

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

is a Caribbean British Overseas Territory located in the heart of the hurricane belt. As a small island chain that depends heavily on fragile natural resources, The Virgin Islands is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

FEELING THE CHANGE

The Virgin Islands is experiencing warmer days and nights and witnessing more extremes in rainfall patterns. Between 2003 and 2010 there were several major flood events, an unprecedented frequency in living memory. Two of these events cost the Territory close to \$20 million US dollars each. The Territory has been in severe drought for most of 2015.

EXPERIENCING THE IMPACTS

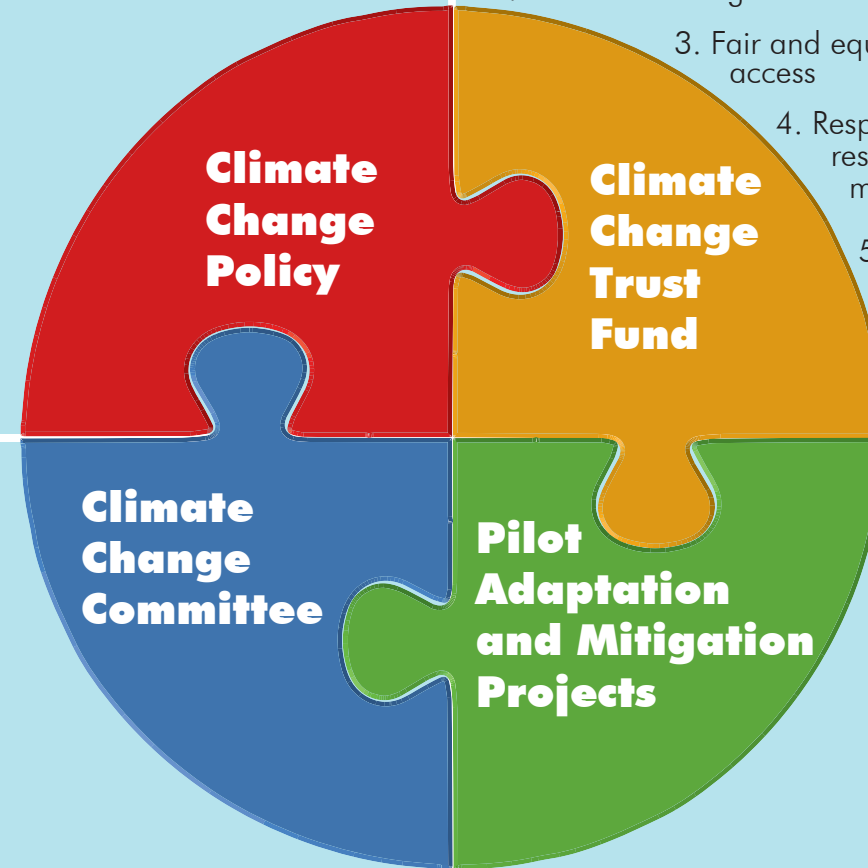
Impacts are diverse and some are already very palpable. In 2005 close to 90% of reefs were affected by a mass coral bleaching event that killed ~60% of live coral cover and took a major economic toll on the dive tourism sector. Beach erosion is accelerating. 35-70% of sandy area on key tourism beaches would be lost under likely sea level rise projections. In terms of health, Dengue fever is on the rise.

A STRONG CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE MECHANISM

Details concrete adaptation and mitigation actions across 12 impacted sectors

A sustainable financing mechanism to support adaptation and mitigation actions built on 5 key principles:

1. Independence from Government
2. Blended funding sources
3. Fair and equitable access
4. Responsible resource management
5. Transparency



Responsible for updating and implementing the Climate Change Policy

With support under a GCCA regional Climate Change Project The Virgin Islands is currently implementing ecosystem based projects to reduce flooding in communities and restore beaches.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP









The Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund was established by law in March 2015 and is a first of its kind in the Caribbean. The Virgin Islands will continue to take bold new steps to safeguard the future of these precious islands, but cannot do it alone. The Climate Change Trust Fund will soon be ready to accept contributions to help finance critical adaptation and mitigation actions.

There are many other opportunities for partnership. We are constantly seeking partners to work with in novel ways to achieve an ambitious target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. The Virgin Islands Climate Change Policy sets out a clear road map for adaptation and we are only at the beginning of this journey. Government is strategically working with the business sector and community groups on new, innovative ways to ensure our environment and communities are as resilient as possible. There are endless possibilities to partner to implement pilot adaptation projects. We invite you to partner with us!

Dr. the Hon Kedrick D. Pickering,
Deputy Premier and Minister of Natural Resources and Labour



The Virgin Islands Impacted

	Millions in flood damage
2015 Drought	
	2005 Mass Bleaching Event
	Beach erosion from storm surge
	Infrastructure damages from hurricane
	Energy infrastructure at risk

The Virgin Islands Responding

National Parks Trust protecting critical natural sites	
	Greenhouses under construction
 <i>Photo by Dr. Shannon Gore</i>	The Virgin Islands first coral nursey
	Beach restoration with geo-textile sand bags
 <i>Photo by Cooper Island Beach Club</i>	Mangrove replanting for shoreline defence
	Territory Committed to 20% renewables by 2020

The Virgin Islands

Impacted by and Responding to Climate Change



Learn more about how climate change is impacting The Virgin Islands, our ongoing response and how you can partner with us as we rise to the greatest challenge of our time! Visit www.bvi.gov.vg/climatechange or call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour at 1-284-468-2147.

