



The Challenge

Climate change is recognised as one of the challenges which compounds inherent vulnerabilities in the Caribbean; it could significantly increase the risk of hurricanes and storms and threaten the region's development. Increasing coastal erosion and severe coral reef bleaching events in 2005 and 2010 bear witness to this.

These risks are compounded by already-existing challenges within terrestrial and marine ecosystem management, land-based sources of pollution, integrated water resources management, and land use change, including urbanisation.

Tourism and agriculture will be among the sectors most negatively impacted by these climatic changes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)₁ confirms that small islands are highly vulnerable to climatic and non-climatic stressors, with sea level rise and temperature rise among the most insidious threats for coastal flooding and erosion, ecosystem degradation and loss of livelihoods.

Further, inadequate awareness, information, technical and policy capacity, and limited funding availability for informing and formulating a low-emissions development strategy are among the reasons that it has been difficult to direct and guide climate change mitigation investments in the Caribbean.

In sum, climate change threatens to undermine decades of progress and efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a result, it is a focal

area for the recently launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), being explicitly identified in goal 13 but also encompassing other goals.

The Solution

Recognising that persistent climate-related liabilities will continue to undermine their potential for sustainable development, Caribbean countries are focusing their post-2015 long-term sustainable development strategies on the principles of climate risk management and resilience building – understood as market transformations based on “adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts”₂. Studies have shown that cost-effective adaptation and risk mitigation solutions can help to avoid up to 90% of expected losses₃.

The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) brings together policy makers, experts and representatives of communities to encourage policy innovation for climate technology incubation and diffusion.

By doing so, the initiative aims to ensure that barriers to the implementation of climate-resilient technologies are addressed and overcome in a participatory and efficient manner. Policy instruments such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) provide tailored frameworks to expand access to clean energy and to prioritise adaptation measures. As a result, concrete mitigation and adaptation will be implemented on the

ground, in line with the countries' long-term strategies.

Building upon and supported by the NAMAs and NAPs, the partnership will support the incubation of climate technology into targeted public sectors, private industries, and community groups and enterprises so that green, low-emission climate-resilient technologies can be tested, refined, adopted, and sustained as a practical measure to enhance national, sub-national and community level resilience.

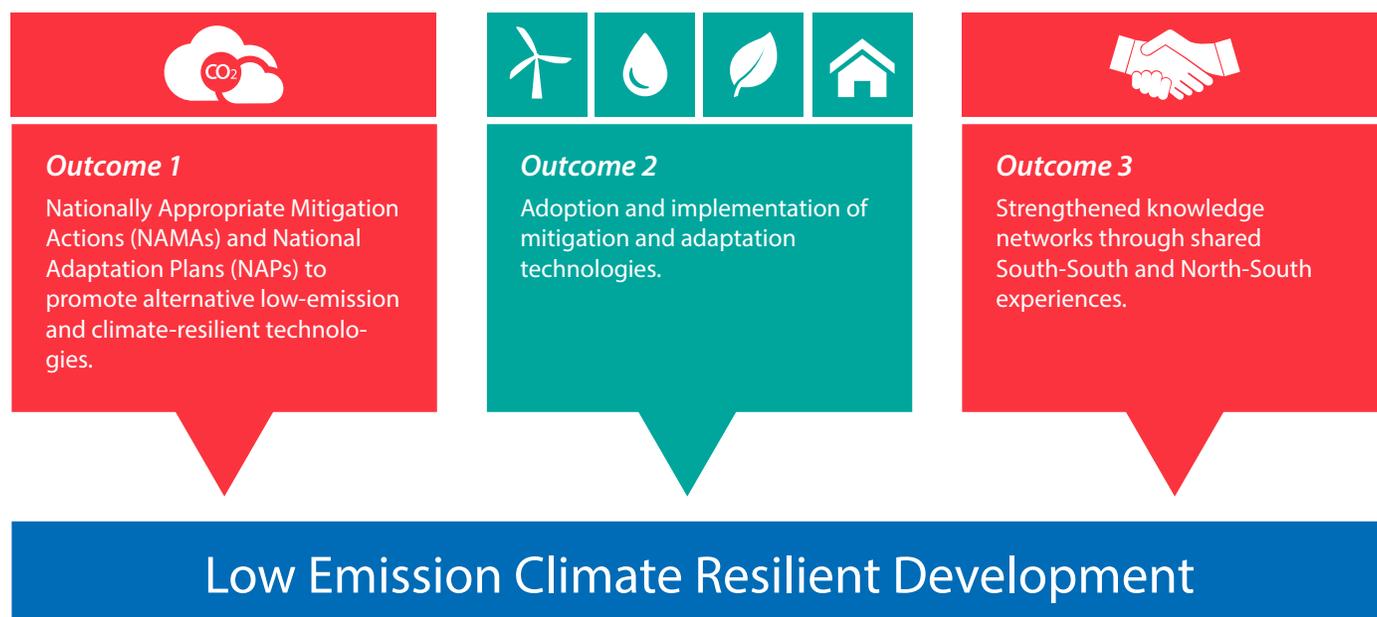
These technologies will help reduce the dependence on fossil fuel imports, setting the region on a low-

emission development path; as well as improve the region's ability to respond to climate risks and opportunities in the long-run, through resilient development approaches that go beyond disaster response to extreme events.

The Partnership will include the following eight Caribbean countries: Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, the Republic of Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Republic of Suriname with an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries in 50 communities. The Government of Japan has provided financial and technical support for this project, with UNDP acting in the capacity of implementing partner.

The Outcome

The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership encourages policy innovation via the following outcomes:



¹ IPCC Working Group II. 2014. Fifth Assessment Report Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

² Definition of "adaptation": IPCC Working Group II. 2001. Third Assessment Report Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

³ CCRIF. 2010. Economics of Climate Adaptation in the Caribbean

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