



WS 4.4 Integrating Climate change and Sustainable development into the Transformation Agenda

“Climate change is not just a long-term issue. It is happening today, and it entails uncertainties for policy makers trying to shape the future.”

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world will face in this century. It threatens the Millennium Development Goals, and may significantly reverse progress made to-date in human development, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Sustainable development planning processes must therefore endeavor to fully address the diverse and complex impact of climate change on sustainable development. Development choices of today influence the adaptive capacity of people and their governments well into the future. In other words, countries cannot afford to delay the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation into sustainable development planning.

Cabo Verde is a perfect example of vulnerability to climate variability and climate change. The archipelago’s insularity and climatic characteristics (as shared with the Sahel region) will have serious effects on what are already sensitive ecosystems, not to mention the people who depend on them, due to climate change.

Cabo Verde’s first National Communication (1999) to the UNFCCC identified water, forestry, coastal development, and agriculture / livestock production as sectors vulnerable to climate change. The National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA, 2007) pointed out three priority sector objectives to reduce climate vulnerability: i) promote integrated water management to guarantee drinking-water supplies, sustain irrigation for food production, and maintain ecosystem services; ii) develop the adaptive capacity of agro-pastoral and forestry-based production systems to improve national food production; iii) protect and avoid the degradation of coastal zones.

As an island State, Cabo Verde is at a greater ecological and economical risks associated with adverse effects of climate change. The country stands to lose if climate change problems are not addressed adequately and in a timely manner. The threat to agriculture, tourism and fisheries, three of the main pillars of the economy, cannot be overestimated

Sound decision making is possible if the planning process is able to use a different approach. Rather than making decisions that are optimized to a prediction of the future climate variability, decision makers should seek to identify decisions that are sound no matter what the future brings (“no regret decisions”).

The following question will be considered in this workshop:

1. How well understood are the sectors sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change?
2. Can the development goals, as define by the transformation agenda, be affected by climate change?
3. Do the sectoral planning (i.e. tourism, infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry..) assess the impact and vulnerability to climate change to define need for sustainable development actions?
4. Are the institutions strengthened to ensure the integration of climate change adaptation into the development program and projects as well as the selection appropriate adaptation measures and avoid maladaptation?
5. What solutions could be envisaged to promote the effective integration of sustainable development in the transformation agenda for Cabo Verde's Development?