

Increasing Mitigation Ambition: Upward Spiral

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Increasing Mitigation Ambition

Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Small Pacific atoll nation
- Average height is less than 2M
- Development challenges



Costs of Inadequate Ambition

Risks to Statehood & Security

UN Security Council “expresses its concern that possible **security implications of loss of territory** of some States caused by sea-level rise may arise, in particular in small low-lying island States” S/PRST/2011/15

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon “sea-level rise presents the **ultimate security threat**, jeopardizing the very existence of small low-lying countries... some face the prospect of complete submersion with the resultant **threat of statelessness** to their populations.” A/64/350 (2009)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres “Where will these people go if and when it becomes impossible for them to remain in their own country? **Is the world ready to accept the idea of a State without a territory?**” (November 2011)



Playing Our Role Already

All Parties to UNFCCC have legal obligations to reduce emissions

Marshall Islands NAMA – National Energy Plan 2020 goals

- 20% proven renewables
- 30% supply-side efficiency
- 20% demand-side efficiency
- 20% reduction in imported transport fuels
- Should result in a 40% CO₂ emissions reduction goal (initial focus in energy sector)
- Already realizing dramatic results
- Sustainable development benefits from energy security and an ambitious low-carbon pathway



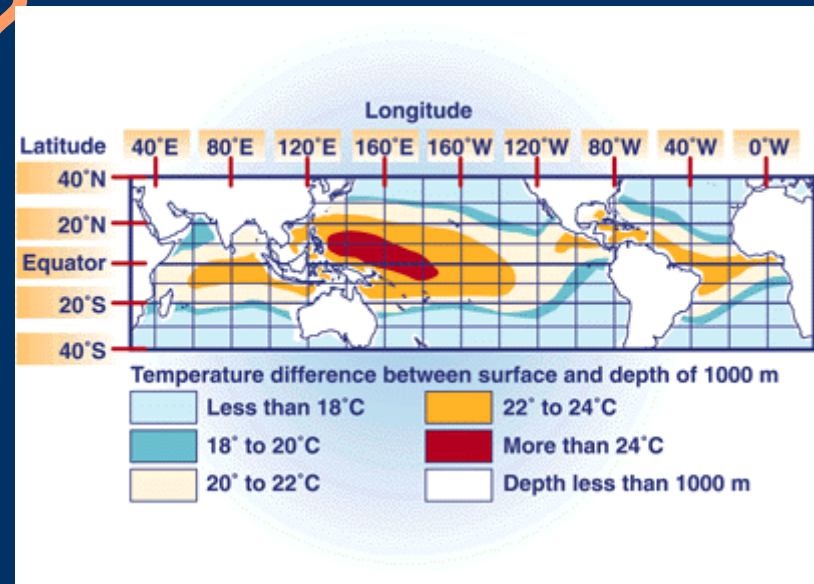
How can mitigation effort be enhanced?

- “Transformational global effort” needed to address emissions gap – narrow window for action
 - Addressing short-term forcers at the Montreal Protocol MOP
 - Addressing maritime sector emissions at IMO (beyond technical / operational measures)
 - Account for non-party actors with substantial emissions (and plans to reduce)
 - Improved national actions to address emissions – we need to spur a “game changer” in political will – and technological innovation
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How can the Marshall Islands “over-perform”?

What else could happen by 2020?

- Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)
- Relies on high temperature difference between deep sea and sea surface
- 10 / 60 / 125 MW options (hydrogen production)
- Can the Marshall Islands become a net exporter of renewables (carbon-negative) by 2020?
- Intensive Feasibility Study anticipated (2012)
- Issues of investment/finance, design and technology need closer study – but initial projections are positive



Views on the Workplan

- International community must address further GHG emissions action to reduce dangerous risks
 - Some risks are already “beyond adaptation” - a global “step change” is needed to address emissions gap
 - Upward spiral of mitigation ambition
 - Use lessons from initial pre-2020 discussion to inform a 2015 ADP agreement (a continuum)
 - Focus on where more ambition is possible (remove ranges and conditions, and new targets), the potential to over-perform and specific barriers
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