



# **Partnerships for Resilience** ***Climate Change and*** ***Caribbean Tourism***

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6<sup>th</sup> Tourism Human Resources Conference, Barbados  
24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

# Sustainable Tourism

“Sustainable tourism development means the optimal use of social, natural, cultural and financial resources for national development on an equitable and self-sustaining basis to provide a unique visitor experience and an improved quality of life through **partnerships** among government, the private sector and communities.” (CTO)

# Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework

- Vision for sustainable tourism development of Caribbean tourism in a way that it (amongst other things):
  - Becomes more viable and resilient
  - Continues to embrace regional integration
- Recommended policy objectives include:
  - Implement appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies to reduce the vulnerability of Caribbean tourism to the physical and strategic implications of climate change

# Adaptation Strategies and Measures

- Adapting to sea level rise e.g. MPAs, mangrove and coral reef preservation
- Water conservation, recycling and harvesting
- Built environment e.g. green buildings, adequate setbacks
- Enabling government policy e.g. land use planning with climate change considerations, fiscal incentives for built infrastructure



# **CARICOM Regional Framework (2009-2015)**

- For achieving development resilient to climate change using 4 strategies:
  1. Mainstreaming climate change into sustainable development agendas
  2. Reducing GHG emissions through EE & RE
  3. Reducing vulnerability of natural & human systems to climate change impacts
  4. Prudent standing forest management for social, economic and environmental benefits

# Partnerships for Resilience

- CCCCC – lead responsibility for Framework, financial and resource mobilization for implementation
- Collaboration with:
  - National governments
  - CARICOM Secretariat
  - Regional institutions
  - Civil society
  - Private sector entities

# Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Strategies into SD

- Building regional capacity to expand knowledge base on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities
- *CTO Actions:*
  - Building internal capacity on climate change (CC) through participating in climate change-related meetings, conferences, workshops
  - Incorporating CC-related topics into Board meetings, conferences, workshops, webinars, newsletters

# Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Strategies into SD

- Build in-country capacity to formulate and analyze adaptation policy options and develop and implement multisectoral adaptation strategies
- *CTO Actions:*
  - CCA policy recommendations in regional sustainable tourism policy framework
  - Developing guidelines for CC adaptation in the Caribbean tourism sector



# Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Strategies into SD

- Development of regional strategy to improve regional policy coordination and harmonization on CC adaptation & mitigation
- *CTO Actions:*
  - CTO on CCCCC Board
  - CTO on UNECLAC High Level Advisory Committee on Climate Change
  - CTO on CDEMA Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination & Harmonization Council & implements DRM projects for tourism

# Reducing Region's Carbon Footprint

- CTO and CHTA have partnered to implement the Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Program which seeks to promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in the hotel sector and encourage reduction of GHG emissions by encouraging ODS phase-out.
- CTO also supports the Carbon Neutral Tourism Project being executed by CCCCC

# Encouraging Better Tourism Infrastructure Planning

- *CTO Actions:*

- Included sessions at our Sustainable Tourism Development Conference in Guyana, April 2012 on:
  - how to plan tourism infrastructure with CC in mind
  - how to incorporate biodiversity considerations into hotel/resort siting, design and operations
- Provided input into and endorsed IUCN guide on hotels and biodiversity

# Supporting Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

- Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project:
  - Duration: 2010 - 2012
  - Funded by: Gov't of Guyana and EU
  - Implemented by: Ministry of Agriculture's National Agriculture Research & Extension Institute
  - Results: Three-year National Mangrove Management Action Plan



# **Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project Objectives**

- To respond to climate change and to mitigate its effects through the protection, rehabilitation and wise use of Guyana's mangrove ecosystems
- To achieve the commitment of nationals for the protection and development of sustainable mangrove forests

# Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project Activities

- Administrative capacity development
- Research
- Community development
- Capacity building
- Mangrove restoration
- Monitoring
- Awareness and education

# Community Benefits

- Communities closest to pilot sites:
  - involved in the mangrove replanting process
  - offered training and job opportunities
  - Project-community socio-economic linkages established with Beekeeper Association, Mangrove Women Producers



# Guyana Mangrove Restoration





# Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project

- The Mangrove Women Producers and the Beekeepers Association now excel in the production of honey, beeswax candles, pepper sauce and achar which are all branded under the Mangrove Reserve products label.
- Locals employed as tour guides within the mangrove reserve area.



# Winner – CTO-TravelMole Biodiversity Conservation Award 2012

Guyana Mangrove Reserve Women





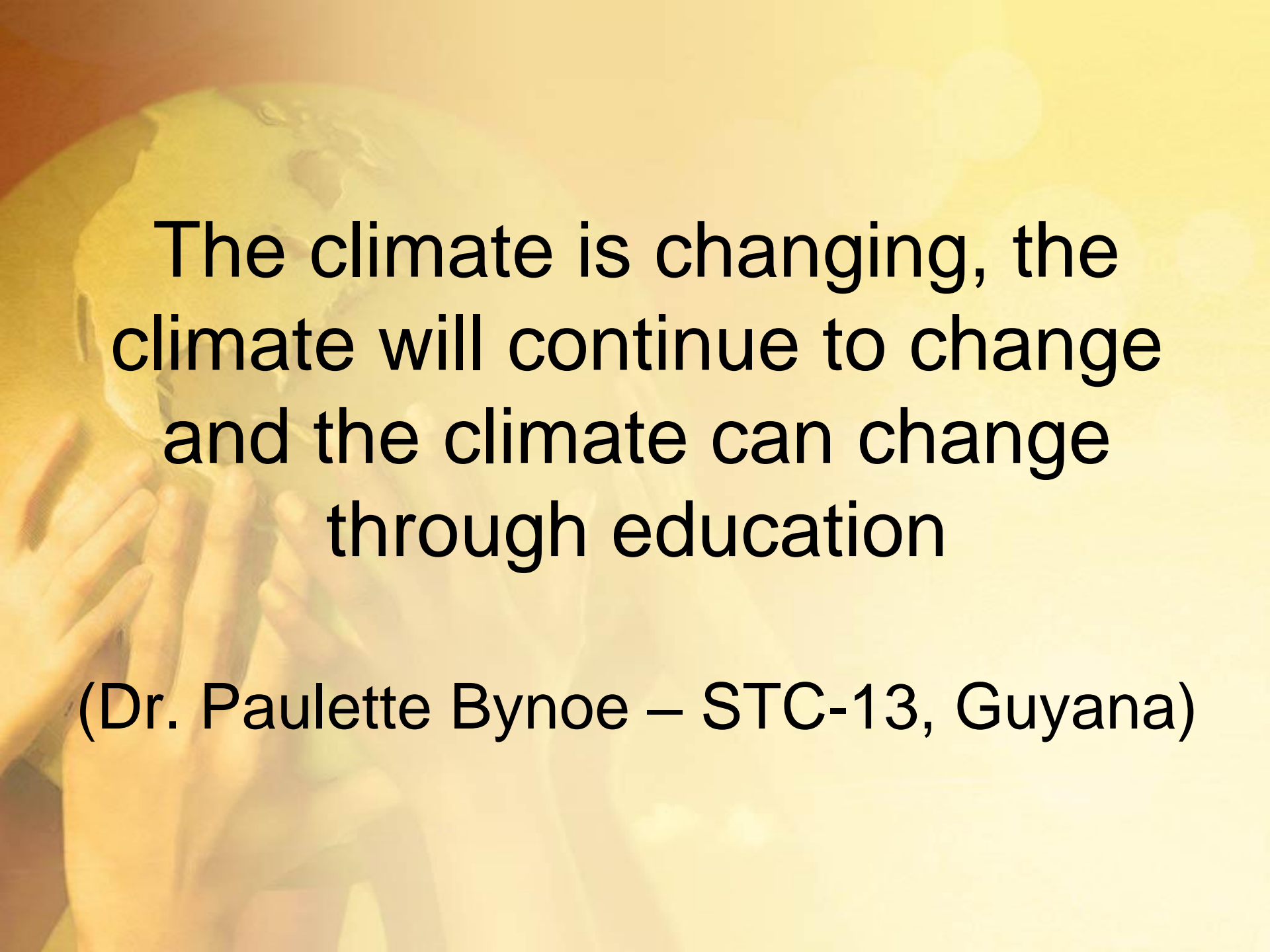
# Winner – CTO-TravelMole Biodiversity Conservation Award 2012



# Effective Strategy Implementation


- To reduce vulnerability and build resilience to changing climate requires:
  - Collaboration and cooperation among development partners
  - Clear appreciation of respective roles and responsibilities by various actors at the national, regional and international levels
  - Ongoing commitment by all partners
  - Continuous public education, awareness, empowerment
  - Good practice documentation, recognition and wide dissemination



A globe is shown in the background, held by several hands of different skin tones, symbolizing global unity and climate action. The text is overlaid on this image.

The climate is changing, the  
climate will continue to change  
and the climate can change  
through education

(Dr. Paulette Bynoe – STC-13, Guyana)



Thanks for your attention...

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