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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## State of climate services report: lessons learned and ways forward for “leaving no one behind” in SIDS

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 – 11:30am  
at IPCC-WMO Science Pavilion

“Small islands (including Small Island Developing States, SIDS) are particularly exposed to ocean and cryosphere change, such as sea level rise, extreme sea level” (IPCC, 2019). Low-lying atoll nations are especially threatened by climate change, with many islands mere meters above sea level and subject to more frequent and intense extreme events (Global Commission on Adaptation, 2019). Vulnerability is expected to be highest amongst agricultural- and coastal resource-dependent livelihoods in SIDS where climate-related shocks and stresses present significant barriers to adaptation (IPCC, 2018), making it more difficult for households to accumulate assets, regularly wiping out their stock of assets, or even creating irreversible impacts on health and well-being. Without urgent action, climate change threatens to push an additional 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 (Hallegatte, S. et al., 2016).

The need for climate adaptation, informed by science, is now more urgent than ever to enable SIDS to pursue economic development that “leaves no one behind.” The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN recently launched a five-pillared strategic framework for both understanding and addressing climate change and poverty in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on coastal communities and SIDS. Climate information and services are a vital component of risk preparedness. When combined with social safety nets, early warning and early action systems can protect vulnerable communities against climate-related risks and natural hazards, avoiding negative coping strategies, and promote resilient livelihoods.

The benefits of investment in weather and climate services greatly outweigh the cost, and yet the capacity to deliver and access these services is uneven and inadequate, according to the *2019 State of Climate Services report*. The report shows that capacity gaps with regard to the provision of climate services in Africa and SIDS are the most urgent to be addressed. Caribbean SIDS are lagging behind in all six functional areas as compared to the global average. Even data on climate services capacity from many SIDS is lacking. The report points to challenges facing Caribbean SIDS while highlighting the importance of a strong Regional Climate Centre (RCC), such as the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), which provide crucial support to countries in the region. RCCs are therefore part of the solution and present an opportunity for enhancing preparedness in other regions.

The side event will present the findings with regards to SIDS as emerging from the IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)* and *State of Climate Services Report*. It will also provide a forum for presenting five strategic elements of the FAO coordinated approach for *Addressing the Climate Change and Poverty Nexus* in coastal communities and SIDS, as well as lessons learned and a keynote presentation on Caribbean SIDS needs and way forward.

**Program:**

10.30 - Opening

10.35 - IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* (SROCC): SIDS perspectives:

**Professor Elisabeth Holland**, Norway-Pacific Chair Oceans and Climate Change, University of the South Pacific – Lead Author IPCC SROCC

10.45 - *State of Climate Services Report's* findings and lessons learned:

**Mr Maxx Dilley**, Director of Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, WMO

11.55 - The special case of Caribbean SIDS, needs and way forward:

**Mr Carlos Fuller**, International and Regional Liaison Officer of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

11.05 - FAO *Addressing the Climate Change and Poverty Nexus: a coordinated approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement* five strategic elements and implications for coastal communities and SIDS:

**Mr Martial Bernoux**, Natural Resource Officer, FAO

11.15 - Q&A

11.30 - Closure