

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1 JULY, 9 AM CEST (GMT+2)

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

REGION ALSO MAKES STRIDES IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND SANITATION, BUT ACTION NEEDED ON MATERNAL MORTALITY, PROTECTION OF FORESTS, SAYS UN REPORT

MEXICO CITY, 1 JULY (DPA) - A UN report says Central America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in expanding access to education and sanitation, but action is needed on maternal mortality, protection of forests, says UN report.

The report, titled "Human Development Report 2013", says that the region has made significant progress in expanding access to education and sanitation. It notes that the region's average literacy rate has risen from 62 percent in 1990 to 86 percent in 2010. It also says that the region's average access to improved sanitation has risen from 12 percent in 1990 to 62 percent in 2010.

However, the report also notes that the region still faces significant challenges. It says that maternal mortality remains high, with 15 women dying per 100,000 live births in 2010. It also says that deforestation remains a major problem, with 15 percent of the region's forest cover lost between 1990 and 2010.

The report also notes that the region's economic growth has been slow, with an average annual growth rate of 1.5 percent between 2010 and 2012. It says that the region's average income per capita is still low, at around \$1,250 per year.

CHALLENGES IN THE CARIBBEAN

D [REDACTED] b [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2010 2012, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
U [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 8 , C [REDACTED] bb [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 18 .
