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A PRECIS internet-based climate data provision system for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation research in Central America and the Caribbean regions

A. Centella (1), A. Bezanilla (1), I. Borrajero (1), R. Jones (2) and J. Intsiful (2)

(1) Institute of Meteorology, Cuba

(2) Hadley Centre, Met Office, United kingdom

High resolution climate data is crucial for the accurate assessment of the impacts of climate change on human and natural systems and the development of adaptation strategies for the UNFCCC national communication requirements. However, the costs of technical and human resources required for such an exercise is so high that developing countries are unable to undertake this initiative alone. In response to this need, an internet-based PRECIS climate data provision system has been established at the Cuban Meteorological Institute for the Central American/Caribbean countries with support from the UK Met Office and the UNDP-GEF (RLA/01/G31). Beyond providing high resolution climate data for climate change impacts and related assessments, the system serves as a part of the development of a decision support system for monitoring extreme events (such as tropical storms) and an early warning system for disaster management over the Caribbean Basin. In this presentation, we demonstrate how such an efficient but inexpensive system can help developing countries in a given region to develop tools for adaptation solutions to cope with the impacts of climate change, particularly in the area of disaster risks reduction. We also share experiences on how South-South and North-South scientific collaboration can enhance such an initiative.