

*Synthesis Workshop on
Climate Variability,
Climate Change and Health, in
Small Island States*

Bandos Island Resort,
Maldives, 1-4 December 2003



WHO



WMO



UNEP

Synthesis Workshop on Climate Variability, Climate Change and Health in Small-Island States

Bandos Island Resort, Maldives, 1-4 December 2003

Workshop Report



World Health Organization



World Meteorological Organization



United Nations Environment Programme

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Synthesis Workshop on Climate Variability, Climate Change and Health in Small-Island States

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Workshop Summary

A. Workshop objectives

The Synthesis Workshop on Climate Variability, Climate Change and Health in Small-Island States was conducted on Bandos Island Resort, Maldives, from 1 – 4 December 2003.

Specific goals of the Synthesis Workshop included:

- To inform health scientists, practitioners, and officials of the impacts of climate variability, and long-term climate change in the Indian Ocean, Pacific, Caribbean and other regions;
- To address vulnerability assessment and adaptation options for Small Island Countries;
- To address findings and proposed actions as discussed in previous workshops in the Pacific and the Caribbean, with regard to:
 - Integration of health-relevant sectors (e.g., water resources, agriculture and fisheries);
 - Introduction of strategies in coastal zone management as they relate to sewage disposal and other health issues;
 - Fostering joint interdisciplinary research projects among local participants, as well as developed/developing nation scientist partnerships.
- Summarize conclusions and recommendations for common actions and activities for Small Island States and vulnerable islands in general.

The workshop was attended by 40 participants. There were representatives from 13 Small Island Countries (Comoros, Barbados, Cuba, Fiji, Maldives, Mauritius, Palau, Saint Lucia, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Samoa, Seychelles and Tonga), in addition to participants from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, United Kingdom and United States of America; and representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). WHO provided four temporary advisers and four WHO staff members, serving as the secretariat.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Health of the Maldives and followed with a

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