

Take Home Messages from CARIWIG research.

The Caribbean now possesses some useful tools, tailored for use in the region and with the capacity to utilise and improve these tools, resident in regional institutions. This is as a result of a genuine research partnership between the enabling institutions, the Universities of East Anglia & Newcastle and local institutions, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre(CCCCC), Climate Studies Group Mona University of the West Indies, Jamaica (CSGM)and the Institute of Meteorology (INSMET) of Cuba and the facilitative implementation environment provided by the funders, the Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN).

The utility and applicability of these tools under local conditions, were assured, through a series of in depth consultations between the developers and potential user groups, before and during the production of the final product. User groups were also engaged to use the tools to carry out several local case studies and thus, through this process, confirming their utility value.

The production of these tools, are part of a wider regional effort, to provide the necessary contextual information for evidence based decision making, for building resilience to climate risks in the Caribbean. One of our greatest challenges, as borne out by the experiences of this project is accessing historical climate data, so necessary for establishing baselines against which to measure future changes and for the validation of the outputs of our regional modeling and downscaling activities. A related challenge, was the absence in many instances of local meteorological observations (current) and the project utilised "gridded reanalysis dataset" produced by combining weather forecasting models with other observations.

Tools on their own are not useful, unless a significant amount of effort and resources are devoted to the dissemination of information on their availability and to training relevant stakeholder groups, in their use and application. Fortunately, under another regional project funded by USAID the Centre has embarked on a series of National and Regional dissemination and training exercises, facilitated by the fact, that, all the tools are now in the public domain and available on line.

This research complements the work of the WMO regional climate Centre, the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) which has been providing different sectors in the region with short term forecasts and engaging with different interest groups, to promote a community of intelligent users of climate information for decision making, in the Caribbean.