

## **Jamaica-USAID submission on National Adaptation Planning**

In 2012 Jamaica renewed a National Adaptation Planning Process that addresses climate change impacts in a way that is well coordinated with its broader development goals. Those development goals are laid out in *Vision 2030 Jamaica: a National Development Plan*, available at: <http://www.vision2030.gov.jm/>. Jamaica has taken a number of steps to address climate change under the leadership of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller: Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller created a new Ministry of Water, Land, Environment, And Climate Change (WaLECC). The Ministry has created a Climate Change Advisory Committee, and is in the process of setting up a Climate Change Department within the Ministry.

The Government of Jamaica, led by the WaLECC and the Meteorological Service, recognized that climate change would affect most aspects of the *Vision*, and that in order to achieve the *Vision*, mitigation and adaptation efforts would have to be coordinated to fully support implementation of the *Vision*. Prime Minister Miller called on the WaLECC to develop a new national policy framework that would begin a process of building support and understanding across different sectors of the economy, so that the government and private actors responsible for those sectors could understand the effects of climate change on the Jamaican economy. Climate change imposes social, economic and development stresses; it is not only an issue that is impacting the environment. There is strong interest in sharing responsibility for action that goes beyond the WaLECC Ministry that includes Jamaican, bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

To launch the policy process, the Government of Jamaica partnered with USAID to organize a stakeholder workshop called *Climate Change: Toward the Development of a Policy Framework for Jamaica*. The workshop was held in Kingston on July 26-27, 2012. The event was attended by more than 150 individuals, including representatives from ministries, and other entities within the Government of Jamaica; NGOs and civil society; academia; the private sector; and international development partners. Sessions built on the *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan*, the Second National Communication of Jamaica to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Jamaica Pilot Program for Climate Resilience.

The workshop consisted of a series of small group activities using the *Vision 2030* as starting point. Key national priorities identified in the *Vision* were examined for their vulnerabilities to climate variability and change. The working groups consisted of a mix of participants from multiple sectors; that is, a workgroup on agriculture might have people from a farmer cooperative or NGO, the Water Authority, the energy ministry, and the transport ministry. The approach emphasized that development, and resilience to climate change, cut across sectors and interests; adaptation is everybody's business.

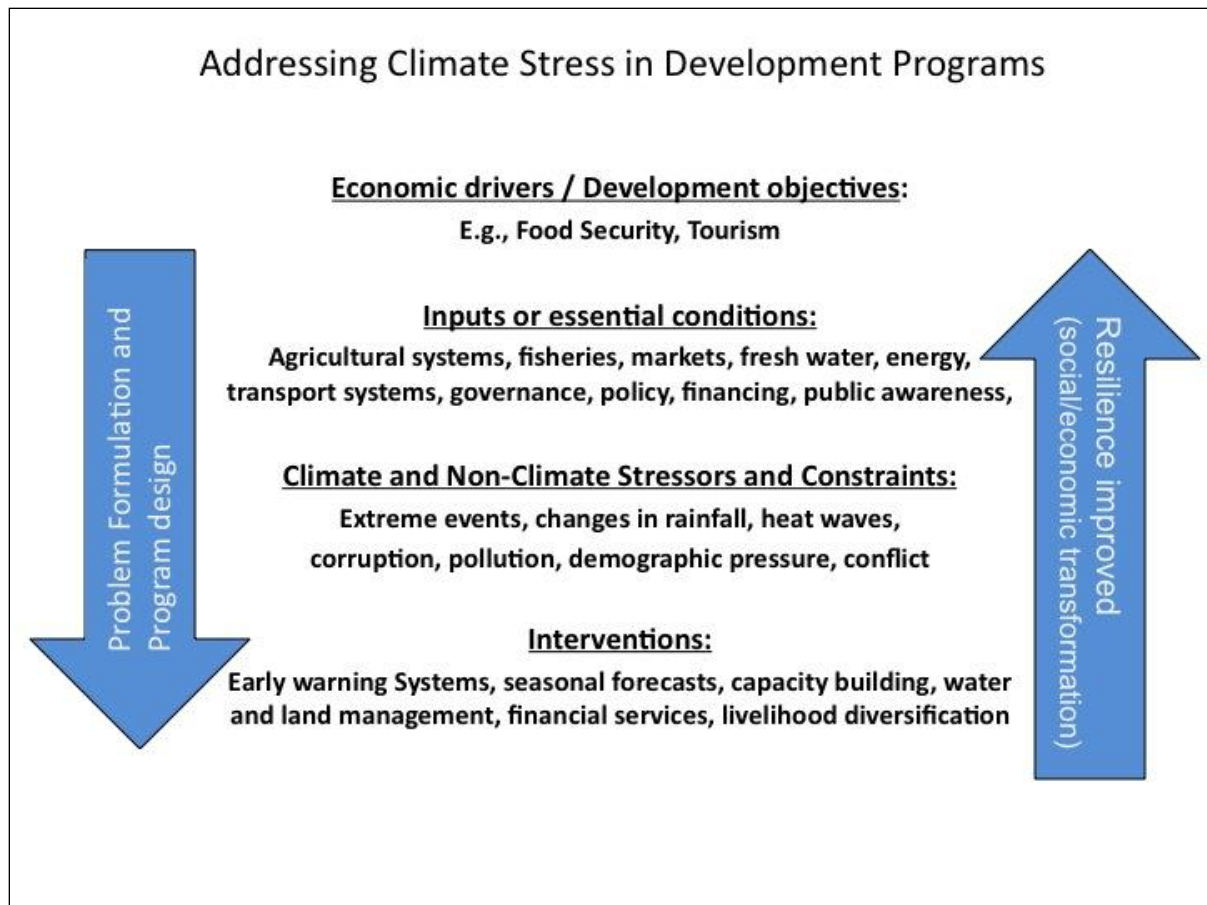


Figure 1 shows the framework that guided the exercises. Participants started by discussing what are Jamaica's priority economic drivers and development objectives, as identified in the *Vision 2030*. Next, they discussed what inputs and conditions are necessary to achieve the objectives in the first step. Next, they identified stresses and constraints on those inputs. Climatic and non-climatic stresses were discussed, because addressing only one category of stress would not enable full use of the inputs. Finally, they began briefly identifying interventions that could alleviate the stresses and constraints, enabling full effective use of the inputs, which should lead to achievement of overall objectives.

Participants worked through this process in a series of small group exercises aimed at eliciting inputs to the climate change policy framework. On the first day, these exercises focused on identifying the key inputs and threats to Jamaica's primary economic sectors.

In identifying key inputs to economic sectors, participants found that many sectors relied on the same inputs and enabling conditions. Among the most common were water, energy, labor, and infrastructure.

They then identified the most important climate and non-climate threats to those inputs. Examples of these threats include higher temperatures, tropical storms, heat waves, land use change, pollution, and crime.

Participants also discussed interdependencies between sectors – for example, how tourism depends on a healthy natural environment and the reliable provision of energy and water. The discussions also highlighted some of the constraints that can prevent these key economic sectors from performing optimally. These constraints include the lack of a variety of factors such as human and social capital, incentives, and implementation and enforcement of existing policies and regulations.

On the second day, small group exercises focused on actions, policies, and resources needed to cope with the climate threats identified on the first day. Dialogue and discussion allowed participants to learn from one another about ongoing projects in Jamaica that are addressing climate change.

Participants identified gaps in existing efforts and listed some of the measures, resources, and policies needed to fill those gaps. For example, participants noted the need for increased training and capacity building, robust research and assessments, safeguarding of infrastructure, financing, information, and data management systems, among many others.

They also recognized how activities in one sector could benefit or hamper outcomes in another. For example, while a group focused on transport suggested moving roads inland to reduce storm damage, the tourism group pointed out that doing so could inhibit access to hotels and other tourist destinations.

Participants considered opportunities for climate change mitigation. For example, industries concerned about unreliable power supply could prioritize clean energy technologies to address those shortages, while at the same time reducing Jamaica's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Several participants noted the usefulness of working in cross-disciplinary teams during the table exercises, and suggested that they continue to work in this fashion going forward.

Jamaica is now engaged in drafting a comprehensive climate change policy framework. Though the process is still underway, it is likely to result in an overarching policy that will identify roles and responsibilities for key actors across the government. It will also call for action plans from each government ministry responsible for vulnerable components of the *Vision 2030*. Those action plans will identify steps to be taken in the near term and longer term. Jamaica's Meteorological Service is already taking steps to improve its understanding of the information needs of decision makers, and is coordinating efforts of several development partners (PPCR, USAID, NOAA, EU, Czech Republic) to build its capacity to meet those needs. Next steps include a thorough mapping of current and planned adaptation projects in the country. Such a mapping will enable the government to

identify gaps and take the lead in coordinating the efforts of development partners and national investments to close these gaps.

By taking such an integrated, development-focused approach, Jamaica is integrating adaptation and mitigation efforts and putting them in the service of its national development plan. The effort demonstrates to all that addressing climate change is a national development issue of high priority, not just an environment issue.