

## **Highlights from CIF Data and Information Sharing Discussion Event-Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) Clearinghouse for climate related data and information**

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2012

Time: 12:00 PM-1:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Venue: World Bank Headquarters, CCCCC Headquarters Belize, Germany.

Presenters: Timo Baur, Clearinghouse Manager and Information Specialist, CCCCC; Gerard Alleng, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank

### Introduction

A key goal of the Climate Investment Funds' Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) is to share lessons about increasing resilience to climate variability and change through learning-by-doing. To facilitate learning and sharing among PPCR stakeholders, the CIF has launched an online community of practice to generate and sustain an ongoing dialogue about key issues. This community is utilizing an array of online tools and platforms for its learning and knowledge-sharing activities, and will be showcased at the 2012 Partnership Forum in Istanbul, Turkey. Community activities and lessons from PPCR pilot countries are also being documented and shared via the CIF website.

As part of the PPCR online community's learning series, the [Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre](#) (CCCCC) and climate change team from Inter-American Development Bank gathered virtually to discuss the use of a clearinghouse for sharing climate change related data and information across the Caribbean region. Participants shared their experiences in aggregating data, the challenges with coordinating across many countries and institutions, and how information can be used across the Caribbean to build greater resilience to the impacts of climate variability and change. A [full recording](#) of the discussion is available as is the [presentation](#) made by colleagues from the CCCCC. This summary attempts to capture the flow of the discussion and information exchanged and is not a verbatim recording of the proceedings.

### *PPCR Caribbean Regional Program*

The Caribbean regional program is one of two regional pilots under the PPCR, the other being the Pacific region. Regional pilots differ from national programs in that they involve multiple countries collaborating with regional organizations.

CCCCC is the regional coordinating entity for the PPCR regional program and has a role in the improvements of data collection, management and sharing across the Caribbean region.

### *Clearinghouse at CCCCC*

The CCCCC Clearinghouse was established as part of their mission to act as a repository for regional climate change related data and to serve as a knowledge base for climate change issues in the Caribbean region. This information platform provides climate change related data about the region online.

The CCCCC Clearinghouse information platform provides a mechanism for a wide variety of users to access and share multiple types of content. It is accessible through website, desktop and other platforms and data is also available upon request per specific needs.

To stay current, the Clearinghouse mechanism relies on continuous gathering—pushing and pulling—of information from different sources like government institutions, organizations, projects and individuals.

### *Bringing together national and regional interests from the Caribbean*

Establishing protocols and enhancing interfaces for interaction between organizations that work with climate change related information—such as geospatial information about impacts—is a vital part of enhancing awareness about the evolution and impacts of climate variability and change for countries in the Caribbean.

There is a need for public outreach and trust building. Much work is need to encourage countries and agencies within countries to recognize that there is greater national benefit to sharing information. This can be difficult as the information is often considered proprietary and some even gain rents from “their” information.

Data standards—such as hydro-meteorological data—are constantly evolving. The World Meteorological Organization is constantly revising its standards and countries are working hard to keep up. However, the CCCCC platform allows for a sharing of documents and data regardless of the data format.

The CCCCC platform can act as a registry to facilitate more regular and robust transfer of information between countries. The CCCCC Clearinghouse not only collects information but also facilitates and encourages actors from different countries to provide their information to the Clearinghouse so it can be archived and disseminated through the CCCCC platform.

### *Providing key information and data*

Climate models are available for each country in the Caribbean and are based on information from as recent as late 2011 and 2012. The models are updated as soon as climate studies groups and countries provide new information.

The information platform/clearinghouse of CCCCC provides downscaled models on the website—a core need identified during PPCR consultations across the region. The model computed by the CCCCC and its

partner institution INSMET is accessible through the [CCCCC Resources Centre](#) and currently provides maps of projections calculated on the basis of the ECHAM4 (1991-2100) for the emission scenarios A2 and B2 at a resolution of 50x50km for every country in the region. Besides working on the computation of further scenarios, the CCCCC Clearinghouse also integrates climate projections computed by other teams and international sources.

Information from the CCCCC Clearinghouse is packaged for different users like policy-makers, scientists and the general public, among others. However, the needs of the end-users also determine what information is sought and requested. Thus, the clearinghouse team works with end-users who request specific information, to find the most relevant data. For example, economic data may more relevant to policy-makers, while climate modeling is often more interesting to scientists.

The CCCCC platform can accommodate Geographic Information Systems data by providing geospatial datasets for others to input into their planning or modeling programs. The platform does not provide GIS software or online mapping tools and does not have a “layering” capability.

An important part of setting up an effective Clearinghouse is to assess the type of information that is being sought and the availability of information. The technical needs can then be built to reflect the data properly.

Documents, climate models, project and study archives, vulnerability, risk and other analyses from the countries are available for all countries in the CARICOM and can be shared at broader, regional, or narrower, national or sub-national, scales.

The Clearinghouse also has archival facilities. Past studies may not have been stored in an electronic format, but the CCCCC is going back through many of these old studies to provide them in digital form and make them accessible online.

Currently the CCCCC Clearinghouse team is working on extending the platform to include climate change related data such as hydrometeorological time-series and geospatial data.

The CCCCC is also working on educational programs that will be added to the platform.

### *Serving a broad audience*

Approximately 2,500 to 2,800 documents are downloaded per month from the CCCCC information platform with the expectation that this will increase in the future. Many requests are also received from researchers, consultants and students by email.

Ongoing communication persists with national and regional level stakeholders through Government and Nongovernment organizations, project managers, universities, researchers, students, consultants, press, or others in search of information.

### *Added value of the PPCR*

The PPCR is adding value to the process of extending the reach of the CCCCC Clearinghouse by providing resources to enhance the scope of the information collected. This includes the support of national data nodes that can be fed into the regional clearinghouse.

Incentives are needed to encourage the uploading of information, along with appropriate structures established to regularize data and information sharing. PPCR funding will be important in establishing structures for sharing and possibly for working on developing the right incentives.

The general challenges of bringing together national and regional actors to share information are shaped by several aspects. PPCR resources will be used to address many of the following challenges:

- The complexity of organizations and projects working on climate change at regional and even national levels.
- Technological incompatibilities or limitations.
- Definitional—the data or information can be case dependent (e.g. which type of information is useful for what case).
- Political and structural—willingness to share, lack of perceived benefit from sharing, or shifting national and regional actors and structures.

Link to CCCCC website is <http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/>

### Participants

#### **Presenters**

Timo Baur, Clearinghouse Manager and Information Specialist, CCCCC

Gerard Alleng, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank

#### **Facilitator**

Erik Reed, Climate Investment Funds

#### **Guests and online Participants**

Albert Jones, Harrison Cooper, Margaret Ventura, Keith Nichols, Pat Mendoza, Antonio Hegar (CCCCC); Justin Locke, Brad Lyon (World Bank); Stephen Hutton and Ken Chomitz (WBG Independent Evaluation Group), Dougal Allen (ITSD St. Vincent), Joyce Thomas (Climate Change Adaptation Consultant Grenada), Suzanne Davis, Bishwa Pandey, Kimie (Climate Investment Funds).