



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION (2021-2024)

## ADDRESSING CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean is **one of the regions most at risk from climate change**, facing increasing threats from rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and economic vulnerabilities. With these risks on the rise, the need for swift and decisive climate action has never been greater. Cities are at the forefront of climate change impacts, and **Caribbean mayors are rising up to the challenge**.



**BELIZE CITY,  
BELIZE**

**70,000**  
inhabitants

**PORTSMOUTH,  
DOMINICA**

**3,350**  
inhabitants



**MAY PEN,  
JAMAICA**

**246,322**  
inhabitants



**GEORGETOWN,  
GUYANA**

**235,017**  
inhabitants



**BELMOPAN,  
BELIZE**

**27,000**  
inhabitants

*"The priority for Caribbean cities is to be able to maximize the development of the capacities that we have acquired thanks to the GCoM, enabling us to build a better future for our cities."*

**Alfred Mentore**

Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana

*"Belize City stands at a crucial juncture where the effects of climate change are no longer distant threats but immediate realities. Developing a robust climate action plan is not just about resilience; it's about ensuring that our city thrives sustainably. By committing to proactive measures today, we are safeguarding a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous future for generations to come."*

**Bernard Wagner**

Mayor of Belize city, Belize



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The **European Union** provides critical technical support and resources for Caribbean cities to implement ambitious climate policies based on scientific evidence. Among the main achievements accomplished during the GCoM project are the following:



## TARGETED TECHNICAL SUPPORT THROUGH GCOM AND THE JRC

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union has provided **training and technical support to the cities in the methodologies required for reporting and developing** a Climate Action Plan.

Recognizing the data and human resource limitations of the City Councils in the Caribbean, GCoM developed tools and templates for Caribbean cities to help accelerate local climate action.

Additionally, weekly check-ins with each city were scheduled throughout 2024 with the GCoM team to provide technical and institutional support to the city staff in the development of their climate planning instruments.



## EMPOWERING CARIBBEAN LEADERS TO DRIVE CHANGE

The Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW) 2023 brought together national institutions, allies and partners with the **objective of addressing regional climate change challenges and promoting sustainable development**. Within this framework, various meetings were held between Caribbean and Latin American cities, as well as Caribbean cities and European companies, to explore opportunities for increased climate financing, specially through the [City Climate Finance Gap Fund \(Gap Fund\)](#).



**Meeting of Latin American & Caribbean Cities in Panama 2023**



**Interview of Carla Patnett, City Planner of Belize City, Belize**

In September 2024, during the Innovate4Cities Conference, a global event that also brought together various stakeholders from around the world, Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr. of Belize City presented the progress of actions being developed in collaboration with a European company. This progress was made possible thanks to the monitoring initiated following his city's participation in the LACCW with the GCoM.



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## ADVANCING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

- » The [Gap Fund](#) and the GCoM joined forces to **expedite cities' climate progress**. This partnership was a crucial resource for local governments to **receive technical assistance and accelerate the implementation of climate plans and actions**. Caribbean cities are eligible to receive training and bilateral support to submit project proposals.
- » The [Bankable Cities initiative](#) provided **technical support to Caribbean cities** in the pre-feasibility stages of their projects, helping them implement actions outlined in their Climate Action Plans (CAPs). Belize City, for example, received support for a project focused on climate adaptation and floating infrastructure.



## IN-PERSON VISIT: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

In line with its ongoing commitment to fostering resilience in the Caribbean, the GCoM in the Caribbean conducted a series of important in-person missions to Belize City (Belize), Belmopan (Belize), and Portsmouth (Dominica). These visits **focused on reinforcing partnerships and enhancing local capacities for climate action**.

These in-country missions serve as an excellent example of the **power of direct, localized engagement** in advancing climate resilience while strengthening the Caribbean region's ability to respond to the growing threats of climate change. These missions have **resulted in strengthened partnerships, enhanced technical capacity, and a clear pathway for developing comprehensive Climate Action Plans**.



**Belize City, Belize**  
November 4 - 6, 2024



**Belmopan, Belize**  
November 6 - 8, 2024



**Portsmouth, Dominica**  
November 11-13, 2024