



# Climate Variability & Change



*ARE OUR LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS READY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?*



**5TH CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM & EXHIBITION  
MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA**

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# Context of the Discussion



- Kyoto/Copenhagen Accord Obligations
- Actions required of Caribbean countries
- Share perspective on existing challenges
- Provoke thinking on how opportunities may be seized





# Background & Overall Objective



- Physical Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Water and food security, damage to infrastructure, health concerns, biodiversity –
- **Entire national development framework**



# Key Obligations



- Overall objective: Limit temperature increase to below 2 degrees
- Strategies
- Global: Complex Market-based Mechanisms
- Developed countries
- Financing to developing countries to control emissions
- Developing countries
- Mitigate and adapt to effects of climate change : Expensive



# Developed Countries' Responses



- Major Institutional Shift:
  1. US - Commissioner of Economic Development in Dept. of Environmental Protection, Cap & Trade Legislation
  2. UK - Dept. of Energy & *Climate*
  3. Denmark & EU - Ministry of *Climate* & Energy
- Signals the strong link between climate & development



# Caribbean Response



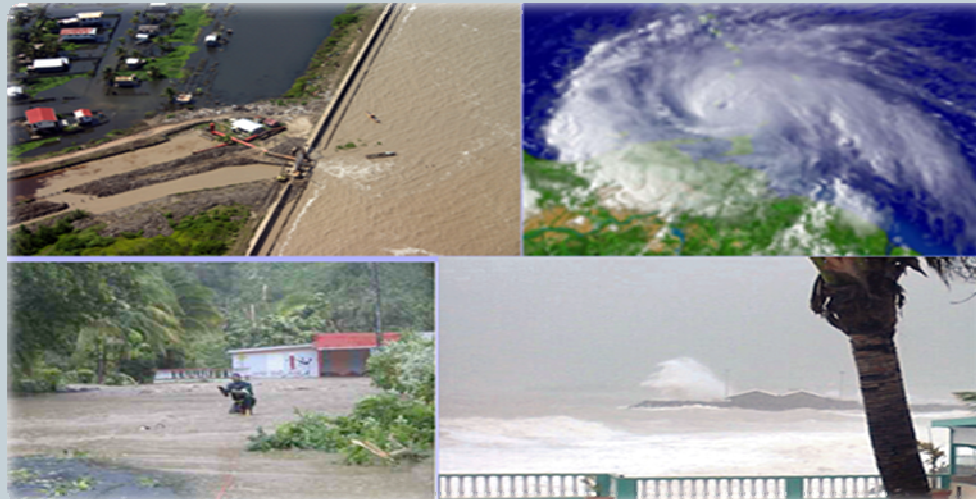
- 1997 CPACC/MACC
  - calculated potential losses
  - developed portfolio of adaptation projects
- 2008 SPACC
  - approach to mainstreaming climate into national development
  - recognised need for institutional arrangements that marry climate and development



# National Response Arrangements



- Laws & institutions set in pre-climate era
- Climate managed within environmental agencies
- Duty to coordinate environmental functions
- Inability to maintain focus on issues





# What is our best venue?



- One that:
  - can mobilise & filter adaptation measures down the ranks of line agencies (coordinating function)
  - has specialised knowledge and expertise
  - has high level leverage over other entities (e.g. Kiribati)
  - flexibility to respond to learning curve



# Possible Options



- Climate Board/Committee/Commission within environmental entity
- Establish Ministry of Climate
- Appoint specialised Board within Ministry of Climate
- Hold on legislation- establish clear policy



# Conclusion



*"Climate change will ultimately influence the extent to which we pursue sustainable development"*

- Hon. Stephenson King

Prime Minister of St. Lucia & CARICOM Head of Government for Sustainable Development

- Climate change presents an opportunity for us to revisit the benefits that we can derive under UNFCCC
- Let it not be a missed opportunity!

# Thank You



Judy Daniel

Environmental Advisors Inc.

[jdaniel@environmentaladv.com](mailto:jdaniel@environmentaladv.com)

[judidani@aol.com](mailto:judidani@aol.com)