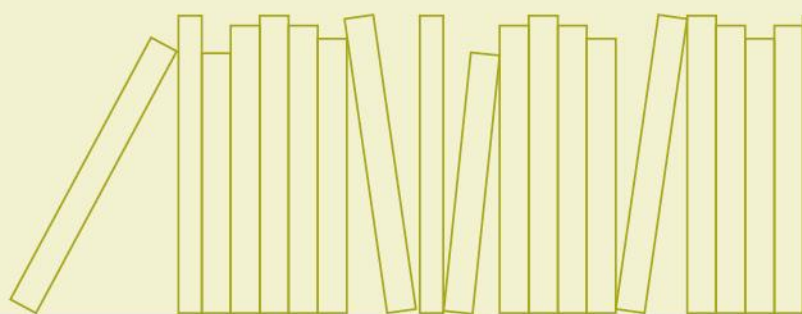
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Evaluation report of the training course on the use of the updated ECLAC Disaster Assessment Methodology

Havana, Cuba



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Training course on the use of the updated
ECLAC Disaster Assessment Methodology
11-13 October 2018
Havana, Cuba

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2018/9
30 October 2018
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**EVALUATION REPORT OF THE TRAINING COURSE ON THE USE OF
THE UPDATED ECLAC DISASTER ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**
—
HAVANA, CUBA

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has been a pioneer in the field of disaster assessment and in the development and dissemination of the Disaster Assessment Methodology. The organization's history in assessing disasters started in 1972 with the earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua. Since then, ECLAC has led more than 100 assessments of the social, environmental and economic effects and impacts of disasters in 28 countries in the region.
2. The Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit provides expert assistance in disaster assessment and disaster risk reduction to Caribbean states and to all countries across Latin America. Considering that assessing the effects and impacts of disasters is critical to the Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Unit designs, plans and delivers periodic tailor-made training courses based on countries' demand.
3. The training course is designed for policymakers and professionals involved directly with disaster risk management and risk reduction. Considering that the methodology is comprehensive in scope, it is also planned for sector specialists, providing a multisector overview of the situation after a disaster, as well as an economic estimate of the damages, losses and additional costs.
4. Cuba is exposed to several types of disasters such as cold fronts, flooding, drought, and hurricanes. For this reason the country has had extensive practice in disaster and risk management. Building on the existing knowledge, the training course presented the multisector approach of the DaLA Methodology, which aims to evaluate the situation after a disaster, providing economic estimates of the damages, losses and additional costs. As per country request, focus was given to the environmental effects and its economic analysis. The course provided an excellent venue to exchange experiences on disasters and risk mitigation and to discuss how disaster assessments can be used to guide a more environmentally sustainable development planning.
5. The workshop included examples of ECLAC's experience in assessing the impact of disasters on ecosystems and environmental services in several Caribbean and Latin America countries such as Belize, The Bahamas and more recently in Guatemala. Moreover, the programme covered other related topics such as tourism, transportation, health, water, sanitation and macroeconomic impacts of disasters in the country's overall economy.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Place and date of the training course

6. A training session on the "Disaster Assessment Methodology" was held from 11 to 13 October 2018, in Havana, Cuba at the National Aquarium.

2. Attendance

7. The training course was attended by 27 sectoral specialists from the Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment of Cuba.
8. The course was facilitated by the Coordinator and the Associate Environmental Affairs Officer of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit of ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the Economic Affairs Officer from ECLAC regional office in Mexico, and an expert on risk management in water, sanitation and infrastructure.

C. SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

9. During the two-and-a-half-day training course participants were trained in the various aspects covered by the Disaster Assessment Methodology. As previously mentioned, environmental aspects were included in all presentations and two lectures were specially dedicated to the theme. The following topics were encompassed in the two-day programme: (1) global disasters' trends and introduction of the methodology; (2) affected population; (3) health and epidemics; (4) environment (5) examples of environmental impact assessments; (6) water and sanitation; (7) tourism; (8) transportation; (9) agriculture; (10) macroeconomic impacts and consolidation of results.

10. In order to help participants to understand the practical use of the methodology, exercises were prepared for the following modules: (1) agriculture; (2) water and sanitation; and (3) health. Participants also had online access to all presentations, detailed explanations of the exercises and a copy of the DaLA methodology handbook and the recently published exercise guide.

11. ECLAC team shared the experience of various governments in Latin America in incorporating disaster risk reduction in public investment and used examples of other disaster risk management initiatives and best practices to clarify the application and usefulness of the methodology.

D. SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

12. An evaluation questionnaire was provided to elicit participants' feedback on diverse aspects of the course. This section of the report presents a summary of the comments provided by participants on the final day of the training.

13. In total, 27 participants attended the training. Twenty-one participants responded to the evaluation questionnaire, 8 females (33 per cent) and 13 males (67 per cent). The full list of participants is annexed to the report.

14. In terms of knowledge of the topic, 7 participants replied that they had never participated in a training course on disaster assessment before, while 13 participants replied that they had received training on the subject previously.

TABLE 1
PRIOR TRAINING IN DISASTER ASSESSMENT

			Percent of valid	Cumulative
			answers	Percent
			Frequency	
Valid	Yes	13	65	65.0
	No	7	35	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	100.0

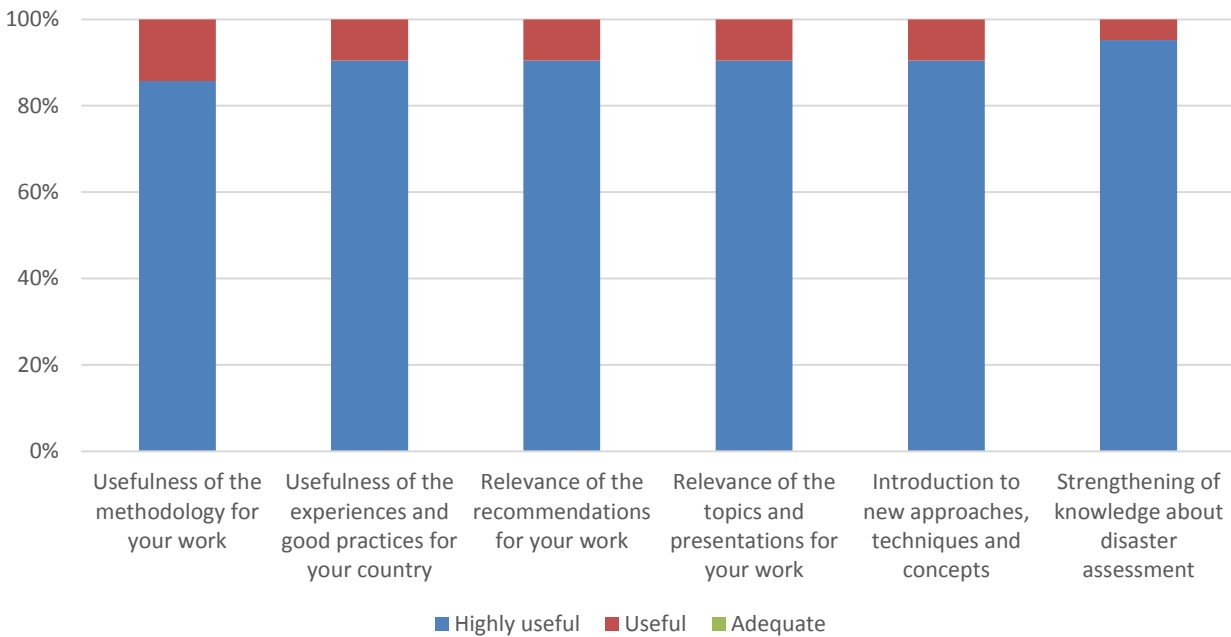
1. Content, delivery and trainers

15. Twenty respondents (100 per cent) reported that the training course met their expectations.

16. Considering a 5-point scale ranging from inadequate to highly useful, in terms of the impact and relevance of the training, 19 respondents (90 per cent) considered that the topics and presentations were highly useful and 2 respondents useful (10 per cent) for their work. Considering the relevance of the recommendations given during the training, 90 per cent of respondents rated them as highly useful and 10

per cent as useful. Participants agreed that the presentation of other countries' experiences and good practices was either highly useful (90 per cent) or useful (10 per cent). Respondents considered the course highly useful (90 per cent) or useful (10 per cent) in introducing them to new approaches, techniques and concepts. Similarly, participants agreed that the training was highly useful (95 per cent) or useful (5 per cent) in strengthening their knowledge of disaster assessment. It is also worth noting that a total of 86 per cent agreed that the methodology was useful or highly useful (14 per cent) for their work and that it was very likely (67 per cent) or likely (33 per cent) that they would use the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work.

FIGURE 1
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP



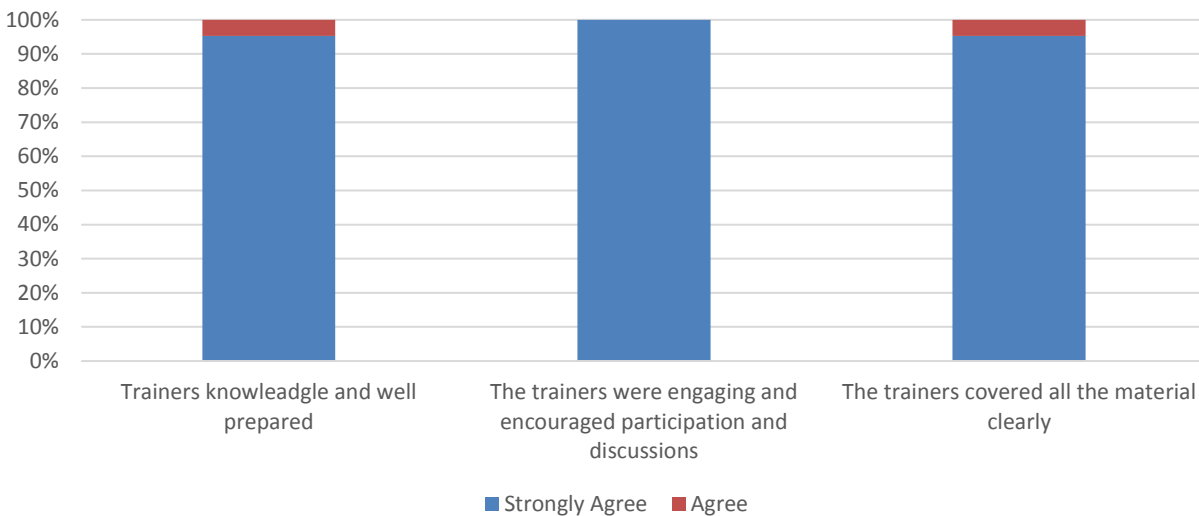
17. In evaluating the content delivery on a 5-point scale from poor to very good, participants considered that the pace and structure of sessions was very good (80 per cent) or good (20 per cent). The quality of materials was also rated as either very good (95 per cent) or good (5 per cent). The quality of activities and exercises were rated as very good (80 per cent) and good (20 per cent). All participants also highly rated the clarity of content as 100 per cent considered it very good.

FIGURE 2
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON CONTENT DELIVERY



18. Regarding the quality of the trainers, respondents strongly agreed (95 per cent) or agreed (5 per cent) that the trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared. Likewise, 95 per cent strongly agreed and 5 per cent agreed that all the materials were clearly covered and all participants (100 per cent) strongly agreed that trainers were engaging and encouraged questions and participation.

FIGURE 3
PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK ON THE FACILITATORS OF THE WORKSHOP



2. Organization of the course

19. Participants were asked to rate specific elements of the organization of the course using a 5-point scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents strongly agreed, 52 per cent agreed and 10 per cent were neutral that the location of the training was convenient. Twenty-

nine per cent strongly agreed, 48 per cent agreed and 24 per cent disagreed that the space was comfortable and conducive to learning.

3. Responses and comments to open-ended questions

20. The general responses received to open-ended questions were the following:

What were the most important outcomes/recommendations of the course?

- Learning how to apply the DaLA methodology
- Integrating new knowledge acquired and experiences from other countries to their daily work
- Incorporating the methodology into the national approach to disasters evaluation
- Getting acquainted to a new and distinct methodology, allowing them to find strengths, similarities and points of improvement in the methodology already applied in Cuba.

Based on the contents of the course, could you provide examples of the importance of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into planning processes?

- It is important to incorporate the SDGs into public policies for disaster mitigation
- Pursuing the SDGs allows countries to minimize the effects of climate change envisioning an ecological balance in which environment aspects are in harmony with cultural and economic practices
- SDGs may allow the country to reduce its identified vulnerabilities
- Mitigating disaster can contribute to the fulfillment of the SDGs
- Quantitative risk studies will help to measure SDG success and create the conditions to achieve them
- SDGs help to focus the overall policy planning in areas connected to climate change
- Impact evaluation and territorial development are essential to achieve the SDGs
- Incorporating SDGs to planning processes help to increase food security, improve population health index and promote disaster risk reduction

How do you expect to apply the knowledge acquired in this course?

- In intersectoral project evaluation and in the economic evaluation of environmental goods and services
- Incorporating economic aspects to risk studies
- Integrating the knowledge acquired in the economic evaluation of environmental impacts of disasters
- Elaborating baselines for ecosystems and environmental goods and services
- Building a strong baseline in different sectors connected to the environment
- Apply it to specific projects, for example, the GEF/PNUD project on evaluation of risk in ecosystem services

Strengths of the training:

- Using real examples of the application of the methodology in other countries
- Trainers are knowledgeable and the didactic is material good
- Course allows for an exchange of experience and is engaging
- Information given was new and relevant
- Clarity of presenters
- The training course presents a multisectoral approach and a different perspective to Cuba
- The methodology allows for a multisector overview of the situation and an inclusion of environmental aspects to all the sectors under analysis

Areas of improvement:

- A higher focus on environmental aspects
- More time for practical exercises
- More time for and a deeper analysis of case studies
- More details about technological risk
- Time is too short for the quantity of information given
- It would be interesting to have field visits to allow the application of the methodology to a real scenario analysis

E. CONCLUSIONS

21. Overall, the training was highly valued, and the participants' responses reflected a high level of satisfaction with the content of the course and expertise of trainers. Participants appreciated the use of countries' examples and exercises that allowed them to better connect the theoretical aspects to real scenarios. Participants understood the importance of collecting sectoral data permanently to have reliable baseline information in case of a disaster and to include elements of disaster prevention in public planning. The importance and challenges of having a strong baseline for environmental goods and services was emphasized and solutions were debated among participants.

22. Participants also expressed their appreciation of the two-day seminar's effort to broaden their view on the factors to be considered in a disaster assessment, beyond the environmental sector exclusively. The main concerns participants expressed were the short duration of the workshop and the need for more time to work on practical exercises. They recommended as points for improvement a stronger focus on environmental aspects and a potential field visit to apply the methodology to a real case scenario.

23. Participants commended the organizers on the content of the course, since it not only highlighted the importance of damage and loss assessments, but also demonstrated the importance of disaster risk reduction by incorporating cross-sector measures to reduce vulnerabilities. The dynamic interaction with participants and discussions encouraged by lecturers were also highly appreciated.

Annex I**List of participants**

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- Silvia V. García Fernández. Grupo de Trabajo Estatal de la Bahía de La Habana.
- Yodanny Zamora Acosta. Grupo de Trabajo Estatal de la Bahía de La Habana.
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Annex II

Evaluation Form Training Course: Disaster Assessment Methodology

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

In an effort to assess the effectiveness and impact of this training course, kindly complete the following evaluation form. Your responses will be invaluable in providing feedback on the overall workshop, identifying areas of weakness and help improve the organization of future courses.

Sex

☐ Female☐ Male

Age

☐ 30 or under☐ 31 – 40☐ 41 – 50☐ 51 or over

Sector

☐ Public☐ Private☐ Academia☐ Other (NGO, social organization, etc)

Country of origin: _____

Institution(s) you represent: _____

Title/Position: _____

1. Have you received training in disaster assessment prior to this course? Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Content Delivery & Organization	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Below Average	Poor
Pace and structure of the sessions	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Quality of reference materials and handouts	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Quality of activities and exercises	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Clarity of the content and presentations	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
How would you rate the course overall?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
3. Facilitator	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
The trainers were engaging and encouraged questions and participation	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
The trainers covered all the material clearly	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
4. Facilities	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The location of the training was convenient	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

The training space was comfortable and conducive to learning

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

5. Impact

Highly
Useful

Useful

Adequate

Inadequate

Highly
Inadequate

Relevance of the topics and presentations for your work

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

Relevance of the recommendations for your work

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

Introduction to new approaches and techniques

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

Usefulness of the methodology for your work

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country

[]

[]

[]

[]

[]

6. Did the training meet your expectations? Yes [] No []

7. What is the likelihood of using what you learned in this training?

Very Likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

8. What were the most important outcomes/ recommendations of the course?

9. Based on the contents of the course, could you provide examples of the importance of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into planning processes?

10. How do you intend/expect to apply the knowledge acquired in this training course?

11. Strengths of the training:

12. Areas of improvement:

Annex III**Responses to close-ended questions**

Table 1. Sex

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	6	33	33.0
	Male	12	67	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	

Table 2. Age

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	30 or under	5	29	29
	31-40	2	12	41
	41-50	3	18	59
	50 or over	7	41	100.0
	Total	17	100.0	

Table 3. Sector

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Public	12	67	67
	Private	0	0	67
	Other	6	33	100.0
	Total	18	100.0	100.0

Table 4. Prior training in disaster assessment

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	65	65
	No	7	35	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 5. Pace and structure of the sessions

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	16	80	80
	Good	4	20	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 6. Quality of the materials and handouts

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	19	95	95
	Good	1	5	100.0
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	

Table 7. Quality of the activities and exercises

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	16	80	80
	Good	4	20	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 8. Clarity of the content and presentations

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	21	100	100
	Good	0	0	100.0
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 9. Overall rate of the course

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	20	100	100.0
	Good	0	0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	

Table 10. The trainers were knowledgeable and well prepared

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	20	95	95
	Agree	1	5	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 11. The trainers were engaging and encouraged participation and discussions

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	21	100	100
	Agree	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 12. The trainers covered all the material clearly

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	20	95	95
	Agree	1	5	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 13. The location of the training was convenient

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	8	38	38
	Agree	11	52	90
	neutral	2	10	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 14. The training space was comfortable and conducive to learning

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	6	29	29
	Agree	10	48	76
	Disagree	5	24	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 15. Relevance of the topics and presentations for your work

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	19	90	90
	Useful	2	10	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 16. Relevance of the recommendations for your work

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	19	90	90
	Useful	2	10	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 17. Introduction to new approaches, techniques and concepts

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	19	90	90
	Useful	2	2	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 18. Strengthening of knowledge about disaster assessment

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	20	95	95
	Useful	1	5	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 19. Usefulness of the methodology for your work

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	18	86	86
	Useful	3	14	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 20. Usefulness of the experiences and good practices for your country

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly useful	19	90	90
	Useful	2	10	100
	Adequate	0	0	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	

Table 21. Did the training meet your expectations?

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	40	100	100.0
	No	0	0	0

Table 22. What is the likelihood of using what you learned in this training?

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very likely	14	67	67
	Likely	7	33	100.0
	Total	21	100.0	



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