



# Improving the outlook for coral reefs in the Caribbean

AUSTRALIA–CARIBBEAN COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORAL REEFS



Australian Government  
Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority  
AusAID



Caribbean Community  
Climate Change Centre



CARICOM



## Coral reefs are important to the Caribbean region

Coral reefs generate \$4 billion to the Caribbean region each year. These reefs protect the shoreline, provide a home for fish, and are a major tourism attraction. They are internationally significant, representing unique biodiversity and making up 10 per cent of the world's reef area.

Like all reefs worldwide, Caribbean coral reefs are under unprecedented pressure. Local pressures from unsustainable fishing, pollution and coastal development are combining with global climate change and ocean acidification to threaten these marine ecosystems.

This is a concern for the rich biodiversity of the coral reef itself and for local communities and industries such as tourism and fishing that depend on the reef for their livelihoods.

Understanding these risks, and developing strategies to deal with them, is crucial to the sustainable development of the Caribbean region.





## Building resilience to climate change

The Caribbean community and Australia are working together to share valuable expertise and knowledge that will make a real difference to the marine environment and the people who depend on it.

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have teamed up to focus on some of the key climate change challenges for the region.

Through this two-year project, the team will contribute to implementing *Climate Change and the Caribbean: A regional framework for achieving development resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)*. The team will also develop a toolkit to support the Caribbean coral reef managers to deal with climate change issues.



## Collaborating to reduce vulnerability

### Regional framework

A regional framework will be developed to guide policies on adapting to climate change and underpin strategic initiatives to improve the outlook for Caribbean coral reefs.

It will involve identifying strategies and opportunities for reducing the vulnerability of coral reefs to climate change and building the resilience of reef-dependent communities and industries.

By coordinating efforts to support the resilience of coral reefs and reef-dependent people, the framework will contribute to efforts to 'climate-proof' regional development.

### Adaptation toolkit

Coral reef and natural resource managers will be supported to deal with the implications of climate change.

The team will develop an adaptation toolkit to provide coral reef managers in CARICOM nations the knowledge, resources and skills to understand and adapt to climate change.

The adaptation toolkit, and international collaboration with other reef managers who can share their experiences, will support policy and practical responses to climate change risks.



## More information

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre are jointly implementing this new project. Experts and organisations with an interest in climate change and coral reefs are invited to get involved. For more information:



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