

## Ministry of Health of Dominica

The Ministry of health is responsible to promote the well-being of all citizens of Dominica through the provision of preventive, curative, promotive and rehabilitative health care compatible with acceptable standards of human dignity at a cost that is affordable and sustainable. Climate variability and change is an important health determinant which has to be considered when important health decisions and policies are implemented.

## Department of Meteorological Services of Dominica

The Dominica Meteorological Service (DMS) is a division of Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Ports, Government of Dominica. The primary objective of the DMS is to provide standardized aeronautical meteorological information at the Melville Hall and the Canefield Airports under the mandate and directives of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The DMS provides timely aeronautical information, climatological data, Agro-meteorological information, public weather forecasts and storm and hurricane information. and works closely with various institutions.

## WMO

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), founded in 1950, is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather, climate, and water. WMO contributes to understanding the impacts of climate variability/change on agriculture. It also promotes capacity building in the application of meteorological, hydrological and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

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## Concept Note

## National Consultation on Climate Services for Dominica

**Roseau**

**Date: 12 – 13 August 2014**

## INTRODUCTION

Climate variability and climate change continue to pose significant risks to Small Island Developing States like Dominica, particularly extreme events which cause devastating impacts on the country's population and infrastructure. Timely communication of impending weather and climate hazards can assist in developing early warning systems to reduce the potential impact of these events. Climate information plays an essential role in national development and planning for climate adaptation and mitigation and therefore all climate-sensitive sectors stand to benefit through enhanced planning and applying climate information in the decision making process.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established to better enable society to manage the risks arising out of climate variability and change particularly those which are most vulnerable to the impact.

The goals of the GFCS include:

- Reducing the vulnerability of society to climate-related hazards through better provision of climate information;
- Advancing the key global development goals through better provision of climate information;
- Mainstreaming the use of climate information in decision-making;
- Strengthening the engagement of providers and users of climate services;
- Maximizing the utility of existing climate service infrastructure.

The Ministry of Health has recognized the importance of this framework and collaboration with the Department of Meteorological Services Of Dominica with the assistance of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is proposing to conduct a National Consultation to discuss the benefits of the GFCS to the various sectors and identify needs for the utilization of climate information in decision making and to mainstream climate change adaptation in the priority sectors of the GCCS (health, agriculture and food security, water and disaster risk reduction). The consultation will bring together key stakeholders including the National Meteorological Services and key decision makers among the various

sectors priority sectors of the GFCS, who based on the gaps and needs identified will discuss how Dominica could implement the requirements of the framework and develop a plan for implementation.

Achieving the requirements of the framework would require the following actions

- Establishing the leadership and management capability to take the Framework forward, including creating the structures needed to coordinate the technical work of the Framework, and to monitor its success
- Identifying objectives and targets to address current deficiencies in the provision of climate services in priority areas
- Creating and successfully delivering a range of projects to address the key shortcomings in the provision of climate services, ensuring they are timely, reliable, useful, properly communicated and easily understood.

The Ministry of Health recognizes that Dominica has undertaken numerous initiatives over the last decade to respond to the climate change threat and as mandated by the UNFCCC. Dominica has established a strong track record on climate change adaptation, and in this regards was one of the few countries chosen to pilot adaptation measures under the Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC). The country has implemented a Sustainable Land Management (SLM) project, conducted vulnerability mapping and "climate proofing" of National Parks Management Plans and community-based vulnerability mapping and the development, through community engagement and input, of community adaptation plans.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of national consultation are:

- To review the current status of generating climate information and assess the specific needs of the various sectors to facilitate and improve projections, predictions and decision making;

- To identify the various areas for improvement in interactions between the climate services and the various sectors;
- To articulate the capacity building needs for Dominica in terms of mandates, infrastructure as well as human resources, in all the components of the GFCS;
- To identify, propose and prioritize, ways to promote community understanding and awareness of climate variability and change, and associated health risks, and opportunities for improved climate risk management in the health sector;
- To discuss and recommend improved arrangements for enhanced research and analysis of national and local climate issues and their health impact

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Ministry of Health expects that the participation of key stakeholders and decision makers at that national consultation will:

- Facilitate the identification of the appropriate mechanism and network to improve and sustain the flow of information for all users among all sectors;
- Obtain strategic guidance on institutional arrangements and processes required to facilitate the sectors response to climate variability and change;
- Identify the required capacity development needs for the implementation of the requirements of the GFCS in Dominica;
- Develop a framework through which climate change can be included into the health sector;
- Identify the capacity development needs of the health sector in order to utilize the available climate services for better decision making

The National Consultation is expected to be conducted over a period of two days, from August 12 and 13, 2014.