

Consultancy Report - Assembling a bibliography of Climate Change literature in the Caribbean region.

Executive Summary

This bibliography is part of an IDRC-funded project on identifying the data gaps and research priorities for climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being co-ordinated by Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA). This is a compilation of the published and gray literature and the existing initiatives in the Caribbean sub-region, the aim of which is to know what is going on in the region and so avoid a duplication of effort. The impacts of climate change will be felt in almost all sectors, from business and energy to biodiversity, health, agriculture, disaster management and water, to name but a few. The amount of literature and number of initiatives that exist in these areas varies greatly from one to the next.

According to Dr. Ulric Trotz, there is a paucity of peer-reviewed, published literature on climate change in the Caribbean region. 41 journal articles were found, with the greatest amount being in the area of climate change and biodiversity. This is partly due to the large amount of research on coral reefs and coral reef bleaching events.

The amount of grey literature that exists is quite extensive. This grey literature comes from several areas. Firstly, there is a lot of climate change activity in the region in the form of conferences and workshops and many reports and presentations come out of these activities. Since the inception of the CPACC Project (Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change) in 1998, there have been numerous conferences held which are a rich source of information. Another source of much grey literature is the M.Sc. in Climate Change which is offered at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies, Cavehill campus, Barbados. This degree is a part of the MACC Project (Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change), contributing to the capacity-building component of this project. In all the various fields, grey literature constituted the majority of findings.

Much of the policy-related literature that exists on climate change in the Caribbean has come out of the CPACC and MACC projects. For example, a lot of policy documents were produced under the CPACC Project. For one of the project components, CARICOM member states had to prepare Country Papers on National Climate Change issues. Under the CPACC project as well, National Policy Papers on planning for adaptation to climate change were financed.

A lot of adaptation work has been going on in the region for the past 10 years as part of the CPACC and MACC initiatives aforementioned. This is due to the fact that the majority of the countries in the Caribbean region are small island developing states with relatively low contributions to the greenhouse gas emissions and with very high vulnerability to the effects of climate change. It is generally thought that adaptation in the region is more of a priority than mitigation. This is reflected both in the published literature and in the existing initiatives.

Closely related to adaptation is the issue of disaster management. The Caribbean region's vulnerability to natural disasters is being exacerbated by climate change, making disaster management an area of vital importance. The initiatives in this area are mainly led by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

In the area of agriculture and food security, there is little published literature. Only one journal article was found on potential climate change impacts on sugar cane yields in Trinidad. Some grey literature exists, mainly coming from organisations such as the FAO. The majority of ongoing initiatives are a part of the larger CPACC, ACCC and MACC framework.

In the field of health, there is ongoing research into the impacts of climate change on dengue fever and asthma, being done by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC). In the business sector, most of the literature and initiatives are tourism-related. In the field of energy, initiatives were mainly focused on alternative sources of energy and the clean development mechanism.

In terms of research and initiatives being carried out in different countries of the Caribbean, there was found to be a great disparity, with some countries, e.g. Barbados, Guyana, having far more climate change activities in all areas than other countries. e.g. Cuba, Haiti.

Data Collection - Challenges

The literature which has been collected for this bibliography falls under the following categories:

1. Peer-reviewed, published literature
2. Grey literature, including – graduate theses, policy papers, magazine/newspaper articles, conference proceedings and conference presentations
3. Climate change initiatives in the Caribbean region

1. The paucity of peer-reviewed, published literature is not a reflection of the research activity because there is a lot of climate change research being done. It could be due, in part, to a relatively small pool of scientists in the region who are working in climate change, relative to the growing demand for climate change experts to advise on initiatives and to take part in conferences and workshops. As a result, relatively little time is available for writing up articles for journals.

2. Much of the grey literature in the region has been the output of conferences on climate change. It is unfortunate that conference reports in the region have been very difficult to access. PowerPoint presentations are much more readily accessible and many of those form part of this database. The studies done as part of the Masters degree at CERMES remain at the CERMES library and few have had their findings written up for journal publication. However, CERMES is also in the process of building a database of these projects, which will make this information more accessible.

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which was established in 2002, is moving towards being a clearing-house for all climate change literature in the region (Dr. Trotz, pers. comm.) This will make information access much easier, especially since project websites e.g. the CPACC project are not maintained after the project comes to an end, so documentation is not easily accessible.

3. There are many **initiatives** in the region which contribute to climate change at some level. It is very difficult to find these without guidance since the words 'climate change' may not actually appear and indeed, climate change may not even be referred to. The majority of initiatives forming part of this bibliography were revealed during the 2-day consultation on identifying the data gaps and research priorities for climate change in the Caribbean.

Since the upkeep and maintenance of websites is often poor in the Caribbean region, this data collection would not have been possible without the input of a few climate change experts who provided actual references and/or advice on where further information could be found.

Organisation of Data

Approximately 190 references have been collected for this database. The database which has been built in RefWorks is not a source of full documents, only a reference to what exists on a particular topic or in a particular country. However, more than 50% of the references have been accessed in full by the consultant – this applies to mainly the published and grey literature, which will be compiled on a cd. This does not apply to initiatives, which generally have a website link leading to more information.

RefWorks is a very user-friendly programme which allows one to create as many folders as are needed. Any particular reference can reside in more than one folder at the same time. The system which has been used to catalogue the references in this database is as follows:

32 Folders have been created. They fall under the following broad categories:

CC + Issue (e.g. Water, Biodiversity, Energy, Disaster Management etc)

CC + Reference Type (e.g. journal article, initiative, conference proceedings, presentation etc.)

CC + Country (all countries of the Caribbean sub-region)

In this way, for eg., a study on dengue in Trinidad could be found in the folder **CC - Health**, *and* in **CC - Trinidad** *and* in **CC - Journal articles**.

FOLDER: CC ADAPTATION

Adapting to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC) Project. (2004). *Caribbean regional climate change adaptation public education and outreach strategy*

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Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. (2003). Adaptation to climate change and managing disaster risk in the caribbean and south-east asia. Paper presented at the

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CARICOM. (2001-2004). *Adapting to climate change in the caribbean (ACCC) project*

CARICOM. (1997-2001). *Caribbean planning for adaptation to climate change (CPACC) project*

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- Drigo, A. (2001). *Commonwealth of dominica policy on planning for adaptation to climate change*
- Environmental Protection Agency of Guyana. *Guyana's national climate change adaptation policy*
- Government of Belize. *Policy on adaptation to global climate change*
- Government of St. Lucia. *St. lucia policy and strategy for planning for and adapting to climate change*
- Hillel, O. (2007). *Biodiversity and climate change adaptation in tourism*
- Institute of Development Studies. (2006). *Overcoming the barriers: Mainstreaming climate change adaptation in developing countries*Tearfund.
- James, P. (2002). *Policy framework for integrated adaptation planning and management in antigua and barbuda*. Unpublished manuscript.

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Trotz, U. *Disaster reduction and adaptation to climate change – A CARICOM experience*

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Drakes, T. *A knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study of the general barbadian population, farmers and the agricultural policymakers in the impact of climate change.*

GECAFS. (2006). *A set of prototype caribbean scenarios for research on global environmental change and regional food systems.* No. 2)

Glasgow, E. *The influence of socio-economic circumstances and institutional support mechanisms on the vulnerability of cash crop farmers to flood disasters: An assessment of the anns grove and parika back farming communities.*

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