The Caribbean:

A Regional Approach to Climate

Shared Context – Extremely Climate Sensitive

Size ensures climate influence always present & inescapable.

Largely small islands surrounded by Caribbean Sea with hilly backbones.

All major infrastructure located on limited coastal plains. Narrow economic zone.

Shared Vulnerability

Floods
Droughts
Hurricanes
Sea level rise

Shared Limitations

Small economies
Limited
technical and
human capacity
to do climate
research

Shared Need

Applied
research
for society

Regional Centre
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5 C's)

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change and climate variability on the economic development and social needs of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region:

- The Heads of Government of CARICOM at their annual meeting in July 2002, endorsed the creation of a permanent capacity in the region to address climate change issues.
- The Operationalization of the Centre began in January 2004.
- Located in Belize

Regional Centre
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5 C's)

Mandate

To coordinate the regional approach to climate change and to manage efforts to adapt to its projected impacts.

Regional Centre
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5 C's)

Objectives

- To establish regional capacity to do climate change science for the benefit of the region.
- To establish and/or expand a network of meteorological and oceanographic monitoring stations
- To enhance regional institutional capabilities for the co-ordination of national responses to the adverse effects of climate change and taking advantage of any opportunities presented
- To provide comprehensive policy and technical support in the area of climate change and related issues and spearheading regional initiatives in those areas
- To promote education and public awareness on climate change issues
- To facilitate regional consensus for negotiations related to the UNFCCC

Regional Framework and Implementation Plan For Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change

The Framework was completed, and endorsed by Heads in July 2009 who further requested the development of an Implementation Plan (IP).

The IP was approved by the Heads of Government on 9 March, 2012

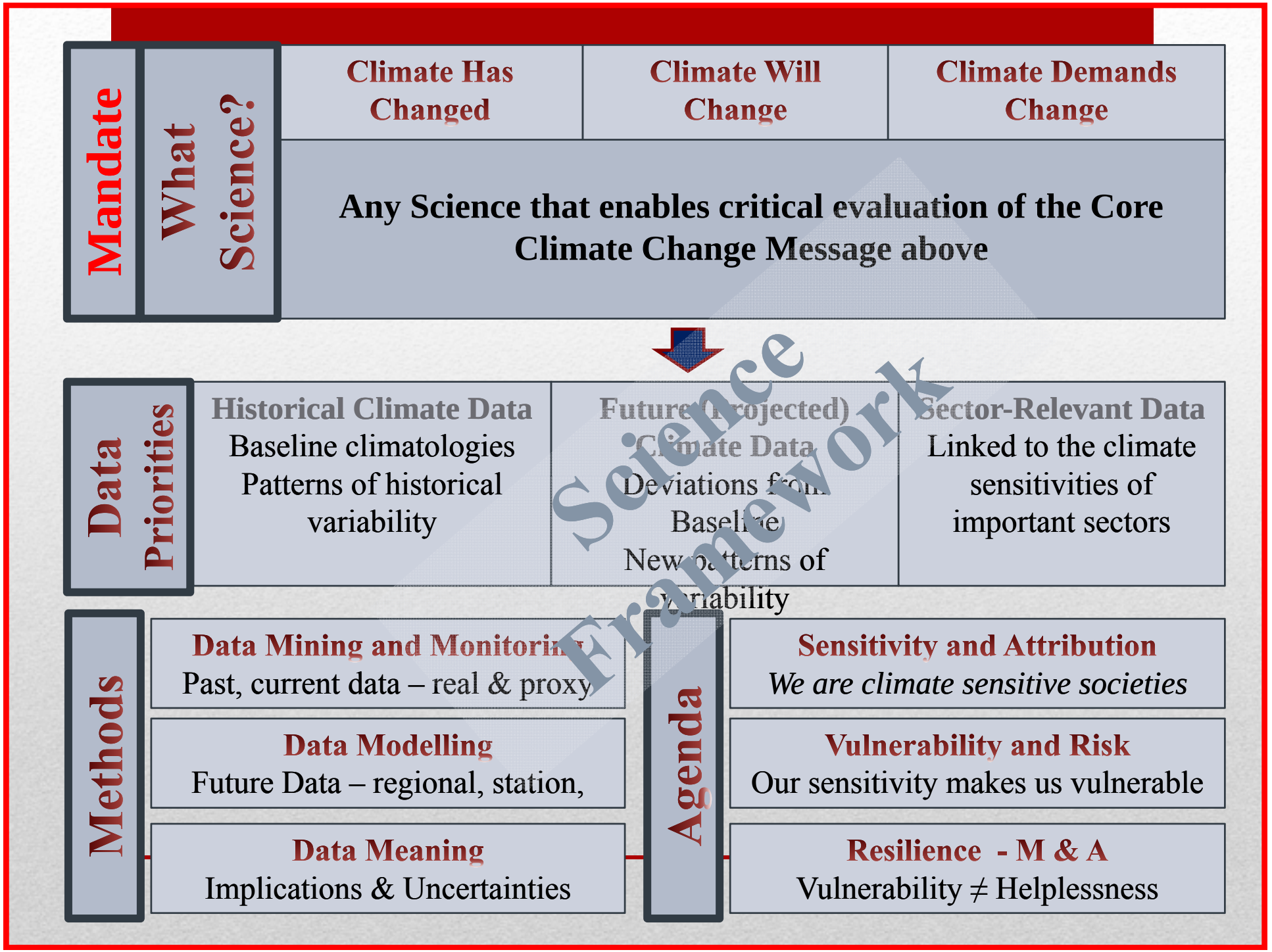
Regional Framework and Implementation Plan For Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change

Key Strategies:

- Develop and implement a risk management approach to decision making.
- Develop sector specific adaptation policies at the national level.
- Strengthen national and regional climate change negotiating skills.
- Implement the ‘three-ones’ principle to embed a co-ordinated approach to climate change security across governments: One coordinating mechanism ; One Plan; One monitoring and evaluation framework.

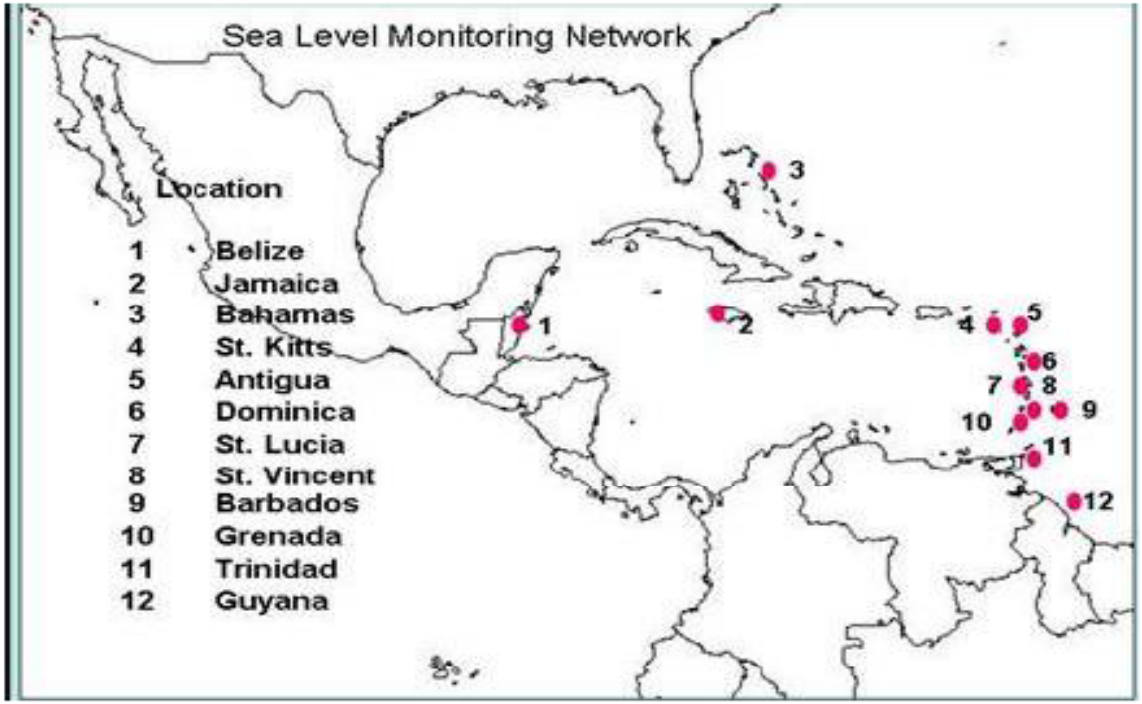
Regional Science Agenda

- Regional centres of excellence devoted to climate science – Regional Universities – University of the West indies (Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago), University of Suriname, Insitituto de Meteorologia (Cuba)
- Articulated regional science agenda
  - Dynamical downscaling and climate projections
  - Drought
  - Variability and seasonal prediction
  - Extreme events - hurricanes
  - Sea level rise


Mandate
What Science?
Climate Has Changed
Climate Will Change
Climate Demands Change
Any Science that enables critical evaluation of the Core Climate Change Message above
Data Priorities
Historical Climate Data
Baseline climatologies
Patterns of historical variability
Future (Projected) Climate Data
Deviations from Baseline
New patterns of variability
Sector-Relevant Data
Linked to the climate sensitivities of important sectors
Science Framework
Methods
Data Mining and Monitoring
Past, current data – real & proxy
Data Modelling
Future Data – regional, station,
Data Meaning
Implications & Uncertainties
Agenda
Sensitivity and Attribution
We are climate sensitive societies
Vulnerability and Risk
Our sensitivity makes us vulnerable
Resilience - M & A
Vulnerability ≠ Helplessness

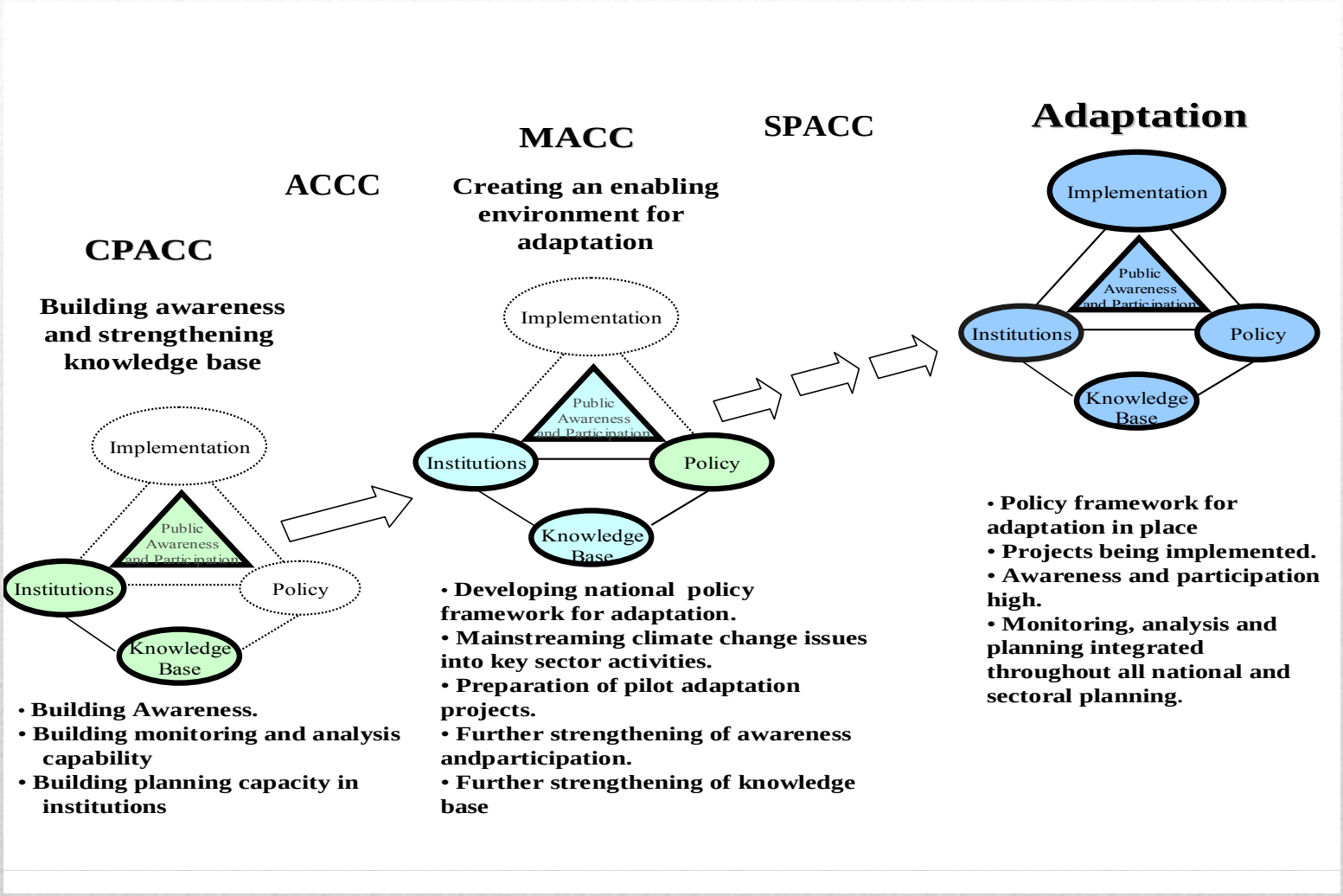
Regional Approach to Monitoring

Expansion of meteorological/oceanic monitoring networks (Sea level and Hydromet Stations)



106 additional hydrometeorological stations are being installed throughout the region including Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname

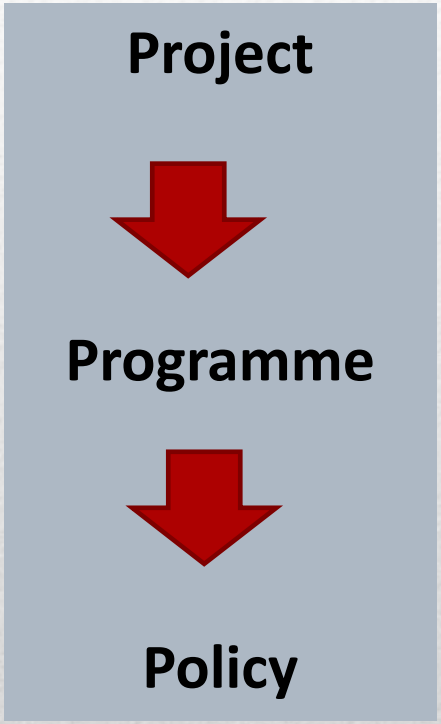
Regional Adaptation Initiatives



Regional Adaptation Initiatives

Prioritized Focus

- Coastal zone
  - ✓Ecosystems
  - ✓Infrastructure
  - ✓Human settlement
- Water
- Food security
- Health
  - ✓Respiratory
  - ✓Dengue& Malaria
  - ✓Water borne diseases



Regional Collaborations

CARICOM Institutions

Stronger and better defined relationships with institutions with regional mandates.

Ensuring that regional mandates include climate.

Regional Clearinghouse

A central virtual clearinghouse for climate change information

Regional Risk Sharing

CCRIF regional pooling parametric insurance scheme – risk.

Regional Approach to Climate

Growing recognition that the approach has to be regional one.

Some concrete steps taken to implementation of regional approach (Centre, framework, monitoring, research, adaptation, dissemination, collaborations, risk sharing).

Clear benefits:

- Shared lessons
- Shared capacities
- Shared scarce resources
- Identification of key regional actors
- Strengthened voice on international stage

Regional Approach to Climate

- Recognize the issue of scale
  - Modelling
  - Options for actions
  - Economics
  - Ability to provide services
  - Risk management
  - Communication