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DISCIPLINES:	GIS, Land Management, Coastal Zone Management, Ocean Governance
KEYWORDS:	GIS, Sea Level Rise Modelling, Coastal Zone Management, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Climate change is the change in the average weather over an extensive time period. One result of Climate change can be a rise in sea levels that can be caused by the melting of the ice caps, and/or thermal expansion of seas and oceans due to rising temperatures. Sea level rise may also be due to subsidence of land-masses in proximity to the sea. Sea level rise due to climate change has been predicted by many entities including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) among others. Other threats from climate change include more frequent and intense hurricanes and storms with attendant storm surges and floods, droughts in some latitudes, and changes in biological variables that have impacts upon human societies. At risk from climate change are many coastal communities worldwide. Universities, and communities at risk from the potential effects of climate change can work together to assess the dangers posed by climate change to these communities. This community-university collaboration can produce the necessary information that can contribute to the development of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, best practices, and community-based policy recommendations for the expressed use of local and regional governments.

BIOGRAPHY:

Michael Sutherland holds an M.Sc.E. and Ph.D. in Geomatics Engineering from the University of New Brunswick, Canada specializing in land information management and GIS. He is currently a lecturer, and the Programme Coordinator of the B.Sc. in Land Management Programme in the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. He previously held post-doctoral positions at the University of Ottawa, and Dalhousie University, Canada, specializing in applied GIS. His academic and professional background includes GIS, land management, coastal zone management, and ocean governance. Michael is a member of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics and the Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad and Tobago. He is confirmed as Chair, Commission 4, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and represents the FIG to the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific. Michael is also a C-FOAM Associate, Canadian Fisheries, Oceans, and Aquaculture Management (C-FOAM), Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa, Canada