

The PRECIS-Caribbean project

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General Circulation Models (GCMs) have long been used to provide regional projections of climate. However these models provide information at much lower resolutions than the size of most of the islands. Projections of much smaller scale are needed for information to be useful at the country level. In 2003 a group of Caribbean climate scientists met in Havana Cuba to address this problem for the Caribbean. The collaboration was intended to provide climate change projections of scale in a timely manner, based on a shared workload, while building capacity within the region. The PRECIS (Providing Regional Climates for Impact Studies) model was chosen to generate climate change projections for the Caribbean forced by two global models, the HadAM3H (and later HADAM3P) and ECHAM4. Almost a decade later the PRECIS-Caribbean project has not only delivered Caribbean wide climate change projections but has provided significant lessons about the value of collaboration and the building of capacity from within. The methodology undertaken, the challenges faced, some results and lessons learnt are detailed.