



European Union

# Water and Beyond

EU transformative approaches  
for international partnerships



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Water and Beyond



# El Salvador



## Building Climate Resilient Development

A water centered strategy



# Relevant facts, 2020



EL SALVADOR

Impact Snapshot: Tropical Storm Amanda and Tropical Storm Cristobal

As of 8 June 2020

Tropical Storm Amanda and Tropical Storm Cristobal struck El Salvador in quick succession between 31 May and 6 June, causing intense rain, high winds and significant flooding damage. Many areas received upwards of 500mm of rain, with some areas recording as much as 800mm, almost equivalent to the rainfall recorded in The Bahamas during Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

Civil Protection reports that they have responded to more than 2,000 incidents across the country that have affected nearly 30,000 families (almost 150,000 people), while leaving 27 dead.

The storms come as El Salvador, home to 643,000 people in need according to the recent regional Humanitarian Needs Overview, continues to deal

with the COVID-19 crisis that is compounding existing vulnerabilities. WFP estimates that there are some 350,000 food-insecure people in the hardest hit municipalities.

These events are severely straining response resources and capacities in El Salvador, prompting requests for international assistance.

**149.8k**  
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY  
TROPICAL STORMS

**12.6k**  
PEOPLE IN 352  
SHELTERS

**2.8k**  
HECTARES OF CROPS  
DAMAGED OR LOST

**392**  
SCHOOLS DAMAGED  
BY TROPICAL STORMS

- **El Salvador, Central America: breaking historical records**

- Two hurricanes, category 4 & 5, in 2 weeks: Eta & Iota
- Two tropical storms: in 1 week: Amanda & Cristobal
- COVID 19 pandemic, more to come according to science

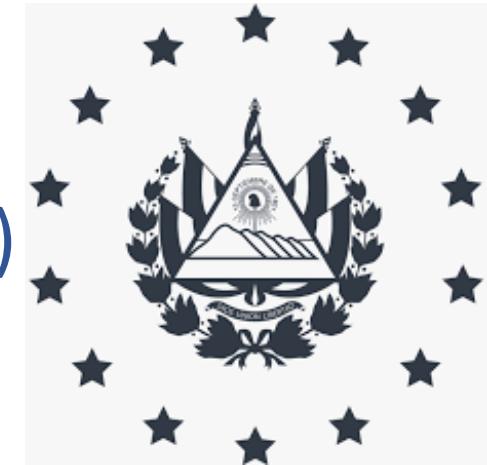
- **Ocean warming:** *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, J. Abraham et al. January 2021*

- The world's oceans reached their hottest level in recorded history in 2020
- By uptaking ~90% of anthropogenic heat and ~30% of the carbon emissions, the ocean buffers global warming (IPCC, 2019)
- Severe implications on marine biodiversity, changing marine species migratory patterns, associated cascading impacts, impacting the biological systems of the planet as well as human society.

- **Global biodiversity loss:** "Insects are suffering from 'death by a thousand cuts'" ... *Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences- Jan 12. 2021. Insect numbers down 25% since 1990, Journal of Science April 2020*

# Addressing the combined risks of climate change and biodiversity loss 2021-2030

- **The pace and intensity of change accelerating**
  - Rivers 90% below average flow in summer (dry season)
  - Insufficient BAU strategies and policies
  - Need to do more with available resources
- **2021 2030 Water centered climate and development policies**
  - Restoring / protecting freshwater critical ecosystems,
  - Reporting water goals across sectorial NDCs (water footprint, minimizing land use change)
  - Sectorial development policies & projects guided on GHG emissions and water related climate impacts modelling, reporting wastewater footprint, cumulative impacts on aquatic ecosystem and land use change.



# Aligning water centered strategy to loss and damage as climate action result measurement

- Extreme weather events: economic and social loss & damage
- Slow onset events, mostly water related irreversible loss & damage, ultimate information for GST



# Acting beyond borders: SICA Region



- AFOLU 2040 Initiative
  - Regional climate change goals through innovative approach combining agriculture, forests, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration actions
- Regional NDCs enhancing ambition project.
  - GCF Readiness, 5 from 8 SICA countries



Thank you very much!

