

Commonwealth of Dominica Climate situation

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Dominica



Dominica

Map of Dominica



Country Profile

- Dominica is in the Windward Islands .
- Located between 15° 12' and 15° 39' N Latitude and 61° 14' and 61° 29' W Longitude.
- 48 km long and 24 km wide at its widest point with an area of 75,000 hectares (ha).
- Dominica is mountainous with flat land limited to coastal areas in the northeast, and the centre of the island
- Sixty-nine percent (69%) of island is forested ranging from dry scrub woodland on the coast to lush, tropical forest in the interior.

Demographics

- 2011 census
- Population 70739
- Male 36411
- Female 34882

Economy

- Dominated by agricultural production and exports
- It presently has a small but developing tourism sector led by the cruise ship sector
- The country has had to diversify due to diminishing preferential treatment for bananas

Climate

- Climate is strongly influenced by the north tropical Atlantic
- Climate is humid tropical marine
- The bulk of rainfall occur between June and November which is the hurricane season
- Because of its rigid topography climate micro-climatic variability occurs over short distances

Climate

- Average annual rainfall is between 2000-8000 mm the wettest in the Eastern Caribbean
- High rainfall and mountainous topography makes the country susceptible to landslides
- Temperature is about 27 degrees C with a mean temp of plus or minus 3 deg

Climate hazards

- Tropical storms during the period June to November, and the attendant hazards; land slides, flash flooding
- The Commonwealth Vulnerable index has rated Dominica as having the sixth most vulnerable economy to external shocks and natural hazards

- Tropical systems of note include David (1979), Gert (1981), Gilbert (1988), Hugo (1989), Iris (1995), Marilyn (1995), Hortense (1996) and Lenny (1999) and Dean (2007).
- These have severely impact infrastructure, agriculture, transport and fisheries sectors. Seismic activity in Dominica is frequent. It is estimated that over 90% of the population live within 5 kilometres of seismic activity zones
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Climate resilience programs

- Dominica has conducted greenhouse gas inventory
- Energy consumption and requirements with a view to exploration of renewable energy sources
- Conducted vulnerability assessments for many sectors including agriculture, public works, water,

PPCR

- Dominica is presently implementing a PPCR
- A World Bank funded project to build resilience among the various sectors
- Fresh water resources
- Forestry and agriculture
- Assessment of the climate change evidence

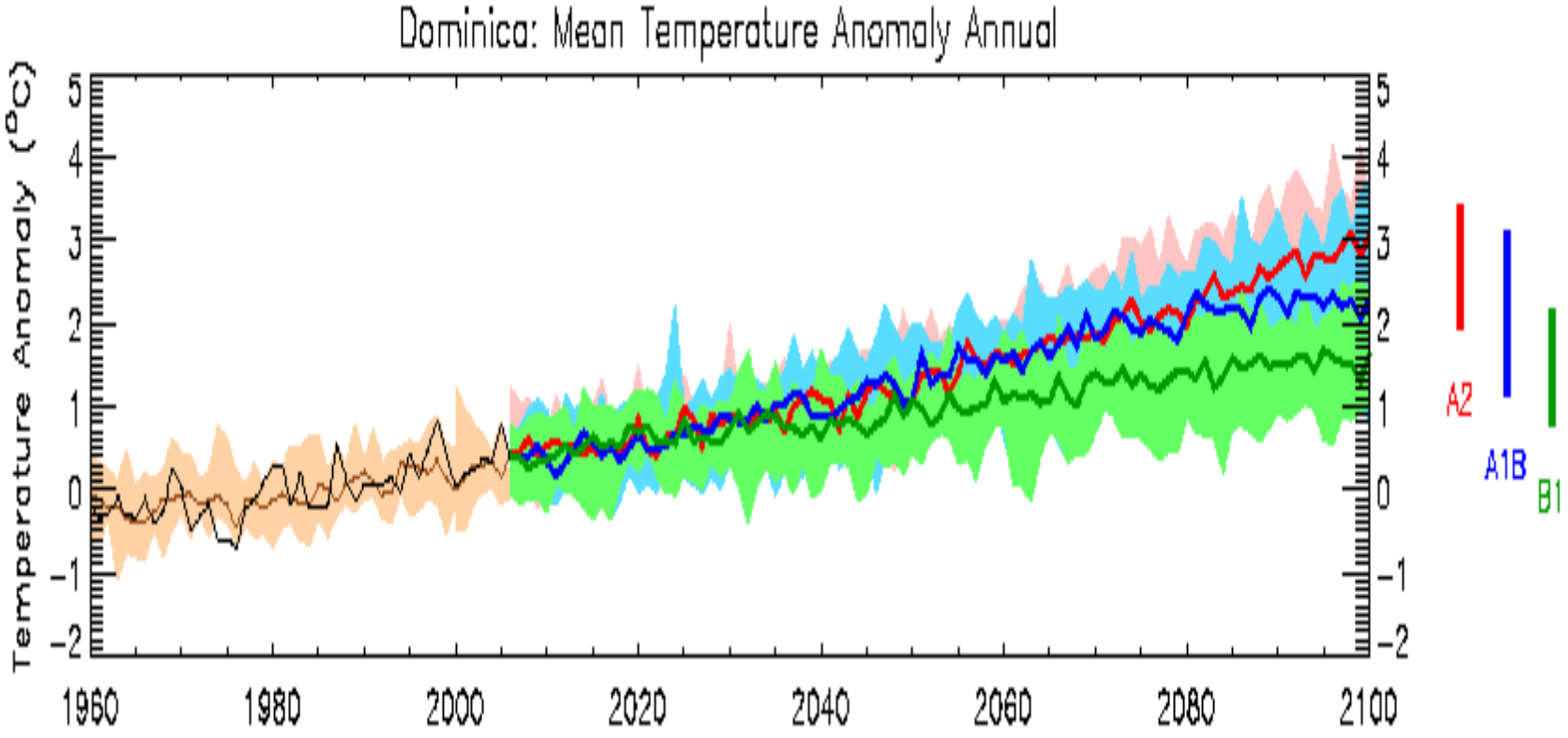
PPCR

- Public works
- Coastal areas management
- Publication of its second national communication on climate change

Health and Climate Change

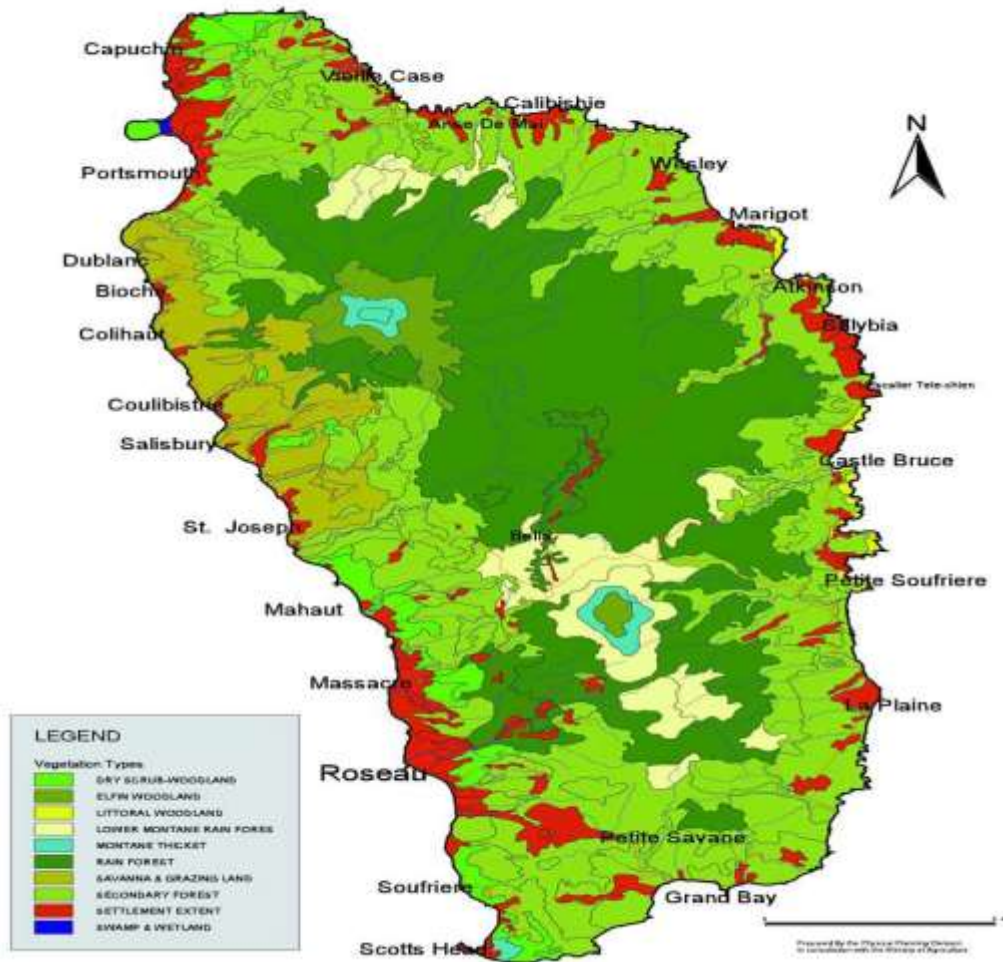
- The PPCR has not identified adaptation in the health sector
- This sector has begun to implement measures for climate resilience
- Identification and mapping of vulnerabilities
- Health surveillance to include effects of climate on water, disease vectors, settlements and conditions associated with climate change
- Conduct a national consultation in December along with WMO to develop strategies for the health sector

Dominica's temperature increase



Taylor et al 2009

Dominica's vegetation map



Developing resilience



Conclusion

- Dominica's topography, location, size increases its vulnerability
- Programs are being implemented for climate resilience
- The health sector however has lagged behind in the implementation of climate resilient programs

References

- Government of Dominica (2012) Second National Communication on Climate change
- Taylor et al (2009) Dominica's Climate Trends and Projections