



CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

“Keeping the Right Balance: Rising Above the Numbers”.

12th Annual

***Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism
Development***

April 3-6, 2011

***The Fairmont Southampton HOTEL,
Southampton, Bermuda***

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Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

Dependencies of Tourism in the Caribbean

- Equitable climate
- Tourism plant-
 - Hotels and other facilities
 - Infrastructure- airports, cruise ship berths, roads, coastal protection structures etc.
 - Natural amenities – beach, reefs, wetlands
 - Access to clean and adequate supply of water
 - Access to ready supply of energy
 - Financial services especially insurance
 - Healthy environment free from diseases
 - Adequate supplies of food
 - Social harmony

Recently released Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC concludes:

- Unequivocal evidence that the earth's temperature is rising and attributable to anthropogenic activities – **Green House Gases**
- **Rise in global temperatures** of between 2 -4.5 °C.
- Sea level rise of between 11 -77 cm.
- Changed weather patterns
- **More intense extremes –drought ,floods**
- **More intense hurricanes**

IMPACTS ON TOURISM

- Direct damage to tourism plant and natural resources
 - Coral reefs
 - Beaches
 - Loss of attractiveness of the region as a destination
 - Impacts on health – emergence of dengue, malaria, etc.
 - Reduced dive tourism if coral reefs are damaged
 - Milder Winters in the North
 - Loss of employment in the industry
 - Increased insurance costs for properties in vulnerable areas
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SEA LEVEL RISE(SLR)

- Impacts of SLR significant for all states (average capital costs of up to **48% of GDP in 2080**)
- Rebuild costs **disproportionately high for smaller island states**
- Rebuild costs of tourist resorts very high in many cases (average of up to **28% of GDP in 2080**)
- **Key infrastructure** (ports, airport and power plants) in most countries **vulnerable** to 1m SLR
- Impacts increase significantly from 2050 to 2080

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- Developing countries responsible for negligible percentage of global GHG emissions.
- They stand to bear the brunt of CC impacts because of their inherent vulnerability.
- They must insist on Mitigation (reducing GHG emissions) by the industrialized and large developing countries
- The region must “adapt” to climate change (take proactive action that would decrease climate change impacts).



LILLIENDALL DECLARATION

- **2. Adaptation** and capacity building must be prioritised and a formal and well financed framework established within and outside of the Convention, including the multi-window insurance facility, to address the immediate and urgent, as well as long term, adaptation needs of vulnerable countries, particularly the SIDS and the LDCs;
 - **3. The need** for financial support to SIDS to enhance their capacities to respond to the challenges brought on by climate change and to access the technologies that will be required to undertake needed mitigation actions and to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change;
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LILLIENDALL DECLARATION

- **7. Strong determination** to overcome technical, economic and policy barriers to facilitate the development, diffusion and deployment of appropriate and affordable low- and zero-emission technologies and renewable energy services; We also recognise the need for energy efficiency and conservation and the need for increased technical and financial support for the development of renewable energy in the Caribbean;
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REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- This framework is comprised of five key strategies and associated goals designed to significantly increase the resilience of the CARICOM economies:
 - 1. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies into the sustainable development agendas of CARICOM states.
 - 2. Promoting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, conservation, and switching to renewable energy sources.
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REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- 3. Encouraging action to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems in CARICOM countries to the impacts of a changing climate.
- 4. Promoting action to derive social, economic, and environmental benefits through the prudent management of standing forests in CARICOM countries

FINANCING CC ACTIONS

- COP meeting in Cancun agreed on financing for Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology Transfer, REDD+ and Capacity building.
 - Provision of \$10Bn US per year between 2010& 2012 – to be increased to \$100Bn US by 2020 – Fast Track Funds
 - In addition to other CC Funds established under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol
 - Under the latter Adaptation Fund established – PIOJ a National Implementing Entity – Proposals can be forwarded to Fund directly through the PIOJ.
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- COTED/COHSOD meeting in 2010 mandated the CCCCC to work with countries to develop a portfolio of national/regional projects for funding through “Fast Track” avenue.
 - Estimated that region could access about \$500M US per year to finance Adaptation/Mitigation projects .
 - Opportunity for Tourism sector to access these funds to start building climate resilience in the sector.
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SOME REGIONAL ACTION

- Retrofit hotel in Vieux Fort watershed
 - for greater water efficiency use
 - to recycle grey water which will be used for irrigation of grounds .
 - Lessen dependence on national supply system through the construction of water harvesting facilities
- Result in considerable savings to hotelier in costs for water, more reliable water supply, more water available for other competing demands in watershed.

SOME REGIONAL ACTION

- Carbon Neutral Destination (IDB/CCLCCC).
 - Energy audits on tourism plant in pilot countries – The Bahamas, T&T, Guyana and Belize.
 - Assessment of feasibility to retrofit and reduce Carbon footprint of facilities so that they conform to ISO standard for Carbon Neutrality
 - Design a financial mechanism to support financing the transformation.
 - Parallel activity also being pursued by the CHTA in some pilot countries in the Caribbean
 - Opportunity to reduce Carbon intensity of the tourism sector
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WAY FORWARD FOR THE REGIONAL TOURISM SECTOR

- Sustainable tourism thrust of regional industry in consonance with actions to mitigate climate change impacts
- Improve environmental performance of industry through benchmarking & eco-labeling e.g. through Green Globe 21 – includes GHG emissions as one of nine key indicators.
- Explore potential of tourists to participate in carbon offsetting schemes- Trees for Travelers, Climate Care, Business Enterprises for Sustainable Travel.

DECREASING TOURISM EMISSIONS FOOTPRINT

- Encourage green tourism
- Energy efficient building designs –cooling/light
- Water conservation – low flush toilets etc.
- Energy efficiency management practices
- Renewable energy use e.g. solar water heating
- Encourage use of energy efficient vehicles, cycling & activities that use less energy.
- Bear in mind that some countries thinking of an aviation tax – increased airfares disincentive for travel????

WAY FORWARD FOR THE REGIONAL TOURISM SECTOR

- More discriminatory approach to tourism destinations – “green tourism”- win-win situations for the Caribbean.
- Support the transition of the Caribbean region to become the worlds first “Carbon Neutral” tourism destination, thereby affording the region an unique labeling and branding platform that will support growth within the global eco-sensitive client market.

WAY FORWARD FOR THE REGIONAL TOURISM SECTOR

- Partnership with government to facilitate development of an enabling policy environment for sustainable tourism.
- Partnership with regional insurance companies, climate science community to better define future climate risks to which the region may be exposed in order to:
 - Provide a rational basis for the design of insurance instruments e.g. weather derivatives, catastrophe bonds, parametric insurance.
 - Provide the basis for incentives from the financial/government/insurance sectors for “smart development in the sector”

WAY FORWARD FOR THE REGIONAL TOURISM SECTOR

- Actions required for sustainable tourism are in many cases identical to those required to increase the resilience of the sector to the impacts of global climate change.
- CCCCC offers a partnership with the CTO and it's stakeholders to provide the sector with the information and capacity necessary for it to cope effectively with this emerging global environmental threat – climate change



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REGIONAL TOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

THANK YOU