



RISK FINANCING & INVESTMENT



Funded by the European Union



INTRA-ACP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Implemented with the European Union, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)



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CASE STUDY

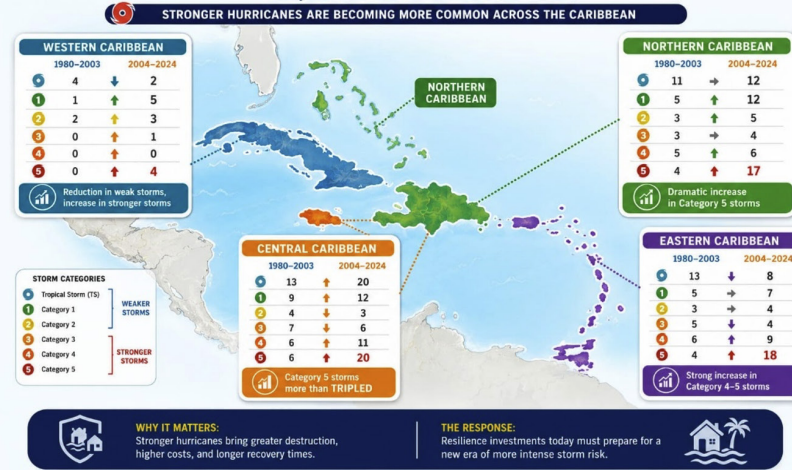
RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENTS

From Data to Decisions: Partnerships Driving Climate Resilience in the Caribbean

As climate hazards intensify in the Caribbean, resilience hinges on how well countries use risk information to inform decisions. The EU-funded Intra-ACP DRRP is helping to close critical data gaps by bringing together the CDB, University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). These partnerships are improving climate data that inform preparedness, strengthen policy, and guide investments.

THE CARIBBEAN IS SHIFTING TOWARD STRONGER STORMS

Comparison of 2004–2024 vs 1980–2003



70%
OF THE POPULATION OF THE CARIBBEAN RESIDE IN COASTAL AREAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- COUNTRY/REGION/LOCATION**
Caribbean
- RISK ADRESSED**
Climate-related hazards – hurricanes, extreme rainfall, flooding, storm surge
- IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD/TIMEFRAME**
September 2024 – October 2026
- ACTORS/IMPLEMENTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS**
Intra-ACP DRRP, EU, CDB, UWI, CIMH, working with national authorities in Caribbean countries
- KEY BENEFICIARIES**
Caribbean governments; Communities at risk of hurricanes, floods, storm surge

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE

Between 2004 and 2024, **extreme weather events in the Caribbean increased by 84% compared to the previous two decades**. Hurricane Melissa underscored this exposure, resulting in approximately 57% GDP loss in Jamaica. Yet, despite increasing risks, the region lacks updated information needed to fully understand and manage these threats.

Hurricane Melissa caused considerable damages, but it also showed what works: resilience is strengthened through strong partnerships that connect research, climate services, and development finance, that translates climate data into action, informing preparedness, policy, and investment decisions.

WHY THIS ACTION MATTERS?

Climate-related hazards such as hurricanes, continue to **disrupt Caribbean economies, damage infrastructure, and threaten livelihoods**

Partnerships between development banks, universities, climate services, and disaster agencies are translating scientific knowledge into timely, actionable decisions, helping countries prepare earlier and reduce impacts, as seen ahead of Hurricane Melissa in 2025.

Strengthening climate-risk data is supporting risk-informed policy and investments and ultimately securing development gains and building long-term resilience.

¹ OECD/IDB (2026), Caribbean Development Dynamics 2026: Investing in Sustainable and Resilient Development, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5c92507d-en>.

² <https://jis.gov.jm/total-loss-and-damage-from-hurricane-melissa-estimated-at-1-952-trillion/>

³ http://nsl.crfm.net/~uwohxjxf/images/11_Settlements_and_Infrastructure_combined.docx.pdf

See the intervention and results on page 2 →



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INTERVENTION AND APPROACH

Under the DRRP, CDB's EU-funded CARE programme is supporting resilient investments across the Caribbean by providing technical assistance and mobilising finance. The programme has enabled CIMH to produce a policy brief on climate change and health, while joint efforts with UWI are expanding high-resolution climate data.

Through CARE, CIMH is also upgrading its marine buoy network to deliver near real-time ocean data. At the same time, UWI's Climate Systems, Techniques and Resources for Improved Decision-Making, Education and Sustainability (Climate STRIDES) Project is expanding access to timely climate data, through an updated State of the Caribbean

Climate (SOCC) Report, an enhanced webserver, and interactive maps that translate scientific analyses into practical outputs for policymakers. In parallel, the Strengthening Water Resources Management and Climate Resilience (SWARM-CR) project is advancing flood modelling and improving flood-risk management for vulnerable communities.

Hurricane Melissa demonstrated the value of partnership in delivering risk information when it mattered most. Collaboration between CDB, UWI, CIMH, national agencies, and development partners improved warning dissemination, informed evacuation decisions, and facilitated early post-disaster assessments needed for mobilising finance and recovery planning.

PROGRAMME OUTPUT ALIGNMENT



RISK FINANCING & INVESTMENT
Risk information is being translated into concrete recommendations, actions and policies that strengthen and sustain resilience gains.

DRR ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

This initiative strengthens the enabling environment for disaster risk reduction by providing updated, context-specific climate risk information that supports evidence-based decision-making and stronger DRR governance.

“Updating the SOCC gives us more than new information. It gives policymakers sharper evidence for better decisions. However, even more transformative is what comes next: translating that knowledge beyond reports into accessible products across platforms and formats to deliver climate stories in ways that every audience can understand, engage and act.”



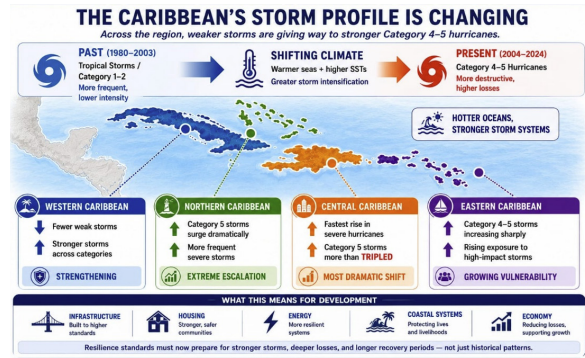
DR. JAYAKA CAMPBELL
Project Lead, Climate STRIDES
UWI

RESULTS AND CHANGE

- Enhanced climate and health risk information for health system resilience.** The climate change and health policy brief provided actionable recommendations to help policymakers strengthen health system resilience to climate change.
- Strengthened climate risk information for risk-informed policies and investments.** Updated climate risk information is supporting Caribbean governments to better understand climate risk and undertake risk-informed development for long term resilience.
- Improved preparedness and response.** Real-time information sharing ahead of Hurricane Melissa strengthened early warnings, guided evacuation decisions, and enabled rapid post-disaster assessments to support financing and recovery planning.
- Build back better recovery and sustained resilience.** Embedding climate services into recovery planning is enabling countries to build back better while strengthening long-term resilience.

EARLY CONCRETE UPTAKE IN ONGOING INVESTMENTS:

Data from SOCC have been incorporated in multiple workshops and awareness-building initiatives in the Caribbean.



Data from SOCC is being used to generate infographics and other tailored communication products for non-technical audiences, supporting innovative education strategies that make complex climate information more accessible and actionable.

KEY ENABLERS OF SUCCESS



Strong partnerships across regional and local partners, and with the EU



Technical Capacity and interdisciplinary expertise



Investment in Data and Infrastructure



https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/Technical%20Assistance%20Climate%20STRIDES%20Combined_redacted_final.pdf
https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/TA%20Strengthening%20Institutional%20Capacity%20for%20a%20Resilient%20C%27bean%20-%20Regional_redacted_final.pdf

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<https://jis.gov.jm/total-loss-and-damage-from-hurricane-melissa-estimated-at-1-952-trillion/>

<https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Caribbean-Development-Dynamics-2026.pdf>
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