


**IDB Meeting on National and Sectoral Programs  
and Strategies for Climate Change:  
Challenges and Opportunities in  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
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***Kenrick Leslie PhD CBE***  
*Executive Director*  
*Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre*

# Climate Change-related Challenges on TOURISM

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- Indirect – Sea Level Rise (SLR)
  - Coast and Beach erosion
  - Inundation of flood plains
  - Soil and aquifer salinisation
  - Exaggerated storm surge
  - Loss of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems.
  - At worst total submersion

# Climate Change-related Challenges on TOURISM

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- Warmer sea temperature
  - Coral bleaching – El Nino 1998 extensive bleaching in region
  - Breakdown of reef protection
    - Amenity loss for divers and snorkelers
    - In combination with loss of mangroves, sea-grass beds impact on fisheries
  - Projected increase in frequency of extreme events floods, droughts
  - Projected increase in intensity of hurricanes

# Climate Change-related Challenges on TOURISM

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- ❑ Changing weather patterns & water supply
- ❑ Projected decrease in precipitation
  - Less water available
  - Aquifer salinization
  - Serious consequences for water short countries – Barbados, Antigua& Barbuda
  - Inadequate aquifer recharge
  - Negative impact on agriculture

# Some Indicative Adaptation Options for the CARIBBEAN

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## **Sea Level Rise**

- ❑ Building seawalls and breakwaters
- ❑ Enhancing preservation of natural sea-defences (mangroves)
- ❑ Relieve anthropogenic stresses on reef system
- ❑ Beach nourishment (expensive)
- ❑ Prohibit sand mining
- ❑ Adjust setbacks and enforce
- ❑ Institute a local system of marine protected area

# Some Indicative Adaptation Options for the CARIBBEAN

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## **Water Sector**

- ❑ Desalination
- ❑ Water conservation
- ❑ Recycling grey water in the industry
- ❑ Water harvesting
- ❑ Low flush toilets
- ❑ Aquifer recharge
- ❑ Drip irrigation in agriculture

# Some Indicative Adaptation Options for the CARIBBEAN

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## **Built Environment**

- ❑ Building design for efficient cooling
- ❑ Adequate setbacks from eroding coasts
- ❑ Locating coastal infrastructure away from eroding coasts
- ❑ Facilities designed to accommodate future climate (revisit CUBIC)
- ❑ Incentives (fiscal, insurance) to industry for compliance
- ❑ Factor in increased insurance costs into resort profitability

# Some Indicative Adaptation Options for the CARIBBEAN

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## **Enabling Government Policy**

- ❑ Fiscal incentives for changes to built tourism infrastructure (e.g retrofitting to comply with adjusted building codes)
- ❑ Fiscal regime to encourage sustainable construction in less vulnerable coastal zones
- ❑ Greater public infrastructure for new tourism developments e.g. coastal defence
- ❑ Land use planning to incorporate CC considerations



# Tourism as a Contributing Cause

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- GHG emissions from the sector derived from:
  - Transport
    - Road
    - Sea
    - Aviation
  - Activity specific tourism e.g. sport
  - Buildings and other tourism amenities – use of energy
  - Increased stress on natural ecosystems – coastal ecosystems, natural resource base for ecotourism

# Decreasing Tourism Foot Print

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- Encourage green tourism
- Energy efficient building designs – cooling/light
- Water conservation – low flush toilets etc.
- Energy efficiency management practices
- Renewable energy use e.g. solar water heating
- Encourage use of energy efficient vehicles, cycling & activities that use less energy.

# Adaptation Projects in the Tourism Sector

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- **The CARIBSAVE Project, its objectives**
  - **Model and predict the changes in climate as they will affect the Caribbean Tourism Sector on a regional, national and destinational scale**
  - **Assess the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the Tourism Sector in the Caribbean region, in nations and in selected destinations**
  - **Assess the Impacts of Climate Change on Tourism and Livelihoods on a Sectoral basis**
  - **Establish the Caribbean as a Carbon Neutral Tourism Region**
  - **Design and implement a series of sectoral based capacity building seminars throughout the Caribbean region for Tourism Sector stakeholders including community outreach focus**

# Adaptation Projects in the Tourism Sector

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- The Caribbean Carbon Neutral Tourism Project - Approved for funding by IDB and addresses Objective 6 of CARIBSAVE proposal
  - ***Component 1: Assessment of carbon footprint of tourism sector and evaluation of appropriate approaches/technologies to reduce footprint***
  - ***Component 2: Identification/development of financial mechanisms to enhance climate resilience of the tourism sector in the Caribbean***
  - ***Component 3: Preparation of the project to access CIF funding, both for adaptation and mitigation purposes***

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***THANK  
YOU***