



MEDIA RELEASE

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Suriname stakeholders are better armed for climate-related decisions

(City of Belmopan, Belize) During the month of July, more than 40 representatives from private and public sector entities in Suriname completed training in the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL). The development of CCORAL commenced in 2012 by the CCCCC through funding assistance from the Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN). It is a unique online tool, which helps users make climate-related decisions, apply a risk management approach in decision-making and ultimately deliver climate-resilient development.

The training was conducted virtually using the CCORAL e-course developed under the EU GCCA+ CARIFORUM Programme. This self-paced course provides participants with a hands-on understanding of the background of climate change and climate variability in the region as well as a practical application of the tool to a nationally relevant national activity. This case study application helps to build a stronger appreciation of the importance of the tool and helps them to deduce resilience-building measures with an aim to embed climate risk in national decision-making processes.

At the start of the training programme on July 3rd, Mrs. Ivette Patterzon, Deputy Director Climate Change Unit of the Directorate of Environment Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Suriname highlighted the usefulness of the tool noting that it will not only improve planning but will also assist the government with the implementation of climate change activities on a national level, especially considering their National Determined Contributions (NDC). Ms. Patterzon's remarks were later complemented by Mr. Jurmen Adang, Policy Officer in the Climate Change Unit, who delivered an informative presentation highlighting the country's vulnerabilities to climate change and national efforts to respond to climate change impacts.

During brief remarks to participants, Mr Ansel Dubon, Lead Project Manager at the CCCCC indicated that "vulnerability assessments in the Nieuw Nikerie district show climate change challenges in that area will affect rice production in the country." Suriname's National Adaptation Plan and sector adaptation plan for water resources also

show it is important to factor climate change in the water sector, Dubon added, noting that training in the CCORAL tool is useful to the country and the region as “we are all working to mitigate and adapt to global climate change.”

The training concluded with a "training of trainer's" session which drew from the experience of participants and included pedagogical approaches that helped equip them with a thorough understanding and confidence to utilise CCORAL. The 5-week training left Suriname participants enthusiastic about their enhanced knowledge on climate change and strengthened skills through the training of trainers.

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The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre is an inter-governmental Caribbean Community (CARICOM) institution that is mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government to coordinate the Region's response to climate change. We maintain the Caribbean's most extensive repository of information and data on climate change specific to the region, which in part enables us to provide climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to CARICOM Member States. In this role, the Centre is recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other international agencies as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean. The Centre is also one of the few institutions recognized as a Centre of Excellence by United Nations Institute for Training and Research. CCCCC is empowering the Caribbean Community to act on climate change.

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