



Climate Change and Tourism

A Caribbean Tourism Organization Perspective



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Presentation Outline

- Overview of CTO
- Caribbean climate change challenges
- Current Climate Change initiatives
- Possible Future Climate Change initiatives

CTO Member Countries

Anguilla	Curacao	St. Eustatius
Antigua & Barbuda	Dominica	St. Kitts & Nevis
Aruba	Dominican Republic	St. Maarten
Bahamas	Grenada	St. Martin
Barbados	Guadeloupe	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Belize	Guyana	Suriname
Bermuda	Haiti	Trinidad & Tobago
Bonaire	Jamaica	Turks & Caicos Islands
British Virgin Islands	Martinique	US Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands	Montserrat	Venezuela
Cuba	Puerto Rico	

Caribbean Tourism Organization Role

Facilitate sustainable tourism and competitiveness:

- ✓ Research and information
- ✓ ST policy and operational guidelines
- ✓ Caribbean marketing and branding
- ✓ Programme/project implementation

Climate Change Impacts

- Losses from greater hurricane intensity & frequency
- Sea level rise & impacts on coastal areas
- Salt water intrusion into fresh water aquifers
- Warmer winters & summers in northern markets and changing Caribbean weather patterns affecting seasonal demand
- Changing precipitation patterns, leading to reduced water supply, drought & increased sea surface temperatures

Profitability and Competitiveness

“The profitability of tourism facilities in the Caribbean is likely to come under increasing pressure from climate change related operational costs such as increased insurance...these endogenous and exogenous challenges facing Caribbean tourism are likely to impact on the region’s ability to achieve sustainable competitive advantage.”

Caribbean Losses from Hurricanes (2004 - 2005)

YEAR	HURRICANE	COUNTRY	LOSSES (US\$)
2004	Ivan	Grenada	\$895 million
2004	Ivan	Jamaica	\$593 million
2004	Ivan	St. Lucia	\$10 million
2004	Ivan	St. Vincent/Gren.	\$4 million
2004	Frances	The Bahamas	\$357 million
2004	Jeanne	The Bahamas	\$351 million
2005	Emily	Grenada	\$75 million
TOTAL			\$2.3 billion

Source: CDEMA

Loss of Coral Reefs

“Probably, the most stark finding of our result is that...the whole Caribbean has been flattened in the past decade, mainly as a result of climate change. There are no detectable complex reefs (left). We’ve lost 80 percent of the living coral cover in the Caribbean over the last four decades. ...”

(Dr. Nicolas Dulvy, Simon Fraser University, Canada)

Latin American and Caribbean Cities at Risk From Flooding



Collaboration with UNECLAC

RECC - A Review of the Economics of Climate Change - Member of UNECLAC's High Level Advisory Committee for the project

- ✓ To assess the likely economic impacts of climate change on key sectors of the Caribbean economies
- ✓ To stimulate local & national governments, regional institutions, private sector & civil society to craft & implement policies to mitigate & adapt to climate change

Collaboration with CHTA

Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Program

- ✓ To encourage the implementation of energy efficiency practices & micro-generation with renewable energy in the Caribbean hotel sector, hence improving the competitiveness of small, medium & large hotels through improved use of energy.

Collaboration with CDEMA

- ✓ Regional DRM Strategy & Plan of Action for the Caribbean tourism sector
- ✓ Standards for Hazard Mapping, Vulnerability Assessment and Economic Valuation
- ✓ Tourism Sector Lead (via the CDM-CHC Tourism Sector Sub-Committee) to facilitate sector level coordination for mainstreaming DRM into Caribbean tourism planning and development

Collaboration with UWI

- ✓ Possible development of an online programme in DRM and climate change for the tourism sector

Collaboration with CARIBSAVE Partnership

Caribbean **Climate Change**, Tourism & Livelihoods:
A Sectoral Approach to Vulnerability and Resilience
(Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation and Capacity
Building)

- ✓ To strengthen, protect & enhance the economies & livelihoods of Caribbean nations & sectoral stakeholders who rely directly & indirectly on the Caribbean tourism industry
- ✓ To strengthen, protect & enhance the natural & built assets & sectors on which the industry is based

Potential Future CC Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives

- Mainstreaming CC within policy frameworks
- Caribbean as world's first 'carbon neutral' region
- Exploration of feasibility of voluntary high quality carbon offset programmes targeting travelers
- Improving tourism stakeholders' education and awareness of CC and its potential impacts
- Encouraging tourism stakeholders to apply low carbon technology, renewable energy & energy efficiency to address climate change

Useful Resources

CTO website: www.onecaribbean.org and E-library

- Report – International Policy & Market response to Global Warming & the Challenges & Opportunities that Climate Change Issues Present for the Caribbean Tourism Sector (CTO/EC)
- Good Practices: Natural Hazard Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector
- Handbook - Disaster Risk Management for Coastal Tourism Destinations Responding to Climate Change – A Practical Guide for Decision Makers (UNEP/CAST)
- Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual (OAS/CDEMA)



Gracias
Thank You
Merci
Danki

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