Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund

SIRF Fund

SUSTAINABLE ISLAND RESOURCE FUND

A little about Antigua and Barbuda

- Population: 80,000
- Area: 170 sq m
- Main Sectors: Tourism, International Financial Services
- Small Island Developing State

The Business As Usual Approach to Environmental Stewardship

- Dependence on friendly countries international organizations providing grants or loans
- Funds project with a limited life but the benefits are not sustained after the project ceases
- Business As Usual approach is not sustainable!

Our Journey to a New Approach

- Policy Review and State of the Environment
  - **Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism Project**
    - Legislative weakness with regard to the Environment
    - Physical Planning
    - Review of major challenges to major watersheds
    - Cataloguing some of our species

Our Journey to a New Approach

- Policy Review and State of the Environment
  - **OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project**
- **Revised NBSAP in 2013**

Our Journey to a New Approach: Conclusions and Strategic Actions

Pressure and Status Highlights

- Environment Division had not specific legal mandate (Legislative Gap)
- Weak Physical Planning Legislation and Tools (Legislative Gap, Skills Gap)
- Inconsistent government funding for Depts with Environment responsibilities (Gaps)
- Major Watershed and key Biodiversity areas under threat
- Uncoordinated Approach
- Undervalued Ecosystem services
- Invasive challenges: Land and Sea

Our Journey to a New Approach: Conclusions and Strategic Actions

Responses:

MAINSTREAMING	PROTECTION
• Created National Physical Development Plan (Law)	▪ Drafted Environment Management and Protection Act
• Created EIMAS with Layers for Planning	• Additional Protected Areas with Management Plans
• Updated Physical Development Act	▪ Physical Development Plan

Our Journey to a New Approach: Conclusions and Strategic Actions

- **Some important Lesson Learned:**
  - Polluter pays principle makes you dependent on pollution (a perverse incentive)
  - We must develop a self-sustaining financing mechanism to properly steward biodiversity and the ecosystem
- Introducing: The **S**ustainable **I**sland **R**esource **F**ramework Fund (**SIRF** Fund)
  - Sustainable Use
  - Implementation

Challenges and Opportunities

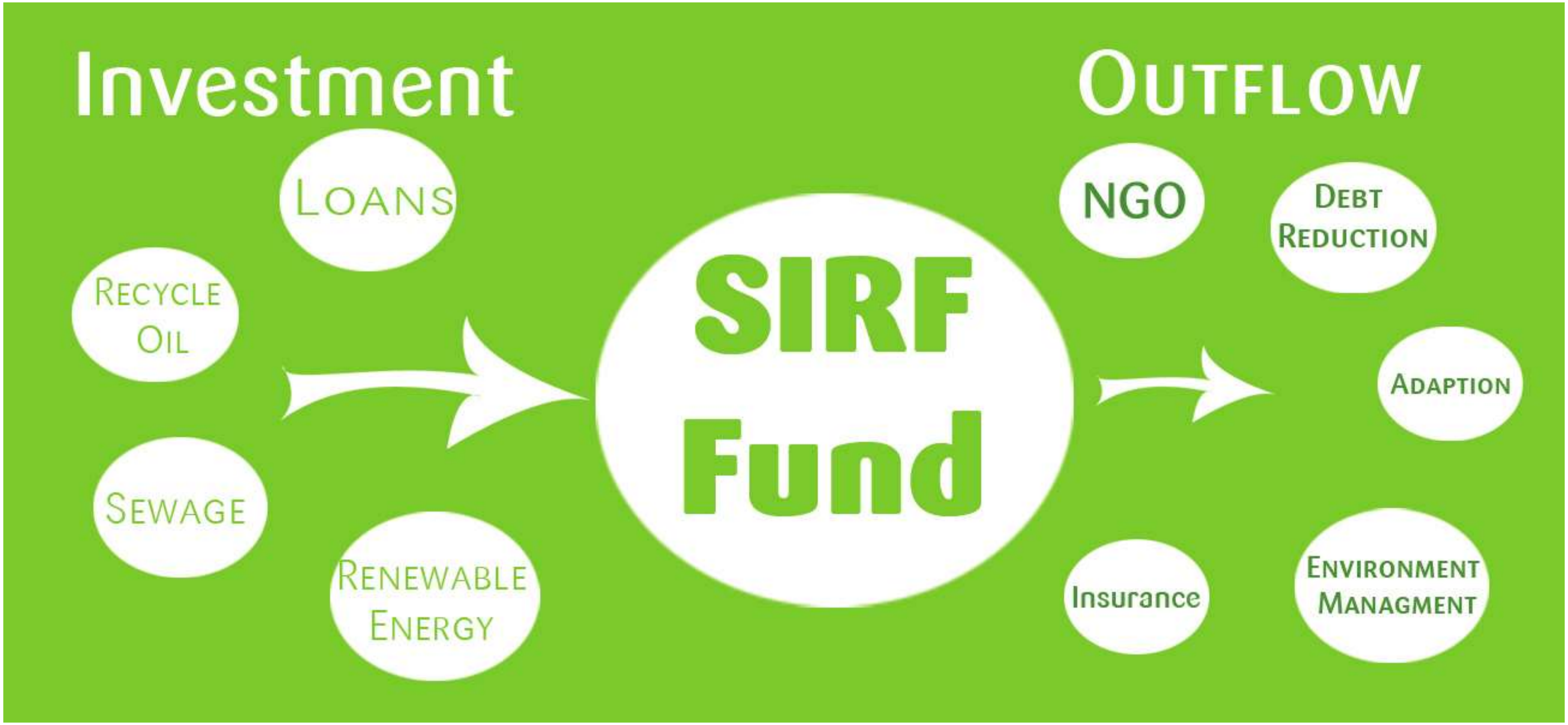
- Like many SIDs we are highly vulnerable to Climate Change and our Biodiversity is under threat
- Because of our GDP per capita we do not qualify for concessional financing
- We want to create a sustainable resource for our children
- The international focus on ODA for Envir is unpredictable and may not last

What is the SIRF?

- Will be created by Environment Management and Protection Bill
- Definition:
  - A <u>self-sustaining</u> non-profit entity that earns revenue and attract funding for biodiversity and ecosystem stewardship in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Based on international fiduciary standards
- Independent Board
- Low administrative cost: 10% or less

The SIRF's Architecture

- Cohesion: Simplifies all Environment stewardship financing under one financing mechanism
- Policy coherence: One place for projects
- The SIRF will have different Windows:
  - NGO
  - Adaptation
  - Protected Areas
  - Forestry
  - Mitigation
- Ability for international partners to to be involved in oversight of their area of funding


Investment
Loans
Recycle Oil
Sewage
Renewable Energy
SIRF Fund
Outflow
NGO
Debt Reduction
Adaption
Insurance
Environment Managment

How will the fund earn revenues?

- Green Climate Fund;
- Adaptation Fund;
- Bilateral Sources
- The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund;
- **Water Levy (co-financing)**;
- **Proceeds from Investment**
- **Soft Loans**
- Donation of technology
- SIDS Dock
- **Sustainable Use of Protected Areas**
- **Main area:** Generating Renewable Energy
  - Over $1 mil of fossil fuel for every MW of elec
  - RE Assets deliver flows for 20-30 yrs vs 4 year project cycle

Implementing the Concept

(What we are Doing Now)

- **Sustainable Pathways Protected Areas and Renewable Energy (SPPARE Project)**
  - SIRF Fund Business Plan
  - Establish New Protected Area at Mount Obama National Park (Pilot self-sustaining use of PA)/Pilot Sustainable Use of Protected Areas
  - Establish the Forestry Window
  - NGO Window
  - Establish RE facility which sells energy to local utility
  - Fundraising strategy

Implementing the Concept

(What we are Doing Now)

- **Special Climate Change Fund Project**
  - Adaptation: Eco and Non-Eco based infrastructure
  - Establish: Adaptation Window
    - Partnering with the private sector

Thank You!!!!