

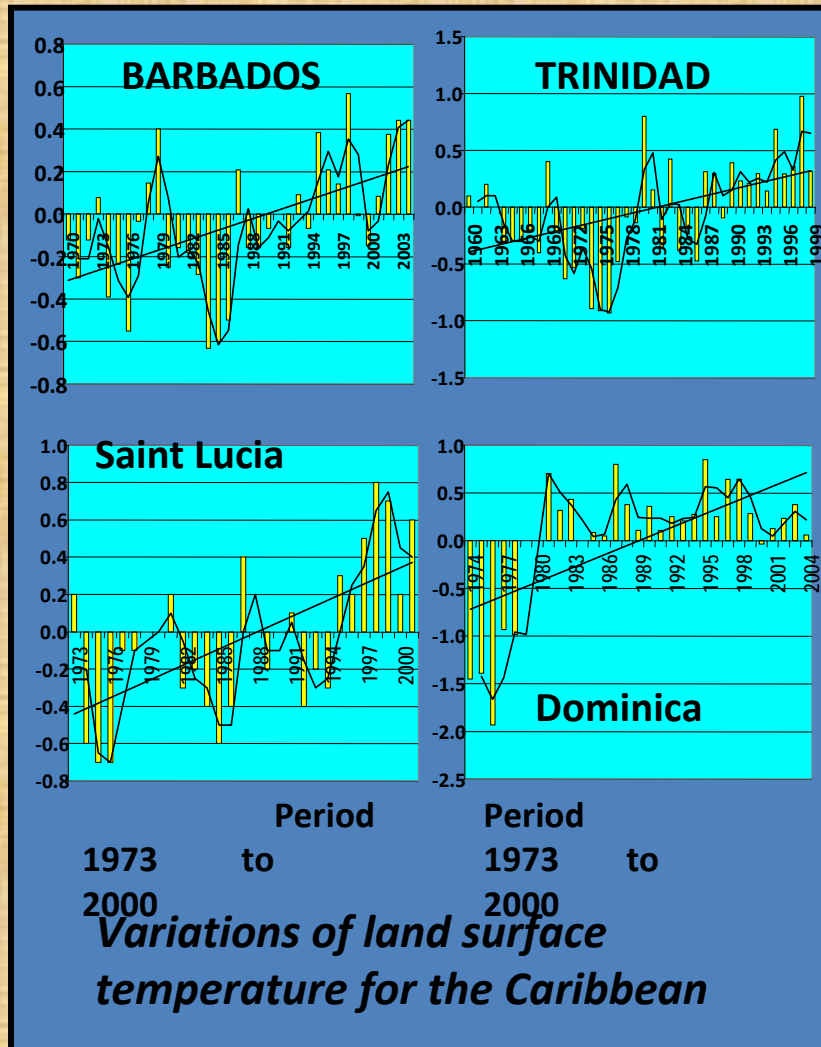
Can our tourism survive Climate Change?

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin
America and the Caribbean
Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Global issues

- 4th AR IPCC states:
- Global warming is unequivocal due to anthropogenic activities
- Increase in global temperatures 2-4.5 °C
- SLR 11-77cm
- Changed weather patterns
- More intense extreme events
- More intense hurricanes

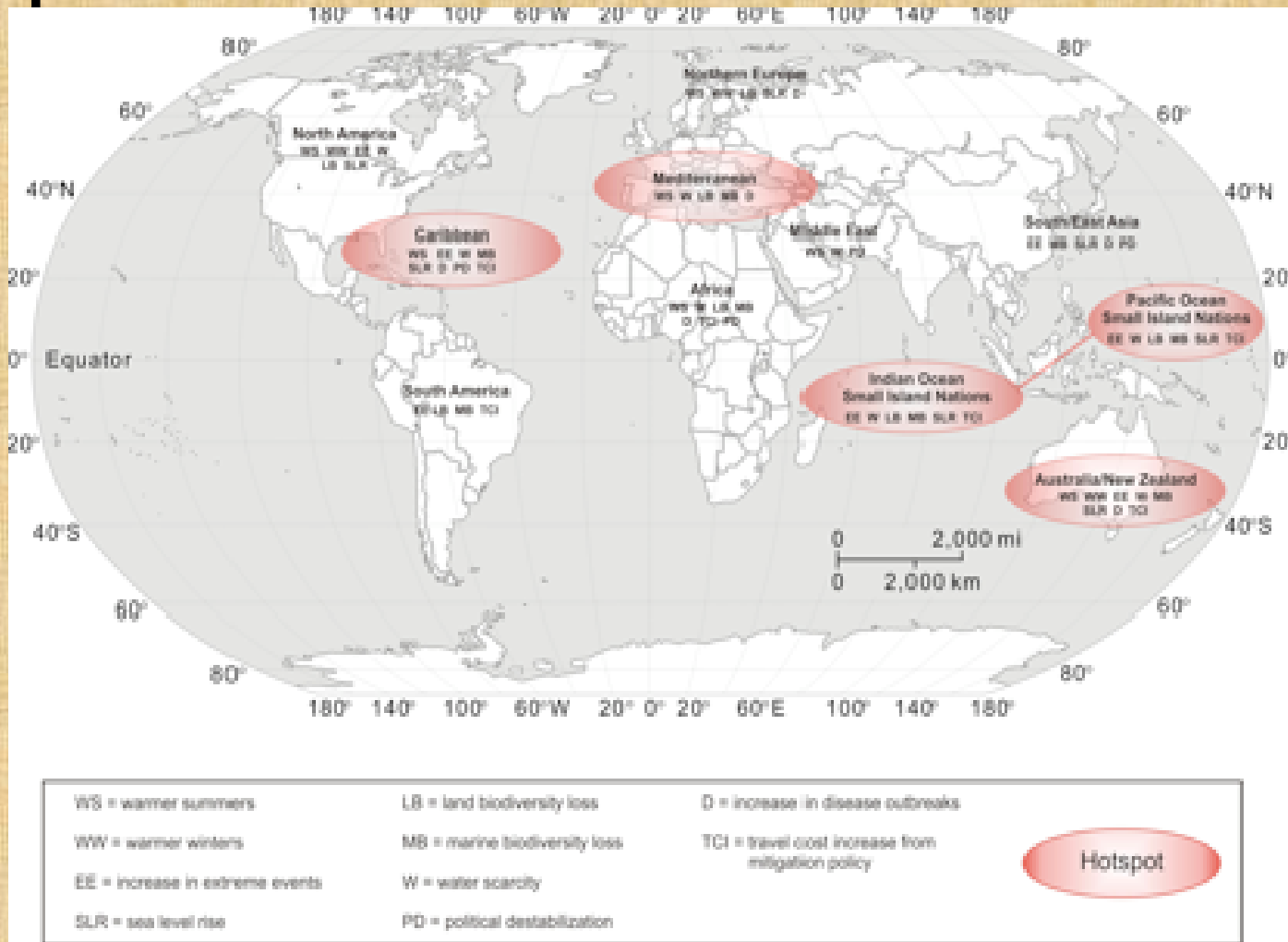
Climate Change in the Caribbean



- Increase in mean temp over the last 3 decades
- Increase in min temperature of 1.4⁰C since 1960
- 2⁰C decrease in diurnal temp range for the region
- Increase in no. of warm days; decrease in the no. of cold nights
- Increased incidence of extreme events – flooding and hurricanes since 1990s

Source: 5Cs

Distribution of Climate Change impacts on tourism destinations



Source: UNWTO/ UNEP/WMO (Dr. Keith Nurse)

Projections for the Caribbean region

- Annual warming by 2080 (1-5⁰C)
- ↑warming in NW Caribbean than in E
- ↑warming in “summer months than cooler drier months of the yr

- Drier Caribbean basin in annual total by 2080
- Wetter wet season and drier dry season
- “summer” drying more severe

Impacts of climate change on regional tourism

Direct Impacts

- Disruption of planning & design of tourist packages
- Affect tourist destination choices
- Affect global patterns of tourism (Tourist flow)

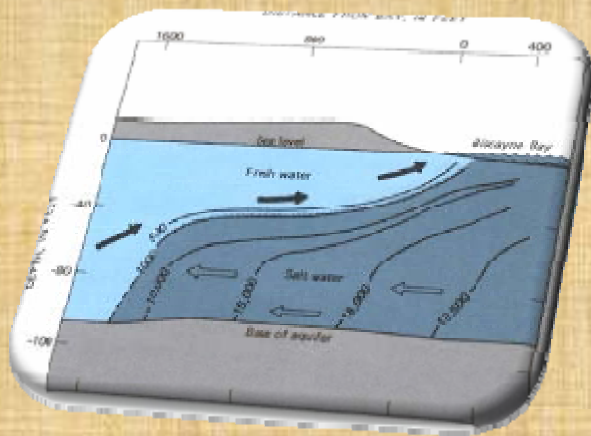
Indirect Impacts

SLR =

- Erosion (beach & coastline)
- Inundation of flood plains
- Salt water intrusion
- Storm surges
- Destruction of coastal ecosystems

Increased temperatures:

- Destruction of coastal ecosystems (coral bleaching)
- Increased energy cost
- Increase in tropical diseases



How Tourism contributes to CC

- Transportation activities = GHG (air, land and sea)
- Most of the emissions from road transportation
- However air transport is two to four times more polluting per passenger carried than road transport

Adaptation Strategies

Built Environment

- Planners could use alternative building materials
- Alternative methods of cooling buildings to reduce energy costs
- Develop guidelines for set backs
- Move infrastructure away from eroding coastline
- Increase insurance costs factored into hotel profitability

Physical Environment


- Sea wall defences
- Enhancement & preservation of natural defences
- Prohibit sand mining
- Enforce building set backs
- Address degrading ecosystems (coral reefs)

Adaptation for the Sector


- Alternative marketing strategies
- Introduction of low carbon technologies and RE to address increasing energy costs
- Co-operate with government to address issues
- Identify vulnerable ecosystems and implement protective strategies
- Introduce alternative attractions
- Introduction of carbon-offsetting schemes in air transport (Caribbean Airlines)

The Stern Review

Part I - Examines evidence of the economic impact of climate change & stabilization of GHG



Part II – Considers the complex policy challenges in moving towards a low carbon economy with appropriate adaptation strategies



Additional considerations – Economic costs of impacts of Climate Change, costs & benefits of action to reduce GHG

The Stern Review - Conclusions

We must act now. Overall costs and risks of CC = 5% of global GDP per year;



Range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage = 20% of GDP or more;



Our actions now = result disruption to economic and social activity similar to great wars and the economic depression of the 1st half of the 20th century;



Difficult to reverse these changes;



The costs of stabilising the climate are significant but manageable;
Delay would be dangerous and much more costly.

The Caribbean RECC

- 1st Phase - Completed (there is enough data to proceed to the 2nd phase)
- 2nd phase - regional studies
- 3rd Phase - National studies

Phase 1

Oct 2008

- 9 countries -Aruba, Barbados, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago

Stakeholders

- Private sector, United Nations System, Academia, Public sector, Civil society and Regional Organisations

Phase 2

- Water
- Tourism
- Agriculture

These were the sectors identified as the areas of focus 1st part Phase 2

Thank you so much