



### Uses by the Public and Research Community

- The general public use climate information for numerous purposes such as planning building and maintenance, gardening, family events, holidays and recreational activities. They want to know how recent conditions relate to typical seasonal patterns and how extreme a particular climatic episode or event may have been relative to historical experience.
- Researchers, in their search to understand the functioning of natural systems and economically and socially important systems, make use of diverse and often extensive climate data sets alongside other types of data. Ecologists, social scientists and sector applications scientists tend to use detailed site-specific information for particular communities or industries.



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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**USE AND USERS OF CLIMATE SERVICES**

- Water management
- Disaster Reduction Management
- Agriculture
- Health management
- Tourism
- Energy

## Main use and users of climate information in Trinidad and Tobago

The climate of a local district affects the daily life, economic activities and the social and cultural attributes found there.

- Rainfall provides water for agriculture and industry
- Warm conditions can accelerate plant growth and fruit setting
- Wind, rain and temperature dictate the design of houses
- Consistent strong winds in the upper atmosphere determine preferential flight paths for aircraft.
- Prolonged dry spells, drought, or torrential rains affect livelihoods; bring insecurity and sometimes death and destruction.
- The climate of districts in Trinidad and Tobago is thus of considerable interest to most people.
- Effects of climate are strongly linked to and superimposed on existing vulnerabilities, especially poverty. The poor have fewer financial and technical resources available to help them cope with climate risks and are often also heavily dependent on climate-sensitive resources.

### Main categories of users of climate services

The main categories of users are policymakers, managers in climate sensitive sectors, agriculturists, engineers, researchers, students, and the public at large.

The importance of climate information is best determined from the value it adds to their activities and decisions as seen through their own eyes.

### Uses by Policymakers and Their Advisers

- Are concerned with broad public concerns such as efficient functioning of markets and industry, management and conservation of natural resources, regulation of land use, public health and well-being and protecting society from potential threats. Each of these is influenced by climate.
- Climate information is critical for major decisions concerning, for example, new water supply reservoirs, plans and infrastructure for expanding settlements and sectoral economic policy targeting climate-sensitive industries, e.g., tourism, agriculture, renewable energy or aquaculture.

### Uses in Management

- Farmers, engineers and managers of water resources, managers of public and private enterprises are key users of climate information.
- They use the information to plan, design and configure their enterprise properly for best returns over the lifetime of their investment and secondly to manage the operations of the enterprise efficiently and profitably.
- Climate information plays a key role in managing risks in these climate-sensitive industries but the way it is used is entirely dependent on the user's circumstances and the decisions and tradeoffs involved.

- Three important elements of risk management are the use of history as a guide, early warning systems and insurance tools. All are highly dependent on climate information.
- The historical climate record can tell us much about managing risk.
- Early warning systems help in foreseeing and responding to future weather and climate variations and their warnings and predictions can be directly integrated into decision making processes.
- The insurance industry is just one of many in the private sector that make active and ongoing use of climate information.



- The energy sector also relies on climate information, as weather and climate affect both the availability and demand for energy. Additionally, energy efficiency and generation of renewable energy are sensitive to weather, climate, and water.