



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TWENTY-FIRST SPREP MEETING

Madang, Papua New Guinea
6 – 10 September 2010

Agenda Item 9.2.1: PIFACC Mid-Term Review

Purpose

1. To report key findings of the mid-term review of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and to seek endorsement of the recommendations from the review; and
2. To report on the implementation of other outcomes of the 2009 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. The full report from the review is provided as Attachment 1.

Background

PIFACC Review

3. Pacific Leaders at their meeting in Madang in 2005 adopted the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) 2006-2015. The Secretariat, as the leader of a consultative process and at the request of the SPREP Meeting, developed an Action Plan in 2007. The Framework sets out regional priorities and expected outcomes while the Action Plan defines national and regional activities to promote the implementation of the Framework.

The Framework's vision is "*Pacific island people, their livelihoods and the environment resilient to the risks and impacts of Climate Change*".

4. The 2009 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) recommended that SPREP, as the lead regional agency for climate change, undertake the scheduled mid-term review of the PIFACC and its Action Plan. The recommendation also reflects that, with respect to climate change, there have been many developments since 2006.



5. SPREP was tasked with conducting the review with particular attention to the recommendation that:

the mid-term review should aim at strengthening the relevancy of the PIFACC and its Action Plan, and consider gaps including ecosystem-based approaches, adaptation technology, links with mitigation, disaster risk management and community-based approaches.

6. The review has been informed by extensive stakeholder consultations, a comprehensive review of the existing PIFACC and Action Plan, an analysis of responses to strategic questions sent to SPREP Members as well as to national contacts for climate change and disaster risk management. These findings are being used as the basis for recommending next steps in regards to the PIFACC and its Action Plan, as well as their subsequent implementation.

7. Other specific tasks undertaken during the review were to: (i) identify, assess and recommend ways to better align and link implementation of the PIFACC and other relevant regional frameworks and policies, including the Regional Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action, the Pacific Plan, the Niue Declaration and the Cairns Compact; and (ii) develop a practical monitoring and evaluation framework for reporting on the progress of PIFACC implementation.

Other outcomes of the 2009 PCCR

a) Enhancing regional climate change financing

8. The PCCR noted the important role that could potentially be provided by a financing coordination mechanism, as well as the need for greater harmonization of regional funding arrangements. Discussions did not identify the final form or functionality required from such a mechanism. Rather, participants left such details to be decided through a climate financing review. The PCCR did recognize the related workload and ensuing transaction costs to Pacific Island Countries (PICs), including access difficulties, which are a consequent of differing donor policies and requirements. It further agreed that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) develop the draft Terms of Reference and engage a consultant to undertake a study in consultation with members of the PCCR.

9. Part of the other recommendations of the PCCR was the proposal to consider a revised structure for improving the work of the roundtable. This structure could include working groups, with one proposed to focus on financing. It was noted however that the informal arrangements of the established Development Partners in Climate Change Roundtable (DPCC), currently coordinated by UNDP, could be a logical mechanism to act as such a working group. Subsequently, the SPREP Director apprised a DPCC meeting in Suva in early 2010 of this recommendation. SPREP considers that the DPCC provides a valuable informal forum for donor coordination for climate change efforts, which could be built upon to form the financing working group under the PCCR. A separate TOR has been developed for revising the structure of the PCCR.

10. Such a group can be the logical starting point to facilitating greater coordination of donor contributions to the different sectors of Pacific communities. This has been a long-standing challenge, with a number of different approaches, including the informal arrangements through the DPCC, having been instituted to address some of these needs. More recently, realization of the magnitude of the potential impacts of climate change, and the commensurate response by donors and recipient countries alike, has again underlined the need for coordination.

11. A similar proposal for setting up a Pacific Adaptation Fund was explored in 2002 – 2003. The findings of an extensive feasibility study were the subject of much consultation with member countries including some high level meetings. The consultant engaged to review the PIFFAC and considered alternative structures for the PCCR. The work currently underway by the Asian Development Bank on climate change adaptation within ADB projects in the region was also be taken into account.

12. The Climate Finance study commenced in July and will conclude in early September. It will assess the feasibility of establishing a Pacific Regional Climate Change Fund or Facility with the objective of harmonizing donor assistance in this area and reducing the administrative burden and other constraints Pacific island countries are experiencing with accessing and utilizing climate change ODA. It will further assess the need for a technical backstopping mechanism for PICs developing project proposals for accessing resources and facing the associated administrative and management responsibilities. The study will review similar or alternative options practised in the region and elsewhere, especially through a regional approach, including potential linkages with existing funding mechanisms. The study will build on the findings of the 2003 feasibility study organized by SPREP and considered by Leaders at their 2003 Forum where they “noted the work that had been done in relation to the concept of a regional adaptation financing facility as of July 2003 and the need for further work and direction to advance this concept further.”

13. The anticipated outcomes of the study will include:

- (i) A baseline assessment of the current situation with regard to resources available to PICs for Climate Change Adaptation initiatives that will guide future national and regional responses and policies, including coordination arrangements;
- (ii) Identification and analysis of any potentially feasible options for establishing, resourcing and operating a Pacific Region Climate Change Funding Facility/Mechanism that will guide PICs’ and donors’ decisions;
- (iii) Analysis of the costs and benefits of instituting a regional backstopping mechanism, as an adjunct of the funding facility/mechanism or a stand alone mechanism; and
- (iv) Valuable information on donor/PICs’ funding coordination perspectives that will guide future policy and responses.

b) PCCR Working Groups

14. The PCCR recommended that the lessons from the Nature Conservation Roundtable be applied to the PCCR. Both the 2008 and 2009 Forum Communiqués reaffirmed the continuing urgency of addressing the challenges posed by and the impacts of climate change as a regional priority. PICs’ vulnerability to climate change and other natural hazards has led to increased national and regional commitments to address climate change impacts through sustained adaptation and mitigation options in support of national sustainable development.

15. Similarly, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Framework for Action is due for a mid-term review this year. This complementary framework is aimed at building a “Safer, more resilient Pacific Island nationals and communities to disasters, so that Pacific island nationals and communities may achieve sustainable livelihoods and lead free and worthwhile lives.”

16. The PCCR will continue to be supported by SPREP as its secretariat. In order to facilitate better functioning of the PCCR, technical work will be carried out by dedicated working groups and a steering committee on an inter-sessional basis, while the PCCR will meet as a full conference for the region on a biennial basis to take stock of work of the working groups, give direction and advice and plan for additional activities that could be supported, and/or endorse for implementation activities suggested by the steering committee.

17. The steering committee will be supported by SPREP as its secretariat, and will meet virtually as often as possible and in person 2-3 times a year if feasible. It will receive regular updates from the working groups and will seek to bring synergy and coherence to ongoing work of these groups.

18. The Pacific Climate Change Portal will be housed by SPREP. It shall receive raw data and information as well as formal reports from the Working Groups and provide user-friendly information and tools to assist Members, organizations and institutions.

19. Objectives of the Working Groups:

The following working groups are proposed to:

- i. Mitigation – the group should build on existing networks established for regional projects such as the PIGGAREP. In its functioning as the Mitigation Working Group (MWG) it should suggest opportunities for mitigation projects for the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It should also seek synergies in implementation of other areas of the PIFACC, and present views and direction to the PIC negotiators. It should also assist Members to develop proposals in this area.
- ii. Adaptation – the group should build on existing networks established for regional projects such as PACC. In its functioning as the Adaptation Working Group (AWG) it should suggest possible opportunities for adaptation projects for the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It

should also seek synergies in implementation of other areas of the PIFACC, and present views and direction to the PIC negotiators. It should also assist Members to develop proposals in this area.

- iii. Financing – the group should build on existing networks established for regional cooperation such as the Development Partners on Climate Change meetings. The activities of the Financing Group will be linked with, and informed by, the recommendations of the Climate Financing Study. In its functioning as the Financing Working Group (FWG) it should suggest possible opportunities for financing projects for the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It should also seek to optimize delivery of financial resources and synergies in implementing climate change projects. It should also assist Members to develop proposals in this area.
- iv. Climate change science and awareness raising – the group should build on existing networks established for regional projects such as the PI-GCOS and RMSD. In its functioning as the Science Working Group (SWG) it should suggest possible opportunities for projects to enhance knowledge of climate change science and awareness raising for the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It will closely monitor and work with the Pacific Climate Change Portal. It should also seek synergies in implementation of other areas of the PIFACC, and present views and direction to the PIC negotiators. It should also suggest and prepare regional science and climate change research abstracts that could be used by Members.
- v. Negotiations support – the group should build on existing networks established for PICs in AOSIS. In its functioning as the Negotiations Working Group (NWG) it should prepare the region for upcoming FCCC negotiations. It should provide for a preparatory forum as well as an avenue for discussing positions on different subjects, taking into account input from the other WGs.

Summary Key Findings from the Review

20. In summary, the key points were:
 - PIFACC provides a regional mandate or an ‘entry point’ for taking action to address climate change.
 - The purpose of PIFACC should be clarified for all stakeholders as the overarching goal/strategy to drive the relevancy and coherence of regional climate change initiatives.
 - PIFACC is being used by some donors and regional organizations as high level guidance when deciding how they will assist to the region to address the issue of climate change.

- Some countries have used PICACC as the regional policy to guide preparation of national policies, including both sustainable development and climate change policies.
- The PIFACC as the key regional climate change policy and strategy needs to maintain its high level strategic guidance and coordination functions for the next five years.
- Visibility of PIFACC is very important to guide regional initiatives and national policy, strategic and action planning – this can be facilitated by producing a more user-friendly publication and merging the policy framework with strategic actions and with principles of implementation and further guidance and advice.
- A practical monitoring and evaluation system needs to be developed to inform partners, donors and countries of the status of implementation, both at regional and national levels, taking into account the need to avoid complicated reporting requirements for Members.
- There is widespread agreement to strengthen the function of the PCCR as the forum that facilitates the coordination of climate change initiatives consistent with the PIFACC as well as monitoring the PIFACC implementation

The Review Recommendations

21. The recommendations of the review are:

Recommendation 1: That the agreed purpose of the regional climate change policy be to: (i) formalize a regional high-level policy and strategy for addressing climate change; (ii) provide guidance to countries and other stakeholders on regional priorities and delivery of assistance for enhancing governance, preparing relevant policies, enhancing understanding, promoting appropriate technologies and knowledge, and on detailed adaptation and mitigation strategies; (iii) advocate for improved coordination, including adoption of more integrated approaches to addressing current and anticipated climate change impacts, at all levels; (iv) indicate to development partners the highest priorities for assistance to the region; (v) identify and guide responses to climate change that are best undertaken at the regional level; and (vi) establish and implement a framework for monitoring, reporting and evaluating the collective effort of the region to address climate change.

Recommendation 2: The PIFACC should be supported by a more accessible and reader-friendly guide that is relevant to the countries, the regional and international organizations and the donors that provide assistance to them, analogous to the example of the booklet describing the Pacific Islands Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action.

Recommendation 3: The PIFACC Guide should indicate and elaborate the linkages with other relevant regional policies rather than trying to be overly inclusive.

Recommendation 4: The strengthened approach should involve identification and implementation of strategies that relate to addressing climate change at that level;

Recommendation 5: That the regional actions required to implement the PIFACC and report on its progress be reflected in the work programmes of the relevant CROP agencies and relevant regional and international organizations.

Recommendation 6: That the PIFACC Guide includes specific principles that can help shape responses to climate change in the Pacific islands region.

Recommendation 7: That the preamble in the PIFACC Guide includes more detailed historical and institutional contexts as well as a current overview of the consequences of climate change for the region.

Recommendation 8: Preparation of the PIFACC Guide should be used as an opportunity to harmonize implementation of the PIFACC and the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action, and for signalling to countries and their development assistance partners that integration of policies and work programmes related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is practicable and highly desirable.

Recommendation 9: That organisational arrangements, including the PCCR, and associated support be strengthened in order to achieve more effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of the PIFACC.

Recommendation 10: That the proposed PIFACC monitoring and evaluation framework be approved, with the regional-level reporting and evaluation being implemented and funded as part of the SPREP work programme.

Recommendations

22. On the PIFACC review, the Meeting is invited to:
- **note** the continuing importance of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change in providing an overarching strategy to ensure regional and national climate change initiatives are relevant and coherent;
 - **approve** the eleven (11) recommendations of the mid-term review that were developed after comprehensive consultations with stakeholders;
 - **task** the Secretariat with ensuring the recommendations are implemented and with raising awareness of the PIFACC;
 - **agree** that monitoring and evaluation of PIFACC implementation should form an integral part of the SPREP work programme, and be funded accordingly;
 - **note** that Members will be informed via circular of the nature of the completed work on the revised PIFACC action plan.
23. On the recommendations emanating from the 2009 PCCR, the Meeting is invited to:
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