

Mitigation and Adaptation.

Mitigating or Adapting to Climate
Change?

Climate mitigation

- is any action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life, property.
- The IPCC: “An anthropogenic intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.”

Climate adaptation

- refers to the ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) to moderate potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.
- The IPCC: “Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment. Adaptation to climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation.”

Relationship between mitigation and adaptation

- Mitigation tackles the causes of climate change
- Adaptation tackles the effects of climate change
- Adaptive capacity – is the potential to adjust in order to minimize negative impacts and maximize any benefits from climate change.
- Climate mitigation and adaptation should not be seen as alternatives to each other, but rather a combined set of actions in an overall strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation Strategies

In the UNFCCC 3 conditions are made when working towards the goal of greenhouse gas stabilization:

1. it should take place within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change;
2. mitigate that food production is not threatened and;
3. that economic development should proceed in a sustainable manner

Adaptation Strategies

- UNFCCC Article 4.1(f):
All Parties shall: “Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change.”

Mitigation examples

Mitigation relies on regulation.

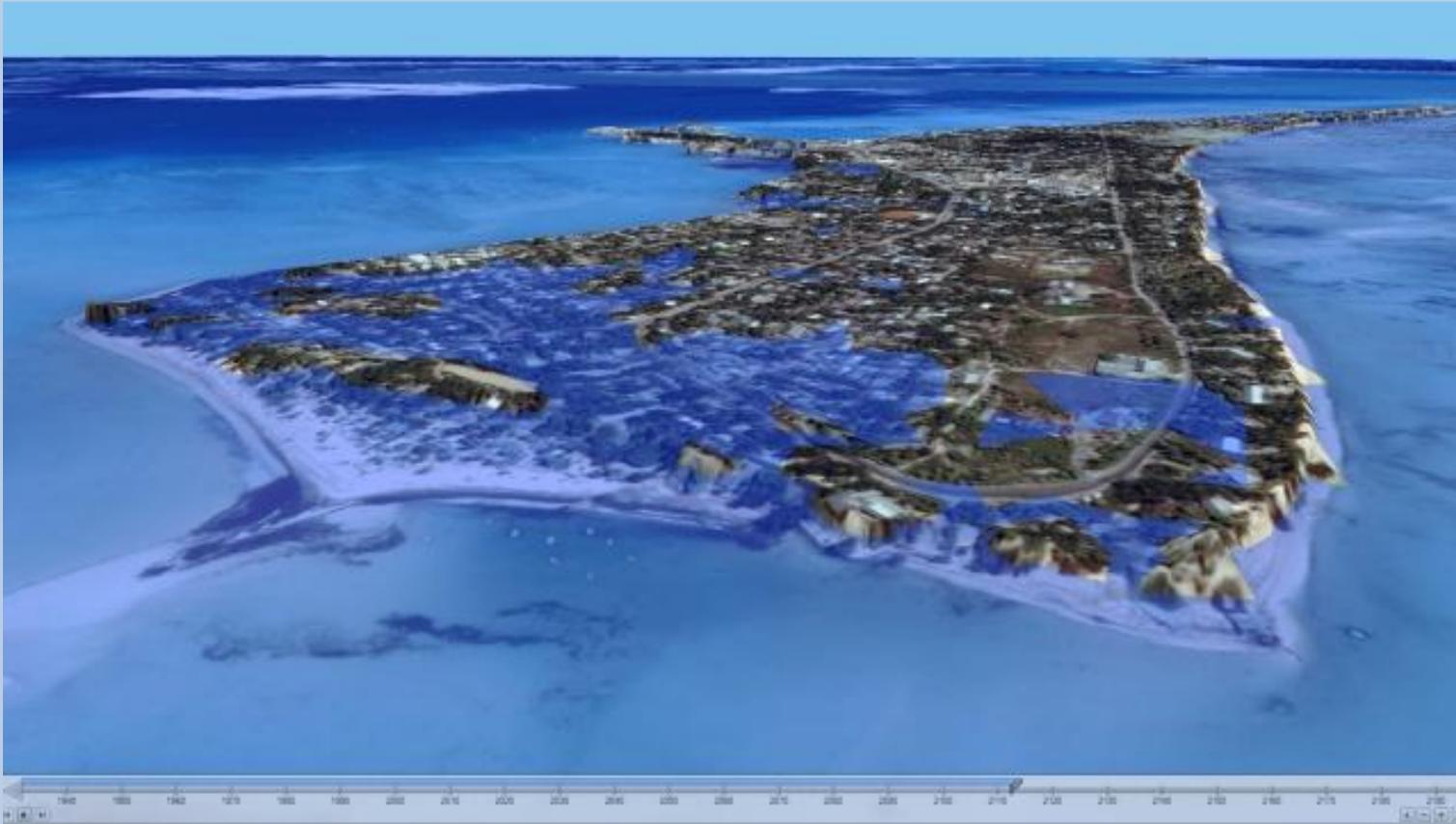
- reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide

Adaptation examples

- relocating settlements;
- encouraging the reuse of greywater;
- learning how to farm on mountaintops;
- keeping an eye on diseases which thrive in hotter climes

Challenges

- i.e., Small island developing states threatened by sea level rise have fewer options to adapt



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nCDSCmPg8s>

Effect of 1.4 meter Sea level rise in Kiribati

Questions???

Thank You for the attention 😊