

The Placencia Ambition Forum

Breakout Group: Enhancing Action in Adaptation and Resilience

Small island developing states (SIDS) are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and are experiencing these impacts at an unprecedented scale. As the most recent reports of the IPCC indicate, SIDS are at the brink of an existential threat.

The Special Report on 1.5°C projects that the risks of climate change are more significant than previously assessed with substantial differences between 1.5°C and 2°C for small islands. In the same vein, the Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere (SROC) also projects that SIDS will experience historical centennial extreme sea level events at least annually by 2050 and reach limits of adaptation in the second half of the century, speaking thus to the Loss and Damage that will be inflicted upon SIDS if we do not act now to limit warming to 1.5°C. The SROC also shows how small islands at the front line of climate change are in urgent need of assistance in order to adapt to the impacts of rising sea levels. The report estimates that the annual coastal adaptation costs for some small island states will amount to several percent of GDP over the 21st century, clearly showing that SIDS will require substantial upscaling of means of implementation and support including climate finance in order to address the immediate threat posed by a changing climate and a changing ocean.

Given the need for extensive adaptation to establish resilient SIDS in the face of climate change, this session will consider effective adaptation planning, stakeholder engagement, implementation and monitoring, and how these approaches inform ongoing adaptation strategies. Lessons learned will inform options for strengthening partnerships and investments to support greater adaptation ambition.

Objectives

- Identify adaptation approaches and the challenges and opportunities to support and implement projects.
- Consider successes and failures in adaptation planning and implementation, and how these can inform ongoing adaptation strategies.
- Highlight connections between sectors and strategies to enable holistic action.
- Strengthen partnerships and ambition across AOSIS and beyond.

High-level Panel and Participants

Monday 20 April 2020 (1715 New York // 2215 London // 0915(+1) Auckland)

Caribbean, Americas & Pacific

Time	Country	Speaker and organization	
5 min	Facilitator	James Fletcher, Soloricon Ltd., Saint Lucia (confirmed)	Introduction
5-7 min	Antigua and Barbuda	Diann Black-Layne, Ambassador, Director, Department of the Environment, Ministry of Health and the Environment (confirmed)	The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is committed to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change consistent with the Paris Agreement (a.7.1). A GCF funded readiness project is intended to achieve this goal by engaging in adaptation planning processes and supporting implementation by developing national climate assessments with climate resilient sector plans for 6 sectors, synthesizing priority actions into a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and conducting technical studies in preparation for implementation of new climate regulations. The overall outcome is to make financing flows consistent with a pathway towards climate- resilient development in Antigua and Barbuda. A&B will share her experience with the planning process, stakeholder consultations, and the lessons learned that can help inform other country's adaptation processes.
5-7 min	Kiribati	Mr. Choi Yeeting, Senior Policy Advisor, National Climate Change Coordinator (confirmed)	Pacific island nations are among the world's most physically and economically vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events like floods, earthquakes and tropical cyclones. Much of Kiribati, a collection of 33 coral atolls and reef islands scattered across a swath of the Pacific Ocean about twice the size of Alaska, lies no higher than six feet above sea level. The onslaught of environmental problems linked to climate change could render part of its territories uninhabitable within decades. Half of the 6,500-person village of Bikenibeu, for instance, could be inundated by 2050 by sea-level rises and storm surges. Kiribati will highlight its approach to adaptation in the prospect of the existential threat of climate change. It will address the successes and failures in adaptation planning and implementation. It will identify where support is needed.
5-7 min	Dominica	Dr. Pepukaye Bardouille, Chief Executive Officer, Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (confirmed)	Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria on the island of Dominica, the Government established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD). CREAD leads and coordinates strategic initiatives across sectors in the Commonwealth of Dominica with the goal of making the country the world's first climate resilient nation. It spearheaded the

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			development of the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan. Dominica's unique approach and high ambition could be a new model for SIDS and other vulnerable countries to raise adaptation ambition. Dominica will introduce its approach, how it enables holistic action across government and ensures transparent monitoring and implementation.
5-7 min	Republic of the Marshall Islands	Kristina Stege, RMI Climate Envoy (confirmed)	The RMI is the first nation to submit a second NDC and the first SIDS to create a mid-century strategy. To support implementation of its NDC, the RMI has established an NDC Partnership Plan which includes priority adaptation outputs/activities for implementation and support. The RMI will present on its experience in the process of identification of adaptation priorities and the transition to programme formulation and access to funding.
5-7 min	Chile	Maria Carolina, Urmeneta Labarca, Head of the Climate Change Division, Ministry of the Environment (confirmed)	Chile formally submitted its updated NDC on 9 April making it the only country in Latin America to submit an updated climate action commitment as required by the Paris Agreement. The NDC has been hailed as progressive and with its release occurring in the midst of COVID-19, an important message to the global community of the urgency of addressing the climate challenge. The NDC maintains the commitment of updating and implementing the country's National Adaptation Plan. It also lays out a timeline for completing or updating adaptation plans for eleven priority sectors, developing vulnerability maps, and enhancing adaptation capacities in different regions, among other things. As part of the NDCs social pillar component, Chile commits to guide the implementation of its NDC actions based on the following criteria: synergies with sustainable development goals, just transition needs, water security, gender equity, nature-based solutions, inclusion of indigenous and other traditional knowledge, public participation, and cost efficiency. Specifically, Chile will establish a mechanism to measure, report and verify that these criteria are applied and will finalize a Just Transition Strategy by 2021. Chile will share insight into the adaptation components of its NDC and its approach to inclusive and transparent monitoring of implementation.
30 min	Facilitated Dialogue	James Fletcher (Facilitator) Discussants: Representative of indigenous peoples and local communities (<i>pending</i> – Ms. Andrea Carmen) Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh, Head, Multilateral	Facilitated dialogue aimed at answering the following questions: 1. How are adaptation priorities identified / determined? (Planning) 2. How are adaptation priorities being addressed across sectors and strategies? (Planning) 3. How are stakeholders identified and what are their roles from planning through to implementation (include efforts taken to engage vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities)? (Process)

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		<p>Environment Agreements Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development, Environmental Policy and Planning Division</p> <p>Johanna Pacheco, Adaptation Officer, National Climate Change Office, Belize</p> <p>Espen Ronenberg, Climate Advisor, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme</p> <p>Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director Caribbean Natural Resources Institute</p> <p>Yamide Dagnet, WRI</p> <p>Courtney Dunham, PEW</p> <p>*Panelists *Participants *Scientist/practitioners</p>	<p>4. What has been the country or sub-national experience with programme formulation and access to funding? (Funding)</p> <p>5. What are the mechanisms to adaptively manage, monitor and evaluate adaptation projects? (Implementation)</p>
5 min	Saint Lucia	James Fletcher	Wrap-up

High-level Panel and Participants

Tuesday 21 April 2020 (0430 New York // 0930 London // 2030 Auckland)

Africa, Indian and South China Seas, Europe

Time	Country	Speaker and organization	
5 min	Facilitator	Emily Wilkinson, Senior Research Fellow in the Risk and Resilience Programme at the	Introduction

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		Overseas Development Institute, a Knowledge Exchange Fellow of the UK Natural Environment Research Council and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (confirmed)	
5-7 min	Mauritius	Satyanand Buskalawa, and Mr. Jaques Rudy Oh Seng, Senior Environment Officers, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Enhancing adaptive capacity is critical for the SIDS if they are to meet the challenges of projected climate change and sea level rise. Yet climate change is just one of many pressing problems – all of which often compete for the slender resources available. Under these circumstances, the Republic of Mauritius recognised that progress in adaptation to climate change will almost certainly require the integration of appropriate risk reduction strategies with other sectoral policy initiatives in areas such as sustainable development planning, disaster prevention and management, integrated coastal management and healthcare planning. The Republic of Mauritius has brought several policy initiatives and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.
5-7 min	Angola	Cecilia Silva Bernardo, Head, Head of Climate Change Vulnerabilities Department of the Ministry of Environment in Angola, LDC negotiator for adaptation and Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee	Highlight Angola's experience with adaptation planning.
5-7 min	Maldives	Mareer Mohamed Husny, Resilient Island Initiative, Assistant Director, Climate Change Division, Ministry of the Environment (confirmed)	Maldives spearheaded the Resilient Island Initiative which was presented as a part of the SIDS Ambition Package to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit. The presenter will highlight the features of the Forum and how it can support planning processes.
5-7 min	The Gambia	Bubu Pateh Jallow, Chief Technical Advisor for The Gambia/GCF Ecosystem-based Adaptation project (tentative)	Large-scale ecosystem adaptation is necessary to build climate resilience of rural Gambian communities, whose livelihoods are threatened by the impacts of climate change. In order to respond to this threat, The Gambia is transitioning towards a sustainable green economy based on climate-resilient livelihoods and rigorous, evidence-based management of natural resources. Implementing

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		<p>Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is a significant part of this strategy, and its implementation will be enabled through the GCF investment. EbA will both protect the environment and facilitate the development of the sustainable, natural resource-based economy to the benefit of local communities. EbA will be integrated into planning at national, district and village levels. Agricultural landscapes and degraded ecosystems including forests, mangroves and savannahs will be restored using climate-resilient tree and shrub species across an area of at least 10,000 hectares. This will be complemented by the establishment of natural resource-based businesses managed by local communities. The presentation will highlight the experience with implementation of this project and lessons learned for promoting local stakeholder engagement.</p>
5-7 min	Senegal	<p>Madeleine Douff Sarr, Director of Environment and Climate Change Division, Ministry of the Environment (confirmed)</p> <p>Senegal will share its approach to national adaptation planning under the regional project on science based support to National Adaptation Planning processes in francophone Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of sub-saharan Africa. Lessons learned from the four main fields of activity under this project will be highlighted: 1) Strengthening governments' coordination capacities for shaping and implementing NAP processes; 2) Consolidating necessary scientific information; 3) Improving access to funding for the priorities identified under the NAP process; and 4) Establishing a regional francophone exchange platform and feeding the project results into the international climate debate.</p>
5-7 min	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCATT)	<p>Angelique Pouponneau, Chief Executive Officer (confirmed)</p> <p>NatureVest, the conservation investing unit of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), structured a groundbreaking debt conversion for marine conservation and climate adaptation with the Seychelles government. TNC created the SeyCATT to raise grant and loan capital for the debt conversion and, in exchange, the Seychelles government committed to improved policies and increased investment around marine conservation and climate adaptation. The trust extended a specific-purpose loan to the Seychelles government to purchase USD 21.6M of its sovereign debt at a discount. The debt conversion effectively redirects the Seychelles' debt payments from official creditors to the newly created local trust, and restructures debt payments to more favourable terms (i.e., longer term and partial conversion to local currency). The trust will use the Seychelles' debt payments to (1) repay the initial capital raised, and (2) fund ongoing marine conservation and climate adaptation programming. The debt conversion is expected to contribute to the creation of the Indian Ocean's second largest marine reserve. SeyCATT will highlight its experience with the debt conversion instrument as an</p>

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			innovative finance model to support climate adaptation programming and access to funding.
30 min	Facilitated Dialogue	<p>Emily Wilkinson (Facilitator)</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Ms. Hindou Oumar Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad; UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate (confirmed)</p> <p>*Panelists *Participants *Scientists/practitioners</p>	<p>Facilitated dialogue aimed at answering the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are adaptation priorities identified / determined? (Planning) 2. How are adaptation priorities being addressed across sectors and strategies? (Planning) 3. How are stakeholders identified and what are their roles from planning through to implementation (include efforts taken to engage vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities)? (Process) 4. What has been the country or sub-national experience with programme formulation and access to funding? (Funding) 5. What are the mechanisms to adaptively manage, monitor and evaluate adaptation projects? (Implementation)
5 min	Facilitator	Emily Wilkinson	Wrap-up