



**GOJ/EU/UNEP CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION  
& DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT**

*Climate Change-We have to change!*

# Climate Change

**Let's Change The Way We Treat  
Our Coasts & Beaches!**



Government of Jamaica



European Union



# Our Climate is **changing**



Excess greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are trapping too much heat around the earth.

Our climate is changing. Here in Jamaica there seem to be more severe storms and hurricanes. It is much hotter. Dry seasons last longer. Wet seasons have heavier rains, more flooding and more landslides. Things are not what they used to be.

## What causes climate change?

Our climate is changing because as human beings we have increased the amount of certain gases, called **greenhouse gases**, in our atmosphere.

We use oil, coal and gas for daily activities such as producing electricity for homes, factories and business and for motor vehicles.

These activities produce **greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide**. Excess greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are trapping too much heat around the earth.

This heat makes our earth warmer, like a greenhouse. This is what is known as **global warming**. It is this increase in temperature over time which results in changes to our climate - **Climate Change**.

# What does this mean for Jamaica

- Climate change means warmer seas and rising sea levels for us here in Jamaica.
- Warmer seas can damage coral reefs that protect the coast from storm surges and wave damage.
- Warmer seas may cause some of the types of fish we love to eat (parrotfish and tuna) to leave the Caribbean and go to cooler waters.
- More intense storms and hurricanes may come with climate change
- In Jamaica we have a lot of development (hotels, airports, tourist attractions, ports, a number of factories, our oil refinery, fishing villages and roads) on our coasts. Rising sea levels and stronger storms are a big threat to these developments and to our coastal areas.

In order to deal with these climate change threats, we have to change. We must change the way we live, work and play in coastal areas. We have to adapt to the changes in our climate and our environment.

We have to do things differently with respect to our coastal areas- our mangroves, beaches, reefs and seashores. We have to protect these resources because they help protect us against a changing climate.

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# How can we Protect our coastal areas and adapt to climate change



We must change the way we live, work and play in coastal areas.

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More intense storms and hurricanes may come with climate change. Coastal areas are on the frontline in protecting us against these destructive systems. They help shield the land against storm surges, heavy waves and strong winds. Coastal areas can also protect us against rising sea levels which can come with climate change.

## **We can protect our beaches, mangroves and coral reefs by:**

- Keeping gullies and drains clean by not throwing garbage into these waterways which lead to the mangroves and the sea
- Taking care of our mangroves and not cutting down these plants
- Fishing in a way that does not destroy the environment – for example not using dynamite to fish
- Using man-made structures to drop anchor and not anchoring on coral reefs or in seagrass beds

# What is the GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project doing to protect our coastal areas?

The Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project being carried out in Jamaica is one important step in adapting to climate change. It pays special attention to our coastal areas-mangroves, beaches, shorelines, seagrass beds and coral reefs.



## **Under this project, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is working to:**

1. Restore mangrove forests in three marine protected areas (Portland Bight, Clarendon; Palisadoes/Port Royal Cays, Kingston and the Negril Marine Park, Westmoreland)
2. Help the Negril and Montego Bay Marine Parks effectively manage marine protected areas and help improve nearby fisheries and reef areas.
3. Install artificial reefs in the Marine Protected Areas to improve coastal protection.
4. Restore seagrass beds in three Marine Protected Areas

What is the GOJ/EU/UNEP  
**Climate Change Adaptation  
and Disaster Risk Reduction  
Project** doing to protect our coastal areas?

continued

5. Rehabilitate sand dunes in the Palisadoes/Port Royal Protected Area
6. Work with NGOs and Community Based Organisations to show how proper care of the environment can help people earn a living in a way that is sustainable (can be carried out for a long time without destroying the environment)

The climate is changing. Our coastal resources— beaches, reefs, mangroves – can help us adapt to these changes. Make a positive change and play your part in protecting our reefs, mangroves and beaches and keeping them healthy.

**We have to protect these resources because they help protect us against a changing climate.**



# What is the Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction Project?



The Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project (2011-2013) is working to help Jamaica adapt to climate change. It is being implemented by:

- The Environment Management Division-Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
- The Forestry Department
- The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
- The Meteorological Service

Project management support is being provided by The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The project is funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Jamaica.

**For more information about the protection of our coastal resources contact:**



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**Information on the project is available from:**



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