



Meeting Report

Fourth National Climate Outlook Forum (4NCOF) - a stakeholder's meeting for enhancing the utility of Seasonal climate forecasts. A Workshop to Map User needs and provider capacity to deliver Climate Service in Belize

07th June 2016

**George Price Center for Peace and Development
Belmopan
Belize**

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

The National Meteorological Office of Belize held its Fourth National Climate Outlook Forum on June 07, 2016 at the George Price Center for Peace and Development in the capital of Belize Belmopan. This event was made possible thru the sponsorship of the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Works, Transport and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO). Also the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology & Hydrology in Barbados held a Workshop on how to Map User needs and provider capacity to deliver Climate Service in Belize.

1.0 Welcome and Opening remarks

The ceremony commenced at 09:00 am Tuesday 07th, 2016. Ms. Catherine Cumberbatch, Deputy Chief Meteorologist at the National Meteorological Service of Belize (NMS) gave the welcome and opening remarks to the participants attending the session. She briefly outlined the objectives of the 4NCOF and urged the active participation of the attendees.

2.0 Session: 1 Progress of Climate Services in the Caribbean (Mr. Adrian Trotman Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology at the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados.

2.1(i) Mr. Adrian Trotman in his presentation outlined the Mandate for the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology. He stated that the institute is there to assist in improving and developing the Meteorological and Hydrological Service of CIMH member states through training, research, investigations and the provision of related specialized services and advice.

(ii) He then outlined the functions of CIMH, stating that one of its main purposes that it serves as the World Meteorological Organization Training Center for meteorology and hydrology and associated sciences. Several other functions were stated. Mr. Trotman continued his presentation stating that the Institute is working toward a Caribbean Designated Regional Climate Center (RCC). He also outlined what the RCC Mandatory functions would be.

(iii) He spoke about the Global Framework of Climate Service at the Regional Level.

Mr. Trotman then went on to spoke about Climate Services Information System (CSIS) which was the main focus of his presentation. He stated that RCC products and services are available online. He outlined the different products and services.

Mr. Trotman went on to explain the difference between the Regional Climate Outlook Forums as compared to National Climate Outlook Forums.

He continued his presentation with Climate Monitoring by the Institute which include Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Network and he also stated that soon to come will be the Temperature Monitoring for the Caribbean. He went on further to talk about the User Interface Mechanisms and he also highlighted what is expected for the future which will be a **User Online Helpdesk; Interactive Web portal.**

Mr. Trotman went on to spoke about the CariCOF and the Caribbean National Climate Outlook Forum that these forums are stakeholders meetings that brings meteorologists, climatologist and the user community together to discuss climate forecasts and other information and provide feedbacks in other to build trust and understanding between the provider and users.

Mr. Trotman then spoke about the Observation and Monitoring he stated that we have to have the observations to meet the needs of the climate services. He further spoke about Capacity and Awareness Building.

In concluding his presentation he spoke about Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTS). He stated the importance of removing the barriers between climate services providers and the user of climate information (climate sensitive sectors) making the information usable and useful.

Presentation concluded with Mr. Trotman explaining where from here for RCC and CariCOF (and NCC and NCOFS).

3.0 Session 2: Climate Services in Belize-Global Framework for Climate Services Component 3 (Observations and Monitoring). Mr Dwayne Scott, Electronic Technician National Meteorological Service)

Mr. Scott in his presentation gave a complete overview of the country observation network and data management system. He stated what have been accomplished over the year and what the future projections for building the country network are. He spoke immensely on the new data base management system that should be completed shortly.

4.0 Session 3 Revision of Past Seasonal Outlook Performance. Ms. Catherine Cumberbatch Deputy Chief Meteorologist National Meteorological Service.

In her presentation Ms. Cumberbatch started out explaining the process of verification and the importance why verification is done. She stated the three most important reasons for verification.

Ms. Catherine Cumberbatch, gave a review of the 2015 wet season forecast with emphasis on the June-July-August and September-October-November rainfall season. She then compared it with rainfall observation for the stated period. Ms. Cumberbatch went on to further showed the process in our forecast skills for Above Normal, Normal and Below Normal rainfall. It was concluded that when it comes to forecasting rainfall, there was a higher probability for forecasting Below Normal rainfall. In others words Below Normal rainfall had the most hit.

5.0 Session 4 Seasonal Outlook for June, July and August Period and September, October and November 2016 and the Hurricane Season Forecast 2016. Ms. Catherine Cumberbatch Deputy Chief Meteorologist. & Mr. Derrick Rudon Sr. Meteorologist National Meteorological Service.

Ms. Cumberbatch **presented** the seasonal precipitation and temperature outlook for the period JJA and SON 2016 season along with the drought outlook through the end of August and at the end of the 2016 Wet Season. She spoke of the methodology and the data input for the preparation of the outlooks. Ms. Cumberbatch concluded her presentation by talking about the possibility of drought through to the end of August 2016 in the west central part of the country.

Mr. Derrick Rudon gave the next presentation on the 2016 Hurricane Forecast for the Atlantic Basin. He spoke about the forecast from different source and reminding the participants that although the forecast is

going for Normal track in only take one system to come our way to make difference, because he said these forecast does not tell you where they will make landfall.

6.0 Break-out Groups.

Objective: To identify potential impacts and preparedness measures for the upcoming JJA season

Participants were placed in three working groups with individual sectors identifying what could be the particular impact(s) on their particular sector given the climate outlook. The sectors were also asked not only to identify the impacts but to discuss preparedness measures for the upcoming JJA and SON period.

Please see the attached reports of the working groups.

That concluded the morning session.

7.0 The afternoon sessions was headed by Ms Roche Mohan.

The Belize In-Country Workshop: Mapping provider capacity and user needs for climate information and services

The Main objective of the session was to:

1. To familiarize country representatives with the Caribbean's programmatic approach to the design, development and delivery of user oriented climate information.
2. To share the preliminary results of an assessment of provider capacity for the delivery of climate services in Belize and the wider Caribbean.
3. To assess sectorial needs in Belize for climate information and services.
4. To begin to strategies for the formation of a national governance mechanism for climate services.

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8.0 There were sectorial presentations:

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Health
- (iii) Electricity
- (iv) Climate Change Office
- (v) Disaster Management.

The presentation are attached.

The afternoon session concluded with participants completing a survey.

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