Climatic trends in Puerto Rico: observed and projected since 1980

Mark Jury, Univ. Puerto Rico Mayaguez



Mean land and sea temperatures



Hadley cell and surface wind trends



Marine trends





Reanalysis trends 1980+





Euro (right)

Air temp

NASA (left)

Rainfall

NCEP2 profile trends



thin line downstream west of...

CMIP5 ensemble trends





Rainfall trends

(gauges interpolated with satellite data at 5 km res)



Climate trends - summary

- This study has considered observed and CMIP5 projected climate trends in Puerto Rico, with a focus on change maps and time series since 1980.
- The Hadley circulation has accelerated and sinking motions have warmed the lower atmosphere faster (+.03°C/yr) than the underlying ocean (+.01°C/yr).
 - Increased evaporation and northerly winds drive upward trends in rainfall on the Atlantic coast, while the Caribbean side is drying.
 - Global warming enhances shallow clouds and vegetation, and inhibits deep convection around PR.
 - Trends in the satellite era are enhanced by the AMO.
 - Published in Climate Research 2015: 66, 113-123.



Two ways to deal with the key problem of receding beaches

- reactive: CC scientists predict PR will have no beaches in 10 years, blame government inaction (on set-backs)
- + proactive: CC scientists working with tourism-oriented muncipalities on low cost solutions to preserve PR beaches (via improved coastal access)



