



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

Climate Change

We have to CHANGE!



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 **US** in Jamaica

Climate change means that we in Jamaica have to change. We must change how we live, work and play. We can try to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we produce but we also have to adapt to changes happening in our climate. We have to do things differently.

Because we depend a lot on the climate and the natural environment for many things, climate change affects us in a big way.

- More intense storms mean we spend more time and money to prepare for these disasters and to repair the damage they cause.
- When seas get warmer the amount of fish our fishermen can catch, and the coral reefs fish live in, come under threat.
- When sea levels rise because of climate change, homes, hotels, businesses and ports on the coast are at risk.
- Warmer temperatures may mean drought which seriously affects our farmers and our food and water supply.

To cope effectively with these and other changes we have to adapt our lifestyles to the changing climate. We have to change.



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What are we doing?



Climate change adaptation is very important for people in small islands like Jamaica. Climate change has a big impact on our lives so we have to make sure we are ready to change, to adapt.

What is the Climate Change Adaptation 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 Meteorological Service
- The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)

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

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



What will Jamaica do under the GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project?

The GOJ/EU/UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project, has three important activities to help us adapt to climate change:

1. Adapting to Climate Change by Protecting Forests -

Climate change means we could have more hurricanes and storms. Trees protect our soil during these heavy rains and winds. When hillsides are covered with trees, there is less soil erosion and fewer landslides.

The trees will improve the quality and amount of water we get from our watershed areas. Trees also help remove the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from our atmosphere

The Forestry Department is improving our watershed areas through reforestation efforts.

The project will also establish local Forest Management Committees to help communities take charge of protecting their forests.



2. Adapting to Climate Change by Protecting our Coastal Areas -

NEPA is working to protect our coastal areas under this project. The agency will restore mangrove forests, reefs and seagrass beds in specific locations.

Mangroves and reefs protect our coasts, especially against storm surges which may happen during storms or hurricanes.

The mangroves are where many fish breed. Coral reefs are home to different types of fish. These coastal systems ensure our fishermen can earn a living and help provide us with seafood.

Under the project NEPA is restoring mangroves in parts of Kingston and Clarendon. It will improve coastal protection measures in the Palisadoes/ Port Royal and Portland Bight areas. The project will also work with the Negril and Montego Bay Marine Parks.

Protecting and strengthening our coastal areas will help us adapt to climate change.

3. Adapting to Climate Change by Knowing What to Do - In order to adapt to climate change, we must know what is happening and what we can do to change. The Meteorological Service and the Environment Management Division of the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change are taking this information to the public.

The project is working to provide Jamaicans with information about what to expect from climate change and how to change our behaviours and practices to cope with climate change.

The Meteorological Service and the Environment Management Division will also look at a number of government's policies and plans in Jamaica with a view to ensuring that these documents put climate change adaptation clearly on the national agenda.

Knowledge is power. Knowing what to expect and what to do will help Jamaicans adapt to climate change.

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Information on the project is available from:



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Climate Change-We have to change!

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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein