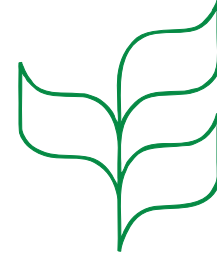


UNFCCC Expert Meeting on Adaptation for SIDS

Kingston, Jamaica, 5 to 7 February 2007



CBD

Biodiversity and CC adaptation in tourism

22 May 2007

International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

Oliver Hillel

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Programme Officer

Points to make

- Biodiversity in islands is a critical resource for mitigation, adaptation and adaptive capacity for climate change.
- Tourism, one of the key economic options for SIDS, is a good example of the strong linkages between the two issues.

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Biodiversity and Climate Change



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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- CBD decision VIII/30 (biodiversity and climate change) requests the integration of climate change considerations within the multiple programmes of work of the Convention.
- The CBD programme of work on island biodiversity was adopted in March 2006 in COP-8 (decision VIII/1) and addresses climate change in goal 7:
 1. Create national PA systems that are resilient;
 2. Identify key species and ecosystems that are resilient for restoration,
 3. Afforestation and reforestation,
 4. Monitoring and modeling,
 5. Lessen other stress factors to facilitate recovery.



Achieving the
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Why Consider Biodiversity?

Biodiversity in islands (particularly SIDS) means food safety, livelihood and economic stability, freshwater, fuel, climate regulation, health, protection against natural disasters



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Why Consider Biodiversity?

Higher biodiversity is linked to resilience

Island ecosystems with high biodiversity provide a broad range of ecosystem services including soil fertility, maintaining fisheries, freshwater, preventing erosion, etc. - **vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change are reduced**

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Key Biodiversity Considerations for Islands

- Use biodiversity as component of mitigation and adaptation strategies:
 - Identify resilient or protected key species and ecosystems, prioritized for their links to ecosystem services;
 - Set up networks of protected areas (connectivity);
 - Restoration and rehabilitation.



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Tourism

- Directly impacted by/impacts both climate change and biodiversity losses (loss of beaches, landscapes and corals, loss of freshwater/salination, vulnerability to radical weather events, change in current and rainfall patterns, invasives) – example of Cancun, 2005
- Can substitute more impacting livelihood activities and lead to higher resilience (example of Palawan, Philippines)

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Tourism

- 30-80% of GDP and foreign exchange generation in SIDS, one of 5 largest sectors in all SIDS
- Like other sectors, preparedness and adaptive capacity make a difference (Phuket and Cancun against Sri Lanka and Indonesia)

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What can tourism do in adaptation?

- Integrate protected areas in stewardship (Punta Cana, El Nido, Seychelles gardens), using ecosystem approach – and help finance their management
- Siting, design and construction (MARTI, Mexico) – planned retreat
- Reduce pressure on critical resources(energy, water, building materials) and waste production – Green Globe in Jamaica
- Support adaptation and preparedness (Madagascar)

Suggestions

- **Integrate the CBD island biodiversity programme of work and biodiversity programmes into adaptation strategies at all levels, from global and regional (SPREP, Pacific Roundtable on Nature Conservation, information fora, Global Island Partnership) to local (NBSAPs), from scientific to traditional knowledge.**
- **Work with UNWTO, WTTC, trade associations and voluntary initiatives to develop and disseminate an adaptation strategy for tourism, particularly for SIDS.**



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