

Minimizing the Risk of Making Poor Adaptation Choices in the Caribbean

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Small island developing states (SIDS) make only a trivial contribution to the world's greenhouse gas emissions, which have been identified by the global scientific community as the main driver of anthropogenic climate change. Since these countries contribute so little to the escalation of greenhouse gas forcing of the atmosphere, it has been argued consistently that the limited resources made available to them should be applied primarily to *adaptation planning* and implementation, rather than to *mitigation*. While there is almost universal support for this view, there still appears to be in many instances, insufficient information that can serve as guidance for making sound adaptation choices. Such guidance could be helpful in evaluating the efficacy and appropriateness of various options, and for ensuring that adaptation strategies assist with alleviating current challenges while building resilience to anticipated impacts. This paper reviews some of the principal climate change adaptation challenges that confront Caribbean and other SIDS, and identifies a number of considerations that these countries may wish to incorporate in the design and implementation of future adaptation programmes.