

# America

## Constellation: AM Central C5

Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Antilles, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago



### NEEDS

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Cuba**

#### Cry of the Earth

- soil degradation and desertification (brought on by poor farming techniques and natural disasters)
- biodiversity loss
- deforestation
- air and water pollution

#### Cry of the Poor

- The Cuban government continues to repress dissent and deter public criticism
  - routinely relies on arbitrary detention to harass and intimidate critics, independent activists, protesters, and others
  - Other repressive tactics employed by the government include public acts of shaming and the arbitrary termination of employment
- sex trafficking and forced labor
  - child sex trafficking and child sex tourism occur in Cuba, while some Cubans are forced into prostitution in South America and the Caribbean

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Puerto Rico**

#### Cry of the Earth

- soil erosion
- occasional droughts cause water shortages
- industrial pollution

#### Cry of the Poor

- Hurricane Maria struck the island on 20 September 2017 causing catastrophic damage, including destruction of the electrical grid that had been crippled by Hurricane Irma just two weeks before

### Commitments

- extensive loss of housing and infrastructure and contamination of potable water.
- Despite massive efforts, more than 40% of the territory remained without electricity as of yearend 2017

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Dominican Republic**

#### Cry of the Earth

- water shortages
- soil eroding into the sea damages coral reefs
- deforestation

#### Cry of the Poor

- A ruling by the Constitutional Tribunal stripped citizenship from tens of thousands of Dominicans of migrant descent, mostly of Haitian origin.
  - Officials said that more than 66,000 people voluntarily returned to Haiti in the summer of 2015, but some migrants told human rights groups they were forcibly removed or fled the country in fear of mob violence.
- Marked income inequality, high unemployment, and underemployment remain important long-term challenges
  - the poorest half of the population receives less than one-fifth of GDP, while the richest 10% enjoys nearly 40% of GDP

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Haiti**

#### Cry of the Earth

- extensive deforestation (much of the remaining forested land is being cleared for agriculture and used as fuel)
- soil erosion
- overpopulation leads to inadequate supplies of potable water and a lack of sanitation
- natural disasters
- two-fifths of all Haitians depend on the agricultural sector, mainly small-scale subsistence farming, which remains vulnerable to damage from frequent natural disasters.

#### Cry of the Poor

- poverty, corruption, vulnerability to natural disasters, and low levels of education for much of the population represent some of the most serious impediments to Haiti's economic growth
- Currently the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with close to 60% of the population living under the national poverty line
- Weak infrastructure, including access to electricity
- January 2010 earthquake that destroyed much of its capital city, Port-au-Prince, and neighboring areas
- Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade, made landfall in Haiti on 4 October 2016, with 140 mile-per-hour winds, creating a new humanitarian emergency
  - A cholera epidemic surged after a devastating hurricane hit southwestern Haiti in October 2016 and has now killed more than 9,000 people
- forced labor and sex trafficking
  - most of Haiti's trafficking cases involve children in domestic servitude vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse
  - dismissed and runaway child domestic servants often end up in prostitution, begging, or street crime
  - other exploited populations included low-income Haitians, child laborers, and women and children living in IDP camps dating to the 2010 earthquake
- Years of political turmoil and election delays, and a lack of political will, have hindered Haiti's ability to meet the basic needs of its people and resolve longstanding human rights problems.
- A 2013 court ruling in Dominican Republic retroactively removed citizenship from perhaps tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent, many of whom have since been deported, together with Haitian migrants, back to Haiti
- Haiti's prison system remains severely overcrowded. Illiteracy and poor education, gender-based violence, and the use of child domestic workers remain major human rights concerns.

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Jamaica**

#### Cry of the Earth

- heavy rates of deforestation
- coastal waters polluted by industrial waste, sewage, and oil spills
- damage to coral reefs
- air pollution in Kingston from vehicle emissions
- land erosion

#### Cry of the Poor

- High unemployment exacerbates the crime problem, including gang violence fueled by advanced fee fraud (lottery scamming) and the drug trade
- sex trafficking and forced labor
  - sex trafficking of children and adults occurs on the street, in night clubs, bars, massage parlors, and private homes
  - child sex tourism is a problem in resort areas;
  - foreigners have endured conditions of forced labor in Jamaica or aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating in Jamaican waters
  - a high number of Jamaican children are reported missing

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C5**

Country: **Trinidad and Tobago**

#### Cry of the Earth

- water pollution from agricultural chemicals, industrial wastes, and raw sewage
- widespread pollution of waterways and coastal areas
- illegal dumping; deforestation
- soil erosion
- fisheries and wildlife depletion

#### Cry of the Poor

- sex trafficking and forced labor
  - women and girls from Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Colombia have been subjected to sex trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago's brothels and clubs
  - some economic migrants from the Caribbean region and Asia are vulnerable to forced labor in domestic service and the retail sector
  - international crime organizations are increasingly involved in trafficking, and boys are coerced to sell drugs and guns
  - corruption among police and immigration officials impedes anti-trafficking efforts