



THE CENTER FOR  
CLIMATE AND  
SECURITY

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# SIDS: Climate-Security Risks and Opportunities

# The Center for Climate and Security



- ❑ The Center for Climate and Security (CCS) is a **non-partisan** institute that counts on an Advisory Board and team of **security and military experts**.
- ❑ **CCS facilitates policy development processes and dialogues**, conducting research, communicating to the public, and acting as a resource hub in the climate and security field.

# Geostrategic Risks: Global

2016 National Intelligence  
Council Memorandum: Six  
pathways of climate and security



## Implications for US National Security of Anticipated Climate Change

This memorandum was prepared by the  
National Intelligence Council and was coordinated  
with the US Intelligence Community.

21 September 2016  
NIC WP 2016-01



Threats to the stability of countries



Heightened social & political tensions



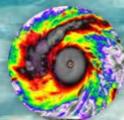
Adverse effects: food prices & availability



Increased risks to human health



Negative impacts on econ. competitiveness



Climate discontinuities & secondary surprises

# SIDS' Climate Hazard Exposure

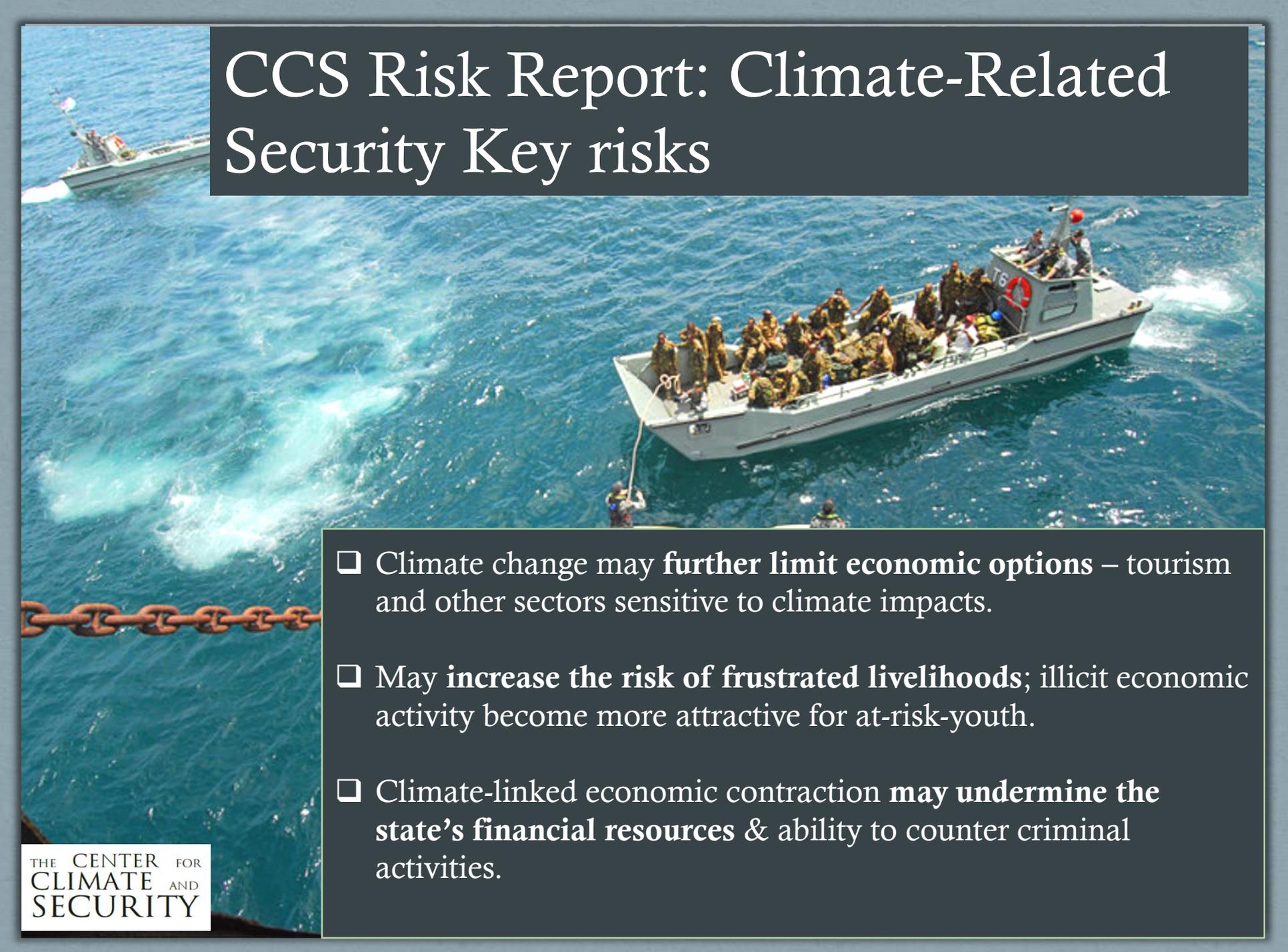


- ❑ Tropical cyclones, Sea level rise, **flooding, inundation & storm surge.**
- ❑ Longer dry seasons threaten **food security & agricultural economy.**
- ❑ Ocean acidification & warming increases the **risk of coral bleaching,** impacting both **food security & tourism.**
- ❑ Caribbean populations, economies & infrastructure **concentrated on coasts.**

# CCS Risk Report: Underlying Security Issues



- ❑ Trans-regional criminal flows: drugs, weapons and people.
- ❑ Human trafficking: source, transit and destination region. (Interpol 'Operation Libertad' in 2018 rescued 350 victims)
- ❑ Venezuela's breakdown: increase in illicit flows of goods across the region.

An aerial photograph of a white boat with a cabin, filled with people wearing yellow life jackets, on a blue sea. A thick orange chain is visible in the foreground. The boat has the number '16' on its side. In the background, another smaller boat is visible.

# CCS Risk Report: Climate-Related Security Key risks

- ❑ Climate change may **further limit economic options** – tourism and other sectors sensitive to climate impacts.
- ❑ May **increase the risk of frustrated livelihoods**; illicit economic activity become more attractive for at-risk-youth.
- ❑ Climate-linked economic contraction may **undermine the state's financial resources** & ability to counter criminal activities.

# What Can Be Done



- ❑ **Making the most of existing institutional capacities** by better-aligning them and adding climate security to their remit.
- ❑ **Focusing on adding needed capacities to existing institutions** to strengthen an accessible knowledge base and expert community.
- ❑ **Weaving climate security imperatives into broader climate resiliency and disaster preparation plans and strategies.**
- ❑ **Working on high-level political buy-in for a regional climate security agenda**, so that the Caribbean sees itself in this and has regional ownership & engagement.

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