



Integrating Climate Change into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Adaptive Management

***Regional Capacity Development Workshop for the
Caribbean on National Biodiversity Strategies and
Actions Plans, Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and
Integration of Climate Change 3-7 November
2008***

Donna McRae Smith
Environment and Sustainable Development Programme
CARICOM Secretariat

Importance of NBSAPs

- Parties hold primary responsibility for implementation
- NBSAPs are central to achieving the objectives of the Convention
- These are the vehicles which drive the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at the national level.

CBD Programmes of Work

- Agricultural biodiversity
- Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands
- Forest Biological Diversity
- Inland Water Biodiversity
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Mountain Biodiversity
- Island Biodiversity

Conference of the Parties (2002)

- Adopted a Strategic Plan “to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth”.

Framework of Focal Areas for implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan

- Reducing the rate of loss of the components of biodiversity, including (i) biomes, (ii) habitats and ecosystems, (iii) genetic diversity
- Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity
- Addressing the major threats to biodiversity, including those arising from invasive alien species, **climate change**, pollution and habitat change
- Maintaining ecosystem integrity, and the provision of goods and services provided by biodiversity in ecosystems, in support of human well-being
- Protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices
- Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources
- Mobilising financial and technical resources, esp. for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states among them, and countries with economies in transition.

Headline Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Biodiversity Targets

- **Status and trends of the components of biological diversity**
 - Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
 - Change in status of threatened species
 - Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance
 - Coverage of protected areas
- **Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services**
 - Marine trophic index
 - Connectivity – fragmentation of ecosystems
 - Water quality of aquatic ecosystems
- **Threats to biodiversity**
 - Nitrogen deposition
 - Trends in invasive alien species
- **Sustainable use**
 - Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management
 - Ecological footprints and related concepts
- **Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices**
 - Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
- **Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources**
 - Indicator of access and benefit-sharing to be developed
- **Status of resource transfers**
 - Official development assistance (ODA) provided in support of the Convention

Projected Impacts of Climate Change on Caribbean small island and low-lying coastal states

- Sea level rise
- Increasing air temperatures
- Increasing water temperatures
- Changing precipitation patterns
- Increase in number and intensity of tropical storms/hurricanes



Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives

- 1997 – 2001 The Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project (Build capacity for vulnerability assessment, and monitoring)
- 2001 – 2004 The Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean Project (further capacity building)
- **2002 – 2004 Establishment of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre**
- 2004 – 2008 The Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project (Mainstreaming adaptation into National Development Plans)
- 2006 – 2010 The Special Pilot Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) Project (Implementation of adaptation measures)

Adaptation

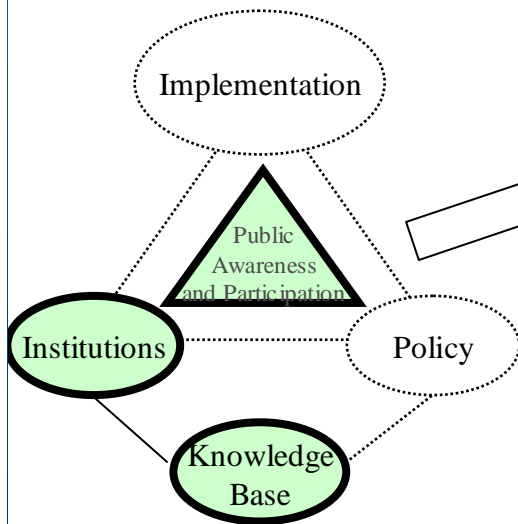
MACC

Creating an enabling environment for adaptation

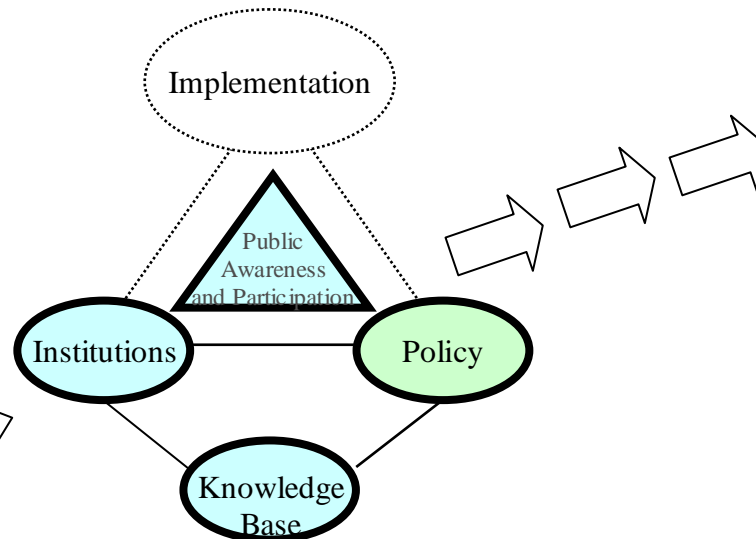
SPACC

CPACC

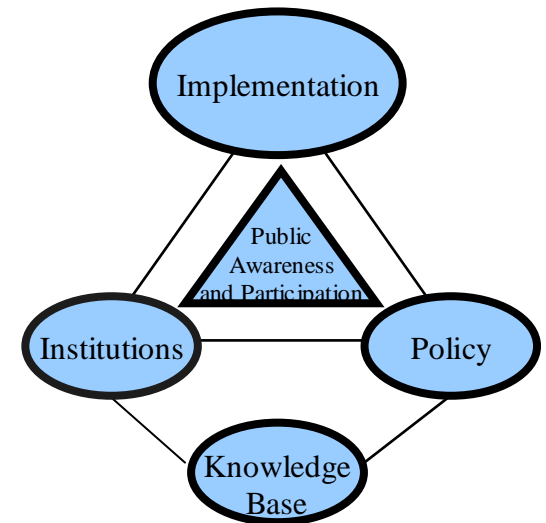
Building awareness and strengthening knowledge base



- Building Awareness.
- Building monitoring and analysis capability
- Building planning capacity in institutions



- Developing national policy framework for adaptation.
- Mainstreaming climate change issues into key sector activities.
- Preparation of pilot adaptation projects.
- Further strengthening of awareness and participation.
- Further strengthening of knowledge base



- Policy framework for adaptation in place
- Projects being implemented.
- Awareness and participation high.
- Monitoring, analysis and planning integrated throughout all national and sectoral planning.

What is Adaptive Management (AM)?

- AM is a form of management which facilitates responding to uncertainties and utilises the method of “learning by doing” or research feedback.
- Measures may need to be taken even when some cause and effect relationships are not yet fully established scientifically
- Implementation programmes should be designed to adjust to the unexpected, rather than to take action on the basis of certainties

Ecosystem Approach and Adaptive Management

- Processes and functions are complex and variable
- Level of uncertainty increases with interaction with social constructs
- Ecosystem approach requires adaptive management to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and the absence of complete knowledge or understanding of their functioning
- Ecosystem management should recognise the diversity of social and cultural factors affecting natural resource use and sustainability

NBSAPs and Adaptive Management

- Need to create room for flexibility in policy-making and implementation in NBSAPs
- Inflexible decisions are likely to be inadequate or sometimes destructive
- Implementing AM in relation to biodiversity and climate change will require the active cooperation of all stakeholders in both areas.
- The Convention also requires that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity be integrated as far as possible into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Some Key Sectors/Areas for Engagement in the Caribbean

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Tourism
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Water management
- Disaster management



Thank You!



Contact: dms@caricom.org

Website: www.caricom.org