

Climate Change Impacts and its Potential Integration in the Environmental
Impact Assessment (EIA) Process & Property Management: The Case of the
Negril Tourism Industry in Jamaica

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Negril, on Jamaica's northern coast, is one of the foremost areas for tourism in the country. Jamaica is highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly in coastal areas where hotels and tourism developments are located [1]. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process can be used to counteract these challenges, functioning as a prospective mitigation tool. This opportunity has been discussed since the Kyoto protocol in 1999 [2]. The EIA process has not been used widely in this manner, with many countries not including climate change scenarios when evaluating a project's environmental impact [3]. The absence of prior work in this area, specifically for Jamaica, prompted Taylor & Grey to design and implement a tool that evaluated the climate change considerations in prior EIAs.

The EIAs were examined using a modified EIA-Climate Change assessment checklist. This review tool was used to determine the extent to which five EIAs for approved developments in the Negril region has integrated climate change concerns.

What's Next

The review of prior EIAs showed an increasing trend in the consideration of climate change concerns over time. However, there is a lack of regulations or guidelines for climate change impacts in the EIA reports. The authors recommend that a clear scope for climate change adaptation in tourism projects. An improved EIA process is detailed among the key recommendations for Jamaica and other SIDS.



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REFERENCES

