

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE (AIACC): Lessons for SIDS Sustainable Development

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AIACC Project Background

- Initiated to respond to needs identified by IPCC
- GEF enabling project (USD14m)
 - climate change focal area
- Geographic scope: Global
- Implementing Agency: UNEP
- Executing Agencies: START & TWAS

Background (cont)

- Needs identified by IPCC
 - Lack of knowledge about climate change impacts & adaptation in developing world
 - Lack of publications from developing country researchers
 - Insufficient participation of developing country scientists & experts in IPCC

Objectives have evolved since original project conception

- **Enhance scientific and technical capacity** to support National Communications and developing country participation in int'l science
- **Advance scientific understanding** of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation in developing countries
- **Link science and policy communities** to support adaptation planning and action and Convention process

Means for achieving objectives

- Regional V&A assessments implemented by developing country teams
 - Multi-sectoral, multi-country teams
 - Engage with stakeholders
 - Work with relevant national committees to provide input to National Communications
- Supported by technical assistance, mentoring, training, and networking
- Workshops, publications, science & stakeholder meetings, synthesis

AIACC Regional Assessments

- 24 regional assessment activities implemented
- selected through merit review of nearly 150 proposals
- Regional assessments distributed throughout developing world

Topics of Regional Assessments

(Number of projects addressing each topic noted in parentheses)

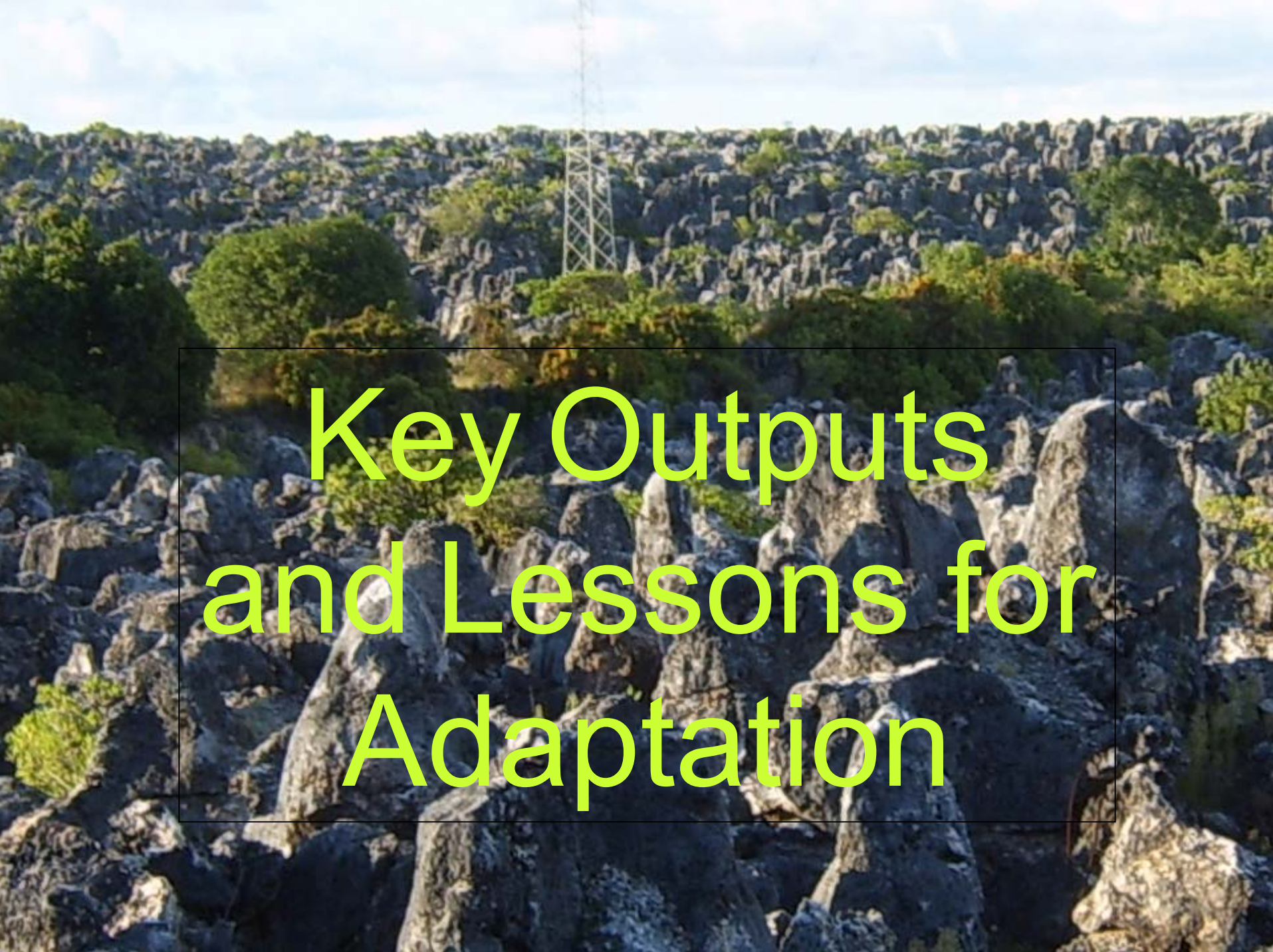
- Agriculture/food security (14)
- Water resources (13)
- Land use (7)
- Rural livelihoods (5)
- Coastal zones (5)
- Biodiversity (3)
- Aquatic ecosystems, fisheries (3)
- Human health (2)
- Extreme events (2)
- Tourism (1)

Countries Involved in AIACC Regional Studies



AIACC Regional Studies in Small Island States

Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Investigate/model health responses to climate (dengue)•Future health impacts of climate change•Adaptations
Fiji, Cook Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Water•Coastal infrastructure•Natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Integrated assessment models extended to include human dimensions•Vulnerability of coastal communities•Adaptations
Seychelles Comoros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Tourism•Natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Direct impacts of climate change & SLR on tourism•Indirect impacts on tourism from effects on natural resources•Adaptations

A landscape of dark, jagged volcanic rock formations, likely a lava field, with green trees and a tall metal tower in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Key Outputs and Lessons for Adaptation

Key Outputs

- Stakeholder participation in assessment is critical for generating and communicating knowledge that gets used
- Experience of coping with and managing climate risks is rich source of information from which to learn about
- Important to look at multiple scales
- Important to look at multiple futures
 - Socioeconomic as well as climate futures
- Best method for constructing climate change scenarios depends on assessment objectives
- Livelihoods is useful concept for vulnerability assessment

Key Adaptation Lessons

- Adapt Now
- Adaptation is development
- Adaptation is for ourselves
- Need for international support

What does one do?

- Strengthen institutions
- Involve those at risk
- Sector based approaches
- Expand information, awareness and technical knowledge
- Adaptation is place-based and place specific

Examples of follow-up projects

- Enhancing community adaptation in the rural-urban interface
- Enhancing the Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Sectors to Climate Change
- Improving Food Security through Adaptation to Climate Change
- Adaptation to Climate Change in the Tourism Sector in Fiji Islands
- Information Sharing System (ISS) to enhance coping capacities of farming communities in dealing effectively with climate variability and climate change
- Improving the adaptive capacity of communities in Solomon Islands to the impacts of climate change and climate variability in the health sector.

Type of Projects for GEF funding

- Medium size

- Project Identification Form (PIF)
- Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
- Maximum amount \$1m from GEF
- Co-financing 1:1

Full size project

- PIF, PPG
- Amount not limited but co-financing goes up with size of project (sliding scale)

The Process: IAs

- Project concept/idea – country driven
- Discussion at programme level
- Development of PDF, closely with the countries and executing agency (PDF funds from IAs)
- Divisional Review and Oversight Committee
- Submission to GEF
- Development of proposal

Different features

GEF TRUST FUND

- Incremental cost
- Global benefits
- RAF
- Co-financing

New FUNDS

- Additional cost
- Sliding scale (optional)
- NO RAF
- NO Global benefits
- Different approach to co-financing

Challenges and Opportunities

- Estimating 'costs' of adaptation
- Continuing need for more information and data
- Many existing good practices and indigenous knowledge to cope with current climate stresses
- There is **enough** knowledge and expertise to start implementing adaptation

Recommendations for SIDS

- Dedicated GEF desk/officer to work with all GEF Implementing Agencies
- 'NAPA' type process
- CROP to coordinate efforts on adaptation eg under Pacific Plan
- Dedicated funding window
- More coordinated and forceful efforts during negotiations on the issue eg work program, guidance to GEF etc
- Effective communication strategy.
- Training/Capacity Building

A photograph of a flooded street. The water is murky brown and reaches up to the lower branches of several large, leafy green trees. A utility pole stands in the middle ground. In the background, there are some buildings and a small boat on the right. The sky is overcast.

Thank You

Thank you