



Challenges And Opportunities In Responding To Climate Change

A SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

Leon Charles

Climate Change Project Coordinator, Grenada

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Outline

- ✓ The Context - Grenada's National Circumstances
- ✓ Responding to Climate Change – Challenges and Opportunities
- ✓ Advancing Sustainable Development - Considerations for the Dialogue on Long Term Cooperation

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ The Context - Location



SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ The Context

- ✓ Size - 345 sq. km (133 sq. miles)
- ✓ Population – 104,490 (2004)
- ✓ GDP (2005) – \$1279.70 M (US\$479M)
- ✓ HDI Ranking – Medium Human Development #93 (2003 & 2004)
- ✓ Political Status – Independent Country





SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ The Context

- ✓ Poverty - 32.1% ; Indigence -12.1%
- ✓ HIV/AIDS – <0.5% Incidence Rate
- ✓ Universal Secondary Education
- ✓ Fragile Fiscal Situation
 - High dependence on tourism and agriculture
 - High external debt – 120% GDP (2005)
- ✓ Open economy susceptibility to external shocks

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Vulnerability to Climate Impacts

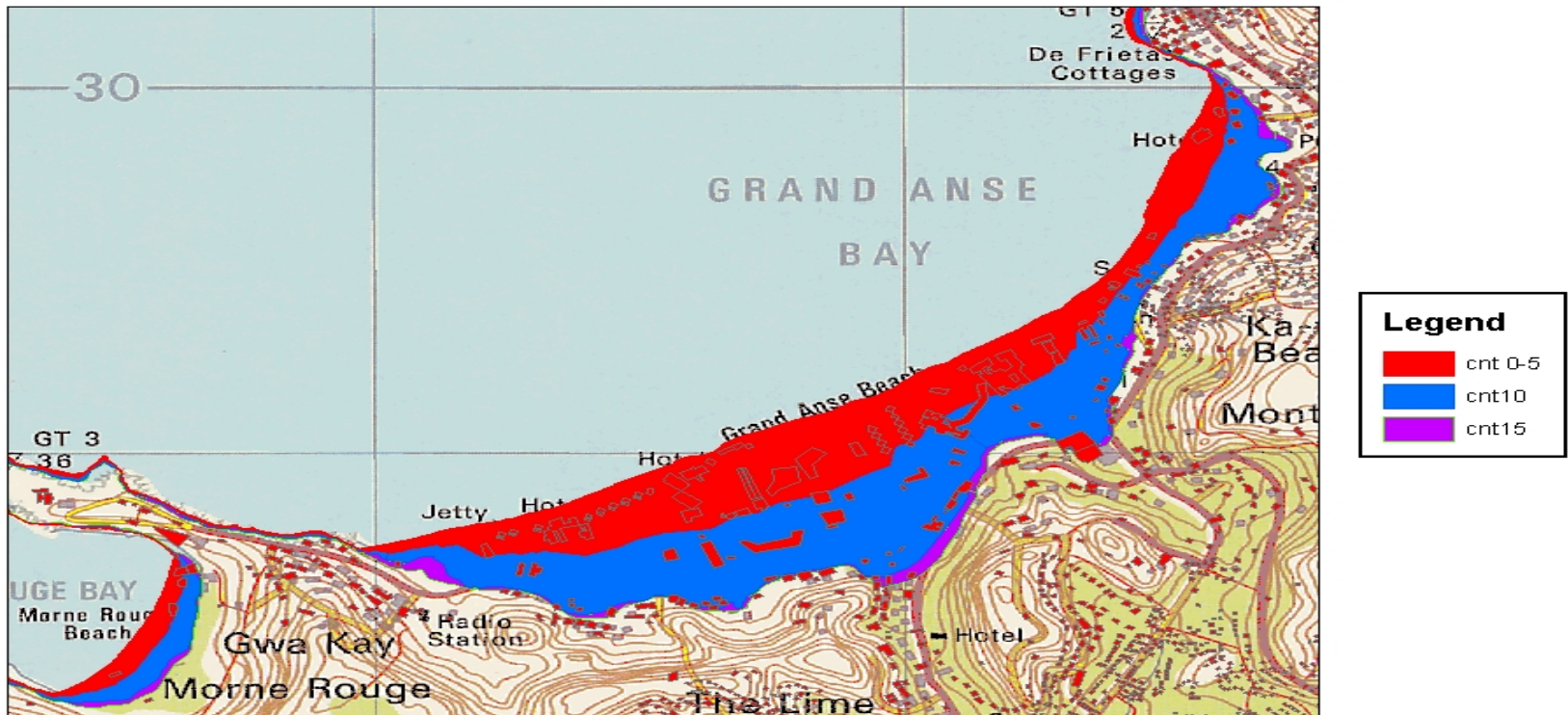
- ✓ Hurricane Ivan in 2004 (in six hours)
 - Killed 39 people
 - Destroyed or damaged > 80% of buildings (30% completely)
 - Severely damaged agriculture and tourism
 - Damage > 200% of GDP
 - **Paralysed economy** for at least 2 months
 - Resulted in 2004 GDP Growth of (6.9%)

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

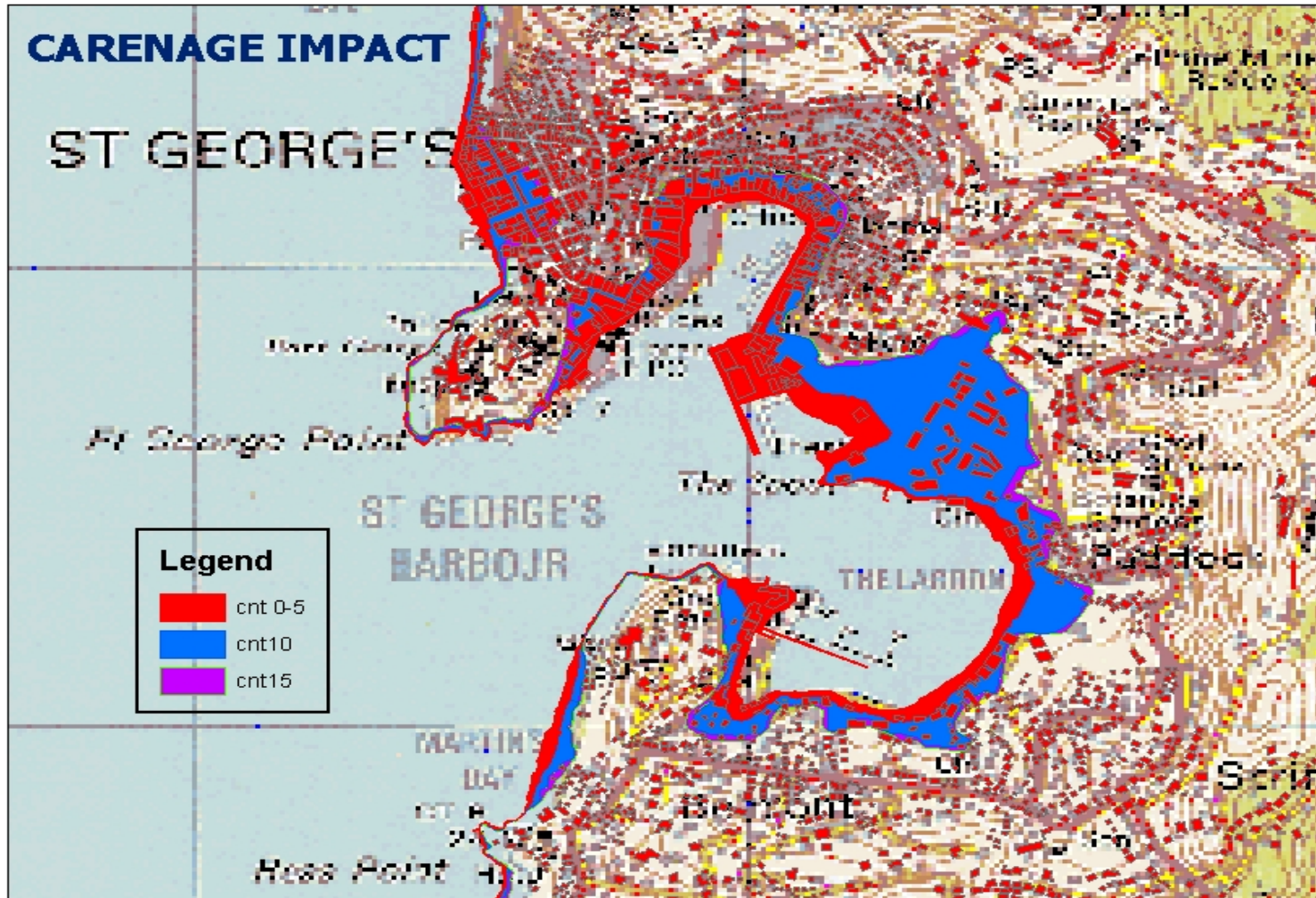
☐ Vulnerability to Climate Impacts

✓ Sea Level Rise

GRAND ANSE BAY IMPACT



SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE



SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

☐ Vulnerability to Climate Impacts

- ✓ Agriculture
 - Crop sensitivity to heat
 - No Research Capacity

- ✓ Water – Rain fed water supply
 - Reduced stream flows
 - Shortages in dry season

- ✓ Health
 - Dengue Alert even if less rain

- ✓ Unsustainable practices

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1994)

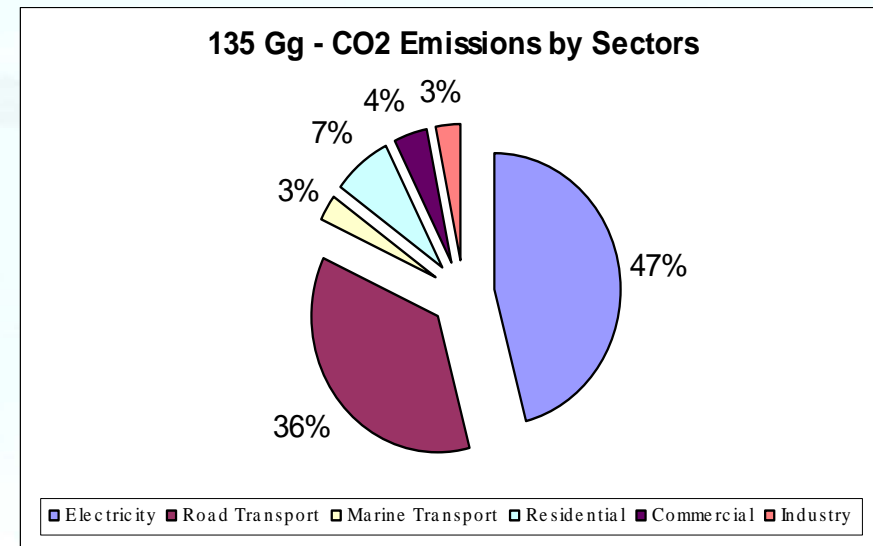
✓ 135 Gg of Carbon Dioxide

✓ Mitigated by Forest Sink of 92 Gg

✓ 71 Gg of Methane

✓ Have a responsibility to mitigate emissions

✓ Difficulty in accessing technology



SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Summary of Constraints (1)

- ✓ Capacity constraints
 - Limited data to build a compelling case and plan response
 - Limited skills and technology for analyzing climate change impacts and possible responses

- ✓ High competition for limited local resources in the face of poverty reduction needs, HIV/AIDS needs, disaster reconstruction needs, etc. etc.

- ✓ Limited access to alternative sources of financing
 - Limited funds in RAF
 - Difficulties in accessing GEF funding

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Summary of Constraints (2)

- ✓ Cross Cutting Nature of Impacts
 - Not just an environmental problem
 - Not just a response project
 - Will require integration into the ongoing sectoral development strategies – what institutional mechanism?

- ✓ Fragmented nature of sustainable development programming
 - Responding to requirements from different conventions

- ✓ Difficulties in accessing relevant technologies

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Opportunities

- ✓ Forces consideration of an integrated approach to national development
- ✓ Forces reconsideration of unsustainable practices that increase vulnerability
- ✓ Use of sustainable energy will provide economic benefits at national and individual level
- ✓ Requires Sustainable Development and will result in more efficient use of national resources

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Advancing Sustainable Development

- ✓ Ensure Survival - Level of ambition for future emission reductions **MUST** use the impact on SIDS as one of its benchmarks.
- ✓ Climate Change is a double-edged sword – facilitates sustainable development, but could destroy it in a few hours. Need support mechanisms to cope with this e.g.
 - Support Fund for countries that have been paralysed by climate change impacts
- ✓ Integrated approach to Sustainable Development – Synergies between the Rio Conventions

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Advancing Sustainable Development (2)

- ✓ Human dimensions of climate change impacts
 - Environmental refugees
 - Psychosocial effects of the climate change impacts
 - IFRC input into Adaptation Work Program
- ✓ Faster and more effective support for Capacity Building, Adaptation and Technology Transfer, with built-in considerations for the special circumstances of SIDS
- ✓ How to build and maintain a sustainable capacity?
 - Building internal resilience – reduces vulnerability
 - Adaptation

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

□ Summary

- ✓ SIDS accept the responsibility for their own development
- ✓ Victims of a phenomena that we have not created and do not have any direct control over
- ✓ Future architecture of climate change regime critical to the survival and sustainable development of SIDS
- ✓ Provide for the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS
- ✓ Sustainable development is ultimately about people and their livelihoods

SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, a sandy shore, and several white birds flying in the sky. The text "SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE" is overlaid at the top.

THANK YOU !!!



Challenges And Opportunities In Responding To Climate Change

A SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

Leon Charles

Climate Change Project Coordinator, Grenada