

**Statement of Dr James Hospedales SIDS4 Interactive Dialogue 5 – 346 words**  
**Ashley Lashley Foundation**

30 May, 11AM – 1PM, Interactive Dialogues Room.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) experience heightened health vulnerabilities due to climate change but have limited evidence-based research to direct mitigation and adaptation interventions.

**First**, I'm happy to report the development of the FIRST Caribbean Research for Action Agenda on climate and health, aimed at empowering Caribbean SIDS to achieve their climate and health goals.

This action research agenda emerged from a collaboration between EarthMedic and EarthNurse Foundation for Planetary Health, UWI, Emory and Yale universities, and the Pan American Health Organization. The CRAA synthesizes evidence from the scientific literature, consultations with several regional public, private, civil society, and academic stakeholders. The Agenda has 18 priority areas for research and action in four domains:

1. climate change health impacts, exposures and vulnerability;
2. adaptation, planning and resilience for health;
3. mitigation actions and health co-benefits, and
4. resources and engagement for climate change and health action.

Key findings underscore the need for raising public awareness, interdisciplinary collaboration to address institutional silos, equitable interventions for vulnerable groups, and enhanced monitoring and surveillance of climate-sensitive health exposures.

Cross-cutting themes highlight imperatives of developing a more climate-literate health workforce, leadership, community engagement, addressing social and economic mediating factors, and collaboration at multiple levels.

The CRAA is a foundational tool to guide collaboration and capacity building, to develop evidence-based advocacy/policy, and to frame relevant research across the Caribbean. We are open to discussions with funders and partners for implementation.

**Second**, I would also like to briefly advertise a Special Issue on SIDS of The Journal of Climate and Health of which I am Guest Editor, together with Dr Roannie Ng Shui of Samoa, at U of Auckland in NZ. The call for papers closes at end-August and the collection will be published in the Journal of Global Health Science and Practice in November.

This special issue aims to document the ubiquitous, unrelenting, and unfair impacts of climate change on health... mental health, vector borne diseases, air quality, health equity, health systems etc. It also aims to tell stories of resilience and innovations developed in response to threat of climate change.

LINKS:

[\[Research for Action on Climate Change and Health in the Caribbean • EarthMedic\]](#)

[Call for papers - The Journal of Climate Change and Health | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier](#)