



# **Up in Smoke? Latin America and the Caribbean: The Threat From Climate Change to the Environment and Human Development (Up in Smoke? series)**

*Andrew Simms*

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Hurricane Katrina dominated news headlines around the world in 2005, but, as this report documents, other hurricanes and extreme events in the region have gone largely unreported. Up in Smoke? confirms that largely regular and predictable temperature and rainfall patterns are changing, becoming less predictable and often more extreme. It catalogs the impact of climate change and environmental degradation ranging from drought in the Amazon to floods in Haiti and elsewhere; vanishing glaciers in Colombia to extreme cold in the Andes; and hurricanes, not only in Central America and the Caribbean, but also in southern Brazil. Across the region the capacity of natural ecosystems to act as buffers against extreme weather events and other shocks is being undermined leaving people more vulnerable.

Up in Smoke? Latin America and the Caribbean is the third report from the coalition of the UK's top environment and development group, the Working Group on Climate Change and Development. The report, with pictures, graphics, and case studies throughout, calls on wealthy, developed countries to take responsibility for the damage that climate change is already causing, to reduce and stabilize emissions, and, critically, for a new development model for Latin America and the Caribbean that will set the region on a path to sustainable development.

The Working Group on Climate Change and Development consists of: ActionAid International, Bird Life, CAFOD, Christian Aid, CIIR, Columban Faith and Justice, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Institute for Development Studies, IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development), MedAct, NEF (New Economics Foundation), Operation Noah, Oxfam, People & Planet, Practical Action (formerly ITDG), RSPB, Tearfund, teri Europe, WaterAid, WWF.

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