

The Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Report Great Caribbean Shifts

Enabling Positive Adaptation Journeys
in the Greater Caribbean



Global Centre for
Climate Mobility



Greater Caribbean
Climate Mobility Initiative
Enabling People Positive Adaptation Journeys



United Nations
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The Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Initiative, led by the Global Centre for Climate Mobility and the Association of Caribbean States, in close collaboration with UN partners and the World Bank, aims to build a shared evidence base on climate mobility and to chart a common course of action.

The Great Caribbean Shifts report presents current climate mobility realities and future trends through 2050, combining data from 14 communities across six countries with advanced modeling projections, using a spatial general economic equilibrium model.

Present Realities

Summary of key findings from surveys and focus groups from 14 communities across 6 countries in the Greater Caribbean region, including Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Suriname.

1 Climate losses

Climate change challenges traditional livelihoods, cultural practices, and mobility patterns. Extreme and erratic weather disrupts people's lives and ability to plan for the future, leaving some with a profound sense of loss and dislocation.

FIGURE 1: How has your household been affected by climate change?



The impacts of climate change on households shown as the % of survey respondents.

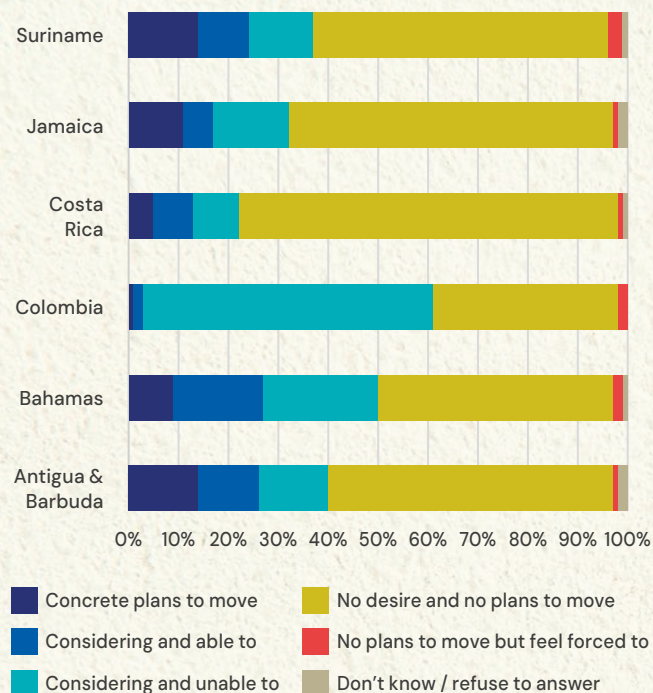
2 Health damages

People report high levels of stress, and negative mental and physical health impacts linked to climate hazards. Female respondents were 12% more likely to cite negative health effects from climate change than male respondents.

3 The right to stay

Despite more frequent and severe disasters, place attachment is strong across the region. People are ready to press for their right to stay. This is particularly true of older generations and Indigenous people.

FIGURE 2: When thinking about mobility, which of the following applies to you as an individual?

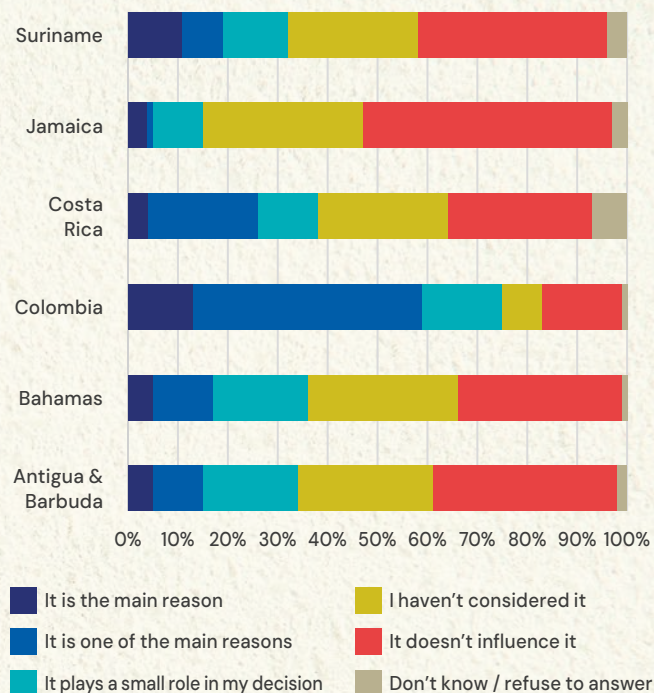


Aspirations and capacities to move shown as the % of survey respondents.

4 Trapped in place

Some groups – particularly women and migrants – feel unable to move, even if they wanted to. 10% more women than men reported that they would like to move but find themselves unable to.

FIGURE 3: How much does the impact of climate change factor into your decision or consideration to move?



Role of climate factors in decisions to move shown as the % of survey respondents.



5 Forced uprooting

Permanent migration and relocation undertaken to escape the impacts of climate change are experienced as forced and often traumatic. The loss of home threatens people's social bonds, culture and heritage.

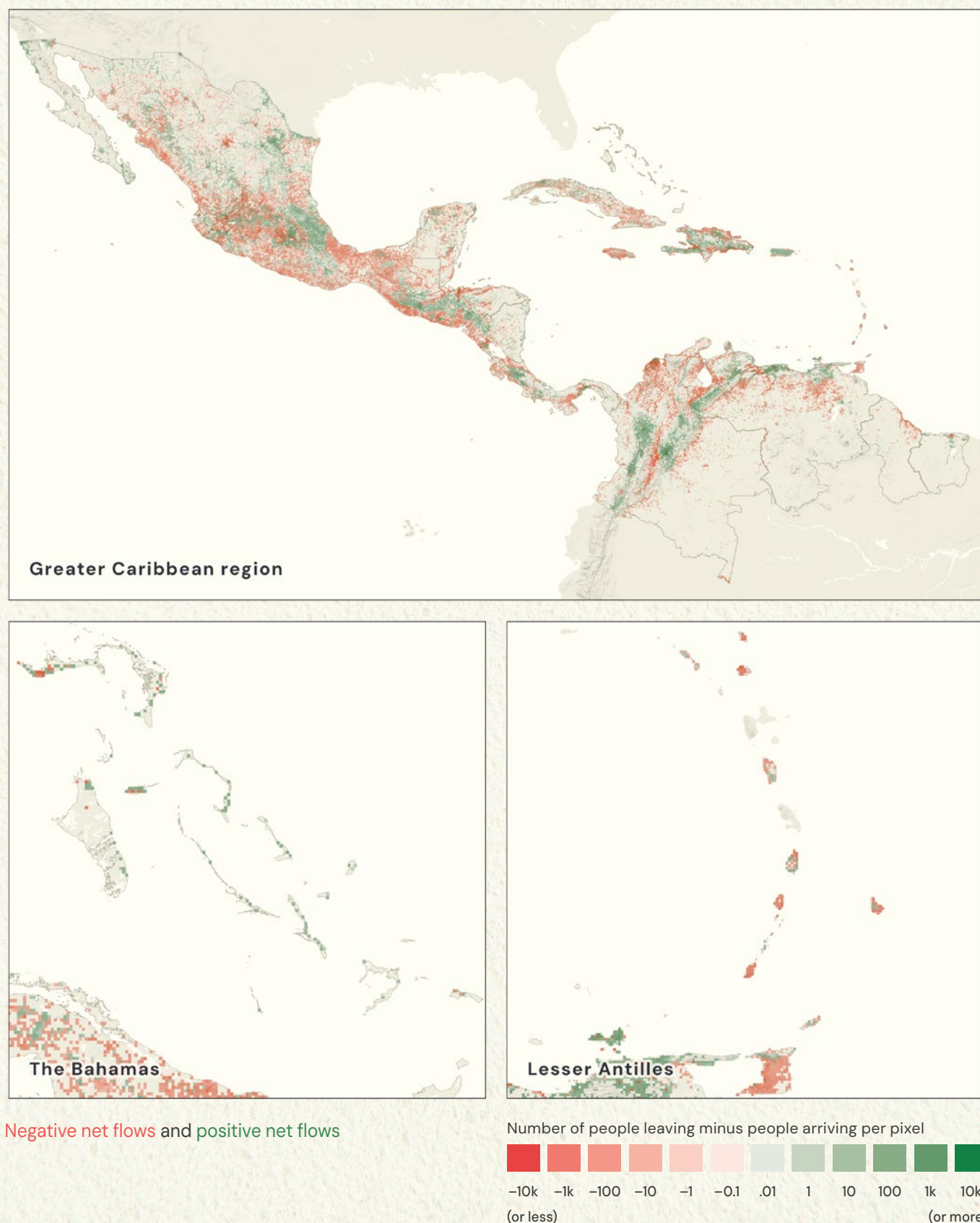
6 A role for mobility

Temporary mobility is seen as a way to sustain one's home, enabling households to rebuild and adapt. 40% of those surveyed indicated that climate impacts would play a role when considering future migration. Young people are most likely to cite climate change as a reason for wanting to move.

Future Projections

Summary of key results of the GCCMI climate mobility model (see Annex 1 in the Great Caribbean Shifts Report for more information on the model).

FIGURE 4: Map of net climate mobility under the Rocky Road scenario (SSP3-RCP7.0) by 2050

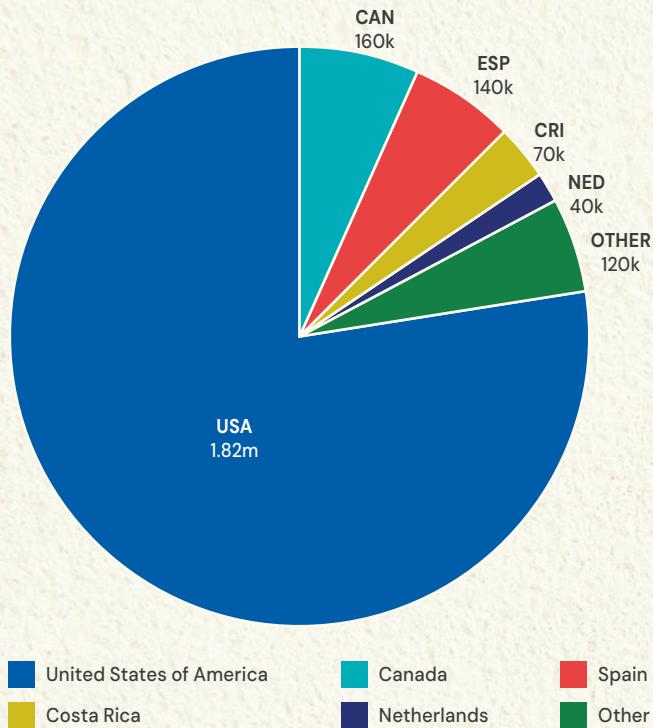


Projections of net climate mobility in the Greater Caribbean region under the Rocky Road scenario (SSP3-RCP7.0) by 2050. Net climate mobility is shown as the number of people leaving minus the number of people arriving per pixel (5km x 5km area).

7 No regional exodus

Under a pessimistic future scenario, up to 8.2 million people in the Greater Caribbean could be forced to move permanently due to the impacts of climate change by 2050. More than 60% will stay within their countries. Less than 30% – up to 2.4 million people – will move outside the region.

FIGURE 5: Top destinations for cross-border climate mobility by 2050



Top destinations for cross-border climate mobility from the Greater Caribbean region under the Rocky Road scenario (SSP3-RCP7.0) by 2050.

8 Economic losses could shape where people live

By 2050, warming above 1.5 °C could reduce GDP per capita by 13–20% across the region, impoverishing an additional 2–2.5 million adults, mostly in rural areas. Coastal economies, heavily impacted by climate hazards, will account for the lion share of climate mobility in the region (75%). Large cities with more diversified economies will be the main destinations in the region.



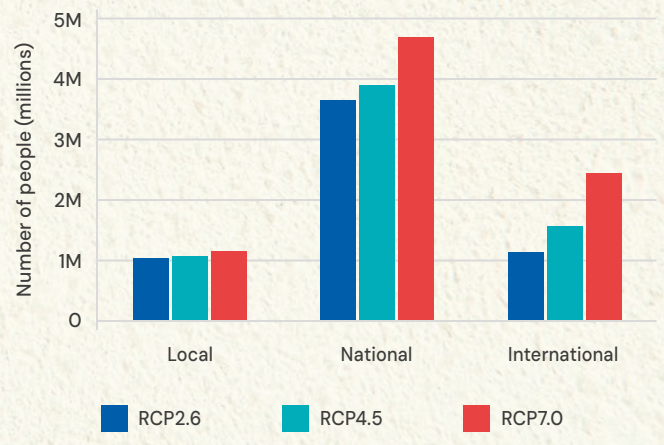
9 Climate drivers

By 2050, approximately 80% of climate displacement will be due to rising temperatures and disaster impacts. Sea-level rise will be a key mobility driver in some low-lying countries, such as The Bahamas, Suriname, and Guyana.

10 Immobility risks

Over 6 million people in the Greater Caribbean region could be deterred from moving as economic conditions in potential destinations worsen. Without support for adaptation, they could face increasing climate risk.

FIGURE 6: Climate immobility in the Greater Caribbean by 2050



Climate immobility (millions of people) in the Greater Caribbean under different climate scenarios at three scales by 2050. Climate immobility in the GCCMI climate mobility model, captures the number of people who are compelled to stay in place due to climate impacts on potential destinations, and who would otherwise be likely to have moved in a world without climate change.

Key Actions: Towards a Positive Transition in the Region

Guided by three core tenets – Adapt Locally, Protect Rights & Act Together – the GCCMI recommends an Agenda for Action with seven key actions to prepare for climate mobility. Anchored in regional precedents, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Action outlines concrete measures to advance each of the seven Actions. It calls on Greater Caribbean leaders across sectors and levels of governance, stakeholders, and international partners to:

Adapt Locally

1. Ensure Access to Climate Risk Information

Recognize climate literacy and the availability and accessibility of relevant climate risk information as fundamental to protecting people's rights and agency in the context of the climate crisis, including for their individual and collective adaptation and mobility decisions.

2. Enable Positive Adaptation Journeys

Support frontline communities in protecting their homes from climate hazards and strengthen their adaptive capacities and agency in decisions to move by scaling up participatory planning, institutional capacities, and investments for climate adaptation, taking account of differences in local exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards.

Protect Rights

3. Protect the 'Right to Stay' & Support Relocation in Dignity

Address the threat that climate change poses to people's attachment to place, their land rights, and potentially to the habitability of entire regions and countries by creating legal protections and predictable procedures to define State responsibilities and guide their conduct in situations where people's right to stay is threatened.



4. Advance Rights-based Climate Mobility Responses

Establish rights-based responses to climate mobility, anchored in people's right to stay, and the protection of those who are forced to move due to climate impacts, whether internally or across borders, individually or as a community, to uphold their human rights and promote positive outcomes, especially for vulnerable groups.

5. Respond Collectively to Loss and Damage

Assess, document, and address all forms of loss and damage while elevating the visibility of non-economic loss and damage, particularly for Greater Caribbean countries and communities to whom climate change poses an existential threat, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Indigenous peoples.

Act Together

6. Integrate Climate Mobility into Regional Development Strategies

Build a regional ecosystem that plans for, builds capacities, and addresses climate mobility in the Greater Caribbean by developing common approaches across existing regional cooperation and integration mechanisms, pursuing a division of labor and pooling of resources, and by building public-private partnerships, and embracing the leadership of cities across the region.

7. Strengthen International Solidarity with the Region

Scale up international support for countries of the Greater Caribbean that have historically contributed little to climate change but find themselves on the frontlines of its impacts, resourcing their capacities to adapt and address loss and damage, and enabling people from the region to use mobility to pursue opportunities and strengthen their resilience.

