

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) was established in 2002 by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with a mandate to build regional capacity to cope with the challenges to regional sustainable development efforts, posed by Climate Variability and Climate Change and to provide an institutional mechanism for the coordination of climate change activities in the region. Since the establishment of its permanent headquarters in Belmopan, Belize in December 2003, the Centre has moved aggressively to fulfil its mandate and has been executing several projects aimed at mainstreaming climate change in development planning and building the capacity of the region to adapt to the negative impacts of Climate change. The Centre is poised to play a critical role in the preparatory process leading up to and including the negotiations on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

The Cooperative Agreement between the GS/OAS and the Centre is a formalization of more than a decade-long support provided by the GS/OAS to the Caribbean region in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The GS/OAS through DSD was instrumental in the design and execution of the first GEF-funded project in the region (Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change) and played an incisive role in the formation of the Centre. More recently, the DSD has provided pivotal support to the Centre in the design of Regional Strategy for Adaptation to a Changing Climate which will be presented to CARICOM Heads of Government at their next meeting in July.

The signing of the Collaborative Agreement will assist in advancing the respective mandates of the GS/OAS and the Centre. It will also strengthen the DSD's fund-raising efforts on behalf of the region's efforts at climate change adaptation.

More specifically, the Agreement will facilitate the following:

- a. The development and implementation of joint research projects on:
 - i. The development of Information and Communication Technologies ("TIC") for the sharing and exchange of information and knowledge – including lessons learned and "good" practices, related to climate risk reduction and natural hazard risk management. To that end, The Centre and GS/OAS will seek to develop joint activities and projects that will assist their respective Member States in mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change and climate variability;
 - ii. The development and joint execution of pilot projects to test practices and strategies, as to develop replicable experiences and provide practical experiences for public policy formulation;
- b. The exchange of bibliographic materials and access to databases and general information. To that end, The Centre and GS/OAS will seek to identify and collaborate in the organization and presentation of regional forums, as well as in the drafting of policy and technical papers;
- c. The exchange of documents and specific information in relation to work programs that are of interest to each of the Parties;
- d. The exchange of professional personnel to strengthen study and research programs;

- e. Joint meetings to address matters of common interest;
- f. Capacity building in assessing vulnerability and risks associated with climate change and climate variability;
- g. Capacity building for the purpose of identifying, designing, testing and evaluating the efficacy of strategies and options for mitigating and adapting to the negative effects of climate change and climate variability appropriate to the hemispheric reality.