



CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE
Building Resilience. Securing Our Future.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CARIBBEAN:
**Revised Regional Framework for
Achieving Development
Resilient to Climate Change
2025-2035**



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Acronyms

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NC	National Communication
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OAS	Organisation of American States
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
RCCCC	Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGD	St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollars

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) has updated the regional strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change on development - *Climate Change and the Caribbean: The Revised Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2025-2035)*. The original strategy was also developed by CCCCC in 2009 - *Climate Change and the Caribbean: A Regional Strategy for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)* at the request of CARICOM Heads of State. The original framework's development and this updated version were made possible through intensive consultation with CARICOM Member States and development partners. This updated framework compiles a comprehensive list of eleven aspirational targets (Strategic Elements) and associated Goals to inform a path towards climate change resilience.

There are many variations of the definition of climate change, but from the perspective of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "Climate change" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. In common usage, climate change describes global warming—the ongoing increase in global average temperature—and its effects on Earth's climate system, resulting in variations of average weather conditions over several decades or longer. The IPCC informs that Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use." (IPCC 2012). It is the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability.

Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the countries classified within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as most vulnerable to climate change. The economies of many nations in the region reliant largely rely on natural resources, with sectors such as tourism and agriculture providing the bulk of revenue and livelihoods. Climate change threatens to significantly alter the climatic and environmental landscape of the region with concomitant widespread socio-economic effects. Current and future drivers of climate-related risk for the Caribbean include sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, droughts, forest fires, increases in air and sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification and changes in rainfall patterns. The impacts of these changes are being felt within the region and are expected to intensify as average global temperatures increase.

The economic costs associated with climate change for the Caribbean are cause for significant concern, as demonstrated by the devastating impacts of the 2017 and 2019 hurricane seasons and, more recently, Hurricane Beryl on the southern Grenadines. As

global temperatures continue to rise, the region may face losses of USD350-550 million annually due to tropical cyclones alone.¹ However, hurricanes have the potential to inflict far more intense damages, as shown by 2017 Hurricane Maria, which inflicted damages and losses of approximately USD1.3 billion for Dominica alone, about 225% of the country's 2016 GDP². The devastating impact of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas in 2019 imposes a compelling entreaty for immediate regional and national action to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Because of climate change influences, including drought, agriculture may face annual losses of between 2% and 50% of GDP for countries particularly dependent on that sector, such as Guyana, Belize and Suriname³.

Without resilience-building through effective adaptation, damages from hurricanes, losses from declines in tourism and damages to infrastructure due to sea level rise are projected to total USD22 billion annually by 2050 and USD46 billion annually by 2100, representing 10% and 22% of the Caribbean GDP, respectively.⁴ However, for Dominica, Grenada, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis, costs of losses and damages in the same categories are projected to exceed 75% of national GDP by 2100. In this context, CARICOM Member States have considerable cause for concern as the threats posed to the region's development prospects are severe. Adaptation will require a sizeable and sustained investment of resources that governments will find very difficult to provide on their own due to limited fiscal space and access to concessional financing.



The complexity and interrelated challenges posed by a changing climate have become one of time our time's most chronic and pervasive concerns. Climate change's devastating environmental, social, and economic impacts region climate change's devastating environmental, social, and economic impacts are being felt throughout the region, with the poorest communities bearing the burden disproportionately.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), however, contribute very little to global climate change, but their geographical and socioeconomic characteristics make them particularly vulnerable to its impacts. The Paris Agreement recognizes the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to climate change, acknowledging their special circumstances and needs for climate action and finance while also emphasizing the

¹ Moore et al., 2017

² Assessment Capacities Project. (2018). *Disaster profile: Dominica*.

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20180131_acaps_disaster_profile_dominica_v2.pdf

³ United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2011. *The Economics of Climate Change in the Caribbean- Summary Report 2011*.

⁴ Bueno et al., 2008.

importance of addressing loss and damage. With low growth, high debt, limited domestic resources, and limited benefit from international aid and debt relief, the dependence on international climate finance leaves Caribbean SIDs in a precarious position unless the region pursues more innovative and diversified financing options.

This *Revised Regional Framework (RRF)* provides an assessment of the global and regional context of climate change and the potential impacts on the region. Drawing from global and regional agreements, frameworks, policies and plans as well as concerns directly voiced by CARICOM Member States, the RRF introduces eleven aspirational targets called Strategic Elements (and related Goals) that represent a fit-for-purpose climate resilient platform. This offers Member States of CARICOM the opportunity to align national goals and targets to those embedded in the RRF and to establish a medium for guiding the execution of actions defined by the goals. The usefulness of this approach relies on Member States paying urgent attention to working towards achieving the aspirational targets - Strategic Elements and Goals – through informed actions aimed at achieving climate-resilient development. The RRF will continue to evolve as progress is realized, as new issues emerge, and as best practices are established.

The RRF is formulated from the perspective of CARICOM governments and their development partners, including civil society and the private sector. Specific roles are envisaged for governments, regional organisations, the private sector, civil society, citizens, and the international development community. The Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC) - which includes representatives of CARICOM specialised agencies, academic institutions, and regional financial institutions with a mandate in areas related to climate change mitigation and adaptation - has the overall responsibility for driving transformational change guided by the Framework. The RCCCC has the primary responsibility for providing technical support and guidance as required by implementing agencies and countries and coordinating the mobilization of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the RRF. In collaboration with regional stakeholders, the RCCCC will also update the Revised Implementation Plan to the RRF. The Implementation Plan articulates specific actions aimed at achieving the goals identified in the RRF.

Figure 1: 11 Strategic Elements

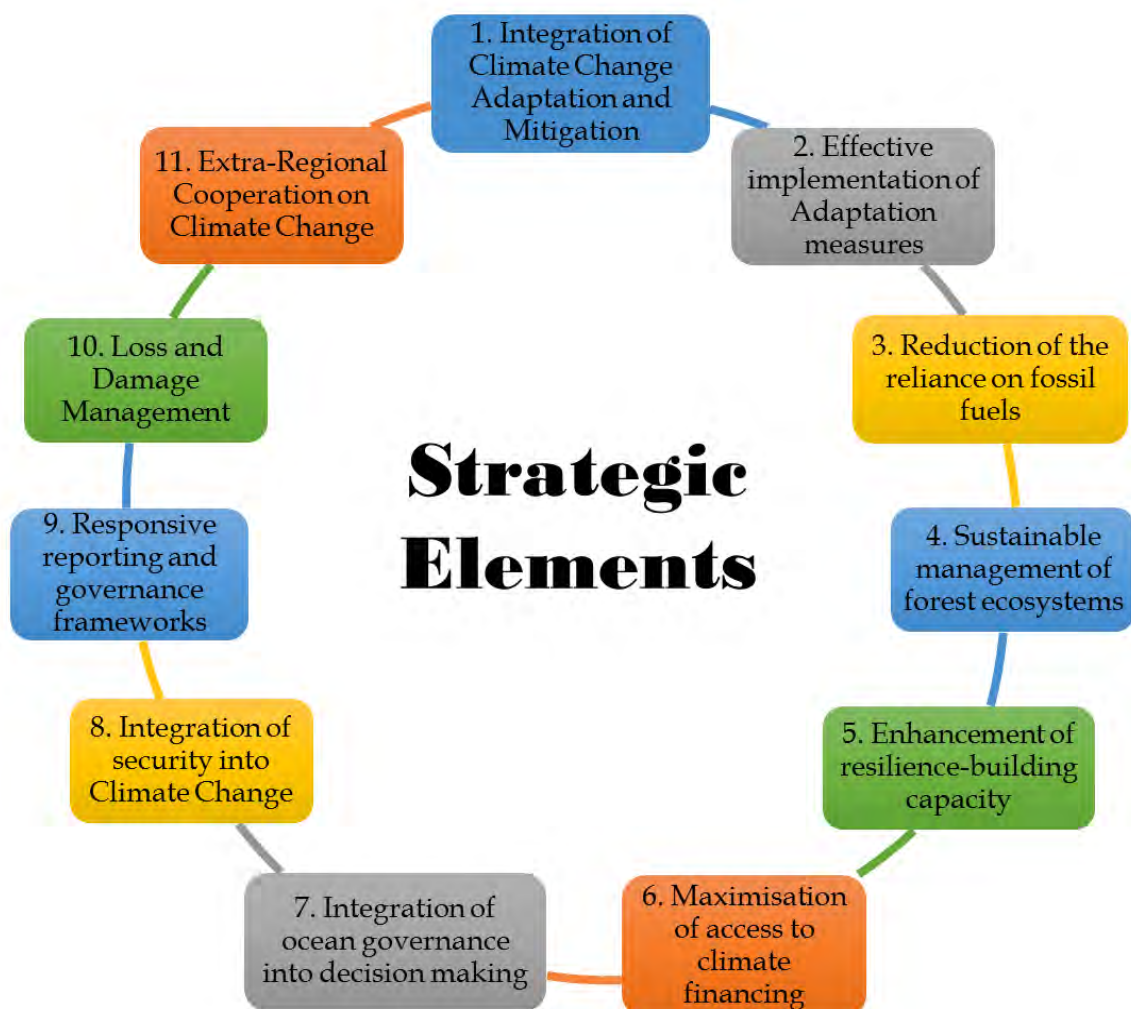


Table 1: Eleven Strategic Elements and Goals

STRATEGIC ELEMENT	GOALS
1: Integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions into the development portfolios of Member States	1.1: Vulnerabilities and risks associated with a changing climate at the regional, national, and sub-national levels are incorporated into decision-making 1.2: Policies, plans, legal instruments and education curricula to enable and support adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors are reformed 1.3: The management of regional and international agreements for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development is harmonised 1.4: Regional and national institutional frameworks to enable and support adaptation and mitigation actions are strengthened 1.5: Inter-governmental, inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaborative and cooperation architecture are strengthened 1.6: The enabling environment (policies and legislation) for sharing of data, information, and knowledge (including local and traditional knowledge) at national and regional levels is responsive and functional 1.7: Legal, institutional, and financial protocols and instruments for managing climate-induced migration and displacement are enacted 1.8: Investments in generational resilience through youth empowerment and development including gender equality to address the impacts of climate change are intensified 1.9: The contribution of the private sector to building the climate resilience of member States is intensified 1.10: National and regional platforms for addressing the impacts of climate change on trade are instituted

2: Successful implementation of specific adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change	2.1 Regional and national management systems are established and capable of reducing climate-induced impacts on key sectors, ecosystems, critical infrastructure, livelihoods and enterprises <i>(Key sectors include: Water; Coastal, Marine and Fishery Resources; Agriculture; Health; Tourism; Watersheds; Energy; Education; Biodiversity; Infrastructure; Waste; other)</i> <i>(Critical Infrastructure includes electricity grid; water distribution network; telecommunications; hospitals; police stations; ports; roads and bridges; other)</i>
3: Reduction of the region's reliance on fossil fuels and building resilience in the electricity sector	3.1: Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced 3.2: Energy efficiency and conservation standards and measures are adopted and implemented 3.3: Deployment of renewable energy technologies is intensified in a resilient manner 3.4: Regional Carbon Market in support of decarbonising efforts of Member States is developed 3.5: An appropriate model (for each SIDS) for sustainable energy resource management is adopted 3.6: A Just Transition ⁵ towards environmentally sustainable green economies to achieve a reduced carbon/zero-carbon energy mix is adopted and promoted. 3.7: Regional labour force skilled in renewable energy and associated industries 3.8: Increased resilience of the electricity grid (inclusive of reliability and strengthening of the physical infrastructure)

⁵ In the recently concluded 111th International Labour Conference (ILC), Just Transition was identified as a role that governments, workers, employers and the International Labour Organization (ILO) should play to achieve this goal. It was agreed that to tackle climate change, achieve social justice, decent work and poverty eradication, advancing towards a Just Transition is critical.

	3.9: Intensified Disaster Management Response of Utilities (reduced timeframes and increased efficiency)
4: Sustainable management of forest ecosystems and associated landscapes	4.1: Best practices and best fit solutions for sustainable forest management that address climate change and include consideration for local communities and indigenous peoples, respecting their cultures, traditions and livelihood needs are adopted. 4.2: Associated landscapes and seascapes are integrated into the sustainable management of forest ecosystems <i>(Associated Landscapes: Savannas, dry forests, littoral forests, mangroves and wetlands)</i>
5: Society with the impetus and capacity for building resilience to the impacts of climate change	5.1: Programmes for enhancing knowledge, education, training and retraining, providing information on new technologies, and awareness of the impacts of climate change for all sectors are intensified 5.2: Science, Technology, Reading and writing, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STREAM) to support climate resilient innovation and re-skilling for transition to a low (zero)-carbon climate resilient environment are integrated into the curricula at all education levels 5.3: Society is more proactive in reducing risks associated with climate change 5.4: Comprehensive national and regional data collection, management, integration of scientific, local and traditional knowledge, open access sharing and reporting systems are instituted 5.5: Attitudes and behaviours towards enhancing national and regional climate resilience and are positively transformed 5.6: The principles of Gender Equality in regional and national decision-making and in the implementation of

	actions towards a low-carbon climate resilient economy is positively adopted. 5.7: The effective and sustained involvement of civil society and the private sector is secured
6: Sustained access to and provision of national, regional and international climate finance	6.1: Frameworks for access to international climate financing, including multilateral, regional and other bilateral arrangements are institutionalized 6.2: Innovative financing mechanisms and the deployment of economic incentives are adopted 6.3: Mechanisms to address financial de-risking are identified and institutionalized 6.4: Financial sector, insurance and credit unions integrate adaptation and mitigation imperatives into their operational portfolios 6.5: ODA classification restricting access to financing for some countries is addressed (while ensuring climate finance access above and beyond ODA) 6.6: The enabling framework for facilitating ease of doing business in climate investments is instituted 6.7. Delivering finance to local communities and supporting the work of all stakeholders including civil society is prioritised.
7: Integration of ocean governance into regional and national decision making on climate change	7.1: Regional and national coordination mechanisms for ocean governance are strengthened by the inclusion of climate change considerations 7.2: Climate change considerations are incorporated into the blue economy 7.3: Marine spatial planning is integrated into national and regional climate change decision-making

	7.4 The sustainable management of marine ecosystems is integrated into Ocean Governance 7.5 A regional Blue Carbon Policy and enabling framework is established with harmonized national policies instituted.
8: Integration of regional and national security in managing the impacts of climate change	8.1: The roles of national and regional security agencies and systems in responding to climate change and its impacts are institutionalised. 8.2: The role of national security agencies, including customs, police, coast guard, defence force, immigration authorities, maritime affairs and military, is integrated into the national response to climate change and its impacts 8.3: National and transnational security issues for all other sectors, including health, tourism, and agriculture are enhanced 8.4: Climate-induced migration is integrated into regional and national security management
9: Responsive reporting and effective governance frameworks for climate resilience building	9.1: Monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks are established and functioning 9.2: A comprehensive programme of research to guide regional resilience-building actions established. 9.3: Governance at national and regional levels inculcate a climate-risk management ethos at all levels of decision-making
10: Effective platform for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage from climate change	10.1: Recommendations arising out of the work of relevant international instruments such as the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, are incorporated into regional and national climate change response mechanisms 10.2: Architecture for comprehensive climate risk management is clearly defined and operational

11: Functioning architecture for Extra-Regional Cooperation in building resilience to the impacts of climate change	11.1: Alliances with climate change negotiating blocs with issues similar to CARICOM SIDS (e.g. Pacific SIDS) are strengthened
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PREFACE

The 2009 version of the Regional Framework represented, at the time of its endorsement, a visionary construct for addressing the impacts of climate change and variability and the impacts on national and regional growth. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) prepared the original Framework document, *Climate Change and the Caribbean: A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change* (2009-2015), at the behest of CARICOM Heads participating in the First Congress for the Environmental Charter and Climatic Change, held at Ávila Mountain, Caracas, from 11-13 October 2007. Approved by CARICOM Heads in 2009, the Regional Framework provided a roadmap for action by Member States, regional and national organisations on building resilience to the impacts of climate change over a period from 2009-2015.

The Regional Framework is built on developmental pillars considered the primary platform on which resilience is to be built. The five pillars of the original framework were considered appropriate to the social, environmental and economic circumstances in 2007 when the vision was first defined. However, the landscape of the Strategic Elements has changed substantially from the date of approval of the Regional Framework in 2009, given the numerous international and regional agreements and instruments that have emerged in the past ten years coupled with a better understanding and appreciation of the risks posed globally by climate change through the work of the IPCC.

Apart from the Sustainable Development Goals and other recent charters, the Paris Agreement and its various provisions remain pivotal to the architecture of the Revised Regional Framework. The original and Revised Regional Framework emerged from the legal framework established by the **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas**. Other foundation setting instruments such as the CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Policy Framework; the **Strategic Plan – Caribbean Community 2015-2019**, the 2022 Bridgetown Initiative, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United National Convention to Combat Desertification, in addition to new developments within the region not necessarily associated with agreements emerging from the UNFCCC such as the OECS' **Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy**, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) under its **Small Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture** programme, or the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA) **Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Programming Framework** (2014 – 2024) all play a critical role in informing the climate resilience building profile within the region. The need to reposition the region to a more resilient society compelled the revision of the original Regional Framework to ensure its continued relevance to the region.

The eleven new aspirational targets for growth and resilience - the new Strategic Elements (SEs) guiding the Revised Framework - were compiled following broad focus-group consultations across the majority of CARICOM Member States. What emerged from

that platform represents the most comprehensive suite of development considerations recognised as pivotal to the transformation to a more climate resilient region. The progression from Five to Eleven Strategic Elements reflects the dynamism and rapid evolution of climate change-related issues confronting CARICOM Member States.

The recent experiences with extreme weather events in the Caribbean provide a compelling narrative for immediate and consolidated action towards resilience building. No longer can States expect to live from one catastrophe to another, whether through hurricanes, droughts or other extreme event, and expect that external resources will be readily forthcoming for recovery and rebuilding. The rapidly changing geopolitical space creates a new urgency for securing intra-regional resiliency.

Transforming the eleven new Strategic Elements and their Goals into Actions (the Implementation Plan) is the next stage in defining the path through which resilience must be pursued. This new Regional Framework will provide the platform on which the new action framework, the Implementation Plan for the Regional Framework, will be revised.

Finally, it must be reiterated that the Regional Framework is not a directive but rather a guide for action to build climate-resilient societies in the Caribbean both nationally and regionally. Its successful implementation depends on the active involvement of inter alia national and regional institutions, policymakers, public and private sector entities, our youth and civil society. If the region is to survive the vagaries of a changing climate, we must, with all urgency, implement the actions defined in the Framework and its Implementation plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In keeping with and exercising its revised expanded mandate and in support of the broader goal of resilience building in the CARICOM region, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) provided financial support towards the revision of the Regional Framework. The revision utilized a cost-effective approach to securing the contribution of CARICOM Member States towards articulating a thematic framework for enhancing regional and national resilience to the impacts of climate change. The broad span of discussions on areas of relevance to the continued development of economies and societies in the CARICOM region included senior policymakers, the private sector, civil society, senior policymakers, the private sector, civil society, and select regional institutions. The output of these focus group sessions is the grouping of the eleven new Strategic Elements representing the Sustainable Development pillars on which climate change resilience is to be enhanced.

The CCCCC extends its gratitude to the CCRIF and the numerous individuals from across CARICOM Member States representing national entities, civil society organisations and private sector together with regional and extra-regional institutions including the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), the OECS Commission, CANARI, the OAS and the many others who contributed to the very rich and frank discussions and shared comprehensive perspectives on the imperatives for achieving the ambitious but critical goals of climate change resilience.

Introduction

There are many variations of the definition of climate change, but from the perspective of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "Climate change" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. In common usage, climate change describes global warming—the ongoing increase in global average temperature—and its effects on Earth's climate system. Climate change in a broader sense also includes previous long-term changes to Earth's climate (Wikipedia). Climate change is the significant variation of average weather conditions becoming, for example, warmer, wetter, or drier—over several decades or longer. It is the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability and what emerges as a significant existential threat to Caribbean SIDS. The policy direction provided by leaders has led to the creation of a programme of work for addressing the resilience building efforts of the region.

This policy direction is embedded in the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) has updated the regional framework - *Climate Change and the Caribbean: The Revised Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (expected 2025-2035)*. The original framework was also developed by CCCCC in 2009 - *Climate Change and the Caribbean: A Regional Strategy for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)* at the request of CARICOM Heads of State. The development of the original framework and this revision was made possible through intensive consultation with CARICOM Member States. The original framework proposed five Strategic Elements and associated Goals that were designed to establish the direction for the continued building of resilience to the impacts of climate change by CARICOM States. This revised framework draws from more recent global and regional agreements, frameworks, policies and plans as well as concerns directly voiced by CARICOM Member States, to detail eleven aspirational targets and goals to improve climate resiliency.

Since publication of the original framework in 2009, the global and regional climate change landscape has advanced significantly, influenced by global developments and charters such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and regional developments such as the Regional Ocean Policy/Blue Economy of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). These advances and others serve to inform considerations for the current themes of the Strategic Elements and Goals for the revised Framework.

This regional framework provides a summary assessment of the global and regional context of climate change and details the potential impacts of climate change on the

region. The Framework provides the platform for CARICOM Member States to set national goals and actions in pursuit of resilience building. The value of this Framework is in its application at the national and regional level. It is meant to inculcate a climate risk management ethos in decision-making aimed at achieving the goals of sustainable development. The Framework will continue to evolve as progress is realized, as new issues develop, and as best practices are established.

1.1 Climate Change Vulnerability & Impacts

Caribbean Small Island Developing States are among the groups of countries classified within the UNFCCC as being most vulnerable to climate change. Climate change threatens to significantly alter the climatic and environmental landscape of the region thus having widespread socio-economic effects.

While nations in the region display geographic, cultural and economic diversity, they all share similar sustainable development challenges, including limited economic resources; growing populations; susceptibility to natural disasters, dependence on international trade vulnerability to international financial shocks and changing geopolitics; weaknesses of economies of scale as a result of their small size; high transportation, communication and energy costs; and high costs of public administration and infrastructure.⁶ The economies of many nations in the region are largely reliant on natural resources, with sectors such as tourism and agriculture providing the bulk of revenue and livelihoods.

Intensified Disaster Management Response imposes an increasing financial burden on SIDS. Financial resources to address climate change impacts are also constrained due in part to de-risking practices by international correspondent banks that restrict the number and type of services offered in the region, thereby affecting growth and development.⁷ The economic development of Caribbean SIDS increases per capita national income and results in the 'graduation' of countries into higher income brackets that invalidate their eligibility for concessional financing, adding further to the financial strain of addressing climate change impacts.⁸

Current and future drivers of climate-related risk for the Caribbean include sea level rise, increased intensity and frequency of tropical cyclones, increases in air and sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification and changes in rainfall patterns. The impacts of these changes are an ever-present reality and are expected to intensify as average global temperatures increase.⁹ Global warming since pre-industrial times has already resulted in changes in the Caribbean region, including warming of both air and ocean surface

⁶ Pelling, M. and Uitto, J. 2001.

⁷ CCMF, 2016.

⁸ UNDP, 2015

⁹ Nurse et al. 2014.

temperatures, increase in the number of very hot days and nights; longer and more frequent periods of droughts; increases in very heavy rainfall events; higher sea levels; and more intense hurricanes with rapid intensification, and more precipitation.¹⁰

The region has already experienced longer and more frequent periods of drought, with detrimental impacts on agriculture, water supply and livelihoods. As global temperatures continue to rise, droughts are projected to intensify.

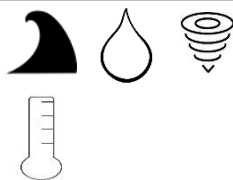


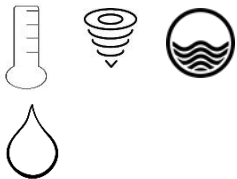
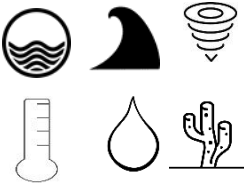
¹⁰ CDB and CCCCC, 2017.

Table 2: Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the Caribbean

 Sea level rise  Increased Sea surface temperatures  Ocean acidification			
 Changes in rainfall patterns  Increased air temperatures  Increased intensity & frequency of tropical cyclones.			
Resource/Sector	Description	Climatic drivers	Potential impacts of climate change
Coastal and marine ecosystems	Coral reefs, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems provide essential ecosystem services including stabilization of coasts; protection of shores during extreme events; provision of habitats for marine species; and serve as attractions for reef-based tourism.	   	Widespread coral bleaching and mortality Degradation of mangrove forests Coastal erosion Increased impacts from tropical storms Reduced income from coastal fisheries and tourism activities Loss of livelihoods Loss of coastal biodiversity Loss of culturally important landscapes Declines in fish production Alterations in the fecundity of marine organisms Dissolving of the exoskeleton of shelled organisms
Water resources	Availability of freshwater is a significant factor in economic and social	  	Most islands are projected to see reductions in rainfall

	development. Many islands rely on rainwater as the primary source of water supply.		Saline intrusion into groundwater reserves Decreased freshwater availability Increased incidents of drought Declining agricultural productivity Impacts on other sectors such as Health, Tourism, and Industry.
Biodiversity	The region has a high proportion of endemic species making it one of the world's greatest centres of biodiversity. The region is recognized as a hotspot for globally threatened species.		Degradation of important marine and terrestrial habitats Loss of biodiversity Extinction of threatened species
Forest ecosystems	Forests provide protection for watersheds and soils; prevent erosion and landslides; are part of the water supply system; support nature tourism; and are critical in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Forests in the region vary in size, ecological and economic importance and are also threatened by deforestation and unsustainable lumbering.		Forest thinning Changed forest composition Reduced tree and wildlife populations Increased incidents of landslides Loss of endemic tree species Loss of subsistence materials: food, wood fuel, medicines Loss of aesthetic appeal Loss of livelihoods

			Loss of culturally important landscapes Reduction of water resources Desertification
Human settlements and infrastructure	Intensive coastal development and the concentration of people and infrastructure in coastal zones is common in the region. Many nations display 'coastal squeeze'- concentration of physical infrastructure along the coastline preventing coastal ecosystems from moving inland as sea levels rise.		Increased damages from tropical storms Displacement of communities Permanent migration of people Increased loss and damage to critical infrastructure Diminished income from tourism activities Decay of the social and cultural fabrics of communities
Human health	The tropical climate of the region is favourable for the transmission of tropical vector and water-borne diseases. Extreme events often result in injuries or deaths. Heat stress is a challenge in non-climate-controlled environments.		Increased vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, filariasis, chikungunya, zika and leptospirosis Increased incidents of ciguatera fish poisoning Increased incidents of heat stress and heat stroke Decreased productivity of workers in non-climate controlled environments

			Increased injuries and deaths associated with tropical storms
Agriculture and food security	Subsistence and commercial agriculture are vital to SIDS economies, contribute to nutritional status and social well-being and are a source of livelihoods.		Shifts in agricultural productivity Changes to altitudinal zonation, vegetation type and location Loss of livelihoods Loss of agricultural lands Decreased food security Alterations in fecundity Decreases in pollinator populations
Tourism	Tourism is a key industry for the region and contributes substantially to the economies of many islands. The region largely relies on the attractive climate and environment to draw in visitors.		Degradation of beaches, coral reefs, and other natural attributes that are important to the industry Loss of and damage to critical tourism infrastructure Less predictable weather patterns affecting visitor experiences Loss of tourism-related livelihoods Decreased tourism revenue
References: Adapted from Alongi, 2008; Bueno et al., 2008; IPCC, 2014; FAO, 2014; Nurse et al., 2014; Schleussner et al., 2016; Thomas and Benjamin., 2018			

While the impacts of climate change are widespread, its effects will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable societal groups. Although Caribbean SIDS have been identified on a global scale as being particularly vulnerable to climate change, disadvantaged groups and those on the margins of society within these countries will face additional challenges. Children, pregnant women, elderly people, malnourished people, and people who are ill or immunocompromised are particularly defenceless when a disaster strikes and bear a relatively high share of the disease burden associated with emergencies.¹¹ Poverty and its common consequences, such as malnutrition, homelessness, poor housing, and destitution, is a major contributor to vulnerability, and those in poverty are also most affected by the loss of traditional livelihoods such as fisheries or subsistence agriculture. Climate change thus acts as a multiplier of existing vulnerabilities and magnifies current inequalities.

The economic costs associated with climate change in the Caribbean are reasons for significant concern. Hurricanes in the region are a significant and important source of economic vulnerability as damages associated with these storms often account for significant percentages of national GDPs. As global temperatures continue to rise, the region may face losses of USD350-550 million per year due to tropical cyclones alone.¹² However, hurricanes have the potential to inflict far more intense damages, as exposed by Hurricane Maria (2017), which caused damages and losses of approximately USD1.3 billion for Dominica alone, almost 225% of the nation's 2016 GDP.¹³ The impact of Hurricane Dorian on the Bahamas in 2019 and Hurricane Beryl in Carriacou in 2024 (Beryl was the earliest-forming Category 5 hurricane on record) are clear demonstrations of the changing pattern of these extreme weather events. Countries particularly dependent on the agricultural sector, such as Guyana, Belize, and Suriname, may face annual losses of between 2% and 50% of GDP.¹⁴ Without adaptation, damages from hurricanes, losses from declines in tourism and damages to infrastructure due to sea level rise alone are projected to total USD22 billion annually by 2050 and USD46 billion annually by 2100, representing 10% and 22% of the Caribbean GDP, respectively.¹⁵ However, for Dominica, Grenada, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis, costs of loss and damage in the same categories are projected to exceed 75% of national GDP by 2100.

Droughts and extreme precipitation events also have significant economic impacts across the region. In the Caribbean, droughts cause the highest economic losses in the agricultural sector.¹⁶ Intense rainfall and extensive flooding resulted in damages of over USD4 million in damages in Jamaica in 2017 alone.¹⁷ Extreme precipitation events, such as the 'Christmas trough' in 2013, Haiti and the Dominican Republic (2004, 2017),

¹¹ Mearns and Norton, 2009

¹² Moore et al., 2017

¹³ ACAPS, 2018

¹⁴ United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2011.

¹⁵ Bueno et al., 2008.

¹⁶ FAO, 2017

¹⁷ WIC, 2017

Jamaica (2017, 2018), Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados (2010), BVI (2010, 2017), Belize (2015), Dominica (Tropical Storm Erika – 2015) are just a few examples of extreme rainfall events that caused severe flooding, leading to loss of life, livelihoods and destruction of infrastructure.^{18,19}

Box 1: 2017 Hurricane Impacts in the Caribbean

The succession of high-intensity hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean basin in recent years has resulted in significant impacts across Caribbean SIDS, underscoring the potentially catastrophic effects that climate change will continue to have on the region. While attributing tropical cyclones to climate change is challenging, there is clear evidence of increased cases of rapid intensification of hurricanes to category 5, such as Hurricane Beryl in 2024, a consequence of higher-than-normal sea surface temperatures. Damages from these hurricanes are intensified by rising sea levels and higher levels of rainfall, which increase the risk of flooding.²⁰ Warmer Sea surface temperatures also result in increased wind speeds and exponentially increase wind-related damages. As global temperatures continue to rise, intense tropical cyclones are projected to occur up to twice as often as today.²¹ These intense storms have significant long-term negative effects on economic growth, with countries taking over 15 years on average to fully recover from losses and damages²².

Anguilla: Hurricane Irma (2017) resulted in damages to over 90% of electricity and communication services; almost all roads were obstructed.

Barbuda: Hurricane Irma (2017) destroyed over 90% of buildings; mandatory evacuations resulted in the island being uninhabited for the first time in 300 years.

The Bahamas: Hurricane Irma (2017) destroyed virtually all infrastructure on Ragged Island; mandatory evacuations were ordered for all residents after the storm.

Dominica: Hurricane Maria (2017) affected 80% of the population and caused 27 deaths; damages of 225% of the nation's GDP were inflicted.

The Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian (2019) killed at least 61 people in the Bahamas – 52 on Abaco, and 9 in Grand Bahama. Damage was preliminarily estimated at more than US\$7 billion. Across the Bahamas, the storm left at least 70,000 people homeless. An

¹⁸ Inter Press Service, 2014

¹⁹ L. Fontes de Meria and W. Phillips, 2019

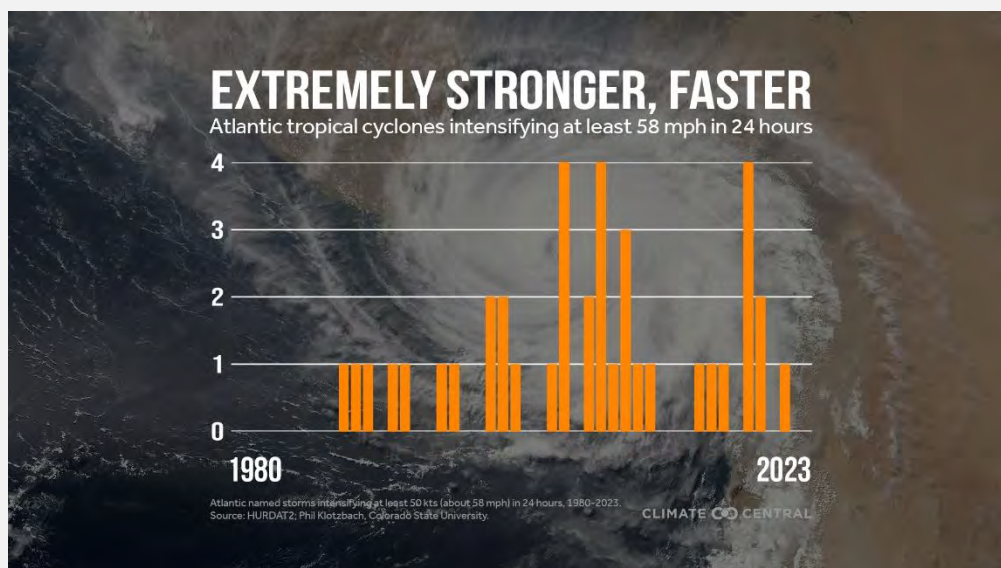
²⁰ Thomas et al., 2017

²¹ Bacmeister et al., 2016

²² Hsiang et al., 2014

estimated 13,000 homes, constituting 45% of the homes on the Abacos and Grand Bahama, suffered severe damage or were destroyed.

Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines: On July 1, Hurricane Beryl made landfall on the island of Carriacou and Petit Martinique of Grenada, as a high-end Category 4 hurricane, also causing total devastation on several of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' southern islands, such as Union Island, Mayreau and Canouan.



Source: HURDAT 2: Phil Klotzbach, Climate Matters, Colorado State University. Colorado Central. Sept 2024.

Adaptation involving resilient infrastructure development generally has a high per capita cost, given the small population sizes of many SIDS. This makes the unit cost of shoreline protection per capita in small islands much higher than that for areas with larger populations, resulting in higher adaptation and disaster risk reduction costs per capita for SIDS. These costs, in addition to the disproportionate effects of climate change impacts on the GDPs of SIDS, highlight the economic challenges associated with climate change adaptation in these small nations.

Although Member States of CARICOM emit negligible amounts of climate change-inducing greenhouse gases, it is critical for the region to pursue policies and frameworks that can reduce vulnerabilities, support risk management, and encourage sustainable adaptation and mitigation practices within their critical economic space. The geographical and socioeconomic characteristics of Caribbean SIDS make them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change. While the Paris Agreement provides a framework for finance for SIDS and endorses the position that developed countries should take the lead in aiding, hefty amounts of funds are needed for SIDS to achieve their climate goals. Caribbean SIDS suffer from a significant climate finance gap,

and financing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is largely conditional on international climate finance, given limited domestic public and private finance (Mohan PS. 2023).

Caribbean SIDS are principally classified as high/upper-middle income, a classification that has serious drawbacks in attracting the much-needed climate finance from developed countries. Given that a large share of finance comes from traditional bilateral aid, these SIDS receive comparatively less international climate finance. (Mohan PS. 2023). With limited fiscal space for self-financing from domestic resources, low growth and high debt, the region does not benefit from international aid and debt relief to satisfy its resilience-building efforts. Moreover, only a handful of Caribbean SIDS qualify for concessional borrowing from international donors. Mohan suggests that the dependence on international climate finance leaves Caribbean NDCs in a precarious position unless the region pursues more innovative and diversified options. Notwithstanding the limited fiscal space to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is still much that can be done by States in investing in areas that require little funding to achieve green growth.

1.2 Global Context of Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, and in its Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023, confirms that widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have already occurred, warning that **human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe**. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Across the globe, countries are experiencing the first-hand effects of climate change with documented impacts on communities, biodiversity, and ecosystems. Greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise and are more than 60% higher than in the early 1990s²³. Annual average losses resulting from climate-related disasters, such as tropical cyclones and flooding, run into billions of dollars on a global scale. Climate change is a critical and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and natural systems and requires a cooperative, global approach for both mitigation and adaptation. Deep reductions in global emissions; increased provision of finance, technology, and capacity-building support for developing countries to address climate change; and the need for regional and international cooperation have all been identified as critical to achieving more ambitious climate action on a global scale and reducing the potential impacts of climate change.

²³ Friedlingstein et al.: Global Carbon Budget 2024. Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 17, 965–1039, 2025 968 P.

In this context, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in December 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted by the 196 Parties to the UNFCCC. Following widespread support and rapid ratification by the Parties, the Agreement entered into force on November 4, 2016. All CARICOM Member States have ratified the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement provides a universal, legal framework for strengthening the global response to climate change. A key component of the Agreement that was strongly supported by SIDS and least developed countries (LDCs) was the establishment of a global warming goal of **“holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”**.²⁴ This was a significant inclusion for SIDS as the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) clearly articulated the existential threats of climate change to SIDS at temperature increases above 1.5°C with the ‘1.5°C to Stay Alive’ campaign.



Slow onset events such as the rise in sea levels, coupled with floods and salinisation will become increasingly important factors in displacement and migration. Limiting warming to 1.5C reduces the projected impacts of climate change and is a key component of the Paris Agreement championed by CARICOM Member States.

inclusion of the principle of ‘common but differentiated’ responsibilities, acknowledging that developed countries will continue to take the lead in mitigation and providing support for actions by developing countries. To achieve the goals of limiting average temperature increases, peaking emissions as soon as possible, and strengthening the ability of countries to deal with impacts of climate change, the Agreement relies on targets articulated in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs are an articulation of each country’s voluntary mitigation contributions and actions as well as adaptation plans and needs. Each Party is responsible for preparing, communicating, and maintaining successive NDCs at least every five years, with subsequent NDCs representing a progression in ambition. In 2018, Parties agreed to undertake the first global stocktake in 2023, which concluded at COP28 in Dubai, and every five years

²⁴ UNFCCC, 2016

thereafter. A significant issue of concern is the gap between pledged emission reductions articulated in NDCs and the global temperature goal of the Agreement. According to the Climate Action Tracker²⁵, reductions in emissions pledged by NDCs will result in an average global temperature increase of approximately 3.5°C. The first global stocktake affirmed that we are not on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and the window for meaningful change quickly closing. It outlines bold actions for Governments and stakeholders to urgently undertake in this critical decade to keep 1.5 within reach, securing lives and livelihoods. The global stocktake decision, provides benchmarks and outlines guidance for countries to consider in the next round of climate action plans due in 2025 (UNFCCC Global Stock Take). There is over a 90% chance that the emissions reductions that are detailed in all submitted NDCs will not achieve the goal of limiting temperature to below 2°C. This means that more substantial action is needed on a global scale to hold warming to below 2°C.

In addition to the NDC requirements of the Paris Agreement, Parties to the UNFCCC are required to submit National Communications (NCs). Non-Annex I Parties, including Member States of CARICOM, are required to submit NCs every four years, which should include information on greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation and adaptation actions and other material deemed relevant to achieving the objectives of the Convention. There are also several other reports under the UNFCCC framework that are discretionary for SIDS. These include Biennial Transparent Reports (BTRs), which provide an update of information from the NDCs and are submitted every two years, and National Adaptation Plans, which provide a process for LDCs to identify essential activities to address urgent adaptation needs.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF), established in 2010 as part of the UNFCCC's financial mechanism, was given an important role after the Paris Agreement was reached. The GCF is responsible for serving the Agreement through providing funding to support the efforts of developing countries to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation action. GCF has contributed a total of USD 16.7 billion aimed at low-emission and climate-resilient development through providing grants, loans, equity or guarantees across 297 projects. GCF has acknowledged the special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs through deciding to allocate 50% of climate funds towards adaptation for these particularly vulnerable countries.

The GCF Structured Dialogue with the Caribbean in March 2025 under the theme “towards a resilient Caribbean: Advancing regional solutions for climate action, sustainable growth and inclusive development” was about “turning the ambitions and resources of the Caribbean region into historic impact by strategically targeting GCF resources to be as catalytic as possible according to the Executive Director, Mafalda Duarte. GCF is investing more than USD 700 million to help Caribbean countries make tangible and unprecedented investments in building resilient and prosperous societies.

²⁵ Climate Action Tracker. <http://climateactiontracker.org/global.html>

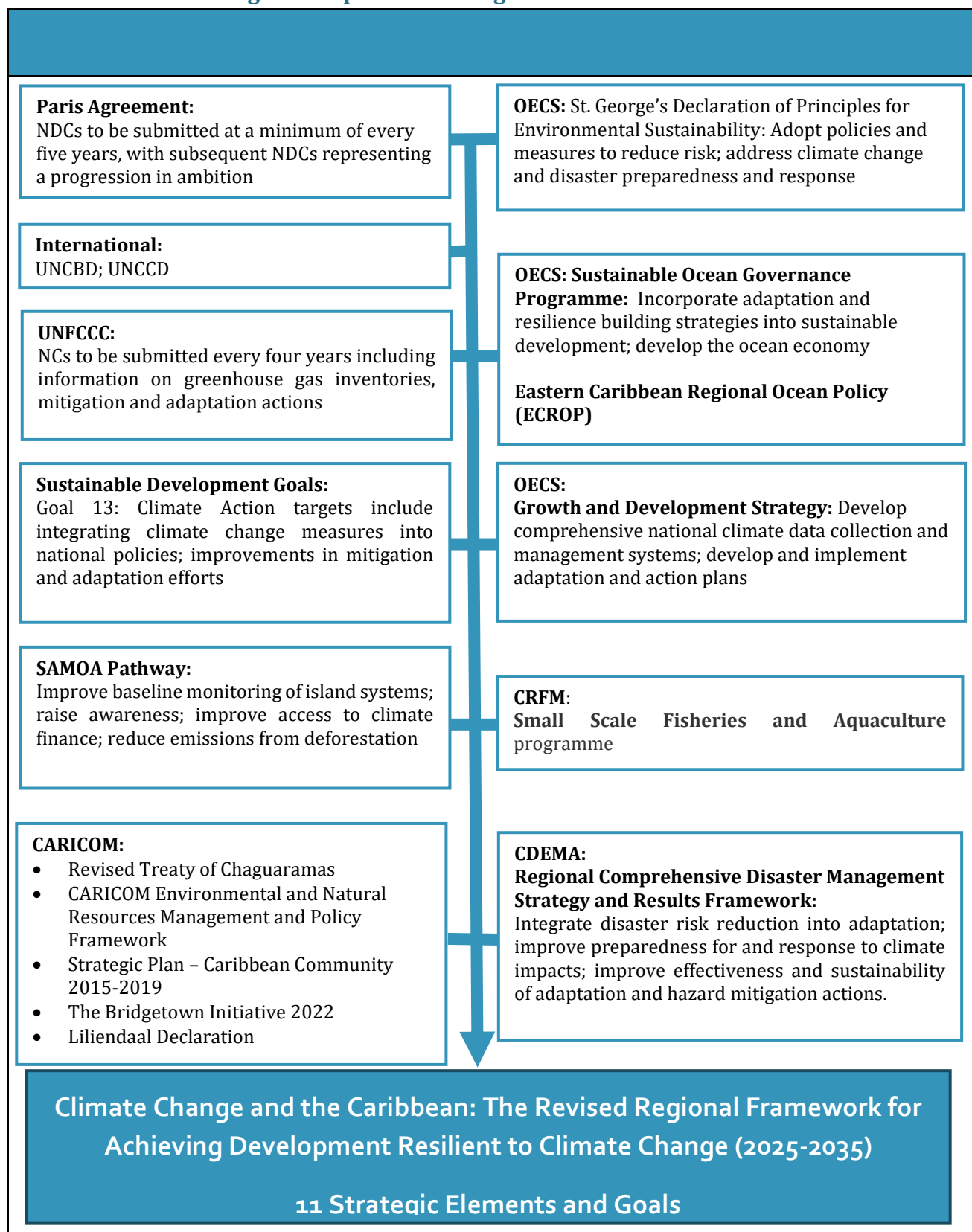
GCF's second replenishment period (GCF-2) is critical to operationalising the global collective goal of ambitious and accessible climate finance. GCF-2 is to strengthen GCFs ability to urgently respond to the climate crisis and empower climate action in developing countries during this Decade of Action, specifically for the 2024-2027 period. GCF resources however need to be more accessible to all SIDS. Discrimination amongst SIDS accessing GCF funding should not be tolerated.

Climate change has also become a critical issue in other global political arenas. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has included Climate Action as Goal 13 of the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). The 17 SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals and provide guidelines and targets for countries to adopt in concert with national and regional priorities. The SDGs came into effect in January 2016 and will continue to guide UNDP policy and funding until 2030. Climate Action has several targets including strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters; integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and achieving the goal of mobilizing USD100 billion annually by 2020 through the GCF to address the needs of developing countries to improve mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway* is an international framework that was developed at the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 and builds on several United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development, including the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. The SAMOA Pathway explicitly addresses the challenges that climate change poses to the sustainable development of SIDS and calls for support for SIDS to build resilience and adaptive capacity; improve baseline monitoring of island systems; raise awareness and communicate climate risks; and address capacity needs for gaining access to and managing climate finance.

On the global scale, climate change has increased its prominence as a critical economic development issue requiring international cooperation and action and is included in a few international political arenas. Globally, SIDS are recognized as particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change given that impacts pose significant risks and, in some cases, threaten the continued viability and survival of these nations. Against this global backdrop, CARICOM countries must continue to act to address the threats of climate change to their sustainable development, particularly in an era of diminishing international resources to combat the impacts of climate change.

Box 2: Global & Regional Inputs to the Regional Framework



1.3 Regional Context of Climate Change

Member States of CARICOM have been proactive in addressing climate change on both regional and national scales. The CCCCC coordinates the region's response to climate change, working on effective solutions to combat the impacts of climate change through providing policy advice and guidelines; developing and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects; and providing regional climate change data and documentation. The CCCCC was formed by agreement among CARICOM Member States and manages its portfolio of responsibilities through its network of national, regional, and international collaborating agencies and institutions. The CCCCC is recognized by the UN, UNFCCC, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international agencies as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean. The CCCCC was also accredited as the first Caribbean Regional Implementing Entity by the GCF in July 2015 and acts as an interface and conduit for GCF funding to Caribbean nations. As a regional implementing entity under the Small Grants Category, the CCCCC can submit GCF proposals valued at up to USD 50 million. The CCCCC is currently seeking Medium Level Accreditation to the GCF, which would allow for the submission of proposals for up to US\$250 million. Since publication of the original *Climate Change and the Caribbean: A Regional Strategy for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)*, the CCCCC has executed several regional projects in partnership with CARICOM Member States that have contributed to increased resilience to climate change.



Energy costs in the region are among the highest in the world posing a significant challenge for the region's economic growth potential. The high cost of fossil fuels significantly diminishes the Region's competitive advantage. Assessments of biomass, geothermal, hydropower, ocean energy, solar, and wind potential provide a promising outlook for the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the CARICOM region.

Table 3: Progress on Climate Change and the Caribbean: A Regional Strategy for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)

2009-2015 Strategic Elements	Indicative Projects and Achievements
1: Mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies into the sustainable development agendas of CARICOM States.	• Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2016-2020) reduces risks to human and natural assets through promoting the use of climate data and information in decision-making. The programme supports innovative adaptation approaches which demonstrate proof of concept needed to secure additional financing.
2. Promoting the implementation of specific adaptation measures to address key vulnerabilities in the region.	• Special Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (2007-2011) conducted detailed designs of pilot adaptation measures to reduce impacts on marine and terrestrial biodiversity and land degradation; implemented pilot adaptation investments. • Australia Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration (2012-2014) developed a regional plan of action for reducing coral reef vulnerability, enhanced knowledge exchange between Australia and Caribbean and developed a Climate Change Adaptation Resource Portal
3: Promoting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through fossil fuel reduction and conservation, and switching to renewable and cleaner energy sources	• Caribbean Carbon Neutral Tourism Program (2009-2012) scaled up low carbon investments in the tourism sector; identified and developed financial mechanisms to establish carbon neutrality for the tourism sector in the region. • Biogas Laboratory at University of Belize (2015) utilized a mobile biogas laboratory to build capacity within CARICOM Member States and the private sector

4: Promoting actions to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems in CARICOM countries to the impacts of a changing climate	• 1.5C to Stay Alive (2014-2015) sensitized Caribbean citizens about the impact of climate change on livelihoods and was a key component in achieving the 1.5C temperature limit in the Paris Agreement. • Youth Forum (2014) sensitized youths about climate change and engaged high school students in talks about the greenhouse gas effect, global warming and climate change impacts. • IMPACT (2016-2019) strengthens connections between scientific assessments of climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to help enable access to finance and help SIDS implement concrete projects. The project supports national implementation of science-based climate strategies and international implementation of the Paris Agreement
5: Promoting action to derive social, economic, and environmental benefits through the prudent management of standing forests in CARICOM countries	• Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation in the Small Island States in the Caribbean (2014-2018) provides investment for sustainable improvements of coastal ecosystems relevant for adaptation.

CARICOM Heads in July 2009 chronicled the path to securing resilience to the impacts of climate change and variability through their vision articulated in the *Liliendaal Declaration on Climate Change and Development*. . Developed in preparation for UNFCCC COP 15; the Declaration recognized the threat of climate change to development in the region and the imperative to restricting global temperature increases to 1.5°C. The Declaration concedes that adaptation and capacity building should be prioritised along with a formal and well financed framework to achieve both immediate and long-term adaptation needs. External financial support is widely accepted as a necessity to expediting SIDS responses to climate change challenges. Streamlining climate finance mechanisms is therefore seen as strategic to enabling greater access to financial resources. The Declaration also makes note of the need to manage the threats of natural disasters more effectively through improved risk assessments and streamlining risk reduction initiatives.

The decision by Heads to issue the Liliendaal Declaration itself is supported by the community instrument, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that provides inter alia, for integration of efforts in matters critical to the economic resilience of member States. Climate change therefore is positioned as a matter of grave economic and financial concern as the costs of adaptation and mitigation escalate beyond the capabilities of member States to address. More recent mandates reflected in the Strategic Plan of the Community (2015 – 2019), the CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Policy Framework²⁶, and the Bridgetown Initiative of 2022²⁷ reflect on the importance of balancing domestic and regional resilience against the natural and global economic challenges faced by the region.

In 2015, the *Nassau Declaration on Climate Change* was proposed as a revision to the Liliendaal Declaration and was developed in preparation for UNFCCC COP 21. The Nassau Declaration emphasised that dangerous climate change is already occurring in SIDS in the Caribbean and that urgent, ambitious, and decisive action is needed by the international community to reduce emissions and to support SIDS in adaptation measures through the provision of increased levels of financial and technical resources. Recognizing the significant impacts facing the region from both slow and rapid onset events, the Nassau Declaration pointedly embraces the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. The *CARICOM Energy Policy* (2013) acknowledges the influence of climate change on the region and calls for a transformation of the energy sector to renewable

²⁶ The CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Policy Framework provides the guiding principles and the long-term goals which will form the basis for the making of rules and guidelines to give overall direction to planning for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the environmental and natural resources of the Community and its Member States.

²⁷ The Bridgetown Initiative aims to minimize the cost of climate mitigation and adaption on governments' balance sheets without adding to their debt distress risks: Establish a Global Climate Mitigation Trust that, different from other IMF trusts, lends directly to projects instead of to governments. Dec. 18, 2022

sources that provide more sustainable solutions to both environmental concerns as well as addressing economic development and energy access issues. Given that all CARICOM Member States depend heavily on fossil fuels to supply energy demands, the energy sector is the source of most greenhouse gas emissions for the region. Reliance on fossil fuels has also contributed to the high costs of energy within the region - among the highest on a global scale - which dampens Caribbean competitiveness and potential growth. The Policy establishes regional and national targets for the reduction of emissions in the energy sector and the shift to more renewable sources of energy is acknowledged as being both environmentally beneficial as well as contributing to sustainable economic development.

The *Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Results Framework*, developed by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), provides goals, objectives, and short-term results to strengthen regional, national and community level management of hazards within the 2014-2024 period. Climate change is identified as a cross-cutting theme in the framework due to its influence on increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme events. The framework recommends integrating disaster risk reduction into adaptation; improving preparedness for and response to climate impacts; and improving effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation and hazard mitigation actions.

The OECS has also been active in plans and policies to address climate change. The revised *St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability (SGD)* in the OECS aims to foster equitable and sustainable improvement in the quality of life in the OECS region and articulates four goals that encompass twenty-one principles to achieve this aim. Goal 4 and Principle 8 of the SGD address the causes and impacts of climate change. Targets for Member States include adopting policies and measures to reduce risk and improve disaster preparedness and response; and adopting strategies, plans and policies to address climate change and disasters.

The OECS Growth and Development Strategy articulates the challenges facing development in the OECS region and provides strategies to address these challenges. Climate change is recognized as a significant factor affecting current and future development in the region. The Strategy recommends the design of comprehensive national climate data collection and management systems; expansion of public awareness campaigns, expanded use of protected culture technology in agriculture; expansion of irrigation, rainwater harvesting and storage systems in agriculture and low-income residential areas; preparation of drainage master plans to address climate-related flooding and the preparation and implementation of climate change adaptation and action plans for communities vulnerable to climate related disasters.

The OECS Secretariat's Sustainable Ocean Governance Programme promotes maritime cooperation arrangements as a framework for the sustainable management of ocean

resources and for the protection of the marine environment. Climate change and its impacts are identified as one of the key imperatives driving OECS ocean governance. Goal 7.1 speaks to building resilience and managing for uncertainty through the incorporation of appropriate adaptation and resilience building strategies into sustainable development, conservation, and governance actions. The Programme aims to establish a network of marine protected areas; improve compliance with international and national environmental requirements; and to develop the ocean economy within the region. The Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) recognises the need to transition to a more integrated governance approach that requires all uses, users, and values to be considered. This is consistent with the ecosystem-based management approach which addresses the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social, and economic.

The development of the *Regional Proposal for Caribbean Management of Climate and Disaster Risks* is a key outcome of the GCF Structured Dialogue that focused on the Caribbean. This initiative is being led by Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda and aims to utilize GCF resources to enhance climate resilience in the region through increasing the coherence of climate actions across agencies and sectors. The recently developed Caribbean Climate-Smart Coalition aims to remove barriers to the flow of finance to climate-smart investments in the region. The Coalition includes international organisations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) with plans to providing funding to reinvigorate islands that have been impacted by the 2017 tropical cyclones and to establish more resilient infrastructure and communities across the region. The Coalition focuses on scaling renewable energy; building low-carbon and resilient infrastructure; creating innovative financing models in exchange for progress on policy reforms and climate-smart investments; and strengthening the capacity of Caribbean nations and regional institutions to plan for long-term resilience.



Actively pursuing gender equality, increasing gender awareness and mainstreaming gender in development and implementation of adaptation and mitigation projects, programmes and policies is essential.

2. Strategic Elements and Goals

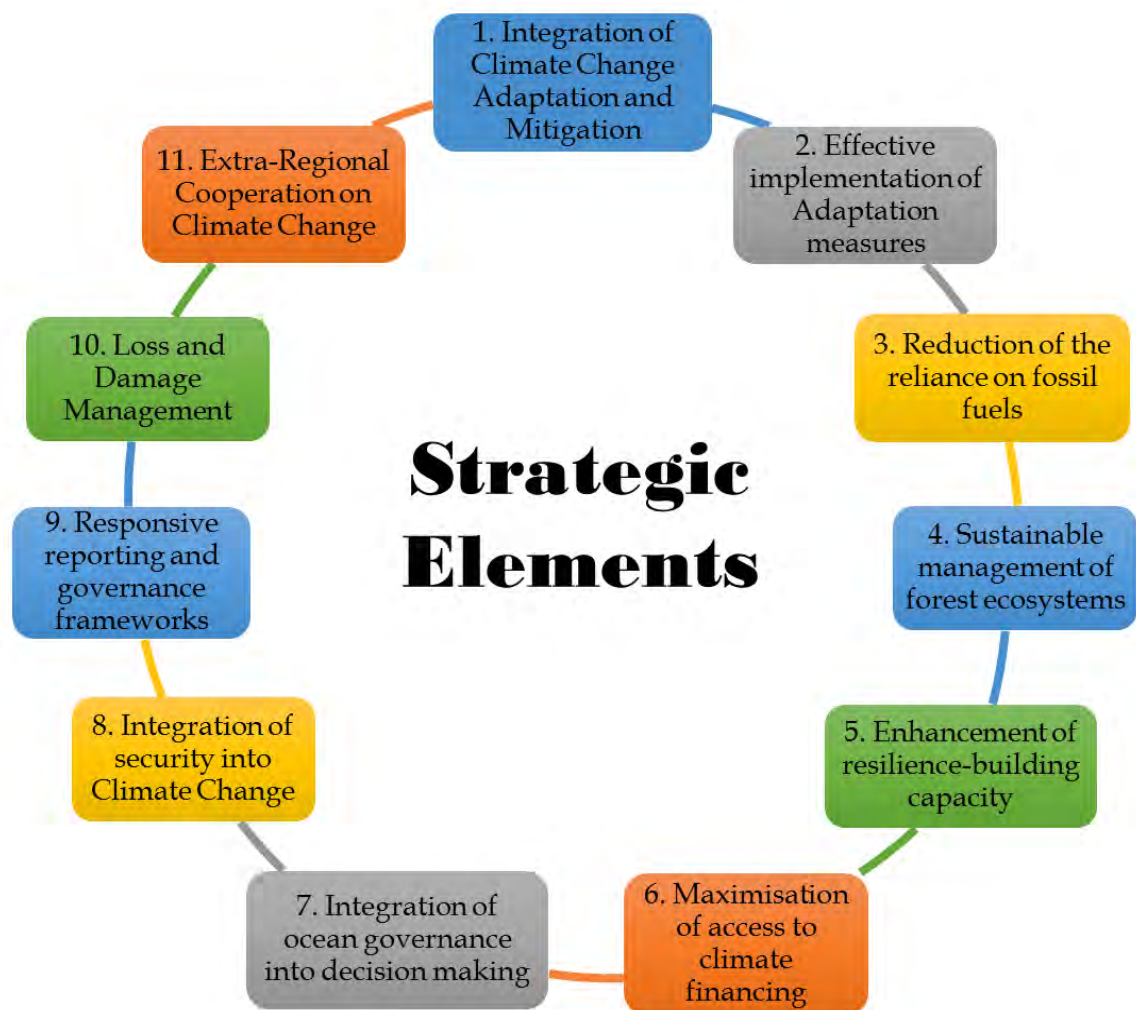
2.1 Guiding Principles of Strategic Elements and Goals

The 11 Strategic Elements represent the aspirational targets of member States of CARICOM and are underpinned by several guiding principles that set the foundation for achieving climate resilient development. The guiding principles provide CARICOM member States with strong, common ideals to achieve their goals:

- An integrated approach is important to minimizing the use and costs of limited technical, administrative, and financial resources; in reducing any potential conflicts in policy development; and in promoting coordination among all stakeholder groups in climate change risk reduction;
- Capacity building is essential to ensure that countries, regional organizations, and civil society have the capacity to respond to climate change; and to improve the capacity of models/tools to predict climate impacts on various economies and sectors at scales relevant to the region; Adopting a Programme of Action for Sustainable Management of Fresh Water Resources and a model for Water Security is vital to resilience building.
- Effective and sustained involvement of civil society and the private sector is absolutely essential;
- Embedding gender equality, increasing gender awareness and integrating gender in development and implementation of projects, programmes and policies is imperative;
- Stakeholder involvement and participation must be effectively coordinated to minimize duplication of effort and conflict, to create positive synergies, and ensure efficient use of resources;
- An effective institutional, administrative, and legislative environment is crucial for effective and timely resilience-building to the risks associated with climate change;
- Effective collaboration with regional and international state actors and organisations must be an integral part of resilience-building to climate change;
- Access to information and transparency is essential to planning and implementing resilience building projects and programmes;
- An enabling environment for the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices to securing adaptation and mitigation targets is necessary.

Strategic Elements

The 11 Strategic Elements consider global and regional agreements, frameworks, policies and plans as well as concerns directly voiced by CARICOM Member States. The Strategic Elements and associated Goals offer guidance to Member States and provide the opportunity to set and pursue national goals and targets that complement or exceed those included in the framework.



SE 1: Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies and Actions into The Development Portfolios of CARICOM Member States

GOAL 1.1: Vulnerabilities and risks associated with a changing climate at the regional, national and sub-national levels are incorporated into decision-making

GOAL 1.2: Policies, plans, legal instruments and education curricula to enable and support adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors are reformed

GOAL 1.3: The management of regional and international agreements for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development is harmonised

GOAL 1.4: Regional and national institutional frameworks to enable and support adaptation and mitigation actions are strengthened

GOAL 1.5: Inter-governmental, inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaborative and cooperation architecture are strengthened

GOAL 1.6: The enabling environment (policies and legislation) for sharing data, information and knowledge (including local and traditional knowledge) at national and regional levels is responsive and functional.

GOAL 1.7: Legal, institutional and financial protocols and instruments for managing climate induced migration and displacement are enacted.

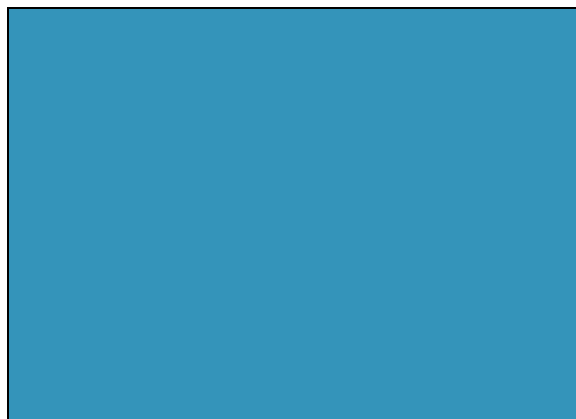
GOAL 1.8: Investments in generational resilience through youth empowerment and development including gender

The experiences of the Caribbean with extreme weather events provide a persuasive argument for the transformation of national decision-making and planning processes into a paradigm that fully integrates climate change considerations. Impacts of extreme drought and precipitation events as well as the devastation from extreme hurricanes provide compelling evidence of the threats of climate change to development in the region. These current effects and projections of increased impacts highlight the need to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into sustainable development strategies.

equality to address the impacts of climate change are intensified.

GOAL 1.9: The contribution of the private sector to building the climate resilience of member States is intensified.

GOAL 1.10: National and regional platforms for addressing the impacts of climate change on trade are instituted.



SE 2: Successful Implementation of Specific Adaptation and Mitigation Measures to Reduce Vulnerabilities to Climate Change

GOAL 2.1: Regional and national management systems capable of reducing climate-induced impacts on key sectors, ecosystems, critical infrastructure, livelihoods and enterprises are established.

GOAL 2.2: Intra-sectoral collaboratory alliances established (e.g. Met/climate change; Finance/Climate Change/DRR).

(Key sectors include: Water; Coastal, Marine and Fishery Resources; Agriculture; Health; Tourism; Watersheds; Energy; Education; Biodiversity; Infrastructure; Waste; other)

(Critical Infrastructure includes: electricity grids; water distribution networks; telecommunications; hospitals; police stations; ports; roads and bridges; other)

As climate change impacts are increasingly felt throughout the region, resources allocated for poverty alleviation, education, and other social services, or for economic development, are instead being diverted to address impacts of climate change. Implementation of adaptation measures reduces vulnerability and builds resilience of critical sectors and resources thereby reducing impacts and costs of recovery from climate change impacts. Integration of adaptation into disaster risk reduction planning and actions is essential as the intensity and frequency of extreme events are projected to increase.

SE 3: Reduction of the Region's Reliance on Fossil Fuels and building resilience in the electricity sector

GOAL 3.1: Greenhouse gas emissions relative to (business-as-usual – BAU) are reduced

GOAL 3.2: Energy efficiency and conservation standards and measures are adopted and implemented

GOAL 3.3: Deployment of renewable energy technologies is intensified in a resilient manner

GOAL 3.4: Regional Carbon Market in support of decarbonising efforts of Member States is developed

GOAL 3.5: An appropriate model (for each SIDS) for sustainable energy resource management is adopted

GOAL 3.6: A Just Transition²⁸ towards environmentally sustainable green economies to achieve a reduced carbon/zero-carbon energy mix is adopted and promoted.

GOAL 3.7: Regional labour force skilled in renewable energy and associated industries

GOAL 3.8: Increased resilience of the electricity grid (inclusive of reliability and strengthening of the physical infrastructure)

Energy costs in the region are among the highest in the world which poses a significant challenge for economic growth potential. The region remains disproportionately dependent on imported fossil fuels, increasing exposure to volatile and rising oil prices; limiting economic development; and failing to establish a precedent for global action to mitigate the long-term consequences of climate change. Faced with several critical challenges associated with the generation, distribution, and use of energy, the region is well positioned to take advantage of the renewable energy potential that exists. The transportation sector is also heavily reliant on fossil fuels, presenting an opportunity to reduce emissions through greater transportation efficiency; technological advancements in electric and hybrid vehicles; and the use of biofuels. Pivotal to the transformation and reduced dependence on fossil fuels is the enabling environment that must include policy, legal and institutional reform.

²⁸ In the recently concluded 111th International Labour Conference (ILC), Just Transition was identified as a role that governments, workers, employers and the International Labour Organization (ILO) should play to achieve this goal. It was agreed that to tackle climate change, achieve social justice, decent work and poverty eradication, advancing towards a Just Transition is critical.

SE 4: Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems and Associated Landscapes

GOAL 4.1: Best practices and best fit solutions for sustainable forest management that address climate change and include consideration for indigenous peoples, their cultures and traditions and livelihoods needs are adopted

GOAL 4.2: Associated landscapes and seascapes are integrated into the sustainable management of forest ecosystems

(Associated Landscapes: Savannas, dry forests, littoral forests, mangals and wetlands).

Deforestation threatens the health of tropical forests in the region which are an important resource for carbon sequestration, food, forest products for building and other livelihoods support. Most national policies relating to forest management are out of date and therefore take no account of climate change or of the various international funds available to support forest-related mitigation efforts. Associated landscapes, including wetlands, savannas/grasslands and mangroves are critical to sustainable forest management and require sustainable management.

SE 5: Society with the Impetus and Capacity for Building Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change

GOAL 5.1: Programmes for enhancing knowledge, education, training and retraining, providing information on new technologies, and awareness of the impacts of climate change for all sectors are intensified

GOAL 5.2: Science, Technology, Reading and writing, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STREAM) to support climate resilient innovation and re-skilling for transition to a low (zero)-carbon climate resilient environment are integrated into the curricula at all education levels

GOAL 5.3: Society is more proactive in reducing risks associated with climate change

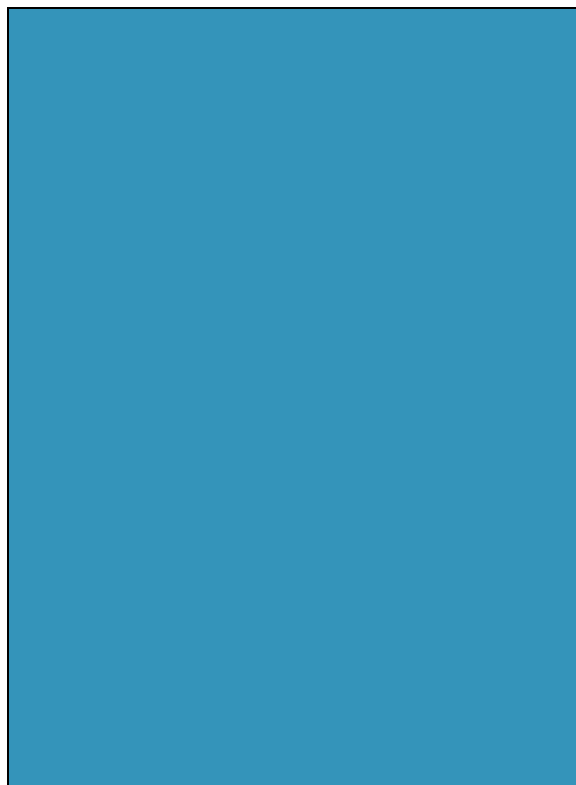
The foundation for adaptation and mitigation will be built on education and knowledge at all levels of the governance spectrum, from the political directorate to the level of people, their families, and communities. Knowledge, education, and awareness of the impacts of climate change must therefore become integral elements of the education system at all levels; feature in debates at the highest levels of governance; and enlighten regional and national decision-making.

GOAL 5.4: Comprehensive national and regional data collection, management, integration of scientific, local and traditional knowledge, open access sharing and reporting systems are instituted

GOAL 5.5: Attitudes and behaviours towards enhancing national and regional climate resilience are positively transformed

GOAL 5.6: The principles of Gender Equality in regional and national decision-making and in the implementation of actions towards a low-carbon climate resilient economy is positively adopted.

GOAL 5.7: The effective and sustained involvement of civil society and the private sector is secured



SE 6: Sustained Access to and Provision of National, Regional and International Climate Finance

GOAL 6.1: Frameworks for access to international climate financing including multilateral, regional and other bilateral arrangements are institutionalized.

GOAL 6.2: Innovative financing mechanisms and the deployment of economic incentives (or disincentives) are adopted

GOAL 6.3: Mechanisms to address financial de-risking are identified and institutionalized

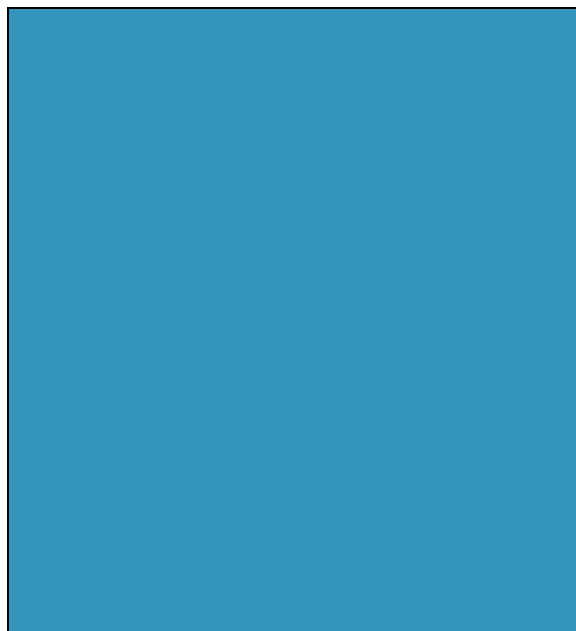
GOAL 6.4: Financial sector, insurance and credit unions integrate adaptation and mitigation imperatives into their operational portfolios.

Meeting the costs of mitigation and adaptation presents major challenges for all CARICOM Member States. Weak economies; external stressors; and pressures on the consolidated funds of governments to support recovery efforts following extreme weather events place severe burdens on national budgets. Financial de-risking and reduced access to concessional financing also makes financing climate responses difficult. The availability of resources from international instruments such as the Adaptation Fund and GCF will help to transform the landscape for financing of adaptation and mitigation initiatives across the region.

GOAL 6.5: ODA classification restricting access to financing for some countries is addressed (while ensuring climate finance access above and beyond ODA).

GOAL 6.6: The enabling framework for facilitating ease of doing business in climate investments is instituted.

GOAL 6.7: Delivering finance to local communities and supporting the work of all stakeholders including civil society is prioritised.



SE 7: Integration of Ocean Governance into Regional and National Decision Making on Climate Change

GOAL 7.1: Regional and national coordination mechanisms for ocean governance are strengthened by the inclusion of climate change considerations

GOAL 7.2: Climate Change considerations are incorporated into the Blue Economy

GOAL 7.3: A regional blue carbon policy establishes a trading platform for the region with harmonised national blue carbon policies.

GOAL 7.4: Marine spatial planning is integrated into national and regional climate change decision making

GOAL 7.5: The sustainable management of marine ecosystems is integrated into Ocean Governance

Oceans are a significant resource for all CARICOM Member States and play a pivotal role in addressing long-term socio-economic and environmental challenges as well as being vitally important for carbon sequestration. However, ocean spaces are under increasing pressure from overexploitation and poor management along with impacts from climate change. CARICOM countries, particularly OECS Member States, have remained at the forefront of the emerging paradigm of the Blue Economy, recognising that the oceans have a major role to play in the future of the region. The Blue Economy offers an approach to sustainable development that may be better suited to the circumstances, constraints and challenges facing the region.

SE 8: Integration of Regional and National Security in Managing the Impacts of Climate Change

GOAL 8.1: The roles of national and regional security agencies and systems in responding to climate change and its impacts are institutionalised

GOAL 8.2: The role of national security agencies, including customs, police, coast guard, defence force, immigration authorities, maritime affairs and military, is integrated into the national response to climate change and its impacts

GOAL 8.3: National and transnational security issues for all other sectors, including health, tourism, agriculture are enhanced

GOAL 8.4: Climate-induced migration is integrated into regional and national security management

The issue of regional and national security within the framework of climate change is new for the Caribbean. However, climate change impacts will be felt in an environment of population growth, resource shortages, food insecurity and other developmental challenges. Extreme events may lead to the increased need for humanitarian assistance and emergency disaster responses by security agencies. Impacts of climate change such as loss of infrastructure, displacement, migration, and other forms of instability may also incite conflict and in some cases, violence. Thus, climate change may contribute to instability or conflict in the region and regional and national security must be considered in managing climate impacts.

SE 9: Responsive Reporting and Governance Frameworks for Climate Resilience Building

GOAL 9.1: Monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks are established and functioning.

GOAL 9.2: A comprehensive programme of research to guide regional resilience-building actions established.

GOAL 9.3: Governance at national and regional levels inculcate a climate-risk management ethos at all levels of decision-making.

The projected scope and severity of climate change threaten to compromise the fundamental resilience and stability of many Caribbean SIDS. The unprecedented speed of unfolding events and type of change impose a significant challenge on decision-making mechanisms to respond by transforming from a business-as-usual approach to a much more proactive mechanism. Governance in the face of climate change requires a coordinated multi-agency approach at various levels. Effective,

robust, and responsive monitoring, evaluation and reporting to assess the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation actions must be integrated into future thinking and forward planning.

SE 10: Effective Architecture for Averting, Minimising and Addressing Loss and Damage from Climate Change

GOAL 10.1: Recommendations arising out of the work of relevant international instruments such as the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, are incorporated into regional and national climate change response mechanisms.

GOAL 10.2: Architecture for comprehensive climate risk management is clearly defined and operational.

The increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events as well as gradual changes such as sea level rise, coastal erosion and freshwater salinization will result in increased loss and damage-impacts of climate change that occur despite mitigation and adaptation. Recognition of loss and damage is increasing in the international policy arena due in part to championing by SIDS across the world. Loss and damage will also become an increasingly important factor in displacement, migration, and relocation in the region. Evacuation and displacement that are currently associated with extreme events is likely to increase, necessitating a proactive and effective approach to managing climate-induced migration.

SE 11. Functioning Architecture for Extra-Regional Cooperation in Building Resilience to The Impacts of Climate Change

GOAL 11.1: Alliances with climate change negotiating blocs with issues similar to CARICOM

The common fabric of climate vulnerability amongst all SIDS provided the bond that drove the 1.5 to stay alive campaign. The traction that this has gained is represented in the IPCC special

SIDS (e.g., Pacific SIDS) are strengthened

report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial LEVELS and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. The success of this alliance must now be channelled into strengthening the platform for addressing the climate vulnerabilities in SIDS with the same vigour that led to the 1.5 report.

3. Framework Implementation

This framework strives to operationalise a comprehensive approach to building resilience to climate change that emphasises collaboration and cooperation among development partners in climate change risk identification, reduction, and transfer. Thus, effective implementation of the framework requires that actors at national, regional, and international levels have a clear appreciation of their respective roles and responsibilities. Accordingly, the framework is cast from the perspective of governments and their development partners, including civil society and the private sector. To ensure effective collaboration, public-private partnerships; public-public partnerships; and donor coordination and synchronization is essential.

Box 3: ‘Three-Ones’ Approach for Framework Implementation

Implementation of the framework will take the ‘three-ones’ approach that was articulated in the implementation plan for the original framework - *Delivering Transformational Change 2011-2021: Implementing the CARICOM ‘Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*. This approach is based on the following principles that are applied at both regional and national levels:

- **One framework for coordinated action by all partners**
 - Regional level: Revised Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change and updated Implementation Plan to the Revised Regional Framework.
 - National level: National Implementation Plans
- **One co-ordinating mechanism to manage implementation**
 - Regional level: Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change

- National level: National Climate Change Coordinating Committees
- **One monitoring and evaluation framework to measure progress, transparency and value for money at both regional and national levels**
 - Regional level: Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
 - National level: Country-specific instruments MEL Framework

3.1 Role of Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC)

The Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC) includes representatives of CARICOM specialised agencies, academic institutions, regional financial institutions, civil society, and the private sector and development partners in areas related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Regional Coordinating Committee has the overall responsibility for driving transformational change guided by the framework and the implementation plan. The Committee is also expected to:

- Review progress of members in delivering on the Strategic Elements and Goals
- Assess execution of the implementation of the framework
- Provide guidance/advice on advancing resilience-building

3.2 Role of the CCCCC

The CCCCC will have primary responsibility for providing technical support and guidance as required by the Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change, implementing agencies and Member States. In keeping with its mandate, the Centre will:

- Stay abreast of emerging and trending matters and take the lead in working with others in preparing the region for benefiting from opportunities.
- Consistently assess progress on climate change action at the regional level to reduce duplication and build on synergies for new initiatives under consideration.
- Analyse and disseminate information relevant to climate change
- Facilitate and coordinate the development of Caribbean positions on global climate change
- Serve as the primary authoritative technical source for Caribbean countries to, inter alia, fulfil their responsibilities under the UNFCCC
- Assist Member States in accessing Climate Finance
- Support public education and awareness programmes on climate change in Member States
- Promote the sharing of resources, technical cooperation, and information exchanges with other global climate change initiatives, particularly in SIDS and the Americas
- Provide financial and technical resources for the implementation of resilience-building activities at regional and national levels

- Collaborate with regional and international partners and the private sector towards the articulation and implementation of programmes and projects
- Perform functions consistent with its role as a Regional Implementing Entity to the Green Climate Fund
- Secure financial and technical resources for the Just Transition to green energy

3.3 Role of Governments

National governments are critical to implementation of the framework. The principal tasks of governments will be to:

- Maintain active involvement in international processes (IPCC, UNFCCC) and build strategic alliances and partnerships at the national, regional and international levels
- Raise awareness of critical matters and opportunities at all levels
- Provide an enabling political, legal, institutional and regulatory environment
- Assist in the mobilisation of new and additional financial resources
- Encourage the participation of all government entities in the development of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures at international, regional and national levels and enhance readiness to benefit from opportunities to address loss and damage
- Promote sustained partnerships with non-state actors
- Reduce implementation deficits
- Update country-specific national instruments
- Support National Coordinating Committees
- Enhance national capacities to benefit from the loss and damage fund.
- Champion and facilitate the transformation of the education and capacity building systems in the region to new and emerging skill needs.
- Provide the necessary mechanisms to ensure there is social justice throughout the transition to green energy and a carbon-zero future.
- Develop and implement policies for a Just Transition, as required.

3.4 Role of Regional Organisations

Regional organisations will play a pivotal role in supporting climate change risk management activities, through the sharing of knowledge among key agencies and individuals, and in supporting the development of national capacities. Regional organisations are expected to:

- Strengthen national capacities through training, programme support, technical assistance, and resource mobilisation
- Ensure information sharing, documentation, and comparative analyses of issues on a regional and sub-regional basis

- Coordinate sub-regional or regional climate change risk reduction projects
- Develop common regional or sub-regional policy platforms
- Advocate for regional policy initiatives in global forums

3.5 Role of the Private Sector²⁹

The framework envisages a direct and involved role for the private sector. Where necessary, capacity building in the form of information, finances and technical assistance will need to be provided to segments of private sector to enable participation and growth in climate change resilience building. Private sector engagement will, where necessary and feasible, be promoted through agreements that define clear roles and responsibilities. More specifically, the private sector will be expected to:

- Develop and implement corporate environmental policies that emphasise prospective and compensatory climate hazard risk management principles
- Observe the “polluter pays” principle, the “user pays” principle and the precautionary principle
- Make informed investments in climate hazard risk management
- Access resources for climate resilience building tailored to meet the characteristics of that sector in the region
- Seek efficient solutions to climate change challenges and ensure value for money

3.6 Role of Civil Society³⁰

Civil society plays a critical role in strengthening the climate agenda, ensuring that the concerns of society are voiced and spreading awareness of climate change. Civil society is expected to:

- Access climate financing to support actions aimed at low carbon development and resilience building
- Support research and monitoring, including scientific as well as local and traditional knowledge
- Act as a bridge between vulnerable communities and government
- Effectively represent the concerns and needs of vulnerable communities

²⁹ Private sector includes: multi-nationals; micro, small, medium enterprises.

³⁰ Civil society is the aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions that involve diverse cultural, religious, and special interest groups that represent and implement the interests and will of citizens and enforce social norms. Civil Society is also the space in which social movements are organized to represent diverse social interests. Civil Society entities can include: registered non-profit organizations; informal (non registered) groups; groups representing vulnerable persons; professional associations; academia; media.

- Increase community awareness and advocacy on climate justice issues.
- Increase engagement on climate change and loss and damage issues
- Engage in community-based adaptation and mitigation projects
- Participate in decision making processes
- Provide capacity building at all levels including vulnerable groups
- Monitor the activities of government and the private sector to ensure that policies and programmes enhance resilience
- Contribute to the delivery of all the Strategic Elements and Goals in the Revised Regional Framework and engage in actions to achieve low-carbon climate resilient development.

3.6 Role of Citizens

Citizens are seen as playing a proactive role in articulating their needs in relation to their respective livelihood priorities. Such action will help to inform decisions regarding climate change, as well as assist in reducing risks and uncertainties. Citizens are also expected to:

- Arm themselves with appropriate information regarding climate change risk to guide and make decisions
- Take all opportunities to participate in decision-making processes
- Act in an environmentally responsible manner and contribute to the building of resilience in their communities.

3.7 Role of the International Development Community

It is envisaged that this framework will facilitate the continuing involvement of the international development community in strengthening the capacity of CARICOM Member States in adapting to a changing climate. The international development community will be invited to:

- Support training and education for climate change risk management
- Share knowledge with the region that can address its climate change management challenges
- Ensure that climate change risk management is factored into development aid programmes as well as disaster recovery and reconstruction
- Enhance global indexing of risk and vulnerability
- Strengthen the capacity of planning institutions to incorporate climate change into the planning process
- Support the development of detailed methodologies for identifying, categorizing, and quantifying climate change risk
- Provide adequate climate finance for addressing the impacts of climate change
- Support capacity building, technical cooperation and funding for initiatives to promote social justice and the achievement of a Just Transition in addressing climate change.

4. Financing Implementation

Implementation of the framework will require financial and technical resources to be made available to support the actions and the responsibilities of implementing organisations. The partners identified in Section 3 acknowledge that many of the actions recommended by this framework do not represent an additional burden on their budgets. Many of framework's objectives could be met through better planning and from using information gleaned from vulnerability assessments as the basis for decisions regarding mitigation and adaptation.

The framework envisages that financing of climate change resilience initiatives will be treated as a development priority within the budgeting process and that all government entities will advance the goals and objectives of the framework by ensuring that climate change resilience is considered in designing programmes and projects.

The CCCCC will have lead responsibility and work in close collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, the OECS Commission, the CDB, private sector entities, regional organizations, and governments to access the financial and technical resources required to implement the framework. The accreditation of the CCCCC and the CDB as Regional Implementing Agencies to the GCF is beneficial to securing access to climate finance that will aid in implementation of the Framework. Countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda, that have been accredited by the GCF and Adaptation Fund will also play critical roles in access to climate finance. The CCCCC should endeavour to remain at the cutting edge of international developments to ensure early access to financial and technical support as relevant initiatives are being developed. Furthermore, the region should explore the development of innovative financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage, to achieve targets set in NDCs and other regional and national plans.

The Framework is envisaged as embracing a timeframe over the period 2024-2034, taking into consideration the various regional and international agreements and their associated targets. The CCCCC, in collaboration with regional stakeholders, will develop an updated *Implementation Plan* including timelines for implementation of the different components and a budget for implementation. This revised *Implementation Plan* will build on the original *Implementation Plan: Delivering Transformational Change 2011-2021: Implementing the CARICOM 'Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*.

The budget will be financed from a variety of sources including (i) innovative financing mechanisms; (ii) multilateral, bilateral and philanthropic donor funds, including regional and international funds such as the Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and GCF, the GEF, other instruments; and (iii) private and public-sector financing, including contributions from governments and businesses.

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ANNEX 1

Update on the Regional Framework Implementation Plan and Associated Activities

The Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan to the regional framework acknowledges that a transformational change in mindset, institutional arrangements, operating systems, collaborative approaches and integrated-planning mechanisms are essential to deliver the strategic elements and goals of the Regional Framework.

The activities currently being carried out to advance the IP places emphasis on moving from a project approach to a programmatic approach. Furthermore, it was indicated that the Regional Framework and the IP provided an opportunity for donor coordination and synchronization of activities to build the Region's resilience to Climate Variability and Change.

At the regional level, the Plan recommends that CARICOM adopts the 'three-ones' approach to resource mobilization, co-ordination, planning and monitoring, by forming a new sub-committee of the Heads of Government to be known as the Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC).

The Regional Coordinating Committee of Climate Change (RCCCC)

One of the signature achievements of the Regional Framework and the IP is the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC), which is the second tier of the three-ones principle following from the first tier which is the Framework and the Implementation Plan itself. The first meeting of the RCCCC was held in Saint Lucia in August 2014 and was chaired by the Minister with responsibility for Climate Change in Saint Lucia, having been delegated that responsibility by the CARICOM Lead Head on Climate Change, the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia. The purpose of the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCCCC) is to coordinate the strategic direction through the implementation of One Plan, One Coordinating Mechanism, and one Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework over the scheduled implementation period as identified in the Implementation Plan. All key regional institutions are members of the RCCCC.

It was agreed that the RCCCC should be used as the vehicle for advancing the transformational agenda within CARICOM and the CARICOM Strategic Plan used as the vehicle for aligning the Economic Resilience Pillar with that of the Environmental Resilience Pillar. This therefore dictates a role for the Ministry of Finance in leading the

aforementioned processes. The RCCCC is pivotal to the above and must rise to the many challenges in fulfilling its mandate.

The RCCCC determined that in addition to the current members the following should be co-opted as required:

- Youth, possibly through the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN);
- Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC);
- Regional Media, possibly through the Caribbean Media Centre (CMC)
- Regional private sector possibly through the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

The CARICOM Cluster Mechanism should be used to bring on board additional resources as necessary.

Collaborating Institutions

Many of the other regional actors such as CDEMA, CIMH, CRFM and others have adjusted their programming to ensure compliance with the Framework and its Implementation Plan (IP). All the parties represented at the first meeting of the RCCCC have agreed that their work plans must be aligned with the IP placing greater emphasis on the transformational elements of change. It is agreed that the activities of other regional sectors must be captured to increase the visibility of and broad adoption of the Framework and IP. The RCCCC considers the impacts of CC and CV to governments in social, environmental and macroeconomic terms placing strong emphasis for a role for the Ministry of Finance in leading the transformational processes.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool

The Centre has also designed and developed a monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool for the Implementation Plan in keeping with the third tier of the three-ones principle. This tool will measure the progress towards achieving resilience-building outcomes and value for money, to strengthen the institutional capability of the Centre to sustainably manage the monitoring evaluation and reporting system, and to manage the user-friendly on-line MER instrument for reporting to the Regional Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (RCCCC).

The Development of a Risk Management Tool

The IP also requires the development of a risk management ethos in decision-making. Decision-making based on subjective value judgments without using the information and the expert advice and guidance that is available, given the challenges and uncertainties we face, will compromise resilience building. In keeping with this thrust the Centre has developed the Caribbean Climate On-Line Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL) which is designed as a user-friendly instrument to aid in the identification of risks and solutions.

The roll out of CCORAL within CARICOM continues with training conducted in all Member States. Both Grenada and St. Kitts (not yet Nevis) have institutionalized the application of CCORAL as a decision-support tool.

The Framework and IP a continuous process

A biannual review is proposed of both the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan to ensure that they continue to provide the right focus for the required transformational changes. The CCCCC has a coordinating and delivery role in this regard and will maintain a continuous dialogue with key stakeholders to ensure that the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan accurately reflect the Caribbean's transformational needs. In addition the time period and duration for the implementation and Framework must be aligned. The Centre is in the process of starting this revision of the Implementation Plan to ensure currency but also to revise the relevant time period and focus of the Regional Framework to match that of the Implementation Plan. This ongoing dialogue will ensure that the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan remain current with regional and national imperatives and goals.

References.

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