

Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for the Black Sea. *The Case of BSEC Member Countries*

RTD “A Challenge or Obstacle for the
future? Climate Change & Environmental
Strategy for the Black Sea” - ICBSS

March 19th 2015

Athens, Greece

Stavros Mavrogenis, EKePEK, Panteion Uni.

Makis Rodotheatos ,EKePEK, Panteion Uni.

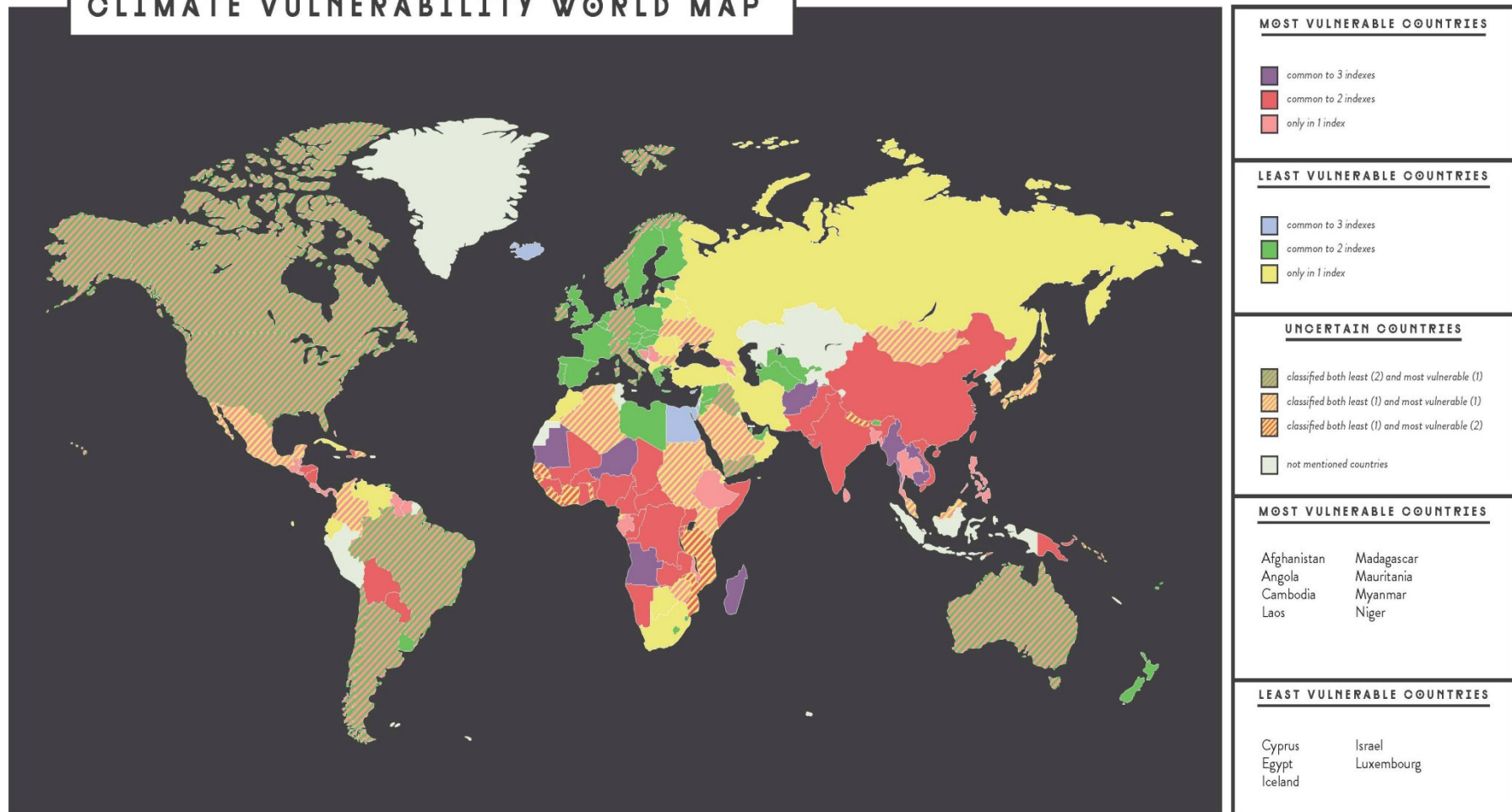



Some Questions, before we start

- ❖ Is today's title “A Challenge or Obstacle for the future? *Climate Change & Environmental Strategy for the Black Sea*” right?
- Yes, Climate Change is Present in the Black Sea
- No, it is not (only) an Environmental Problem, but (mainly) a Developmental one

Is vulnerability a key problem for the Black Sea Region?

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY WORLD MAP





Is the Region well prepared to Adapt to Climate Change?

- Yes, esp. EU members are following relevant legislation and policies, while various projects are taking place throughout the Region (e.g. ClimaEast, Countries initiatives)
- No, there are still gaps in knowledge and most countries are focusing on Mitigation actions



Climate Change. Where do we stand?

- Anthropogenic Climate Change is an actual phenomenon , rooted in the past, but still expanding
- Root causes are known, but responsibility to states and actors is not easy to be attributed
- Effects are diverse and globally spread



What is Adaptation?

- *In human systems*, the process of **adjustment** to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to **moderate harm** or exploit beneficial opportunities.
- *In natural systems*, the process of **adjustment** to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may **facilitate adjustment** to expected climate.

(IPCC, 2007)



Adopting Adaptation Strategies

- 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework
 - Adaptation is of equal importance to mitigation
 - Parties are called to to **formulate** and **implement** national adaptation plans as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing **strategies** and **programmes** to address those needs

(Till January 1st 2014)

The EU is adapting (policy)

The EU Strategy in a Nutshell

Priority 1: Promoting action by Member States

Action 1. Encourage MS to adopt Adaptation Strategies and action plans

Action 2. LIFE funding, including adaptation priority areas

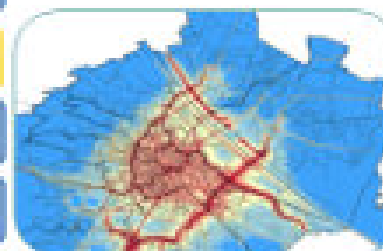
Action 3. Promoting adaptation action by cities along the Covenant of Mayors Initiative



Priority 2: Better informed decision-making

Action 4. Knowledge-gap strategy

Action 5. Climate-ADAPT

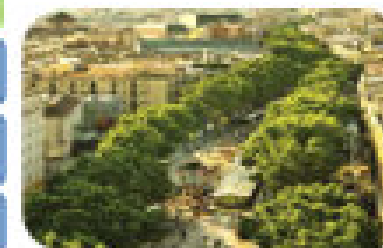


Priority 3: Key vulnerable sectors

Action 6. Climate proofing the Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, and the Common Fisheries Policy

Action 7. Making Infrastructure more resilient

Action 8. Promote products & services by insurance and finance markets



The EU is adapting (knowledge sharing)

- The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. An initiative of the Eu. Commission that helps users to access and share information on:
 - Expected climate change in Europe
 - Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
 - National and transnational adaptation strategies
 - Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
 - Tools that support adaptation planning



The Case of Greece

- Failed to meet the deadline
- Interesting initiatives by non-state actors
 - Environmental, Economical and Social Impacts of Climate Change on the Greek Territory (Bank of Greece, 2011)
 - Adaptation Roadmap for Greece (Panteion Uni., TCG, WWF, GCGW, 2011)
- Today, a National Adaptation Strategy is being drafted by the MinENV

Greek Adaptation Strategy - main components

- International and National Legal Landscape
- Identifies the most vulnerable geographic areas
- Sets the vision for an effective National Strategy
- Suggests sectoral adaptation measures
 - *Coastal zones*
 - *Freshwater*
 - *Soil erosion – desertification*
 - *Biodiversity and ecosystems*
 - *Fisheries & aquaculture*
 - *Agriculture*
 - *Infrastructures – manmade environment*
 - *Tourism*
 - *Health*
 - *Energy*



Is there a need for a Regional Strategy?

- Regional Vulnerability
 - High (by sector)
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Water Resources
 - Medium (by sector)
 - Energy
 - Tourism
 - Transport

according to ClimBiz Report. 2013



Is there a need for a Regional Strategy? (b)

- **Common concerns**
 - Energy (production and transportation)
 - Ingoing tourism
 - Agricultural Production Exports
- **Common Grounds for cooperation**
 - CC Regulations on International (FCCC) or regional level (EU)
 - Transnational commerce of goods and energy
 - Demographic pressures (e.g. migration)

The way forward...

- Identification and closing of knowledge gaps (assessment, monitoring, forecasting)
- Prioritization of vulnerabilities and needs
- Creation of intergovernmental synergies and multi-stakeholders networks for
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Awareness raising
 - Joint Initiatives up taking
- Harmonization of *National Adaptation Strategies* (in their making)
- Adoption of a regional POV in CC international negotiations



Thank you for your attention!

Info and Contacts

- www.ekepek.gr
- Makis Rodotheatos: yrodo@panteion.gr