



The Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) Roseau, Dominica May 25th – 31st 2016

CONCEPT NOTE

Addressing climate change and increasing climate variability have been made regional and national priorities by the heads of government of the Caribbean community. Climate variability and change, as exemplified by extreme weather and climate events, such as droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, continue to pose significant risks for the Caribbean region. These make early warning information systems critical components of preparedness, risk reduction and adaptation.

Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs), promoted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are active in several parts of the world, helping to address climate variability. These RCOFs are critical for the development and effectiveness of early warning systems in that they provide real-time seasonal climate forecasts and interpretation across relevant time and spatial scales. Appropriate climate services, tailored to the Caribbean islands, will rely on such early warning information systems if the goals of supporting adaptation and disaster risk reduction are to be realized.

In June 2010, a workshop was convened to re-establish the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF) in order to develop a sustained collaborative process that provides credible and authoritative real-time regional climate products. In February/March 2012 a CARICOF was held that consisted of three separate but complementary activities:

- A Technical Training Workshop that developed a draft seasonal (three-month) rainfall outlook,
- A Partnership Workshop that brought together key partners and users of climate information and





- The Outlook Forum that discussed the rainfall forecast with users, which determined the final product.

Since the 2012 CARICOF, CIMH has been coordinating climate forecasting activities leading to a consistently growing body of forecasters contributing to the monthly production of consensus-based seasonal climate outlooks, with engagement of the user community that allows awareness-building within those sector communities. At the 2012 CariCOF, it was also agreed that the bi-annual hosting of such forums, roving across the region, just prior to the beginning of the wet and dry seasons in the Caribbean, be pursued. Since 2012, CariCOF workshops were held across the Caribbean in:

- Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica prior to the 2013 and 2014 wet/hurricane seasons
- Antigua and Barbuda for the first Dry Season CariCOF in November to December 2014
- St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis for the wet/hurricane and dry season CariCOFs of 2015.

These followed a similar agenda to that in 2012, but with the partnership workshop and Forum merged into one General Assembly.

In collaboration with hosts The Dominica Meteorological Services and our other partners - the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Environment Canada, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the University of Arizona - our 2016 Wet Season CariCOF is scheduled for 25th – 31st May, on the island of Dominica. This CariCOF will focus on disaster risk reduction and the health sector. During the first afternoon, the Ministry of Health of Dominica will launch its Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment. There will also be assessments of the impacts of regional climate products on decision making processes, led by a social sciences team from University of Arizona and CIMH. However, as with all CariCOFs, the most anticipated activity is the release of the climate forecasts for the season.

See you then.

