

Climate change – Environment and Development Policies

Initial Vulnerability & Adaptation Workshop
2nd National Communication - UNFCCC

Ministry of Health and Environment
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Adaptation and Mitigation

- A portfolio of adaptation and mitigation measures can diminish the risks associated with climate change. Responses include:
 - purely technical (e.g. infrastructure defenses against sea level rise, improve water use efficiency, demand side management e.g. through metering and pricing)
 - Behavioral (e.g. altered food and recreational choices)
 - Managerial (e.g. altered farm practices)
 - Policy (e.g. planning regulations; building codes)
- Adaptation takes time to implement, so an early start is likely to yield more effective results.

(Dr. L. Nurse)

There are several policies and plans that will help with adaptation and mitigation

- **The Forest Policy and the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan**
- **The National Land Policy**
- **The Watersheds Policy**
- **The National Energy Sector Policy**
- **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**
- **National Hazard Mitigation Policy.**

There are several policies and plans that will help with adaptation and mitigation

- **GoJ continues to promote increased energy efficiency and development and use of renewable energy as a matter of priority**
- **Presently revising the building code**
- **Revising the planning framework to include parameters to deal with climate change**
- **Development of a Hazard Mitigation Policy which looks beyond the regular reactive mode**

Policy Recommendations - Mitigation example – from the Energy Policy

- *Contribution from renewable sources to the electricity sector will be increased from the current level of 6% up to 10 % by 2010 and 15% by 2020.*
- *Tax policies will be designed to encourage development of the renewable energy sector.*
- *The Government will encourage the local financial sector to provide funding.*
- *The Government will encourage the development of a domestic industry for the production of solar systems and biogas technologies.*
- *Through existing national institutions, the Government shall facilitate low cost funding for implementation of solar heating solutions at the household and institutional levels.*
- *The government will strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework and establish appropriate protocols to facilitate the development of the sector*

Projects

- **GEF/UNDP Project - Preparation of National Communication on Climate Change**
- **GEF/UNDP Project -Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC (1998-2001)**
- **GEF Project- Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC)- (2003-2008)**
- **The UNDP/GEF National Capacity Self Assessment Project (2004-2005)**
- **Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE) Regional climate change initiative**
- **UNDP/GEF Jamaica Climate Change Enabling Activity (JCCEA)**

Projects

Participation in the Clean Development Mechanism

- **Establishment of the Interim DNA in 2002**
- **Approval of the Wigton (20MW) Wind Wind Farm Project (JAMAICA/THE NETHERLANDS)**
- **Development of a Draft CDM Portfolio of Projects**
- **Development of draft sustainable development criteria**

Other Initiatives

- **Development of storm surge maps and multi-hazard assessment maps for Kingston**
- **Reliable Early Warning Systems for hurricanes and storm surges**
- **Technical Cooperation Agreement (JA/CUBA) for the Rehabilitation of the Palisadoes Road**

Spatial Planning

Considerations

- **Spatial planning at a local level has a critical anticipatory role to play in promoting robust adaptation. Hence, it should be absolutely clear that planners and politicians should put the implications of climate change at the top of the planning agenda, as this will be critical to the sustainability of developments and by extension economic success.**

Spatial Planning

- Since Development Plans/Orders determine the way that land is used and developed in the future, a significant contribution could be made towards influencing policy development.

Spatial Planning

- Result of Development Plan Consultation Draft should be underpinned by several climate change principles. The guiding principle for adaptation is to reduce risks from climate change by:
 - Guiding any new development to locations that best offer protection from the likely impacts – including flooding and drought, sea level rise, storminess, soil subsidence and heave and implications for supply and demand of essential services.
 - Ensuring that the design and layout of new developments (including buildings, open spaces and infrastructure) will be resilient or adaptable to the likely impacts during the development's lifetime.

Other means

- In addition to the planning system, a number of other mechanisms exist which contribute to delivering climate change adaptation. Building Regulations in particular have considerable scope to deliver climate change adapted buildings, and their role is likely to increase. In future there may also be an increasing role for fiscal incentives.

Spatial Planning - proposals

- Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should ensure that development plans contribute to global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change through policies which take climate change impacts into account in the location and design of development.

Spatial Planning - proposals

- **An assessment of old and new housing stock** especially those in dense urban centres could become useful as climate change could mean that
 - the development /settlement proves to be too uncomfortable to live or will require new approaches to dealing with the impact of climate change.
 - problems for neighbourhood development(s) could be exacerbated (e.g. Persistent flooding in Nightingale Grove) or there could be negative impact on industrial zones (e.g. Marcus Garvey Drive, Kingston) which would make areas too expensive to run and maintain, affordable insurance may no longer be available or insurance companies may withdraw coverage from high risk areas.

Global warming assessments

- Last year, the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change* found that the scientific evidence is now overwhelming that climate change is serious and demands an urgent response. If no action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, global temperatures could rise by 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels by 2035

Global warming assessments

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that if average global temperatures are allowed to rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels there will be
 - dangerous levels of climate change and a greatly increased risk of rising sea levels, drought, floods and extreme weather events.
 - disruptions to ecosystems which may be irreversible

National Development Plan 2030

- Aim to reach developed country status by 2030
- Review of obligations under international and regional action plans and programmes
- Opportunity for involvement of the wider society

National Development Plan 2030

- Sector plans include
 - natural resources and environmental management and hazard risk reduction and climate change
 - Urban planning and regional development
- Opportunity for integration of climate and adaptation concerns in development plans

Next steps

- Development of climate change action plan (proposed for 2008)
- Institutional focus – proposals for MLGE
- Synergy and coordination of agencies – national climate change committee
- Mechanism for consideration of recommendations from fora
- Mechanism for climate change issues review
- Review of existing policies and guidance to incorporate climate change ‘headroom’.

Recommendations

- Public awareness programme – including MPs
- Collaboration between academia and policy makers
- Local government level – parish development committees – role of mayors
- Action plans for adaptation
- Involvement of the private sector

Recommendations

- It will also be important to engage institutions and not merely personnel in climate change consultations to institutionalize operations so that momentum is not lost to exodus of individuals or absence of climate change projects.
- Provide updates of emerging findings and mandatory de-briefing of international and regional climate change meetings attended by country representatives will increase awareness, build capacity and increase ownership of the UNFCCC and national communication process.