



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Government of the Cook Islands

**Adaptation Concerns in Development Planning and
Operation (Sector)**

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A small islands developing
state (SIDS)

Total land area of 240 square km

*Combined land and EEZ area of
2.2 million square km*

Real GDP \$223 million

Population: 19,000

Key Economic Sectors:

Tourism

Services

Fisheries and Pearls

Infrastructure and Construction

Agriculture



Climate Change and Adaptation in the Cook Islands

- Signed the UNFCCC in 1992
- Signed Kyoto Protocol in 2001

HOWEVER:

- Cook Islands has limited capacity for adaptation

NEEDS:

- International Support and relationships to leverage ongoing adaptation support, new and additional resources, share experiences and understanding of scientific and technical issues

Climate Change Issues of Concern to the Cook Islands

- Environmental Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Social Impacts
- Full costs of adaptation not always clear
- Diseconomies of scale that exists in climate change proofing and adaptation, especially in the Outer Islands
- Climate change is expected to exacerbate and lead to increased costs of future climatic shifts
- Limited local capacities to deal with impacts
- High costs and limited availability of adaptation and mitigation technology

Geoff Mackley



National Climate Change Programmes

- **National Climate Change Country Team (NCCCT)**
 - Multi-stakeholder country team approach
 - Understanding systems and parameters influenced by climate change (economic growth, physical infrastructure investments, natural ecosystems, utilization of natural resources, coastal systems, community security, health, energy demand, food security)
- **On-going Capacity Building**
 - Training in Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment
 - Experience from studies and pilot projects in adaptation (CBDAMPIC, AIACC, CLIMAP, PICCAP, PI-GCOS, etc...)
- **Development of related plans, policies and regulations**



ADAPTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND OPERATION

National Sustainable Development Plan 2007-2010

Strategic Goal 6

“A safe, secure and resilient community”

- An integration of climate change into national planning
 - Disaster preparedness, enhancing resilience to changing climatic conditions, plans, policies and legislation to ensure the achievement of goal 6

ADAPTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND OPERATION

20 year Preventative Infrastructure Master Plan

- Incorporates climate change adaptation and mitigation concepts into national infrastructure development
- Focus on climate proofing infrastructure development to preserve the environment and protect the islands from climate change impacts and to provide minimum levels of service in the water, sanitation, energy, telecommunications and transport sectors

Planning, Policy and Regulatory Environment

- The overarching National Sustainable Development Plan 2007-2010
- Preventative Infrastructure Master Plan
- Environment Act 2003 and National Environment Strategic Action Framework
- Policy, regulation and legislation development in:
 - Disaster risk management
 - Building standards
 - Land use and management
 - Water resources
 - Transport
 - Energy (fossil and renewable)
 - Agriculture
 - Marine Resources and Fisheries
 - Public Health
 - Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Development

Institutional Support (Governance and Implementation)

Coordinated and Cooperative Approach

- National Climate Change Country Team
- Central Policy and Planning Office of the Office of the Prime Minister
- National Environment Service
- Metrological Service
- Ministry of Works
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Marine Resources
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Police
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
- Emergency Management Cook Islands
- Development Partners
- Non-Government Organizations
- Private Sector
- Civil Society

- Implementation of in country climate change/adaptation/mitigation programmes
- Establishment of early warning systems
- Risk reduction measures
- Research
- Monitoring Systems

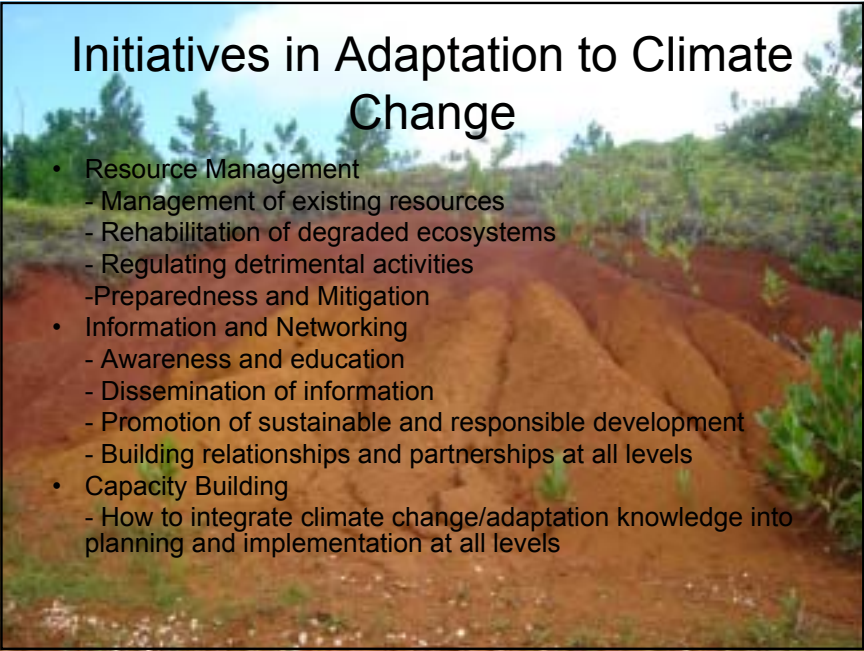
Climate Proofing in National Development Initiatives

Acceptable level of risk and least cost design and implementation

- Climate Risk Profiling (preliminary scoping of projects)
 - Climate change considerations

Climate change is expected to exacerbate and lead to increased costs of future climatic shifts, temperature, rainfall, sea level rise, extreme events, etc.

- Adaptation Brief (concept information, feasibility/assessment)
 - Sustainable development consideration



Initiatives in Adaptation to Climate Change

- Resource Management
 - Management of existing resources
 - Rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems
 - Regulating detrimental activities
 - Preparedness and Mitigation
- Information and Networking
 - Awareness and education
 - Dissemination of information
 - Promotion of sustainable and responsible development
 - Building relationships and partnerships at all levels
- Capacity Building
 - How to integrate climate change/adaptation knowledge into planning and implementation at all levels



KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- Major policy gaps
- Major regulations and legislative gaps
- Limited Policy and Planning capacities impacting on design and implementation of programmes
- The importance of a coordinated approach
- The value of continuous awareness, information sharing and linkages at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Learning how to integrate climate change/adaptation/mitigation into national development

Future Trends for Adaptation in Planning

- Maintain working relationships with key stakeholders at community, sectoral, national and global interfaces
- Continue to address the major gaps that exist in capacity (technology, governance, and implementation)
- Continue to address major gaps in planning and policy, regulations and legislation
- Enhance systematic implementation of climate proofing measures to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change

Thank you

Meitaki Maata

Kia Manuia