

National Meteorological Service of Belize

The National Meteorological Service of Belize is the leading governmental authority on weather, and climate. It provides meteorological and climate-based products and services through systematic and accurate monitoring and data collection, reliable data analyses and timely dissemination of user-friendly information on regular and emergency events and processes.

CCCCC

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre coordinates the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) response to climate change. Officially opened in August 2005, the Centre is a United Nations Institute for Training and Research ranked Centre of Excellence. The Centre is home to the Regional Clearinghouse Database, the premier repository of information and data on climate change specific to the Caribbean.

CIMH

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH) established in 1967 is an Organ of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO). The CIMH assists in improving and developing the Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as providing the awareness of the associated benefits for the economic well-being of the CIMH member states. This is achieved primarily through training, research, investigations, and the provision of related specialized services and advice. Sixteen states in the Caribbean form the membership CMO. The CIMH functions as (i) a WMO Regional Training Centre (RTC); (ii) a Regional Instrument Centre for Meteorology and Hydrology; (iii) a Centre of Excellence for Training in Satellite Meteorology and (iv) a Regional Climate Data Centre. In the near future, the CIMH expects to commence the formal process to become a WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean. The CIMH maintains collaborations with many regional and international organizations

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 and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

For more information on this workshop please contact:

Dennis GONGUEZ
Chief Meteorologist
National Meteorological Service
Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, National Emergency Management and Immigration & Nationality
Philip Goldson International Airport
P.O. Box 717
Ladyville
Belize
Phone: + 501 225 201 2
Fax: + 501 225 210 1
Email: dgonguez@hydromet.gov.bz

Filipe LÚCIO
Head, GFCS Office
World Meteorological Organization
7bis, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 730 8579
Fax: +41 22 730 8042
Email: flucio@wmo.int
<http://www.gfcs-climate.org>



Concept Note

National Consultation on a Framework for Climate Services in Belize

Belize City
**Date: 30th October to 1st
November 2013)**

INTRODUCTION

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009 at World Climate Conference-3 organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in partnership with other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services around the world. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be achieved through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The full value of the GFCS will be realized incrementally through the delivery and use of a multitude of climate services at regional, national and local levels.

Following the ground-work laid by a High-Level Taskforce on GFCS and the Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress, an Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress, held for the first time in the history of WMO in October 2012, adopted the draft Implementation Plan of the GFCS and called for an immediate move to action with a particular focus on capacity development and user involvement during the initial period of implementation to support the establishment of climate services in countries and territories in which improvements in the provision of climate services are urgently required. In July 2013, the first Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services held in Geneva (1-5) approved the implementation plan of the GFCS and a compendium of initial GFCS projects for immediate implementation.

The GFCS will build upon five components or pillars required to address the entire value chain for the production, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision-making, addressing initially four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction):

- **User Interface Platform:** a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;

- **Climate Services Information System:** the mechanism through which information about climate (past, present and future) will be routinely collected, stored and processed to generate and deliver products and services that inform often complex decision-making across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities and enterprises;
- **Observations and Monitoring:** to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed and disseminated;
- **Research, Modeling and Prediction:** to foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information and services, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the value of using climate information;
- **Capacity Development:** to address the particular capacity development requirements identified in the other pillars and, more broadly, the basic requirements for enabling GFCS-related activities to occur.

In May 2013, the GFCS was launched in the Caribbean. The launch was attended by representatives from 21 countries in the region. During the ensuing discussions, it was agreed, that a pilot activity focused on demonstrating the benefits of the GFCS to the Agriculture Sector could be undertaken in Belize and Barbados. This activity will introduce the GFCS to a national audience and will seek to engage the support of the Agriculture Sector to demonstrate the benefits of the GFCS. The results of the exercise will inform the implementation of the GFCS to the Agricultural Sector in other Caribbean countries. It is with this background that the National Meteorological Service of Belize, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization is organizing a three-day national consultation on a Framework for Climate Services. This consultation takes place from the 30th October to the 1st November 2013.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To review the current status of generating climate information in the country and assess specific needs for climate services in the agriculture and food security sector;
- To review the current status of interfacing mechanisms and interactions between climate services providers and users, identify major areas for improvement and recommend effective mechanisms and practices;
- To articulate the capacity building needs in terms of mandates, infrastructure as well as human resources, in all the components of the GFCS;
- To discuss and recommend arrangements for improved production, better access and sustainable operations for climate predictions and services to facilitate the flow of climate information from global and regional scales through the national and local scales;
- To chart a roadmap for the effective development and application of climate services in support of agriculture and food security and other climate sensitive sectors in Belize, particularly water, which is itself of strategic importance to agriculture in the Caribbean context.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological Service, government departments, universities and research institutions, key decision-makers, and practitioners from the initial four priority areas of the GFCS. It will facilitate the identification of appropriate mechanisms to improve and sustain the flow of climate information to different users. Specifically, it should result in: (i) enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors; (ii) improved knowledge of the existing interface mechanisms and recommendations for improvements where needed; (iii) clear understanding of capacity development needs to implement the GFCS at national levels; (iv) strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the national level.