

16th Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change

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Linking Adaptation to Climate Change with Development Policy

- We are reluctant to use the word “mainstreaming” as it has been used in a political context in climate change negotiations for two purposes:

Linking Adaptation to Climate Change with Development Policy

1. **To apply additional conditionality to adaptation funding:** the word “mainstreaming” has been linked to adaptation, sustainable development strategies and poverty alleviation strategic plans. This is unnecessary conditionality being placed on **adaptation funding**.

Linking Adaptation to Climate Change with Development Policy

2. To mean that no new funding will be provided:

Mainstreaming is also used to link adaptation planning with sustainable development planning and poverty alleviation planning in such a way so that donor countries can use their existing ODA to fund adaptation projects. This means that the current ODA budgets are being used to fund adaptation.

Adaptation in PICs is an Urgent Need

- **By acting now to reduce communities' vulnerability to current climate related risks should place us in a better position to cope with future climatic changes. (Studies on how changes in climate could impact the economy[1] of Pacific Island countries noted that failure to adapt now could lead to high social and economic costs in the future.**
- **Failure to act now could also result in loss of opportunities to act in the future when the impacts may be greater and time to consider options limited.**

[1] World Bank Report 2000a. Cities, Seas and Storms: Managing Change in Pacific Islands Economies. Volume IV: Adapting to Climate Change. Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands Unit. The World Bank. Washington, D.C. November 13, 2000.

Case of Tuvalu

- Adaptation planning is vitally important for Tuvalu because of its extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- The highest point above sea level for the entire nation is only 4m. (on average it is less than 2m above sea level)
- Eventually sea level rise will cause entire islands to disappear.

Impacts of climate change

1. Severe weather events

Cyclones can have a devastating effect on Tuvalu. In 1972 Cyclone Bebe hit Tuvalu causing massive damage. Massive waves washed across islands, destroying nearly every building on the island of Funafuti.



Remaining of Hurricane Bebe on Funafuti Island

Impacts of climate change

2. Coral bleaching:

Ocean warming is also affecting coral reefs. Once the ocean temperature reaches 1 deg above its normal temperature for any length of time, coral starts to die. Severe coral bleaching has already occurred in the Pacific in countries like Palau and Fiji.

Impacts of climate change

3. Ocean acidification

This weakens the calcium carbonate that makes up the skeletons of coral and the shells of shellfish. This will make coral reefs too weak to resist the impacts of large storms.

Impacts of climate change

4. Drought

Changing weather patterns may mean that Tuvalu will be affected by longer drought periods making freshwater more scarce.

Linking Adaptation to Climate Change with Development Policy

The nation's survival rests on taking action to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Therefore 'linking adaptation to development planning' is essential.

Te Kaaakega II: National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2005 – 2015

ENVIRONMENT

Key Policy Objectives

- Stop unregulated development and degradation of the environment (esp Funafuti)
- Increase the number of marine and terrestrial conservation
- *Minimize climate change impacts*

Key Challenges

- the numerous issues arising from the growing urbanisation of Funafuti
- *The national impacts associated with climate change and sea level rise*

Te Kaaakega II: National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2005 – 2015

ENVIRONMENT

Priorities and Strategies

- Develop and implement an urban and waste mgt plan for Funafuti
- Establish national climate change adaptation and mitigation policies
- Encourage international adoption of Multilateral Environment Agreements, including Kyoto Protocol
- Increase the number of conservation areas and ensure regulatory compliance

National Blueprint to Address Climate Change

- Developed in February 2006
- Stakeholders involved: MPs, GO, CBO, NGO, Public Sector, Societies
- Seen as a follow up to the development of Te Kakeega II (Tuvalu's National Sustainable Development Strategy) and as such, became part of Tuvalu's overall development strategy.

National Blueprint to Address Climate Change

Examples taken from the Blueprint:

Water Security

- Need for policies/legislations and enforcements— water storage (e.g. ensure individual underground storage), usage and conservation, protection of groundwater

Education and Capacity Building

- Formal education- Quality education, esp. by improving the science curriculum to identify better adaptation options. Education offers security for the future, and can have additional benefits of remittances (as people work off shore, sports) that can be used to improve the life style/help adapt.

Examples taken from the Blueprint:

Conservation

- Restoration methods – Coral cultivations, increase planting of mangroves (planting and replanting). Need for more money to spread mangrove replanting project beyond the current 3 islands. Department of Agriculture to play a stronger role.

Land Security

- Sea walls- better designs, wave breakers as alternatives to sea walls, - good engineers

Food security/ traditional foods

- Promote cultivation of local food crops and livestock farming

Participation at International Meetings

- Voice must be heard at bilateral, regional and international levels

Technology

- Need monitoring equipment for meteorology activities and communication, not only for Funafuti but the whole country.

Examples taken from the Blueprint:

Energy

- We need to look at the economic costs and benefits of renewable energy, we need to do a full cost analysis (also taking into account the social and environmental costs and benefits)

Disaster Management

- Disaster management – need GIS mapping (SOPAC) – identify the most vulnerable areas – relocate. Hazard maps and Quickbird satellite images can be used to identify very vulnerable people and areas on each island.

Funding

- Need for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding guidelines to change to more accessible

Community participation/awareness:

- National assessments and other documents on climate change should be made more accessible to the public (eg national strategies)

Other

- Be wary of side line initiatives – nuclear, Asia Pacific Initiative on Climate and Sustainable Development

Thank you for your patience