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
The Context - Location

[Map showing Caribbean islands and island groups]
SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

The Context

- Size - 345 sq. km (133 sq. miles)


- GDP (2005) – $1279.70 M (US$479M)


- 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
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**

Legend:
- Red: cnt 0-5
- Blue: cnt10
- Purple: cnt15
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

  - 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

THANK YOU !!!
Challenges And Opportunities In Responding To Climate Change

A SMALL ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

Leon Charles
Climate Change Project Coordinator, Grenada