



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

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Climate Change Strategy

**10th Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans**

25-27 November 2008

Outline

- UNEP on Climate Change
- Climate Change: Medium-Term Strategy and the Marine & Coastal Strategy
- Climate Change Adaptation Initiative

UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (2010-2013)

- **Climate change**
- Disasters and conflict
- Ecosystem management
- Environmental governance
- Harmful substances and hazardous waste
- Sustainable consumption and production

UNEP Climate Change Strategy: 4 themes

Mitigation: facilitating a transition towards low carbon societies (DTIE)

Adaptation: adapting by building resilience

Science: improving understanding of climate change science

Outreach: communicating and raising public awareness

The Science: IPCC-AR4

- Warming of the climate system is **unequivocal**, and is **very likely** due to increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations.
- Even if **GHGs were to be stabilised today**, temperature and sea level rise would continue for centuries, hence,
- **Adaptation** is essential, but there are **substantial limits and barriers**
- Mitigation is economically and technologically feasible

Needs of developing countries (reflected in Bali Action Plan)

- International cooperation for urgent implementation of adaptation actions
- *Supported by*
 - *vulnerability assessments,*
 - *prioritization of actions,*
 - *financial needs assessments,*
 - *capacity-building and response strategies,*
- *And adaptation actions integrated into sectoral and national planning...,*

Needs of developing countries (BAP, Cont.)

- *Risk management and risk reduction strategies*
- *Risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance;*
- *Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts...;*
- *Economic diversification to build resilience.*

Challenges to UNEP

- **Over-simplification of adaptation as economic development**
 - ⇒ **Little room left for the environmental aspect which jeopardizes the ecosystem services supporting development**
- **UNEP's country presence is mainly through environment ministries**
 - ⇒ **Partnerships with national planners and sectoral ministries as well as local governments are yet to be strengthened**

Comparative advantages of UNEP

- Track record: co-sponsoring IPCC, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Global Environmental Outlook, ...
- Built credibility as a
 - a capacity builder,
 - ecosystem manager and,
 - knowledge mobilizer
- Global leadership and its convening power such as organizing adaptation session of SG's High-Level Event on climate change

The Niche of UNEP

- Meeting the **dual needs** of vulnerable countries for environment protection and economic development and,
- Assisting countries in integrating adaptation into their multi-faceted planning and deliberative processes.

3 Key pillars to support the Niche

- **Building key adaptive capacity of the developing world**
- **Increasing ecosystem resilience and reducing the risk of climate-related disasters and conflicts**
- **Mobilizing and managing knowledge for adaptation policy and planning**

Building key adaptive capacity of the developing world

1. Global Adaptation Network
2. Legislators and Planners Forum

3 Pillars

Building key adaptive capacity

Increasing ecosystem resilience & reducing risk

Mobilizing and managing knowledge

Increasing ecosystem resilience and reducing the risk of climate-related disasters and conflicts

1. Sustainable Water Resource Management
2. Integrated coastal zone management
3. Conserving biodiversity
4. Highland-Lowland Partnership
5. Building climate resilient cities
6. Reducing the risk of climate-related disasters and Conflicts

•3 Pillars

- Building key adaptive capacity
- Increasing ecosystem resilience & reducing risk
- Mobilizing and managing knowledge

Mobilizing and managing knowledge for adaptation policy and planning

1. Mobilizing knowledge for policy setting
2. Knowledge-Based Planning
3. Adaptation Knowledge Management
4. Technology for Adaptation

•3 Pillars

- Building key adaptive capacity
- Increasing ecosystem resilience & reducing risk
- Mobilizing and managing knowledge

UNEP Activities

- UNEP on Climate Change: Medium-Term Strategy and Climate Change
- The Science and the needs
- Setting UNEP's niche for adaptation
- Actions to support vulnerable countries
- **Towards a programme approach**

Towards UNEP's programmatic approach

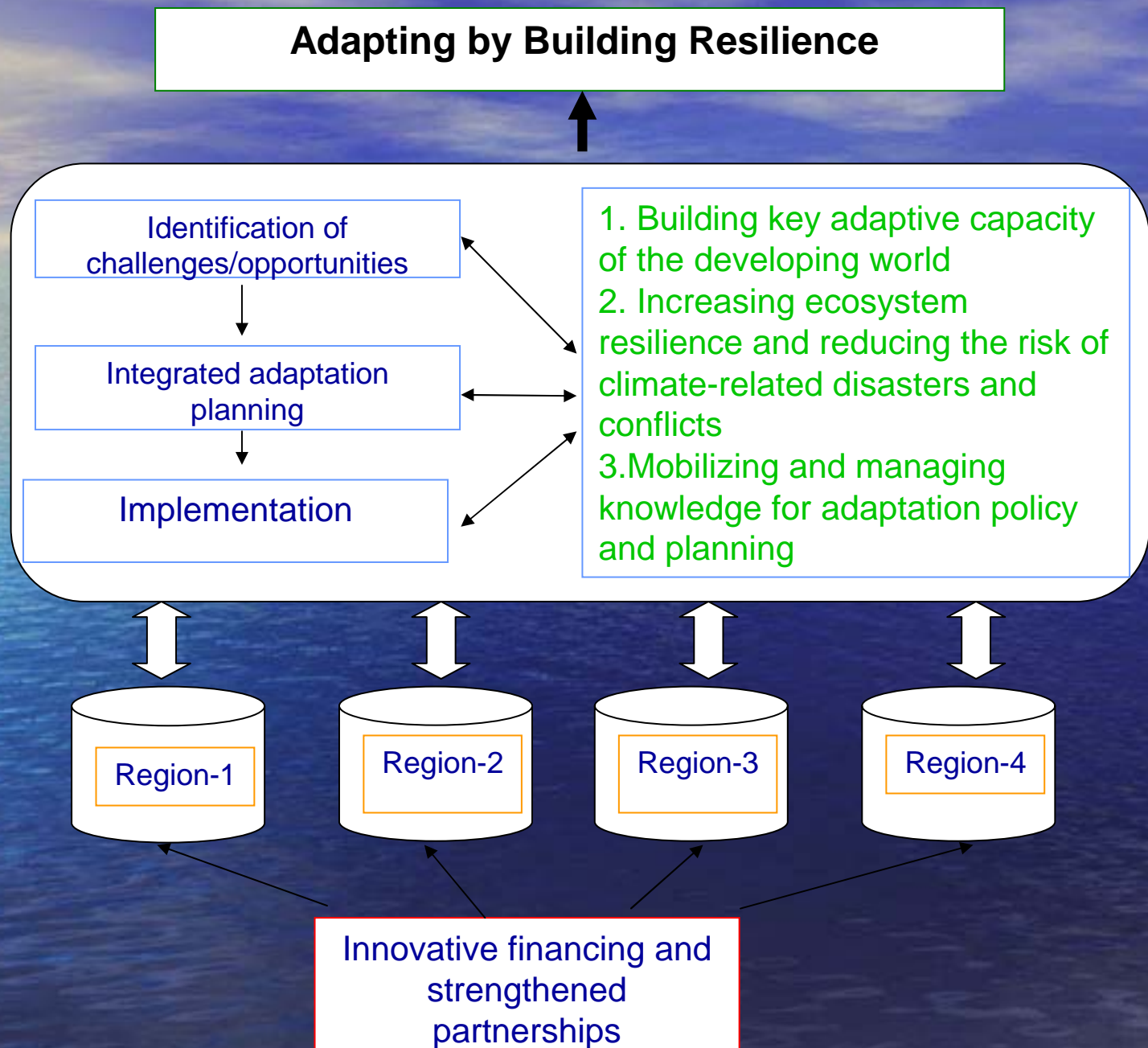
- Building on past and current activities
- **Actions in regional packages**
- Window for emerging adaptation needs
- Innovative and sustained financing
- Extensive yet strengthened partnerships

Actions in regional packages

- Adaptation is region- & ecosystem specific
- Different combinations to forge regional packages to meet different needs, such as:
 - In Africa, package of climate change adaptation , disaster reduction and conflict prevention, and
 - In Asia, IRBM, ICZM, and climate-resilient urbanization
 - SIDs? West Asia? Latin America?

Extensive yet strengthened partnerships

- Governments
- UN agencies and organizations, such as UNFCCC, UNDP, WMO, FAO, ISDR...
- intergovernmental organizations, such as World Bank, EC, AU, APEC, AfDB, ADB...
- non-governmental organizations, such as IUCN, WWF, Red Cross,
- the science community, such as CGIAR, ICSU, SEI, IPCC...
- private sectors and the civil society



Marine & Coastal Strategy

- Climate change is a priority for the marine program
- The key question is how does climate change within the marine sector cut across the Mid-term Strategy

6 MTS priorities X 7 Marine Priorities

Climate Change in the Strategy

- **Assessment:**

- Access to scientific knowledge on climate change effects including deep seas
- Promote research on environmental effects of climate change
- Awareness of climate change effects on coastal biodiversity

Climate Change in the Strategy

- **Management:**

- Improve preparedness of SIDS
- Enhanced capacity of vulnerable coastal countries to access financial resources
- Enhance resilience of habitats: rehabilitation and restoration
- Development of financial mechanisms for cc adaptation measures
- Use of EBM approaches in cc
- Develop planning tools, mitigation measures etc.

Climate Change in the Strategy

- **Mainstreaming:**

- Assist in developing policies for ocean carbon sequestration
- Develop mitigation plans in the waste management sector
- Nutrient management
- Management LBS

Thank You

