
Climate Variability and Change and their Health Effects in the Caribbean: Information for Adaptation Planning in the Health Sector

**Conference May 21-22, 2002
Workshop May 23-25, 2002
St. Philip, Barbados, West Indies**

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Parent and child enjoying a beach in Barbados at sunset. Source: World Health Organization. WHO-PAHO Digital Photo Library. Image No.WHO-385084.

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Hurricane Lenny causing coastal flooding in Dominica, 1999. Source: Pan American Health Organization. Disasters and Humanitarian Assistance, Images from Hurricane Lenny, November, 1999.

<http://www.paho.org/English/PED/pedlenny.htm>

See photograph in upper left corner of webpage.

Hurricane Lenny over the Eastern Caribbean in the visible and infrared spectrum from Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-8, 1999. Source: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.

<http://orbit-net.nesdis.noaa.gov/arad/fpdt/pix/Lenny.jpg>

Aedes aegypti, the mosquito that transmits dengue virus, engorged with human blood. Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dengue Branch, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Earth Probe TOMS Aerosol Index for June 23, 1998, showing African dust being transported westward over the Atlantic Ocean, extending as far west as the Caribbean Islands and even into Florida. Source: Dave Larko, Ozone Processing Team, U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center.



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Central America and the Caribbean



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Foreword

This conference and workshop has provided a timely forum for sharing information on adaptation to global climate change. This is of paramount importance considering the disparity in the well-being of peoples in poor and rich nations. The Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. George Alleyne, has expressed his particular concern for the territories of Latin America and the Caribbean and the state of preparedness of systems in the Region for dealing with the impacts of climate change. The vulnerability of the Region to various natural disasters, challenges to meet the demands of pressing health issues which affect the productivity of the communities, and the changing socio-economic climate all have an impact on the sustainable development of the Region.

Expanding the sensitivity to the possible impacts of climate change and resources to effect strategic planning and the implementation of preparedness programs require the active partnership of all the regional stakeholders. These should include international agencies, regional governments, and non-governmental organizations and our communities. The conference and workshop resulted in the establishment of networks which will facilitate the sharing of both technical and other resources to promote action rather than non-action in our quest to limit the impact of climate change.



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The entire Office of Caribbean Program Coordination of the Pan American Health Organization deserves a special note of appreciation for their efforts in setting up and running this conference and workshop.

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization organized this conference and workshop under the auspices of the Government of Barbados and the Interagency Network on Climate and Human Health formed by the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. The supporting agencies were the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Global Change Research Program in the Office of Research and Development), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Office of Global Programs), the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Earth Science and Public Health Program), Health Canada (Climate Change and Health Office) and Environment Canada (International Relations Directorate). Participating Caribbean institutions and organizations were the project on Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre and the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Electronic Sources of Information

Presentations, photographs, videos, newspaper articles and other background information on this conference and workshop are on the compact disc that accompanies this report.

For online information about this conference and workshop, visit:

- WHO Department of Protection of the Human Environment's Climate and Health Program.
http://www.who.int/peh/climate/climate_and_health.htm
- NOAA Research In the Spotlight Archive of Spotlight Feature Articles.
http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/archive/spot_archive.shtml



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACCC	Adapting to Climate Change in the Caribbean
ADD	Acute Diarrheal Disease
AIACC	Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiology Centre
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CD	Compact Disc
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CIMH	Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change
CPC	Office of Caribbean Program Coordination
CSGM	Climate Studies Group Mona
D.C.	District of Columbia (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)
ENSO	El Niño - Southern Oscillation
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Hon.	Honorable
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LLCDS	Low Lying Coastal Developing States
MACC	Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change
NASA	U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCDC	U.S. National Climatic Data Center

NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NOAA	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OAS	Organization of American States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PEAC	Pacific ENSO Applications Center
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SST	Sea Surface Temperature
St.	Saint
UHI	Urban Heat Island Effect
U.K.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
U.S.	United States of America
U.S.A.	United States of America
UV	Ultraviolet Radiation
UWI	University of the West Indies
UWICED	UWI Centre for Environment and Development
V&A	Vulnerability and Adaptation
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization