

Caribbean Regional Workshop on Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Planning

11-12 July 2023, Trinidad

<https://www.undrr.org/event/caribbean-regional-workshop-integrated-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation>

Background

The climate crisis is considered one of the great threats to humanity and the planet. Climate-related disasters have almost doubled in the past two decades compared to the previous twenty years. This has exacerbated inequalities within and between countries, with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) often experiencing the worst impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions. Climate change compounds other human security risks, such as conflict, and food & water security, leading to increased humanitarian needs, with already one in every 33 persons globally in need of assistance and protection.

Risks associated with climate change and variability are threatening sustainable development in many countries. Coupled with non-climatic stressors, this poses significant threats to SIDS and LDCs. Data show, for example, that SIDS have experienced higher numbers of deaths per 100,000 population (13) compared with the global average (0.84).¹ The evidence is clear that climate change is already undermining the ability of these vulnerable nations to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have the common objective of reducing vulnerability and enhancing capacity and resilience. This is reflected in the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, among other international agreements. The most recent convening of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 27) and the Paris Agreement (CMA 4) identified mitigation, adaptation, financing and loss and damage as priority areas, all of which are mutually shared across all domains. The Mid-term Review (MTR) of the Sendai Framework, set for completion in 2023, has already produced main findings and recommendations. There, the existential threat of climate change was flagged, and so was the need for 2023 to be a period of course correction.

The UNDRR has been implementing its flagship initiative, **comprehensive disaster and climate risk management programme** (www.undrr.org/crm). This is aligned with the Target E of the Sendai Framework which seeks to increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, wherein the promotion of policy coherence

¹ Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/764/26/PDF/N2276426.pdf?OpenElement>

with climate change, among others, is one of the defined principles. Furthermore, it is in alignment with the Paris Agreement, including the global goal on adaptation to, inter alia, enhance resilience, and action to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. It is also synergizes with the SDGs, including Goal 13 on Climate Action, its target 13.2 relating to national planning, and 13.b relating to mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in LDCs and SIDS.

The CRM approach aims to integrate risk reduction into national adaptation plans, climate information and adaptation considerations into disaster risk reduction plans, and where relevant and agreeable, an integrated plan. The CRM approach is, hence, key to making the shift towards integrated plans and policies, supported by a shared understanding of risk and coherent institutions.

Such a comprehensive approach takes into consideration a number of factors to purposively strengthen synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, by identifying mutually beneficial opportunities across policies and programmes, while developing capacities of governments for cross-sectoral planning.

Workshop objective

The workshop seeks to enhance the capacities of Caribbean countries in developing and implementing integrated plans, and to support regional efforts in streamlining climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures in light of past and projected climate change impacts. It will facilitate broader understanding of existing and relevant initiatives at the national and regional levels, with a view to strengthening their use and application in integrated approaches. It will also highlight opportunities for synergistic planning and implementation. The workshop will be held in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), hosted by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. It is scheduled for 11-12 July 2023, targeting DRR and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focal points in countries of the Caribbean.

More specifically, the workshop will:

- Convene key government representatives from ministries and agencies with responsibility for disaster risk management (DRM), climate change adaptation (CCA), and planning and finance, together with UN, regional and international organizations, to share good practices, challenges and opportunities in integrated planning.
- Facilitate the awareness of and input in regional planning frameworks for DRM and climate change
- Promote the application of climate information in planning processes.
- Share information and updates on existing coordination mechanisms, ongoing projects, risk data, and national climate and disaster finance tracking.

To achieve its overall objective, the workshop will ensure that:

1. Invited disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actors are informed about the process for developing risk-informed national adaptation plans, and translate the plans into actions, inviting them to contribute.
2. An overview of the current adaptation and risk governance landscape is shared, including existing sector and development policies and plans, institutional mechanisms, ongoing programmes, risk data ecosystem, and capacities.
3. Knowledge and experience on the current state of climate and risk understanding and adaptation/risk reduction action are discussed among participants and country groups, highlighting the current policy landscape, barriers and challenges to integration, as well as opportunities for enhancing integration.

Expected outcome

This regional workshop will result in a shared vision for implementation of existing plans or the development of new plans (DRR strategies, NAPs, or integrated plans). The workshop will build capacities to enable countries to develop and implement climate-risk informed, data-driven national plans or integrated strategies, enabling them to draw on the skills and capacities of relevant line ministries, and building on the concepts and good global and regional practices on development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans and DRR strategies. The workshop will also build on existing work done in the region to strengthen integration.

Key outcomes of the workshop include:

1. A roadmap, including guiding principles, to boost integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation planning at the national level, and ensuring alignment with regional mechanisms.
2. Outline capacity development needs for country implementation and to access climate finance in order to implement NAPs and DRR strategies.

Target Audience

Participants will include:

- National DRR focal points (not limited to emergency response/preparedness officers)
- Climate change or NAP focal points
- Representatives from Ministries of planning and finance
- Development partners/UN agencies / International organizations
- Regional organizations
- International and Regional Financial Institutions

Target countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands.

Regional Organizations: Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), Regional Climate Change Centres, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH), Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)

International Organizations: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (Regional Office - Panama), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Capital Development Fund, NAP Global Network

Other Partners: Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC), NAP Global Network/IISD

International and Regional Financial Institutions: Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Green Climate Fund (GCF), GIZ

Key Technical Resources

1. [Technical guidelines for national adaptation plan process](#)
2. [Guidance: Developing national disaster risk reduction strategies](#)
3. [Guidance: Promoting synergy and alignment: between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans \(DRR4NAPs\)](#)
4. [Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Risk Assessment & Planning in the Context of Climate Change](#)
5. [Implementation guide for local disaster risk reduction & resilience strategies](#)
6. [Guidance: National and Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
7. [Guidance: Nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction](#)
8. [Policy Brief: Disaster risk reduction and climate change](#)
9. [Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030](#)
10. [Manual for Mainstreaming Climate Change into CDM Country Work Programmes](#)
11. A Regional Programme and Plan of Action for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
12. Manual for Mainstreaming Climate Change into CDM Country Work Programmes