



Regional briefing on  
National Adaptation Plans:

# CARIBBEAN IN FOCUS

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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



*"The process to formulate and implement the NAP helps countries to integrate climate change adaptation into national decision making. Through the NAP process, countries conduct comprehensive medium and long-term climate adaptation planning, which must be flexible, building on each country's existing adaptation activities."*

Hon. Joseph Harmon,  
Minister of State of Guyana.

## In brief

- Many Caribbean countries have already mainstreamed adaptation into national development plans and climate change policies
  - Robust institutional arrangements provide an enabling environment for advancing adaptation planning.
  - Medium- to long-term NAP processes which integrate adaptation into planning and budgeting across all sectors and scales have been initiated in five countries within the region.
  - Adaptation and adaptation priorities are included in almost all I/NDCs in the region.
  - Priority adaptation sectors for the region include agriculture, coastal management and water, as well as health, urban settlements and tourism.
  - Integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation into planning is particularly relevant given the high vulnerability of the region to extreme events.
- Several countries have disaster risk management plans, which need to be taken into consideration in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
- There is a growing understanding of the importance of integrating gender into adaptation planning and implementation in the region.
  - The process to formulate and implement NAPs will enhance the integration of adaptation into sectoral planning in countries throughout the region, providing an opportunity to advance development planning, and support the achievement of SDGs.
  - There are existing regional organisations, governmental bodies and joint programmes in the Caribbean, which provide opportunities for advancing adaptation planning.

# Regional overview and introduction

Small-island States, including the Caribbean islands, are amongst the countries which are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Climate variability and change is already being observed in the region, including; warming of atmospheric and sea surface temperatures; sea level rise; and an increase in extreme weather events. Precipitation is expected to decrease. Some current impacts include coral bleaching, beach erosion, decreased freshwater stocks, changes in fish species, loss of land and forests, and an increase in vector-borne diseases, including malaria. Climate

change in the Caribbean brings an increased risk of loss of infrastructure and loss of life. This Regional Briefing is based on the consultations and discussions which took place at the *National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Training Workshop for the Caribbean*, held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 31 May to 2 June 2017. It aims to provide a brief overview of the NAP experiences of Caribbean countries, and highlight emerging issues, challenges and opportunities.

## Emerging issues for NAP processes

### Mainstreaming adaptation into planning

There are several notable successes in the region in terms of mainstreaming adaptation into development planning. A number of countries, including Barbados, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname, have integrated climate change **into national development plans**. Many countries have **climate change policies** in place, which either focus on, or encompass adaptation (e.g. Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago). Other countries are in the process of developing such policies and strategies (e.g. Barbados, Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines). Most countries have **institutional coordination** mechanisms for climate change planning, for example, the multi-sectoral National Climate Change Committees in Guyana and Saint Lucia.

### NDCs

Adaptation is specifically included in almost all Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDC (in the case of **Suriname, which is yet to ratify the Paris Agreement**). Only Trinidad and Tobago does not include adaptation in its INDC. The NDCs submitted by Caribbean countries specifically prioritise the agriculture, coastal and marine, and water sectors for adaptation planning and implementation. Approximately half of the countries also prioritise health, human settlements and tourism.

### Regional collaboration

The Caribbean region benefits from a range of experiences in regional collaboration on adaptation, through joint programmes such as the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCCP), which also supports NAP processes; through regional organisations such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which is also an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and regional bodies such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and its Council of Ministers of Environment. These experiences provide a basis for advancing regional level planning and implementation of adaptation measures.

## Horizontal (sectoral) integration

Sectoral integration of adaptation has begun in certain countries. Sectoral adaptation strategies are being developed in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Jamaica has a draft National **Water Sector Policy** and Implementation Plan (2017), which guides the sector's work on adaptation to climate change. Adaptation options are already being piloted by water agencies, such as the National Irrigation Commission, which is piloting drought resistant crops and water harvesting.

Early experiences are emerging from the **health sector** on the piloting of adaptation actions in the region. These experiences highlight the benefits of developing climate information and enhancing multi-sectoral coordination. For example, in Barbados, climate information has been integrated into health surveillance, whilst inter-sectoral collaboration has been enhanced. However, health is often not a priority in climate change policies, and that there is a lack of human resources and finance for adaptation in the health sector.

Examples of how to plan for and integrate adaptation into **urban planning** are emerging from Kingston, Jamaica. Planning regulations are also being revised in the light of climate change impacts in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

## Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a key priority for the Caribbean region, which is particularly vulnerable to extreme events. Many countries have disaster risk platforms and coordination committees, which oversee disaster response, as well as disaster risk management plans. There are also some strong experiences in integrating DRR into local level planning, such as in Guyana where both regional and community-based disaster plans have been developed. Harmonising planning processes on DRR and climate change adaptation, across sectors and scales, can help reduce vulnerability in the region.

## Integrating gender

Several Caribbean countries are developing a stronger understanding of the importance of integrating gender into planning and budgeting, and specifically for adaptation planning. In Grenada, there is a Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs. However, in many cases, gender issues are not well integrated into various sectors and Ministries. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal development is pushing for a consideration of gender into adaptation planning, and instigating inter-ministerial discussions on gender. In Jamaica, the government have attained a level of "institutionalization", whereby gender has been a priority in the government agenda for more than a decade. Here, there is a Ministry of Gender Affairs, and it is mandatory for all gender policies to be mainstreamed across sectors. In Barbados, gender consultations took place as part of the NDC development process.

## NAP-GSP Regional Trainings

The joint UNDP - UN Environment NAP-Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) is convening a global series of NAP Regional Training Workshops to build capacities and exchange experiences on NAPs.

The Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean convened 45 participants, including 25 government representatives, from 10 Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname), together with representatives of the NAP-GSP (UN Environment and UNDP), its partners (FAO, PROVIA, WHO, UN-Habitat) and regional organisations (CARICOM and CCCCC).

The objectives of the workshop were to: Increase the capacity of countries to undertake the process to formulate and implement NAPs in-country; take stock of and exchange experiences; and increase understanding on technical issues. The workshop used a combination of presentations, panel discussions, participatory group exercises and group discussions, covering topics from financing, prioritisation of options, gender to sectoral integration. The full workshop report, including the agenda and materials, is available at <http://globalsupportprogramme.org/nap-gsp-regional-training-workshop-caribbean>

# Moving forward on NAP processes

## NAP processes

The process to formulate and implement a NAP has been initiated in Belize, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. All these countries are seeking to integrate adaptation into both planning and budgeting in the medium- to long-term. The NAP process in Grenada is at an advanced stage, with a Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Policy, as well as sectoral adaptation plans and tagging of budget flows assigned to climate change adaptation.

## Challenges

The region faces several challenges in terms of NAP processes, in particular regarding the implementation of existing plans and policies.

There is a lack of **financial resources** to deliver on climate change adaptation plans and commitments. The main source of funding for adaptation remains project-based international finance and humanitarian aid. Alternative sources for climate financing, including from national budgets and private sector sources, are yet to be fully explored. Stronger technical capacities are needed to plan for adaptation in a coordinated manner across sectors and scales, from local to national level.

However, many countries have yet to **integrate adaptation into sectoral planning**. Frequently, no legislation exists which could provide a regulatory framework for implementing adaptation, although a few exceptions exist, such as The Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resources

the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System, which is under development in Barbados, to track greenhouse gas emissions, the impact of adaptation and mitigation actions, and climate finance flows (international, regional and domestic).

## Opportunities for NAPs

The process to formulate and implement NAPs in the Caribbean is considered a significant opportunity in the following aspects:

- Undertaking the NAP process will enhance strategic and comprehensive planning on adaptation in the medium- to long-term.
- Enhancing the **integration of adaptation across sectors**.
- Adaptation will be more cohesively integrated into **development planning** in the Caribbean.
- Adaptation targets will be closely tied to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Adaptation can also be better integrated **across scales**, down to community-level planning.
- **Key issues such as DRR, gender, use of indigenous and traditional knowledge** can be better integrated into adaptation planning.
- **Financial support** for NAP Readiness, including through the GCF, can enhance implementation of the adaptation planning processes that are on-going, or have been initiated in the country.

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