

# Loss of Biodiversity (inc. Ocean Acidification)

Summary of Breakout Session

UNFCCC Workshop on Losses and Damages

27<sup>th</sup> August 2012, UNCC, Bangkok

# Main Priorities

- Framing points:
  - There are losses and damages caused by loss of biodiversity *and* loss and damage to biodiversity caused by climate change.
  - Loss is also caused by *change* of biodiversity.
  - Permanence of loss of biodiversity; opportunity loss of future generations
  - Attribution question complicates effective policy response but doesn't need to
- SOE exacerbate pressures on biodiversity; land use change, population growth
- Main priorities:
  - Land use change
  - Population, cost and loss of livelihoods, development
  - Health losses caused by loss *or change* of biodiversity. Examples of medicines and deforestation.
  - Ecosystem services
  - Coastal degradation; coral reef, coastal waters, mangroves.
- Fragmentation of ecosystems and knock off effects for other sectors and key industries i.e. tourism
- Resilience and integration of management and policy
- Policy perspective – the difficulty of planning so far ahead as DMs only able to look ahead 4 or 5 years. But essential so as to avoid certain tipping points in loss of biodiversity.
- Long term planning vs. short term needs of communities

# Shared Experiences

- Coral degradation and impact on tourism in Sri Lanka
- 80% bleaching of coral in Andaman Sea, Thailand but recovered. Recovery depends on how long and how hot. Also extensive in the Maldives.
- Acidification does structural damage to the coral, less resilient. Marine Report Card for Australia is a comprehensive look at the whole system.
- Bangladesh – loss (and extinction) of birds and fish in the last 20 years.
- Russia – migratory birds took off on foot because they were not old enough to fly.
- Thailand – season shift affecting biodiversity, affecting staples.

# Potential Responses

- Attribution and disaggregation of impacts in policy responses. In reality, adaptation is multi-aim and responses should be integrated enough that attribution is not a paralysing issue.
- Multi sectoral approach across institutions and cross ministries, interdisciplinary.
- Governance analysis and refinement
- Indigenous and community knowledge for frameworks - CARE and Save the Children, communities responding to the losses as they occur
- Private sector involvement and the links with public sector – i.e market mechanisms
- Financial instruments – social / environmental bonds, sustainable finance tools
- Converting intangible value of biodiversity into visible value
- Education & awareness (democratisation of science, economic opportunities and availability of data)
- Evidence-based policies and activities
- Economic and gender empowerment and increased opportunities within communities to allow their response
- Reduce existing vulnerabilities i.e. strengthen systems
- Iterative management process – strong lesson learning, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder knowledge, **even more important for SOEs**