

# Support for Adaptation to Climate Change in SIDS



UNITED NATIONS

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**E C L A C**

# **Vulnerability** **to climate change**



**can be reduced**  
**by adapting to its potential impacts**

Source: UNEP

# Adaptation Concerns

- CC adaptation issues cannot stand alone but need to be integrated into NDPs
  - This is referred to as “climate proofing” NDPs or “mainstreaming”;
  - “No regrets” options also contribute to country’s SD agenda and may be more acceptable to policy makers;
  - Disaster mitigation may well be another opportunity for the promotion of National CC adaptation strategies
- Promotion of adaptation policies requires awareness by the public;
- Training needs to be continuous – brain drain & financial support;
- Evaluation of effectiveness of training undertaken;
- Technical & financial support to establish a Regional SD Agency to help strengthen co-operation & collaboration among regional agencies

# Adaptation Concerns....

- Increased stakeholder involvement e.g NGOs & women;
- Establishment of Local Area Management Authorities;
- SIDS have developed some capacity to cope by resorting to a combination of strategies & these could be incorporated into NDPs:
  - application of traditional knowledge;
  - locally appropriate technology (e.g., construction on stilts in flood-prone areas), use of indigenous materials, and other customary practices.
- Myth -adaptation is a task carried out by governments;
- Active SD Councils – established under CARICAD's Cap 21 – active?
- Climate change committees – active?
- Are decision & policy makers sensitised on the importance of CC?
- CC & vulnerability to disasters integrated?

# Gaps and needs

- Cross-sectoral approach e.g Planning & Finance;
- Vulnerability indices to be enhanced;
- Integration of traditional knowledge into dev. plans;
- Sharing of experiences e.g COTED;
- Training broadened and long-term training in critical areas considered;
- Integrate CC into all 2<sup>0</sup> & post-2<sup>0</sup> curricula;
- Data collecting, processing & management for integrated assessment & decision-making;
- Institutional strengthening and capacity to seek synergy among conventions at the national level;
- Health impacts of CC & on insurance industry (B'dos & MSI);
- Disaster mitigation and climate change require a common approach that would benefit decision making today to address long term risk management.



# Regional actions - ECLAC

- Caribbean Sea Initiative – ACS & ECLAC;
- Capacity-building – 5/CP para 7 (b) (vi) & 8 ©;
- ECLAC – disaster assessments to inform RR – SBSTAs’s 5 yr WP
  - ECLAC is able to cost RR and therefore adaptation strategies;
  - Results of ECLAC assessments could inform policy decisions and programme focus;
- Disaster methodologies meeting;
- Promote adaptation within the context of the MDGs;
- Incorporate CC in socio-economic and/or sectoral plans e.g in the UNDAF;
- Support for EE & RE programmes e.g in Barbados 33% of all households use solar water heaters & Guadeloupe, where > 75% of all electricity is generated from wind power. ECLAC support for RE initiatives in Jamaica & Guyana & Montserrat;
- RCM;
- Support for UNFCCC?

# The UNFCCC Process

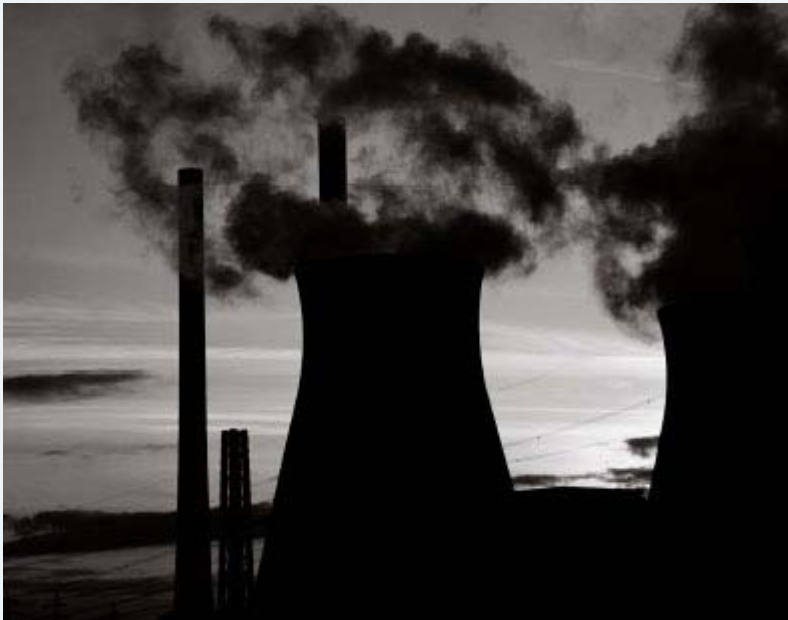
- Policy support - adaptation should focus on mainstreaming climate change risks and adaptation measures into development actions. This would address the problem of other sectors being perceived to have greater priority than CC;
- National communications – recognise the synergies in information needed for national communications and support co-operation among all entities to prevent duplication of efforts;
- North-south co-operation – facilitate co-operation between developed and developing countries e.g through the CDM process;
- Encourage south-south co-operation under TCDC umbrella;
- Activities Jointly Implemented under the UNFCCC– facilitate and encourage technology transfer;
- CDM – facilitate this process through institutional development and technical assistance – UN System;
- “Minimum regret” or “no regret” – encourage and support this phenomenon;
- Promote dialogue between industrialised and developing countries to facilitate co-operation;

# The UNFCCC Process....

- Financial assistance - adaptation will be expensive. Adaptation will require considerable funding well beyond of what is available today through GEF funds & other sources e. CC Fund of 1/CP.10;
- Technical assistance - Support better understanding of regional climate trends and projected impacts – use of data;
- Mobilization of investment funds to deal more urgently with the energy needs of developing countries
- Support to developing countries that are perceived to obstruct relevant projects and financing being jointly undertaken with investors from developed countries;
- Support in realistic target-setting – synergies in MDG reporting;
- Guard against too narrow application of the precautionary



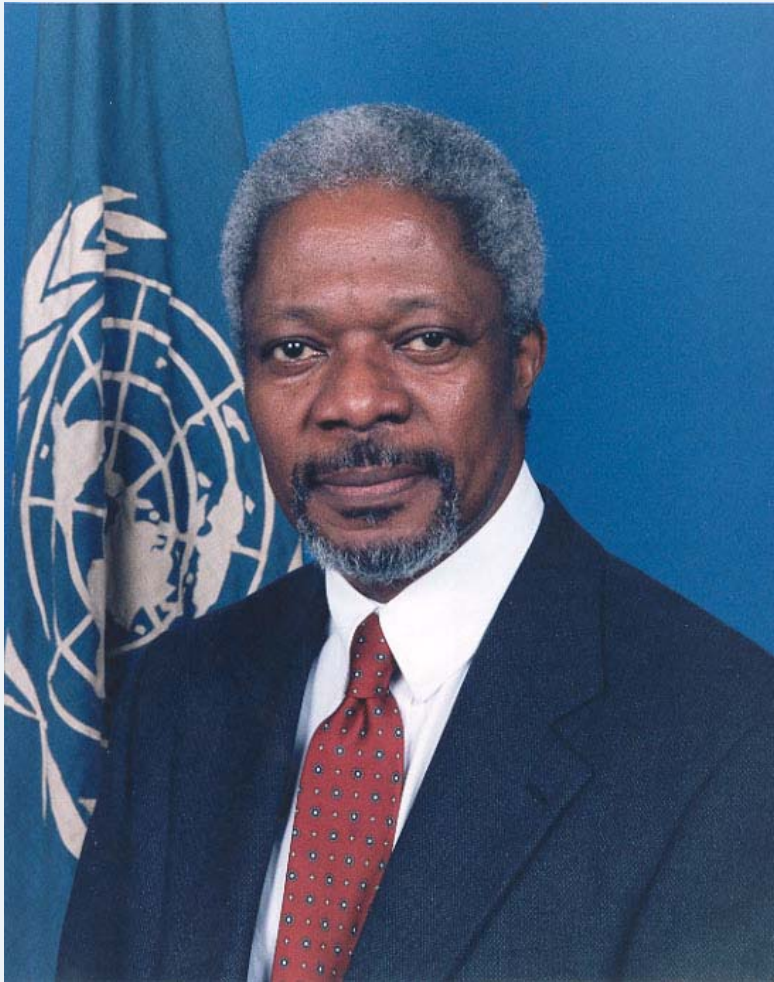
# Adaptive policy



“Today, there are strong grounds for having adaptation as a policy goal, but it must be recognised that the UNFCCC, and its Kyoto Protocol in particular, are first and foremost about abating greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, adaptation policy may find a more appropriate home beyond the existing climate change regime”.

Source: Schipper L. 2006. Conceptual History of Adaptation in the UNFCCC Process.  
Review of European & International Environmental Law 15 (1), 82-92.

# Conclusion



In the words of the former UN SG:

“We must supplement formal institutions with informal policy networks, bringing together international institutions, civil society and private sector organizations, and national governments, in pursuit of common goals”.