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MAPS & DESIGN

Sea Level Rise in the Eastern Caribbean

One of the most widely recognisable threats to small island development states (SIDS) is sea level rise, and, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is 'virtually certain' (99–100% probability) that **sea level rise rates are increasing**. SIDS are defined by their **finite supplies of land**, **fragile ecosystems**, and **vulnerable communities**, and while at a global scale the effects of climate change on SIDS may be minute, the relative impacts for small islands are extremely high.

Significant changes will be seen in areas of the coastal zone following as little as a 0.5–1 m rise in sea level. With a **2°C (3.6°F) increase in global temperatures**, the Caribbean will have **lost 1,300 sq km (502 sq mi)** of land by the end of the century. This map visualizes a **2 m (6.6 ft) rise in sea level** across the volcanic islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and of Grenada.

Data Sources: The Nature Conservancy; Grenadines MarSIS; Alison DeGraff Ollivierre

Research: Ollivierre, Alison DeGraff. 2016. "Participatory Mapping: Evaluating Practice in Caribbean Small Island Developing States with Attention to Climate Change." Master of Science, Geoinformatics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago.