THE BAHAMAS:
CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas (CCCRA), Phase I 'Snapshot' Results

Climate change is a serious threat to the economies of Caribbean nations, community livelihoods, environments and infrastructure. The Bahamas is already experiencing sea level rise and consequent coastal erosion, destructive weather systems and periods of drought. As the climate changes, the extent of such effects is expected to become worse.

Tourism, a key economic sector in The Bahamas, is highly dependent on coastal infrastructure and the attractiveness of the natural coastal environment. With 80% of the land lying less than 1m above sea level, all sectors in The Bahamas are highly vulnerable to sea level rise (SLR) and storm surge.

The Bahamas: Land loss from sea level rise
Harbour Island, Zone A

SLR modelling was conducted for beaches with high-end tourism resorts at Eleuthera and Harbour Island. Results show:

- Inundation of 69% of the beach resource under a 0.5m SLR.
- Loss of 7 high value tourism properties on Harbour Island from the long term erosion associated with 1m SLR.

The Risk Atlas provides robust and meaningful data and practical analyses in key socioeconomic sectors as they relate to tourism: *Community Livelihoods, Gender, Poverty and Development; Agriculture and Food Security; Energy; Water Quality and Availability; Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Impacts on Coastal Infrastructure and Settlements; Comprehensive Disaster Management; Human Health; and Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity and Fisheries.*

The ***Community Vulnerability Assessment of Abaco Island*** has increased the awareness about climate change risks to the residents there, and can further assist:

- The Government of The Bahamas in coordinating development planning, flood protection and long-term sustainable development with livelihood and demographic characteristics (including gender and illegal immigrant communities) in mind.
- The residents, especially community leaders and change agents, in building on their current awareness and preparedness activities for hurricanes to reach a wider audience and incorporate information on alternative livelihoods for those engaging in destructive practices.
- In identifying the climate change issues in other coastal communities, as well as risk profiling, adaptive capacity analysis and building resilience and capacity in communities.

Moreover, the Risk Atlas provides the evidence-base for specific, pragmatic action and adaptation responses.

Preliminary action plans are identified for planners, tourism operators and other national and sectoral stakeholders to: protect their assets and ecosystems on which they depend; guide the intersectoral dialogue necessary for sound socioeconomic development that is climate-resilient; and build the requisite capacity to respond to climate change.

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The PDF of this document, the Full National Risk Atlas Profile and Summary Document available at www.caribsave.org.