

The BIG Climate Data Challenge for small islands | *Insights from the Caribbean*



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Dire Need for Data

Features give rise to extreme vulnerability to climate variability & change and strong link between climate, development & quality of life.



Data & Information Needs



Dire Need for 'Best Possible' Data

There is little wiggle room with respect to 'quality' & 'robustness' of data as 'can't afford to get it wrong'

4 features of Small islands



Small

Isolated

Heavily dependent on climate sensitive sectors

Resource constrained
Financial,
Technical &
Human

Representativeness
Dependence on large scale data

Robustness
Lack of multiple lines of evidence

Relevance
Capturing the SIDS issues

Data & Information Challenge

Reliability
Lack of data to validate &/or inclusive of SIDS dynamics

Availability
Where to find, how to get & interpretation

Responsiveness
Ability to get new data quickly or continuously update

Start of the 2000's
Caribbean was at a
climate crossroads...

Climate Information Deficit

Little knowledge about historical or future climate at the small island scale

Limited understanding of the drivers of Caribbean climate Variability

Inadequate data and a lack of appreciation for data

Limited quantification of climate impacts on Caribbean sectors

Little knowledge of how climate information could be used to reduce vulnerability

Little evidence of climate policy premised on Caribbean climate science

Little in published literature about Caribbean and climate

Coordinated Science Partnership

Multi-year, multi-country, multi-institutional, regional approach to climate science

UWI (Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, other territories)

INSMET (Cuba)

AdeKUS (Suriname)

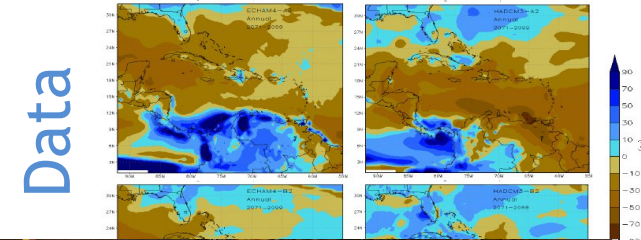
CIMH (Barbados)

5C's (Belize)

Coordinated Collaborative

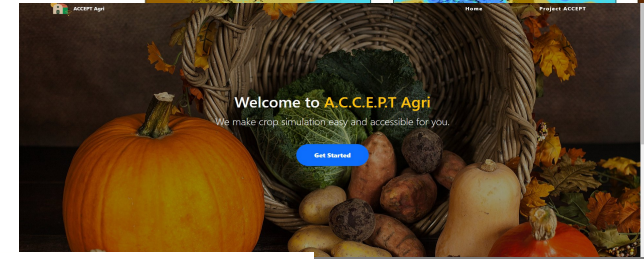
Mandate	What Science?	Climate Has Changed	Climate Will Change	Climate Demands Change
		Any Science that enables critical evaluation of the Core Climate Change Message above		
Data Priorities	Historical Climate Data Baseline climatologies Patterns of historical variability	Future (Projected) Climate Data Deviations from Baseline New patterns of variability	Sector-Relevant Data Linked to the climate sensitivities of important sectors	
Methods	Data Mining and Monitoring Past, current data – real & proxy Data Modelling Future Data – regional, station, Data Meaning Implications & Uncertainties	Agenda Sensitivity and Attribution We are climate sensitive societies Vulnerability and Risk Our sensitivity makes us vulnerable Resilience - M & A Vulnerability ≠ Helplessness		

20 years later...

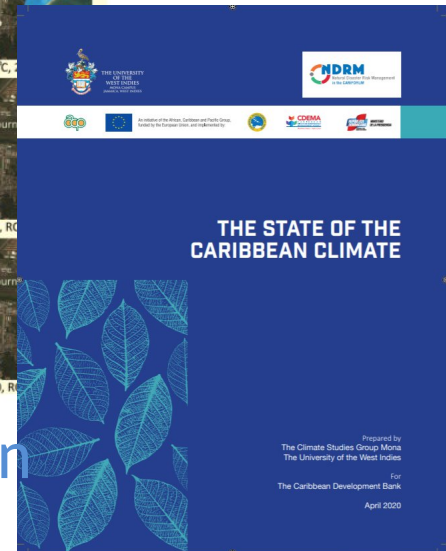
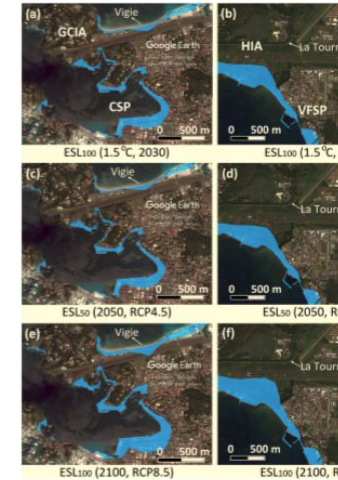


Data

Tools



Policy



Information

The Problem

The Partnership

The Product

Context & Scale

Applicability & Usefulness

Lessons Learnt from building capacity to drive climate science for SIDS from within

Accessibility & Trust

Capacity & Continuity

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