

Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service

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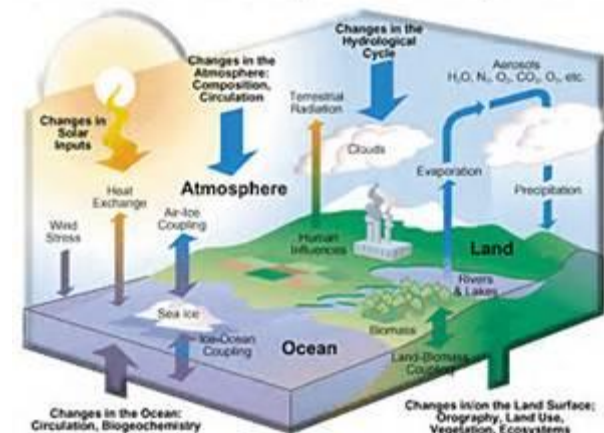
Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service

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Global Climate System Components



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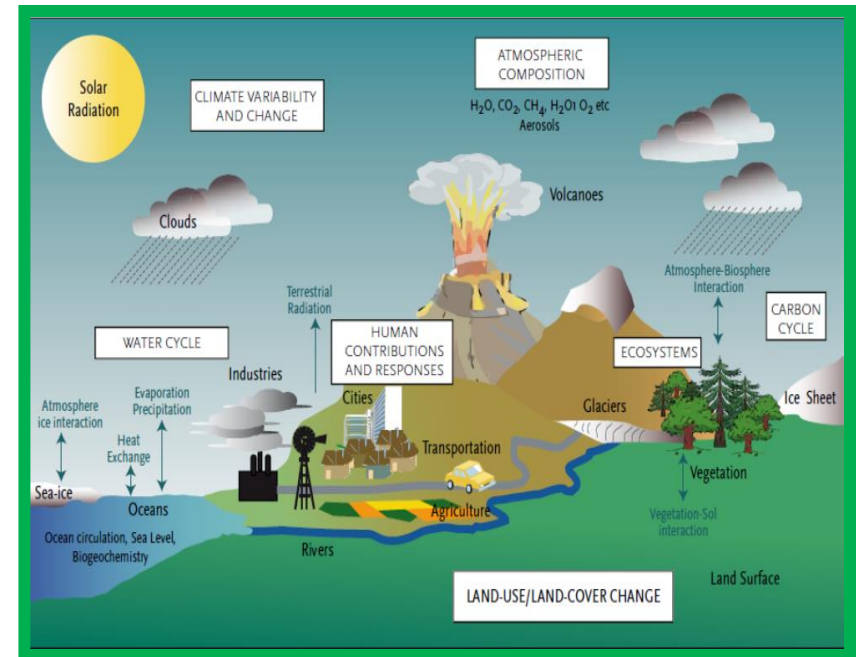
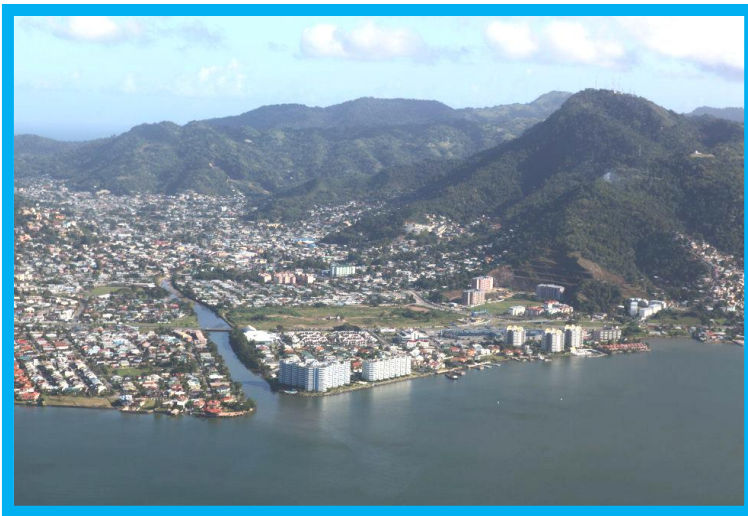


CLIMATE SYSTEMS

Understanding the Climate System

Climates of different places can only be understood by recognizing that they are all connected in what is called the “climate system”.

From this viewpoint, climate is seen as a global and dynamic system involving the annual cycle of solar heating, the slowly moving oceans, the complex and fast-changing atmosphere and the effects of continents, mountains, ice caps and other land features.



Atmospheric gases such as carbon dioxide counteract the loss of heat to space, leading to the well-known greenhouse effect that keeps the Earth much warmer than it otherwise would be.

These elements act and react on each other in continuous fluctuation, creating continuously-changing global patterns of temperature, clouds, rain and wind, etc, and determining well-known climatic regimes such as deserts, hot moist tropics, cool mountain forests and many others.