

UNDP PUBLISHES STUDY ON DROUGHT ADAPTATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA



Susan McDade addresses the public. On her right, the Dominican Under-Secretary for the Environment, Ms. Zoila González de Gutiérrez

Text and photos: Alberto D. Pérez
United Nations Press Officer

On the occasion of the IV International Convention on the Environment and Development, a summary report on two research projects undertaken on areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic affected by drought was launched in Havana. This report details measures taken by the local population which can be adapted in other countries experiencing this phenomenon, caused by climate change.

The research was conducted by experts from Cuba's Physical Planning Institute (IPF) and the National Meteorology Institute (INSMET), in conjunction with specialists from the Dominican Republic's Ministry of the Environment. Funding for the studies was provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Canadian Agency for Development (CIDA)

The research summary –published in English, French and Spanish – was supported by the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI), based at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices in Cuba and Barbados.



A large audience attended the launch.

The publication's launch was held at the PALCO Hotel, next to the Palace of Conventions, and was led by Susan McDade, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Cuba, along with the Dominican Under-Secretary of the Environment, Ms. Zoila González de Gutiérrez.

Also at the table were Drs. Abel Centella and Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, from INSMET and IPF, respectively, and Karen Bernard, the CRMI Program Manager.

Dr. McDade thanked the Under-Secretary of the Environment for her presence, and stressed the value of this study as a way of promoting drought adaptation and mitigation measures, which can be potentially applied in other Caribbean territories.



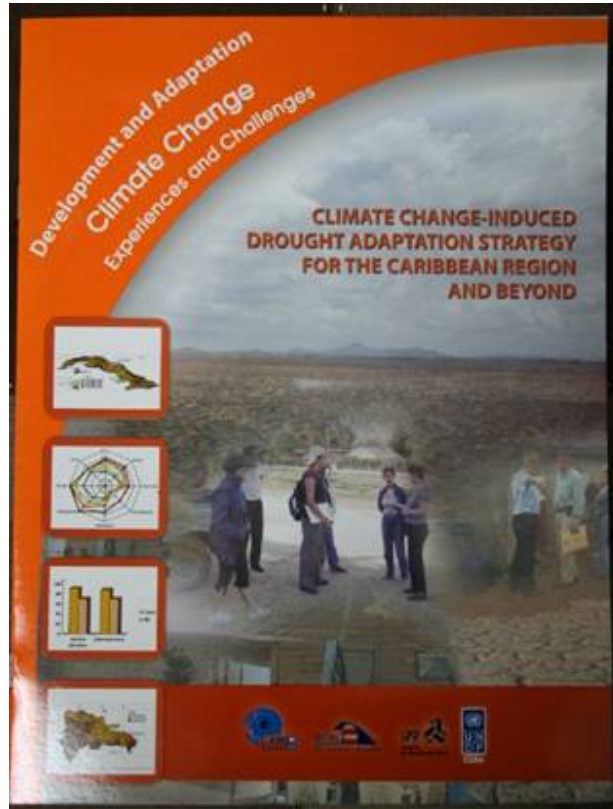
A copy of the report was provided to those in attendance.

She confirmed that the UNDP will dedicate its 2007 Human Development Report to the issue of climate change, given the significance of this phenomenon and its dramatic impact on the planet's population. Adaptation and various mitigation measures are taking on a growing importance in the face of the adverse effects of climate change, and this gives particular relevance to the studies published.

Dr. McDade emphasized the pertinence of south-south cooperation in the search for solutions by the people most affected. In this regard, she noted Cuba's substantial research capacity and scientific talent, as well as its proven generosity in sharing studies, experiences and solutions with other countries in the region.

The UNDP support such exchanges through the CRMI Programme and other initiatives designed to build national capacity in developing countries.

Ms. Gonzalez de Gutiérrez stated her appreciation for the presentation of the summary report and reiterated the importance of the mitigation and adaptation measures taken in the face of the negative impacts imposed by climate change. She asserted that the Dominican Republic will continue to participate actively in efforts undertaken by the CRMI and UNDP.



This summary report is available at: www.undp.org/cu/crmi

Drs. Centella and Rodríguez gave an overview of the research on which the report was based, and affirmed their conviction that adaptation and mitigation can play a key role in protecting the population vulnerable to drought.

Karen Bernard explained briefly the focus of the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) and noted that this publication will be available shortly in English, French and Spanish.

For further information:

karen.bernard@undp.org
www.undp.org/cu/crmi