



## Event Summary

# Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation within Institutions and Policy

March 11, 2015  
Kingston, Jamaica



On March 11-13, 2015, the Wilson Center, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (MWLECC) hosted a three day training workshop on mainstreaming climate change adaptation policies and female empowerment.

The workshop was the result of an ongoing partnership between the Wilson Center and USAID to bring relevant trainings and seminar sessions to the Latin America/Caribbean region to focus on climate change adaptation. After lengthy discussions with counterparts both at the USAID Mission in Kingston and within the CCD, the issue of mainstreaming climate change, and the role of female empowerment within climate change resilience, become the themes for the workshop.

Within the MWLECC, the Climate Change Division serves as a nexus between the various ministries and agencies within the government of Jamaica with the intention of bringing together these sectors and individuals to create a comprehensive strategy to address the issues of climate change. These individuals, known collectively as the Focal Points, represent a vast array of government ministries and agencies that focus on climate change within their office, but report back to the CCD to streamline policies.

The workshop targeted all members of this Focal Point and the vast majority took part in the workshop. In charge of leading the first two days was Dr. John Colvin, Senior

Adaptation Practitioner at the Oxford-based Global Climate Adaptation Partnership. His strong background in developing and implementing training workshops on adaptive approaches to sustainable planning development around the world fit into the approach for the Jamaica session. After conversations with counterparts within the CCD, Dr. Colvin was able to mold a specific training geared towards the Focal Points, which gave real life situations, problem sets and past success stories and how they can be replicated towards Jamaica.

The training focused around the main question of how to mainstream climate change policy into existing strategies and future plans. The workshop began with a general understanding and overview of the current climate change plan for Jamaica, and how well the Focal Points have worked together in the past. Workshop objectives were established to serve as a guideline for and to measure success. Such objectives were:

- How to apply climate change into policy
- Understanding mainstreaming
- How to support different designs and models
- Sector plans and integration
- Nexus between climate change and environment
- How climate change will impact Jamaica's water resources
- How to apply materials presented here into real life action
- How ministries and agencies work together and how they can improve their partnership

It is important to note that many of the objectives and initial observations made by the group were fulfilled and better understood at the end and proven by the evaluation that was administered at the conclusion of the training. The approach Dr. Colvin took was to build rapport not only amongst the group as a whole, but for the individuals to start conversations among each other and to establish the level of understanding of the climate change policies already in place.

An activity that helped establish this connection was the idea of sharing experiences of individual, national and global change. Each individual was tasked with highlighting specific personal, global, and national experiences over the course of 30 years divided into three decades. The results were a colorful and telling narrative of individual endeavor and mutual understanding of national and global occurrences.

The activity set the conversational framework for the rest of the day and made the group think about the general approach behind adaptation and how specific occurrences in their personal life or global event was a causal effect to specific circumstances. The approach of climate change adaptation is continuously changing to local and global trends. Dr. Colvin noted there is no single definition of adaptation, but that strategies and action can range from short-term coping to long-term, deeper transformations, aiming to meet

more than climate change goals alone and quoted Moser and Ekstrom that “Adaptation involves changes in social-ecological systems in response to actual and expected impacts of climate change in the context of interacting non-climate changes”. By reviewing the difference between shocks versus stresses, the group was able to discuss the role of both ecological factors and their social ramifications.

Small groups were then organized to discuss the specific role of adaptation within their ministries. Groups broadly pointed to the need for greater capacity to innovate within their ministries and agencies, while others focused on the specifics of how to frame the challenges to climate change and develop a long lasting strategy. The representatives of the Tourism and Agriculture Ministries noted that the threat to climate change is clearer within their sectors given the devastating affects climate change could have on their industries, but noted that within other ministries, the threat is not viewed in the same way. As one participant noted, for some ministries, where the shock factors are clear, the planning is clear, but for those ministries working with stress factors, the process is not as clear and gets muddled with other bureaucratic needs.

The first day of activities outlined the need Jamaica faces within implementing climate change strategies and policies at a local and broader national level. Upon returning on the second day, the Focal Group members were tasked with framing the climate change challenge in terms of basic science, impacts and vulnerabilities, and to understand and practice the process of identifying good adaptation options. Groups were asked to use Jamaican case studies and designate the level of risk associated to the industry or sector and assess vulnerabilities and provide suggestions for implementing climate change strategies.

The major takeaways from the exercise was that at a local level and individual case study, it was much easier to disseminate information and give specific risk categories and outline a policy strategy, but the issue was how to scale that to a national framework.

The final day of the workshop focused on specific case studies and already existing climate action plans. India and Pakistan served as examples for the group and their specific government-run strategies, and got the small groups to think about how to engage stakeholders.

Roger-Mark De Souza, Director of Population, Environmental Security and Resilience at the Wilson Center led a half-day session on mainstreaming gender across sectors to increase climate resilience. De Souza outlined the correlation between population dynamics and climate change and the crucial role women play in creating long term resiliency to climate change factors.

The major takeaways from the gender and resiliency component of the workshop was that the dual challenges of population dynamics and climate change are likely to reduce climate resiliency, gender can be mainstreamed by meeting reproductive health needs by lowering vulnerability and increasing resilience and that integrated health environment (PHE) plans offer communities long term economic and social strategies.

The three day workshop was highly productive and informative for the Focal Points. Jamaica is in a unique position in which it can be an example to the rest of the Caribbean and the OECE member states in implementing similar strategies within ministries and agencies. Dr. Orville Grey, Senior Technical Officer in charge of the CCD noted that following upon reflecting on the workshop:

- The workshop on Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation within Institutions and Policy was most impressive. The presenters were knowledgeable, articulate and passionate and translated the information well using adequate tools that can be implemented immediately.
- The workshop provided additional information and tools in effecting useful policy changes. The participants were engaged and are now very enlightened, looking forward to similarly themed training sessions that can build their intellect to build resilience in policies, plans, programs.
- The level of camaraderie within the Focal Point Network has been amplified. Participants are now seriously engaged in working with each other to screen their respective policies, plans and programs, supporting the work of the Climate Change Division.

While highly positive in the initial outcomes, there are still issues to be solved and a general consensus that more needs to be done at a local and national level. Individuals noted that the component of gender is missing and needed in order to establish a long term climate change strategy, and further emphasized by Cherett Campbell, climate change focal point member for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade when she wrote, “the session on approaches to gender empowerment was particularly welcome especially since much more can be done in this area through sensitization. In fact, much more can be done through similar workshops and I would recommend this step if it as all possible in light of the significance this holds for enhancing awareness and understanding of climate change systemically; as well as the potential to influence Jamaica’s position going in to the upcoming climate negotiations.”

In the lead up to the workshop, there was a concern that the Focal Point network was going through a phase of workshop fatigue, where back to back sessions and trainings would not amount to substantial learning and future output. This was also a concern of the CCD and the issue of retaining attention among the Focal Points has been a problem. In conversations with the CCD since the workshop, we can report that the session was highly successful in peaking and maintaining interest and continuing the conversation amongst the Focal Points has been seen. A conversation was started amongst all participants via email exchanges and an e-cloud network was established to freely share and add new material for all participants.

Upon completion of the workshop, an evaluation was distributed for individuals to give feedback, the results were extremely positive. Of the 19 responses, 95 percent viewed the workshop as “Excellent” or “Good” with very minimal negative feedback on the overall substance.

The workshop helped to highlight pressing issues Jamaica is faced with when dealing with climate change adaptation. The case studies, practices and strategies that were disseminated helped the Focal Points understand new process and build their own personal networks, while helping to establish long term strategies for climate change adaptation.



## WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

Jane Harman, President, Director, and CEO

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thomas R. Nides, Chairman

**Public Members:** William Adams, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities; Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States; John F. Kerry, Secretary, U.S. Department of State; David Mao, Acting Librarian of Congress; David Skorton, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

### Designated Appointee of the President from within the Federal Government:

Fred P. Hochberg, Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank

**Private Citizen Members:** Peter Beshar, John T. Casteen III, Thelma Duggin, Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, USAF (Ret.), Barry S. Jackson, Nathalie Rayes, Earl W. Stafford, Jane Watson Stetson

### Wilson National Cabinet:

Ambassador Joseph B. Gildenhorn & Alma Gildenhorn, Co-Chairs

Eddie & Sylvia Brown, Dr. Armeane Choksi & Mary Choksi, Ambassadors Sue & Chuck Cobb, Lester Crown, Thelma Duggin, Judi Flom, Sander R. Gerber, Harman Family Foundation, Frank F. Islam, Willem Kooyker, Raymond Learsy, Frederic & Marlene Malek, Linda B. & Tobia G. Mercuro, Thomas R. Nides, Nathalie Rayes, Wayne Rogers, B. Francis Saul II, Diana Davis Spencer, Jane Watson Stetson, Leo Zickler

### THE WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS,

established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a living national memorial to President Wilson. The Center's mission is to commemorate the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson by providing a link between the worlds of ideas and policy, while fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a broad spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and international affairs. Supported by public and private funds, the Center is a nonpartisan institution engaged in the study of national and world affairs. It establishes and maintains a neutral forum for free, open, and informed dialogue. Conclusions or opinions expressed in Center publications and programs are those of the authors and speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center staff, fellows, trustees, advisory groups, or any individuals or organizations that provide financial support to the Center.

ONE WOODROW WILSON PLAZA, 1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20004-3027



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
300\$ PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

Presorted First Class Mail  
Postage and Fees Paid  
Smithsonian Institution

G-94