Climate Change
Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for Antigua and Barbuda

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Workshop on SNC and V&A
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Background

- 2001 INC established that Antigua and Barbuda characterized by high levels of vulnerability to climate change.
- Limited impact of INC at policy and technical levels – due to objective, institutional arrangements, and structure of INC.
Greater awareness now of climate change issues.

Strengthened institutional capacity for implementation through Environment Division.

Challenges for SNC include extending the analysis since the INC, and increasing relevance of the SNC to policy and technical processes.
Methodological Issues

- UNDP APF identified as a flexible approach that allows for appropriate blend of technical and policy orientation.
- Technical team assembled involving policy, climate, biodiversity, and economic expertise.
The APF emphasizes five major principles:

- Adaptation policies and measures should be assessed in a developmental context (i.e. they should be complementary to and/or consistent with sustainable development efforts);

- Adaptation to short term climate variability and extreme events are explicitly included as a step towards reducing vulnerability to long term climate change;
The Adaptation strategy and the process by which it is achieved are equally important;

Adaptation occurs at various levels within the society including at the local level;

An essential element of response to future climate change is building of capacity to deal with current climate.
The APF involves

- Defining the scope and design of the assessment
- Assessing vulnerability under current climate
- Characterizing future climate related risks
- Developing an Adaptation strategy
- Continuing the adaptation process
The intent is to review short term to medium term time horizons. This reflects popular and policy concerns:

1. Recognition of the inherent dynamics and uncertainties of any futures analysis and therefore the practicality of focusing on shorter time horizons;

2. That there are already changes in climatic conditions taking place at the local level;
3. The importance of early adaptation in reducing the likely impacts and costs of responding to climate change; and
4. The need to address vulnerabilities to existing climate as an integral element of responding to longer term climate change.
Sectoral Analysis

- Coastal zone including fisheries
- Water resources including forestry
- Tourism
- Human Health
- Agriculture
- Human settlements
The sectoral chapters basic structure:

- An overview of the sector.
- Current stresses and trends.
- Current adaptive capacity and strategies.
- Socio-economic and environmental scenarios.
- Future scenarios of climate change. Potential/likely impacts on the sector.
- Adaptation strategies and measures.
- Conclusion.
- New laboratory scientific research is not expected.
- An important component of the activity is to draw on available documentation including information and findings from other countries and regions relevant to the Antigua and Barbuda situation.
- The emphasis is also in drawing on indigenous knowledge and understanding as input to the assessment.
Conclusion

- Climate change will present major development challenges for Antigua and Barbuda.

- The SNC V&A report provides the principal opportunity to provide a policy relevant assessment of available scientific information on climate change in Antigua and Barbuda.
Aim is to enhance available documentation of climate change vulnerability and adaptation issues in Antigua and Barbuda.

Also intended to provide basis for policy and technical level information and guidance.

Thank you