

The 3-2-1 of Caribbean Climate Variability and Change Research: The UWI Mona Experience

Tannecia Stephenson, Department of Physics

The University of the West Indies

Abstract

The Climate Studies Group Mona at The University of the West Indies was established in 1994 to investigate mechanisms responsible for mean and extreme climate in the Caribbean. Today, studies examine historical and future climate change and their impacts on different aspects of Caribbean life including biodiversity, agricultural yield, land cover, health and water. This talk will explore **3** recent projects exploring Caribbean rainfall variability, climate change projections, and climate impacts on bushfires (forest fires) in Jamaica. The talk will also introduce **2** climate tools developed for a general audience to explore the impacts of climate change and support decision-making. The tools are the Simple Model for Advection of Storms and Hurricanes (S.M.A.S.H.) and ACCEPT (Agricultural Climate Change Evaluation for Production and Transformation) Agri Portal. Finally, the talk will speak to the Caribbean Climate Modelling Consortium - **1** effort to network regionally to increase our contribution to global climate discourse. The Caribbean 1.5 Initiative undertaken by the Consortium, investigates the impact of a 1.5°C global warming on the Caribbean and demonstrates the effectiveness of a regional approach.