FINANCING the RESILIENCE of SIDS

in collaboration with a UNDP initiative
Small Islands, Disappearing States

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Context / Background

• Coastal erosion due to sea level rise
  • Increased exposure of coastal infrastructure such as ports and roads
  • Saline intrusion of groundwater reservoirs

• Droughts and dry periods

• Livelihoods exposed to coastal hazards

• Earthquakes, volcanoes, floods

• Economic crises, trade wars, derisking and DDoS

• Need to build resilient communities, economies and livelihoods
Challenges for SIDS striving for the SDGs & the SAMOA Pathway

- Climate Effects for SIDS cannot be avoided; adaptation is key
- Climate will affect Goal 2 (Food).
- Economic transformation to a Green Economy with the need for increased markets for goods, services, and labour; regionality.
- Human and financial capacity for problem solving
How Universities help to build societal resilience

• Islands as Laboratories
  • for new energy solutions such as renewables

• Developing knowledge (research)
• Teaching
• Linking with policy

• Downscaling climate models for individual islands.
• Updating hazard maps to include climate projections
• Characterizing Climate impacts on:
  • Water
  • Livelihoods, especially in agriculture and tourism
  • Health.
Perceived Challenges

• Resilience and building back better
  • Back to where?
  • Cost benefit analysis
  • Risk management & the role of insurance

• Lack of data for policy actions – seismic risk, storm risk, floods etc

• Climate and other Hazards

• Lack of regional integration
  • Political & Language barriers
Possible Solutions / Identified ‘Best’ Practices

• Road to the airport in Samoa
  • Combination of BAU Government funds and climate funds to make it more resilient

• Private Sector use of solar and other alternative energy sources

• Training Small and medium sized businesses in business continuity – how to re-open as soon as possible.
  • Dominica, Antigua, Jamaica, St Lucia & Belize.
  • Funded by OAS and Canada, implemented by The UWI
Possible Areas for action: Financial

• (short to medium term)
  • Review existing sources of development finance & retool existing loans; renegotiate loans for CC adaptation
  • Investigate new uses of debt to address vulnerabilities and increase sustainability including debt reduction, debt swaps or reassigning debt repayments to Climate Funds or to programmes that build resilient infrastructure or livelihoods.
Possible Areas for action: Human

• Short to medium term
  ▪ Measure well-being in addition to other economic measures.

• Increase tertiary training and education opportunities

• Increase investment in primary and secondary education

• Decrease student: teacher ratios across the board.
Possible Areas for action: Financial

• Medium term
  • Lobby to allow Small States to access World Bank financing in the blend (IDA & IBRD) category until their HDI reaches 0.800, rather than using the current *per capita* GNI criterion could assist in providing financial resources for a green economy
Possible Solutions / Identified ‘Best’ Practices

• Liability, damage and loss. Suits are possible.
• Online courses being developed to be offered by The UWI
• Universities will need to work together to create the best research and generate the best solutions from them.
  • E.g. RISE-PR, UWI+USP+UF+Commonwealth Secretariat and other initiatives (UCSIS, SDSN).
Actionable Recommendations

• Lobby the IMF to expand its studies on resilience and create pathways to resilience for small islands

• Review and ensure compliance to building codes for
  • Lifelines
  • Key economic installations – hotels, factories

• Regulate new construction, especially if externally financed (loans, Private sector) to take risk into account.
Actionable Recommendations

• Engineering cannot solve everything, but can reduce the need for insurance and post-event financing

• Project and estimate potential losses and create realistic scenarios for plans.
  • Research joint Government, private sector and academia.
  • Software