

The Use of Population Census Data for Environmental Analysis

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Main facts

- ❑ Censuses provide information that can be used for climate change both for mitigation and adaptation policies.
- ❑ In spite of the above, Census data from last rounds of censuses have not been fully used for environmental analysis.
- ❑ The new round of census 2010 offers an opportunity that can not be missed.
- ❑ We could be missing this opportunity unless we take actions to promote a better and wider use and support NSO in this endeavor.

What explain the limited use

- ❑ Particular limitations of censuses:
 - Timing (each 10 years).
 - Relevance of specific questions (and categories) included.
 - ❑ Quality:
 - Census coverage
 - ❑ Availability of data:
 - Access to micro data
 - ❑ Definition of census areas
 - Size of smaller areas for which data is available
 - Comparability with previous censuses
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ADVANTAGES

- Census provide disaggregated data.
There is not another source.

 - Good news:
 - Software available (i.e. REDATAM)
 - NSO offices are becoming increasingly aware of the relevance of good a good statistical system
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Possibilities and examples:

Two entry points

- ☐ Population and housing data not collected specifically for environment
 - ☐ Data from specific questions
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Possibilities and examples:

Population and housing data not collected specifically for environment

Exposition: Population size and growth

- ❑ Linking population to geography: Density; Slums; LECZ; Drylands; etc.
- ❑ Demographic determinants of influencing population growth by area (fertility, mortality and migration)

Socio-economic and demographic vulnerability:

- ❑ Socio-economic characteristics of the population (i.e living in cities: education, occupation, income, etc.)
- ❑ Demographic characteristics: sex, age, household type; etc.

Impacts:

- ❑ Migration (environmentally induced).
 - ❑ Other socio-economic and demographic changes
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Possibilities and examples:

Data from specific questions

- ☐ Source of Energy for Cooking and Lighting
 - Type of energy used for heating
 - Availability of piped gas

 - ☐ Waste Disposal

 - ☐ Access to Water and Sanitation
 - Toilet facilities, etc.

 - ☐ Type of dwelling
 - Year of construction
 - Material used in the walls, floor and roof
 - Assets in the households
 - Property tenure
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Recommendations

- (1) Ensure that relevant questions are included in the censuses or those usually included is adequate to current needs.
 - The process of design of the questionnaire and the plan of analysis of census data must involve researchers and policy makers working in the mitigation and adaptation plans.
 - New questions must eventually be added in order to measure specific vulnerabilities associated to climate changes (i.e in the case of a recent environmentally-induced disaster).
 - The categories for questions that focus specifically on environmental can be adapted to the national needs.
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Recommendations

- (2) Ensure that census data are collected and processed to facilitate detailed analysis at very small areas
 - ☐ NSO should consider environmental areas in the definition of census areas.
 - ☐ NSO should keep record of census areas to allows for inter census comparison
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Recommendations

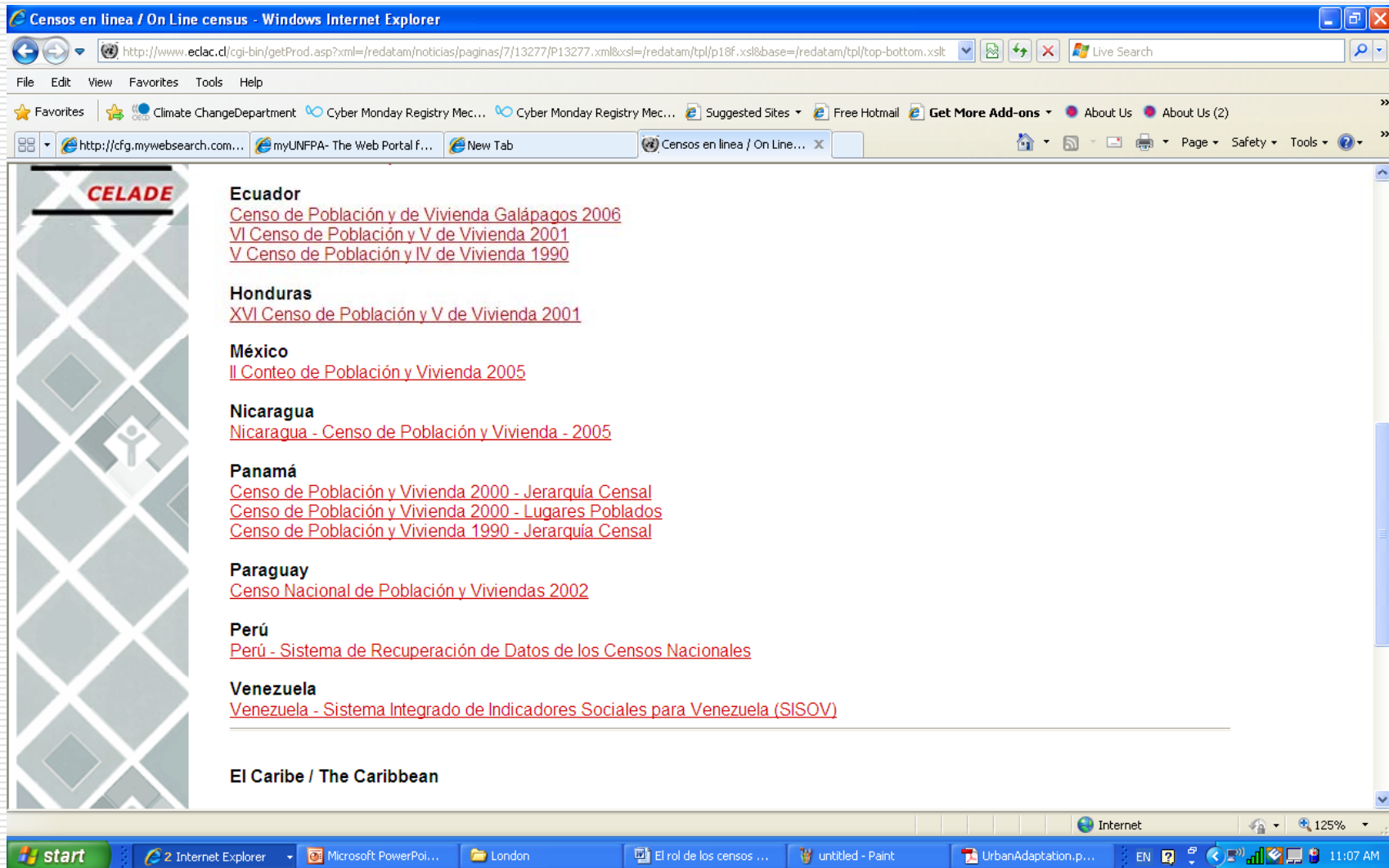
- (3) Ensure that census data are made available, disseminated, analyzed and used for national mitigation and adaptation policies
 - ❑ Create awareness: Advocate for a more extensive access to data for detailed analysis at the local level
 - ❑ Capacity building. Provide instruments and capacity building for NSO
 - ❑ Make census data useful by disseminating good practices
 - ❑ Promote a closer work between different ministries with NSO and between agencies.
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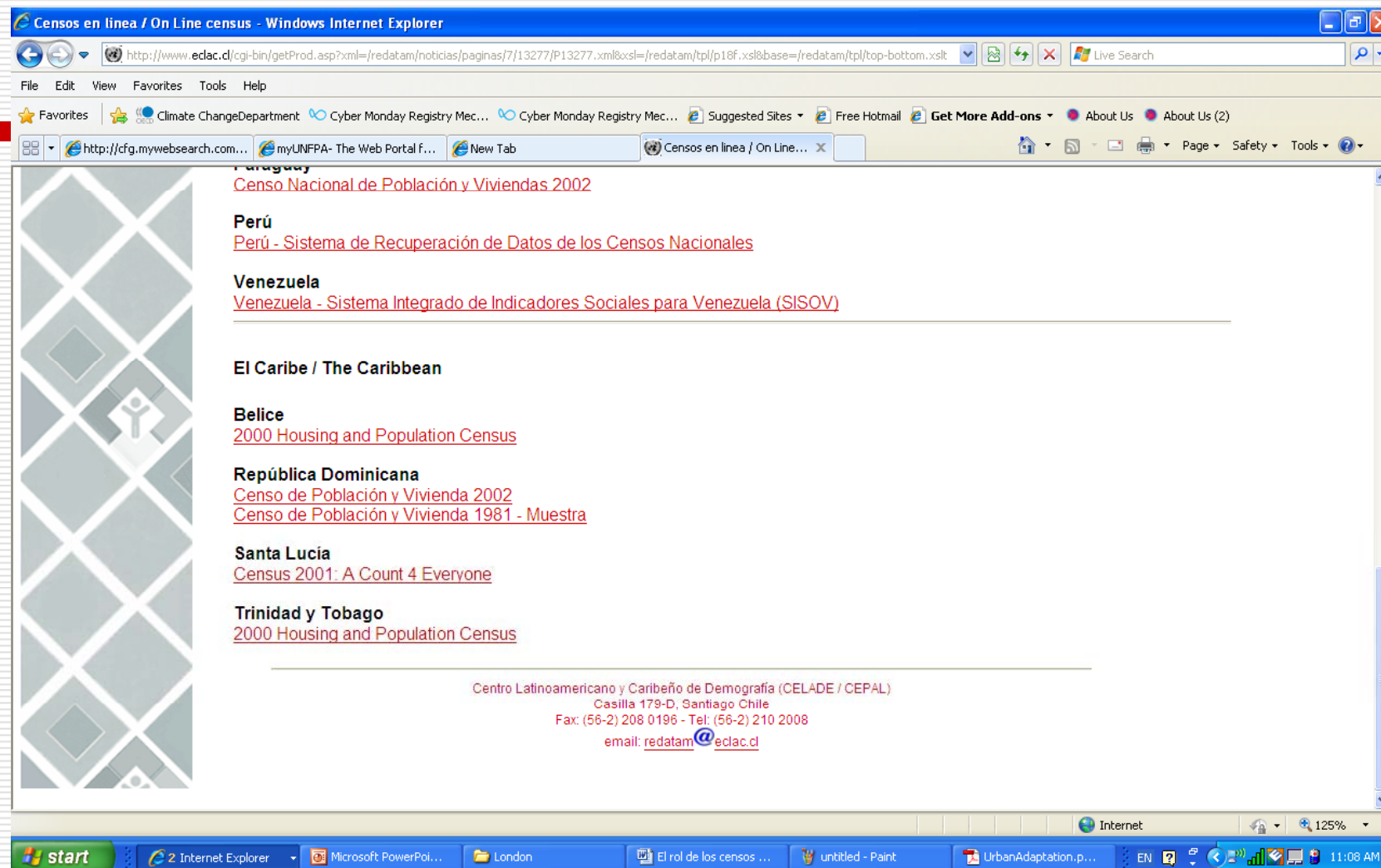
The way forward:

The UNFPA perspective

- ❑ Elaborate a Manual (practical guide) on the use of census
 - ❑ Collaborate with other agencies and UN DESA in developing further this links between census data and environment (still not fully developed)
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SAN SALVADOR

LANDSLIDES

FLOODS

