

Responding to loss and damage from climate change



“The benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs” (Stern, 2006)

UNDP (Barbados & OECS)

Loss and Damage: the SIDS experience



- Oxfam 1983: “Weather Alert – Evidence of a hidden crisis for the world’s poor”
- IPCC 2007: *“Small islands, whether located in the tropics or higher latitudes, have characteristics which make them especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea-level rise, and extreme events (very high confidence)” (IPCC, 2007:689)*
- SIDS call for max 1.5° increase in global temperature above pre-industrial level
- SIDS consider that increases over 1.5° will result in them facing significant damage and loss to infrastructure, economic and ecological resources, culture and livelihoods
- Annex I countries aiming at 2°; current pledges shown inadequate even for this target
- SIDS cannot absorb such losses

UNDP involvement



There is little doubt that climate change is

“caused by rich nations and imposes risks upon the poor, who are the least responsible and the most vulnerable to the damages and risk associated with it” (Okereke, 2009:10).

- 2007/08 UNDP Human Development Report: Climate Change impacts have the potential to undermine development gains of the last decade.
- Modeling studies on SIDS to establish baselines and develop methodology:
 - Phase I (2009): Impact of sea level rise upon coastal infrastructure; some SIDS have 85% of infrastructure development on the coast;
 - Phase II (2010): Modeling the transformational impact and cost of sea level rise;
 - Phase III (coming in 2011): Quantifying Loss and Damages toward identifying elements for a compensatory scheme.

Mechanisms for Quantifying Loss and Damages I



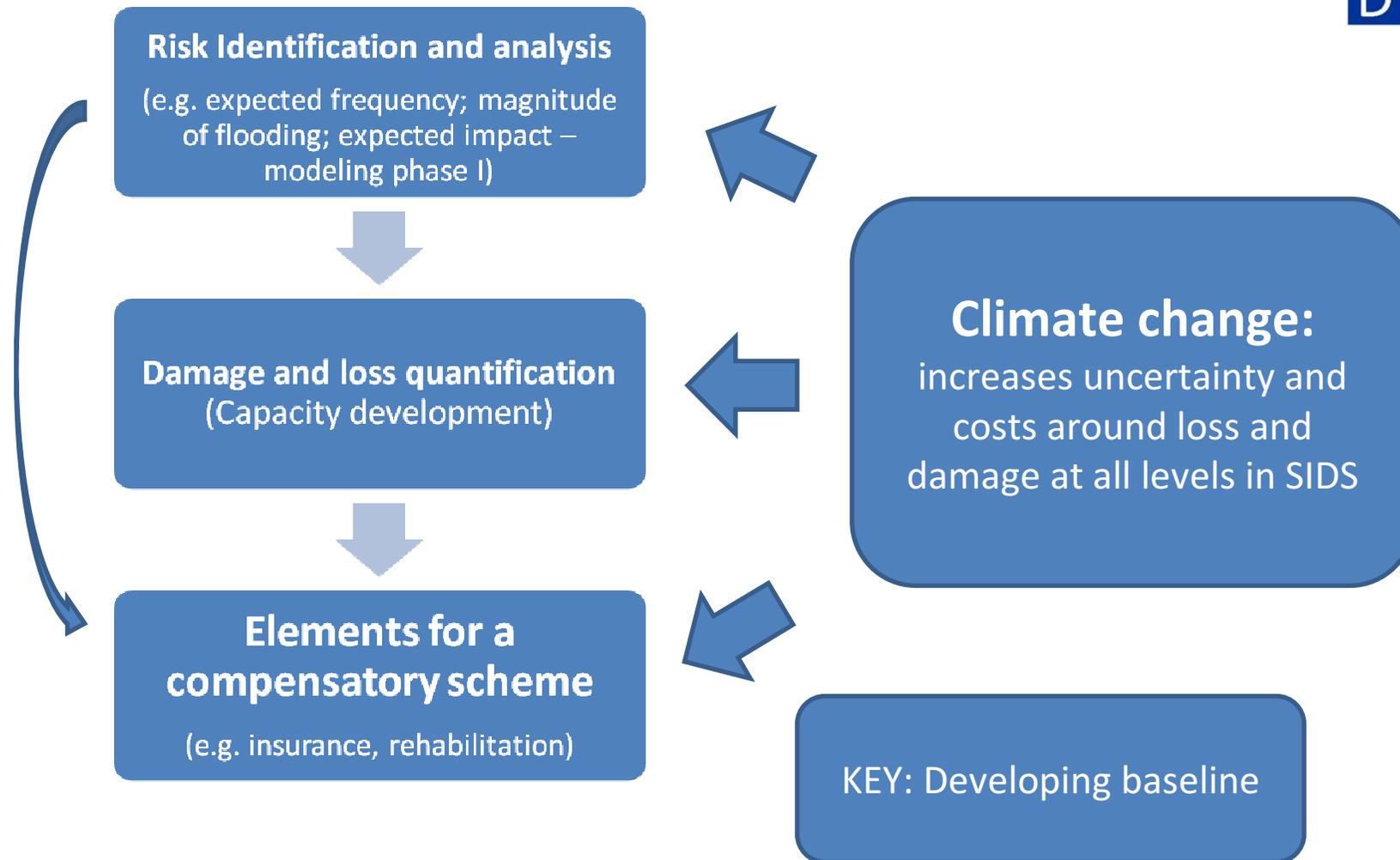
- The 2010 modeling study provided an analysis of quantification and magnitude of losses and damages from sea level rise;
- Additional sectoral analysis based on evidence and economic quantification necessary;
- Elements to support compensatory mechanism;
- Establishing baselines for diverse sectors assessing magnitude of losses and damages

Mechanisms for Quantifying Loss and Damage II



- Multi-focal mechanism:
 - In support of agriculture , tourism, fresh water;
 - Available risk management tools and risk transfer such as insurance for farmers, property owners and governments. Harmonization of approach needed;

Managing Loss and Damage: SIDS and developing countries



Capacity Development in Response to Loss and Damage



- Capacity development at all levels
 - Regional
 - National
 - Local
- Funding: Should the Green Fund include compensation for loss and damages?