



Regional Collaboration Centre – St. George's
Promoting Action Against Climate Change

Regional Collaboration Centre St. George's

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2019!

Message from the Vice President and Director of WINDREF

Dear Stakeholders,

We at WINDREF would like to congratulate the UNFCCC in opening the 6th Global RCC in Dubai earlier this year. We would also like to congratulate all involved for successfully moving the COP25 meeting from Chile to Spain to be held in December 2019 under the Chairmanship of the President of Chile. We were delighted to facilitate the successful capacity building workshop in the Dominican Republic. We thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for supporting the St. George's University Chair of the Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Dr. Richards, to attend the of the launch of the Dubai RCC. We feel that 2019 has been another successful year, and we look forward to re-signing the 2013 MOU between WINDREF and the UNFCCC Secretariat later this year.



Yours sincerely,
Cal Macpherson
Vice President and Director

Message from the New Chair of the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, St. George's University

Dear Stakeholders,

On behalf of St. George's University and as the newly appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, I had the opportunity to attend the World Green Economy Summit and the sixth Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Global Forum of the Steering Committees Meeting, which took place in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 20 to 21 October 2019. [RCC Dubai](#) was also launched at this summit. I was hosted by a very warm and welcoming RCC Global team, who oriented me and guided and facilitated the presentations. The event was very informative as RCC partners shared their achievements, challenges and solutions. Additionally, countries represented shared their programs, plans and challenges in working towards achieving a Green Economy. Innovative ideas such as the use of social

cohesion, incentivizing the private sector, plastic to oil conversion and educating not only individuals but also the business industry, were shared. There was also some discussion on adapting sound economical approaches to facilitate interventions that are realistic and doable, the importance of governments partnering with the private sector.

It was an interesting experience and an opportunity to get a better understanding of the partnership. The RCC global team provided excellent support. I really felt as though I was a part of a family. Loved the experience and am looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship with this group!



Regards,
Dr. Christine Richards,
Interim Chair, Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
St. George's University



Announcements

Introduction to Sustainable Finance: Training Course by UN
CC: e-learn



UN CC:e-Learn

A new e-learning course on Sustainable Finance is being offered by The Strategic Alliance on Green Bond Market Development in G20 Emerging Economies and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy. The course will be presented in the form of three modules which are the fundamentals of **sustainable finance, the sustainable finance market, and sustainable finance products**. At the end of the course, you will receive your UN certificate once you take and pass three quizzes with a minimum of 70%. Learn more and register for the course [here](#).

CaribDA 2020 Biennial Conference & Exposition (Call for Abstracts)

The Caribbean Desalination Association (CaribDA) is making a call for abstracts to present at their conference on the 26th-29th May 2020. The theme is "Preparing for Climate Change in the Caribbean Water Sector: Planning for Sustainability and Building Resiliency." They are inviting persons to submit abstract on topics of desalination, wastewater reuse and other relevant topics as follows:

1. Building Resiliency in the Water Sector
2. Preparing for Climate Change & Disaster Recovery
3. Improving PPP Structure in the Caribbean
4. Reducing Operating Costs and Improving Efficiency
5. Overcoming Plant Operating Challenges
6. Blue/Green Desalination / Wastewater Reuse

The **deadline** for submission is the **6th of December 2019**. For more information and to submit follow this [link](#).

Upcoming Events

COP25

On **December 2-13th 2019**, the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 will be held at Madrid, Spain under the Presidency of the Government of Chile. The conference will host a series of sessions with a key objective of completing "**several matters with respect to the full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement**." There will also be a pre-session period is from the November 25th to 1st January 2019, which will also be held at Madrid.

This conference will also highlight key attributes that would aid countries when submitting new and updated national climate action plans such as finance, forests and agriculture, capacity building, indigenous peoples, cities, and oceans.

For more information click [here](#)

11th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management

On **December 2-6th 2019**, in collaboration with the Government of Sint Marteen, the 11th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management will be held. This year's theme is "**The Road to Resilience Checkpoint 2019 - Safeguarding Our Communities, Livelihoods and Economies**." The objectives of this year's conference include:

- Highlighting the progress in achieving Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy Results 2014-2024
- Showcasing opportunities for protecting livelihoods and economies within various communities
- Promoting youth empowerment in safeguarding our communities, livelihoods and economies
- Identifying lessons from past events and opportunities to inform future resilience
- Facilitating exchanges and knowledge sharing on CDM related research, tools, models, products, information and educational materials
- Promoting understanding of the Resilience Framework adopted by CARICOM Heads of Government
- Promoting the goals of and build commitment for Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM)

Read more and register for the event [here](#).

Highlights From Last Quarter

SGU Climate and Health Course

St. George's University's (SGU) course, which began October 20, continues to run presenting participants with exciting information related to the topic of **climate and health**. The course was offered by the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. For this course, St. George's University collaborated with, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaborating Center for Caribbean and the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Collaborating Center both located at its campus in Grenada. Students in the 4-week course interacted with SGU's faculty and UNFCCC staff as the topic of climate and health is explored with experts at varying levels of policy to practice towards understanding challenges and presenting solutions. The course was free to attend and ran until November 17, 2019. It will remain on demand and open after this date.

For more information and to register, go [here](#).

EnGender Project Launch

UNDP has decided to launch a new project involving technical support from the RCC St. George's and other specialist organizations called the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recover, Climate and Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGender) project. Due to the differences in the way men and women respond in the various stages of disaster and recovering, and knowing that those who have the least amount of knowledge in such a situation are typically impacted the most, the EnGender project aims to integrate gender equality and human rights based approaches in disaster risk recovery, climate change adaption, and environmental management frameworks. The project will identify and tackle some of the gaps that exist and ensure that women, men, girls, and boys have equal access to disaster risk reduction and climate change and environmental solutions. The project will take place in 9 Caribbean countries Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ministries from across the Caribbean meet to discuss urgent need to fund health and climate change initiatives

On October 7th - 8th 2019, ministries from across the Caribbean met in Kingston Jamaica with experts from PAHO to discuss the development and funding of climate change-resilient health systems. The meeting, titled "Project Concepts on Health and Climate Change," addressed the need for health officials to be trained on aspects of mobilizing resources for health adaptation to climate change.

Johanna Wegerdt, Health and Wellbeing specialist for the Green Climate Fund, which helped to organize the meeting with PAHO, said that the training would enable the development of more ambitious projects by Caribbean health systems and will implement what is described as a "health in all projects approach." During the meeting, ministries of health were provided with training to strengthen their technical capacity to prepare, manage, and implement country project proposals on health and climate change.



RCC St George's also participating at the meeting and presented information on Climate change and health topic under the UNFCCC process and the support available for the Caribbean countries from the RCC in collaboration with PAHO to support the projects and incorporation of health aspects in their NDCs and NAPs. Read more about this meeting [here](#)

Third Annual Caribbean Renewal Energy Forum (CREF) Industry Award Winners Announced

At the 11th CREF proceedings, nine winners of the third annual CREF Industry Awards were announced. The awards program was established to recognize leaders in the Caribbean energy sector who are making a lasting impression on resilient and renewable energy. Candidates for the awards hailed from a variety of countries across the Caribbean region including Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, The Bahamas, Bermuda, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The winners represent those who have made a significant impact on the development of clean energy in the region. The winners of CREF 2019 Industry awards were:

- Utility Scale Solar: Paradise Park, Jamaica, Rekamniar Frontier Ventures
- Energy Storage Project: BELCO Battery Energy Storage System for

- Spinning Reserve, Bermuda
- Distributed Generation Project: Bahamas National Stadium Solar Car Park and EV Charging, Bahamas
- Microgrid: Bonaire Hybrid Project, Bonaire
- Best Resilience Project: Spanish Town Estate Solar Project Restoration, US Virgin Islands, BMR Energy
- Energy Efficiency Project: Anatol Rodgers High School Energy Retrofits Project, Bahamas
- Best Financing: Green Energy Bonds for Barbados PV, Barbados, Williams Caribbean Capital
- Project Addressing Social and Environmental Impacts: Solar Schools Project in Puerto Rico, Blue Planet Energy
- Energy Leadership MVP: Eddinton Powell, President and CEO, FortisTCI, Turks and Caicos

Read more about the awards [here](#) and see photos from the event [here](#).

Workshop on Environment Statistics and Climate Change Statistics for the CARICOM Region

Grenada hosted a five-day workshop from the **4th to 8th of November** on Environment and Climate Change Statistics for the CARICOM Region to enhance the collaboration between National Statistical offices and Environmental and climate institutions to develop better national and regional databases on climate and environmental statistics. The event was held at the Radisson Grenada Beach Resort St. Andrews Conference Room with participants from neighbouring neighboring CARICOM countries. The workshop had experts from UNFCCC, UNSD, UNFCCC-RCC, UNU, CARICOM.

The workshop offered technical knowledge to statisticians from the National Statistical Offices and experts in the Ministries of Environment (or equivalent institutions) in countries that have already embarked on environment statistics and are ready to receive further and in-depth training on the latest methodologies in environment statistics.

According to Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Resilience of Grenada, Mrs Roxie McLeish Hutchinson stated that "environment statistics is still considered a relatively new and challenging field of statistics, yet the demand for this the statistic is increasing in line with the continued environment challenges faced by our society in our efforts to develop."

The key outputs of the workshop were 1. Provide an overview on FDES 2013 for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries. 2. Focus on relatable topics that affect participating countries, such as climate change statistics, water and waste statistics.

Following this workshop, the international team assisted Grenada in organizing a national technical training workshop on environment statistics and climate change statistics which aims to improve Grenada's environment statistics by implementing FDES 2013 and to ensure that Grenada is adequately capturing environmental statistics. In addition, prior to the said event, members from UNFCCC, RCC, SGU, WINDREF, GWP, GCF met with UNSD and Grenada National Statistics Office at the WINDREF to identify how these institutions can support Grenada to improve Climate and environmental statistics. The topic that was mainly discussed was the challenges that were affecting Grenada in obtaining adequate environmental & climate data.



For more information, go [Here](#)

Regional Centres' CiACA Project Supports Cooperative Climate Action

20 November 2019- The secretariat has been busy in November with workshops aimed at spurring climate cooperation through the use of pricing, markets and mechanisms in Latin America.

The Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA) project, run out the secretariat's Regional Collaboration Centres, recently wrapped up workshops to mark the beginning of its second phase in the Dominican Republic and Panama on use of pricing and market-based instruments in support of climate action.

CiACA was launched in 2016 at COP22 to support developing countries explore instruments that will allow them to raise ambition in their nationally determined contributions through enhanced collaboration. CiACA is funded by the governments of Germany and the Canadian Province of Quebec.



We Wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

RCC St. George's Team

Vintura Silva – Team lead



Nigel Edwards – Technical Assistant



Randall Waechter - WINDREF



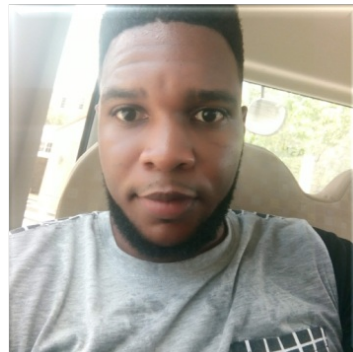
Bianca Punch - Intern



Isha English - WINDREF



Quincy Augustine - Intern





**Christine Richards - Chair of
Public Health Dept.**

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