



The CARIBSAVE Partnership:

Protecting and enhancing the livelihoods, environments and economies of the Caribbean Basin

CARIBSAVE is a partnership between the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the University of Oxford. The CARIBSAVE Partnership addresses the impacts and challenges surrounding climate change, tourism, the environment, economic development and community livelihoods across the Caribbean Basin, using an integrated and holistic approach.

The CARIBSAVE partnership is providing practical strategies, and implementing capacity building and skills transfer activities across the region for pro-poor and national economic development in the Caribbean in an era of economic restructuring and climate change.

CARIBSAVE is multi-sectoral, multi-objective and multi-donor in nature and is supported by a large and active network of national, regional and international partners including the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the World Wildlife Fund, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank. The Partnership also comprises nations across the Caribbean Basin region and representatives of the private and public sectors along with eminent scientists and practitioners from the region and beyond.

The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world with few options to develop alternative economic sectors. The region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the impacts of climate change including sea level rise, biodiversity loss, impacts on human health and extreme events.



Solar powered energy for destinations. Credit: Dr Murray Simpson

Tourism is the central pillar of sustainable livelihoods for communities and nations in the Caribbean Basin, helping lift individuals and their families out of poverty; the sector is a massive source of income and critical to national economic development. In the islands and coastal states of the Caribbean Basin the climate, local livelihoods, economies and the tourism sector are inextricably linked and the poorest people are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change such as floods, extreme events, water shortages and changes in biodiversity.



Comprising seven Core Objectives, the CARIBSAVE Partnership has a projected budget of US\$35 Million over the next 5 years. The Partnership is focused on: sectoral, destinational and national vulnerability and adaptive capacity assessments and strategy development; community-based adaptation; socio-economic and environmental policies and implementation; the impacts of climate change on key sectors and their integral relationship to tourism in the Caribbean; the development of low carbon economies and carbon neutral destination status; and capacity building and skills transfer activities across the Caribbean Basin.

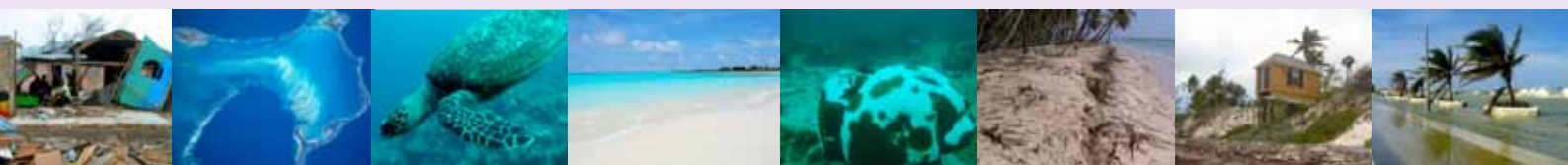


Digital Elevation Modelling and data collection. Credit: CARIBSAVE

The vision for CARIBSAVE is longevity; a sustained approach to address the challenges that climate change presents for the Caribbean's tourism sector, national economies, community livelihoods and key related sectors (i.e. water, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, human health, disaster risk management and infrastructure). This durability will be achieved by a multi-donor, multi-objective approach; involving regional organisations, country partners, ensuring regional ownership, and by drawing on experts and institutions in the region and internationally to create a strong, highly motivated and experienced team of long-term partners. This approach is essential to initiate the urgent action required for the protection and benefit of the people of the Caribbean, their environments and economic development.



Storm surge damage, Tobago. Credit: Dr Murray Simpson



Caribbean Climate Change, Tourism & Livelihoods: a sectoral approach to vulnerability and resilience; Water, Energy, Agriculture, Human Health, Biodiversity, Infrastructure and Settlement, Comprehensive Disaster Management

The CARIBSAVE Partnership has 7 principal objectives:

- To successfully model and analyse the changes in climate as they will affect tourism and related sectors in the Caribbean Basin on a regional, national and destinational scale.
- To assess and profile the vulnerability, resilience and adaptive capacity of tourism and related sectors to climate change in nations and destinations; and to provide a Risk Atlas of nations across the Caribbean Basin.
- To measure and evaluate the impacts of climate change on tourism and livelihoods in the Caribbean region, nations and selected destinations on a sectoral basis including:
 - Water Quality and Availability;
 - Energy Supply, Distributions and Mitigation;
 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Security;
 - Human Health;
 - Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity, and Landscape Aesthetics;
 - Infrastructure and Settlements;
 - Comprehensive (Natural) Disaster Management
- To inform and develop national and regional policy by conducting socio-economic analyses of the costs and risks of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean tourism sector.
- To develop, implement and monitor practical adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies for tourism and related sectors identified in Objective 3; i.e. implement cross-ministerial policies and community-based adaptation strategies to enable governments and communities to effectively address the challenges of climate change.
- To support the transition of the Caribbean region's tourism sector to a low carbon economy and to create the world's first 'Carbon Neutral' tourism region.
- To build capacity and transfer skills through the design and implementation of sectoral based initiatives and seminars including community outreach, institutional strengthening and private sector engagement.



Fossil fuel powered energy station.
Credit: CARIBSAVE

Key Climate Change Impacts and Issues in the Caribbean Basin

In the Caribbean Basin there is a crucial interdependence between the climate, tourism, livelihoods, environments and national development. The region is a 'Vulnerability Hot Spot' and is being impacted by climate change in numerous assorted ways, both gradual and extreme, including:

- Sea level rise
- Coastal erosion
- Sea surface temperature increase
- Increased air temperature
- Changes in levels of precipitation and seasonality
- Extreme events: increase in intensity and frequency, e.g. drought, flood, storm surge, (hurricane)
- Losses and changes in marine and terrestrial biodiversity
- Salt water inundation into fresh water aquifers
- Loss of destination aesthetics
- Increase in vector borne diseases e.g. dengue fever and malaria
- Impacts of climate policy on arrivals to the Caribbean
- Removal of insurance coverage / dramatic increase in premiums
- Loss of employment, sustainable livelihoods and economic development

Energy

Tourism also impacts on climate change by the production of greenhouse gases (GHGs); world tourism is estimated at around 5% of the global total of emissions. Although the Caribbean's contribution to global GHGs is relatively small, tourism in the region is GHG intense. The CARIBSAVE Partnership is committed to the development of low carbon economies across the Caribbean Basin and the transition of the Caribbean to the world's first Carbon Neutral destination. The Partnership is focused on addressing the key issues surrounding energy in the region e.g. sovereignty, use of renewables, dependency and cost.

Collaboration

In addition to its 7 stated objectives, the CARIBSAVE Partnership draws together the fragmented and disparate work being conducted in the region on climate change in different sectors. The Partnership believes in 'inclusivity'; the combining of skills, experience and resources in order to achieve critical mass and believes in working hand-in-hand with country partners to make a significant difference to the vulnerabilities and challenges that climate change presents for the Caribbean Basin.

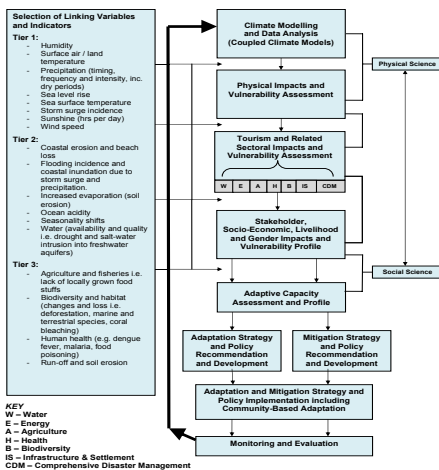
Community

Along with government policy development and implementation, community-based initiatives are essential to addressing climate change in an effective and pragmatic way. Community-based adaptation strategies are an essential component of the CARIBSAVE approach. Tourism due to its pervading influence in the region also provides the ideal arterial network through which to disseminate information, transfer skills and build capacity in communities, and the private and public sectors. In addition, the CARIBSAVE Partnership is committed to community outreach and the public dissemination of information and building awareness and understanding through the media and through education at all levels of society.

Selection of barriers and constraints to overcome in the region

- Lack of technical training in the downscaling and use of climate models
- Limited science-policy-implementation interface
- Limited adaptive capacity to address climate change risks and vulnerability
- Data collection and recovery skills (digitization and time series).
- Public awareness; policymakers and communities
- Lack of institutional capacity and resources (knowledge, human, financial and technical)

Flow Chart Summary: CARIBSAVE Climate Change Analysis, Strategy Development and Implementation (Component Example)



Digital Elevation Modelling by Caribbean Meteorological Services.
Credit: CARIBSAVE



Coastal infrastructure at risk.
Credit: Dr Daniel Scott

In addition to its partner countries and other active partners the CARIBSAVE Partnership includes the following supportive organizations and institutes. The CARIBSAVE Partnership is working together to protect and enhance the livelihoods, environments and economies of the Caribbean Basin. CARIBSAVE works on adaptation and mitigation; to reduce emissions and enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases and to adapt to the impacts and challenges of climate change.



Thank you for your interest, for further information and how you can support the CARIBSAVE Partnership please do not hesitate to contact us:

Email: admin@caribsave.org www.caribsave.org