

Current practices and lessons learnt

- Indian Ocean Commission: Climate Adaptation Project (to be put forward in December), initiative of 5 countries
- Proposal for a Regional Climate Service Centre
- Island project: (coral reef, sustainable development strategies, DRR, Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge)
- Dialogue with other SIDS regions
- Climate Vulnerable Forum
- Eastern Africa Coastal Regions: Disconnect between community level and overarching regional and international policy levels
- La Reunion: Regional centre for cyclone warning in the Indian Ocean
- SADC: Integration with some islands. Drought monitor centre in Harare
- PEMSEA = Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia. COBSEA = Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia.

Gaps and limitation identified

- Challenge: Geography and population distribution (outer islands)
- Capacity gaps at national level
- Language challenge; differences between West and East African islands
- Lack of regional counterpart for the international system
- Sometimes SIDS elements receive less attention because they are spread among different UN regions

Potential responses and strategies

- Problem to bring knowledge into actions: Idea -> Development Bank provides platform for regional institution for comprehensive approach. Value of regional institutions in bringing regional and international frameworks into national decision making
- Stakeholder involvement (global island partnership)
- Sharing of lessons learnt (e.g. graduation from LDC status)
- UNDESA data gathering system, M&E systems
- Coral reef monitoring, MPA, outreach activity
- DRR & insurance schemes
- Establishment of long term financial safety nets
- Integrated approach
- DRR assessment

Priorities

- Strong political commitment & leadership
- Visibility of needs of this set of islands
- Aim to not duplicate efforts, when needs can be filled through alternative arrangements
- Sustainable finance
- Regional action plan
- Create coherence among regional group
- Capacity development at multiple levels