Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport: Preparing for the Future

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Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport - Preparing for the Future: Perspective from Caribbean SIDS

Presentation by

Willard Phillips
Economic Affairs Officer
UNECLAC, Trinidad and Tobago

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- Criticality of Transportation Infrastructure for SIDS
- Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure (mainly ports) handle large numbers of passengers relative to commercial cargo
- Impacts of natural events on transportation infrastructure
Transportation Infrastructure is Critical in SIDS

Indicator of Trade Openness: Total Value of Trade as a Percentage of GDP (2013)

Source: UNCTAD

Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
Most Caribbean Airports are Located on the Coast...

Critical for Cruisers – Large Share of Passengers
Cruise Passenger Arrivals to the Caribbean

Cruise Passenger Arrivals to the Caribbean - Selected Years (Millions)

Source: CTO

Impacts of Natural Events on Transportation Infrastructure
One of the most devastating hurricane seasons
Seventeen (17) named storms, six (6) of which affected 10 states
Damage and losses exceeding $15 Billion
Disruption of Trade and Passenger Flows
Destruction to tourism infrastructure, agricultural crops, roads and bridges, electricity and telecommunications
Loss of life – more than 200 deaths
Climate Change Implications

- Adaptation needed to threats from sea level rise
- Need to build in domestic and regional redundancy in transportation

Adaptation Efforts

UNCTAD's Regional Initiative:
- Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Source: Masioudi I.N. et al, 2017
Conclusions

- The peculiarities of the sub-region make transportation infrastructure extremely critical for Caribbean SIDS.
- Strategies for reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience, and improving economic efficiency are necessary for sustaining economic and social gains.

THANK YOU