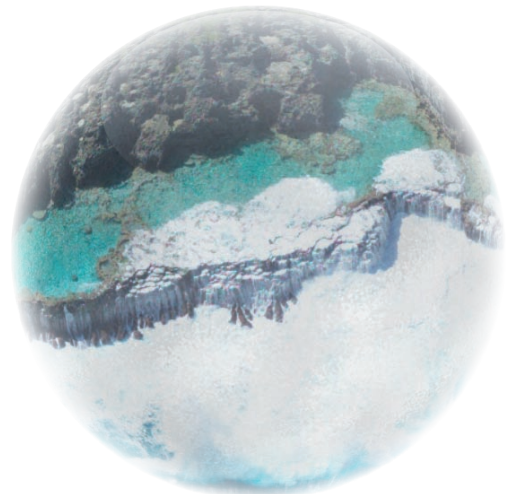




# Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015



# Action Plan for the Implementation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015

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2. Governance and decision-making
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# Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015

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## Introduction

Climate change is one of the most serious threats to sustainable development and to the very survival of Pacific Island Countries and communities. In 2007 the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders reiterated their deep concern over this serious and growing threat to the economic, social and environmental well being of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), their communities, peoples and cultures. They have been calling on the international community to take concerted action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere since 1990. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report shows unequivocally that climate change is occurring and that it is very likely caused by human actions. Adaptation to climate change is now an inevitable requirement, as the Earth begins responding to greenhouse gases already emitted. In this regard the Leaders recognised the special concerns and interests of the small low lying island countries on the adverse implications of climate change, in particular sea level rise. The Leaders welcomed the guidance from the IPCC that it is physically and economically feasible to mitigate climate change and that with concerted international support, adaptation can also succeed. Conversely, without serious action, the global economy and the fragile resources of the Pacific will be severely affected.

In 2007 the Pacific Islands Leaders called on the international community to reach agreement urgently on an effective global response to deliver on the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC to avoid dangerous levels of interference with the climate system, including further commitments in the future by all major greenhouse gas emitters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and to increase and mobilise financial and technical resources to support adaptation efforts in vulnerable developing countries. They recognised that climate change is a long-term international challenge and that an effective international response would require a resolute and concerted international effort, including effective action in particular by the world's major greenhouse gas emitting countries to reduce their emissions and by all countries to adapt to the changes that climate change will bring. The ongoing international negotiations for a future long-term climate change regime will be of utmost importance to the PICTs. SPREP also recognizes the need to ensure that account is taken of inter-generational equity as well as gender issues within the context of the regional response to climate change.

In order to seek further concrete actions at the national, regional and international levels, the PICTs have developed this action plan to implement the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006-2015).

Asterio Takesy [signed]  
Director  
SPREP

## Background

In 2005 the Leaders endorsed the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change. The Framework's goal is to ensure that Pacific Island peoples and communities build their capacity to be resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change with the key objective to deliver on the expected outcomes under the following Principles:

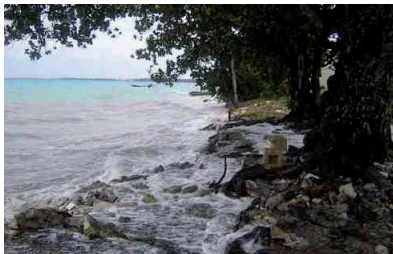
1. Implementing adaptation measures
2. Governance and decision-making
3. Improving our understanding of climate change
4. Education, training and awareness
5. Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and
6. Partnerships and cooperation

This action plan is intended to contribute to the implementation of the Framework through actions taken in response to meeting the key outcomes under each of these principles. This action plan is regional in nature, with national activities complemented by regional programming in support. It provides an indicative menu of options for action on climate change. An accompanying matrix will also be developed in order to provide a clear overview of ongoing and planned activities at the national and regional levels, with responsible agencies or entities, and ensure that interested donor countries and agencies are able to identify initiatives to support, so that their work aligns to Pacific priorities. By clearly identifying actual existing programmes and projects within the matrix of activities it is expected that national officials and local stakeholders, as well as interested donor countries and partner organizations can ensure greater leverage of resources to the region for climate change work. This will also allow for a clearer alignment between different initiatives.

It is envisaged that project activities will be implemented by PICTs in line with these principles at the national and regional levels, supported by the CROP, and in partnership with other agencies such as civil society organisations that work on climate change in the region. The action plan identifies key areas in PICTs that will be impacted by climate change. These key areas are food security and agriculture, health, coastal areas and infrastructure and water resources, as highlighted by PIC National Communications and by the IPCC. Sectors of importance to the sustainable development of PICTs such as tourism, land-based resources, fisheries, industry and biodiversity will also be considered under this action plan.

At the Pacific Islands Climate Change Roundtable meeting to review the Framework, held in Madang, PNG, in June 2005, ideas for developing an action plan for the Framework were generated. This action plan builds on those initial elements. The action plan should be seen as a living document that will require monitoring and evaluation over time. PICT Governments, their development partners and regional organizations, and all stakeholders at the community and national levels should utilize the action plan and its matrix to guide their climate change activities and planning. The implementation of the action plan will also be guided by decisions and activities at the level of the UNFCCC and GEF, but in turn the work under the action plan will assist PIC delegates to the meetings of UNFCCC and GEF to formulate positions to optimise technical and financial support for the region.

In order to ensure appropriate coordination of activities under the Framework, a Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) has been reconstituted. Since responsibility for the Framework's regional



1. In addition to the meetings of the PCCR, consideration should also be given to affording the PICs the opportunity to conduct back-to-back meetings with the PCCR to prepare for the annual meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

and international actions can and should be shared by the region's organisations, SPREP has been called upon to convene regular meetings of the PCCR inclusive of all regional and international organizations, as well as civil society organizations, with active programmes on climate change in the Pacific region to:

- help update the PICTs on regional and international actions undertaken in support of the Framework;
- share lessons learned from best practices in the implementation of climate change programmes
- voluntarily lead or collaborate in implementing and monitoring actions relevant to their priorities and work programmes;
- agree on mechanisms for measuring progress, identifying difficulties, and addressing actions needing special attention; and
- disseminate information on new and existing funding modalities and opportunities.

The PCCR should meet at least once a year<sup>1</sup>, acting as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for this action plan and as a coordinating body for activities under the Framework. Funding for the PCCR will be sought from traditional donors as well as other interested countries and organizations. Meetings will be convened conditional upon such support. The PCCR should also operate as an on-line forum, through which the matrix can be regularly updated and other information can be shared, including through the SPREP climate change portal.

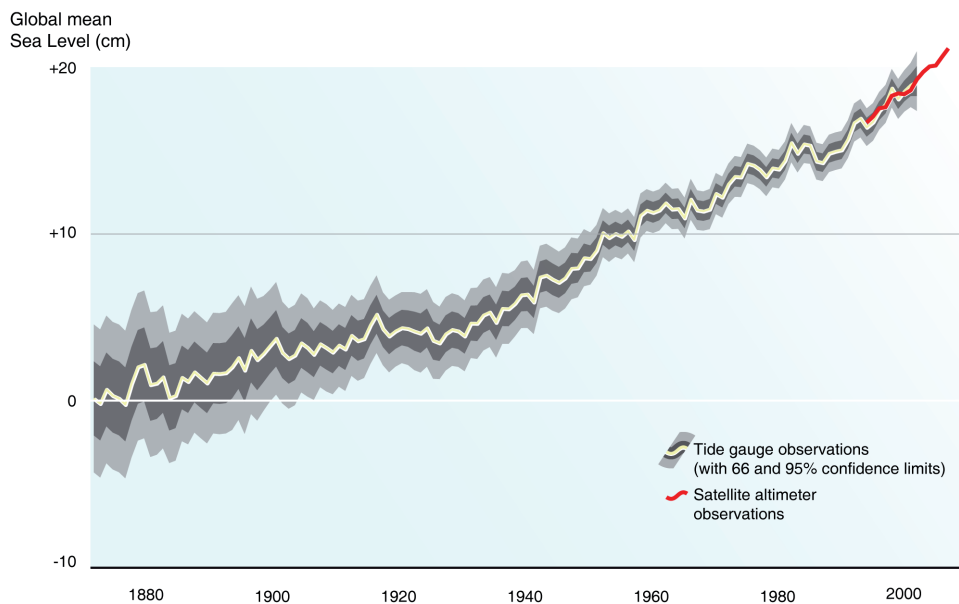
SPREP, acting as the secretariat for the PCCR, should in cooperation with CROP, draft the agenda for the PCCR and circulate these to national climate change focal points for final clearance, issue invitations to PICTs and relevant organizations, and arrange for financing for the participation of delegates from the PICTs. To assist SPREP in preparing for and convening the meetings of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, a Facilitator should be appointed. This post should be financed under normal consultancy procedures.

CROP and other agencies should appoint focal points for the PCCR as appropriate, and ensure that CROP participation in the meetings of the PCCR are assured. PCCR meetings should be open to all interested countries, organizations, agencies and civil society stakeholders. Rules of procedure for the meetings should allow for an interactive, multi-disciplinary and inclusive dialogue.

SPREP will seek to ensure that points of contact at the national levels and in CROP are readily available and kept up to date through the climate change portal.



2. LDC's can undertake this through their NAPAs; other PICTs through a NAPA-like process (if approved by the FCCC COP), the national communications process or other means



## Context and specific activities

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Implementation of the Framework will require activities to deliver outcomes under each of the main principles. These will build on past activities, ensure synergies with ongoing related activities, and will provide the basis for identifying gaps in the future. The following sections are based on the principles of the Framework and provide guidance for how PICTs can seek to achieve the expected outcomes of the Framework by 2015. Additional activities may be introduced, as appropriate.

### 1. Implementing adaptation measures

Adaptation measures will have to be identified at the national and local levels, with regional support and backstopping provided through agreed modalities. Linkages will be maintained with regional and national projects such as PACC. Adaptation measures and information on adaptation technologies will be compiled by SPREP on the climate change portal and listed and updated on a regular basis. In particular it is crucial to encourage community participation in planning, management and implementation of adaptation measures.

Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

- 1.1 Adaptation measures to the adverse effects of climate change developed and implemented at all levels.
- 1.2 Identification of vulnerable priority areas/sectors and appropriate adaptation measures using available and appropriate information recognizing that such information may be incomplete.
- 1.3 Adaptation measures in vulnerable priority areas supported by existing data sets and traditional knowledge, or new data developed in some instances as necessary.
- 1.4 Appropriate adaptation measures integrated into national/sectoral sustainable development strategies or their equivalent and linked to the budgeting process.

3. For the purposes of this action plan, the phrase “regional and international partners” includes national and regional non-governmental organization, civil society organizations and other agencies active in the region.

6. For example the Fiji School of Medicine Piloting Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health project, the SPREP PACC, Kiribati national KAP II project, etc.

5. *ibid* 3

4. CBDAMPIC (SPREP) or IAAMCCSD (USP)

#### a) National Actions

A step-by-step process should be identified according to national circumstances so as to ensure that individual adaptation actions are consistent with national priorities. Such a framework could involve:

- clearly identifying national adaptation priorities<sup>2</sup>
- engaging with stakeholders in priority sectors to discuss impacts and appropriate adaptation responses
- developing national adaptation plans based on the priorities identified, with appropriate support from regional organisations and donors<sup>3</sup>
- designing national adaptation programmes, with appropriate support from regional organisations and donors, to implement these plans that address underlying vulnerabilities and support resilience building
- committing national budgets for adaptation programmes as appropriate

Elements that could be considered as part of such a process include: establish integrated coastal management and adaptation measures to increase the resilience of coastal systems; protect, inter alia, coral reefs, coastal communities, and mangroves, and promote sustainable in-shore fisheries; protect freshwater resources and promote watershed management; diversify economic opportunities in agriculture, biodiversity conservation and management; protect human health from climate change related diseases; formulate appropriate building and zoning codes and promote integrated early warning and response systems. Account should also be taken of social and gender impacts of climate change so remedial actions can be prepared. Community-based approaches developed in the region<sup>4</sup> should also be considered.

#### b) Regional Actions:

Regional organizations and international partners<sup>5</sup> can provide the following support as requested:

- assist with the design, financing and development of national adaptation measures, such as those referred to above
- provide capacity building and training for the implementation of national adaptation measures
- map existing adaptation projects in the region to support co-ordination and limit duplication and promote regional adaptation projects that involve local communities and promote livelihoods<sup>6</sup>
- facilitate regional exchange on best practices and lessons learned from adaptation activities that can be replicated within the Pacific Islands context
- assist in accessing adaptation funds and the development of proposals including through the provision of advice on the drafting of project proposals



- develop or enhance Integrated Early Warning and Response Systems
- establish close linkages with the Pacific Nature Conservation Roundtable process

Relevant ongoing activities on adaptation include the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project, the Kiribati Adaptation Project phase II, National Adaptation Programmes of Action (for the Pacific LDCs) (NAPAs), as well as aspects of the development of 2nd National Communications to the UNFCCC (2nd NatComs).

## 2. Governance and decision-making

In order to situate climate change at the appropriate level of governmental decision making processes it will be necessary to ensure that national sustainable development strategies and planning give prominence to climate change issues.

Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

- 2.1 Climate change considerations mainstreamed into national policies, planning processes, plans and decision-making at all levels and across all sectors.
- 2.2 Partnerships and organizational arrangements between government agencies, private sector, civil society, community and other stakeholders strengthened.
- 2.3 CROP agency partnerships coordinated, harmonized and strengthened to ensure country, and outcome, focused delivery of services.
- 2.4 Good governance by all stakeholders in climate change activity management at regional, national and local levels strengthened.

### a) National Actions

In order to establish the appropriate governance and enabling environment for climate change, the following activities could be considered:

- promote adaptation action at both the national policy level (top-down) and at the community level (bottom-up) and incorporate adaptation and mitigation into national planning, policies and regulations
- promote closer links between climate change teams, environment agencies and budgeting agencies to enhance the influence of the climate change teams and the environment agencies on funding decisions related to climate change





7. Fiji regional cyclone center, SPREP, SOPAC (SPSLCMP), USP etc.

- promote communication and coordination between the national agencies involved in engaging donors so that climate change funding is optimised
- require that risk assessment are carried out as part of project appraisals, including Environmental Impact Assessment for all major infrastructure and economic development projects
- identify, assess and implement suitable regulatory and incentive based strategies and instruments to climate proof communities and physical infrastructure and incorporate future climate risk into hazard mapping and decision making, including national energy policies and action plans that identify and promote low-emission and cost effective measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet national energy needs.

#### b) Regional Actions

Regional organizations and international partners, through a multidisciplinary team of technical experts, where necessary, can provide the following technical and scientific support:

- the development of decision-making processes for prioritisation and resource allocation at the national level to reflect effects of climate change
- the documentation and dissemination of best practices in the formulation of national sustainable development strategies, using existing networks where appropriate
- guidance on how to integrate climate change considerations into national sustainable development policies and strategies through the use of risk management tools, economic and social assessment of options, prioritisation and decision-making process, scientific and technical assessment supporting capacity building
- the integration of links between all regional centres compiling data on climate change, extreme climatic events and sea level rise<sup>7</sup> and linkages to the Regional Natural Disaster Management process
- support to PICTs to develop and implement legislations and support informal institutions to climate proof communities and infrastructure, and provision of technical assistance to build the capacities of PICTs for the integration of comprehensive risk management into sustainable development planning
- support to completing needs assessments that may be required to access additional funds

Relevant ongoing activities on governance and decision-making include work done by the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC), the development of national sustainable development strategies as well as aspects of the development of 2nd NatComs.



8. in-situ measurements and instrumentation systems such as satellites, ARGO floats, etc

### 3. Improving our understanding of climate change

Developing scientific capacity in the region will be an important element of this Action Plan. The need to communicate climate change science to stakeholders and climate change officials is also important. There will be a need to link in with the scientific and meteorological work undertaken by PI-GCOS to ensure that the projects under the PI-GCOS implementation plan that are already budgeted and planned are implemented as a matter of priority.

Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

- 3.1 Existing meteorological, hydrological, oceanographic and terrestrial institutional capacity including data collection systems sustained and upgraded.
- 3.2 Technical data sets integrated with relevant climatic, environmental, social and economic information and data sets, and traditional knowledge for risk management.
- 3.3 Analytical frameworks, models and tools for projections of regional climate change and variability, risk assessment and management strengthened.
- 3.4 Develop, and strengthen where, necessary datasets and information required to underpin, strengthen and monitor vulnerable priority areas, sectors and adaptation measures.

#### a) National Actions

In order to improve knowledge and understanding of climate change the following actions could be considered:

- enhance existing institutional capacity of national meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic services and enhance human capacity to observe, predict and monitor climate change and climate variability, and enhance use of climate prediction by National Meteorological Services staff and potential users in climate sensitive industries
- develop national data policies on how institutional capacity to sustain observational collection systems, networks and technical data sets, and convert existing climate data into digital form
- install affordable and user friendly observation and application systems for local communities
- maintain and enhance basic instrumentation<sup>8</sup> needed for weather, hydrological, terrestrial and oceanographic forecasting and prediction



9. This Clearing House Mechanism could be a virtual network to be established at SPREP within the climate change portal

## b) Regional Actions

Regional organizations and international partners can provide the following support as requested:

- improve paleoclimatic understanding of the Pacific
- facilitate implementation of the PI-GCOS Implementation Plan and of the Meteorological Services Needs Analysis Projects, build on the South Pacific Sea Level and Monitoring Project (SPSLCMP), and promote regional mechanisms that focuses on synergies and efficient delivery of these and other relevant regional plans
- establish a Regional Clearing House on Climate Change Information<sup>9</sup> and promote improvements in telecommunications capacity across the region and provide this Clearing House with relevant documentation on climate change and extreme events, and monitoring and characterisation of the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges
- facilitate assistance for the maintenance of meteorological equipment, and the collection and security of climate data to ensure ongoing reliable data at the national level and satellite/ remote sensing with in-situ monitoring and to ensure the data is secure, accessible and in a form capable of being utilised in the mitigation of adverse impacts of climate change and climate variability
- increase capacity for climate change and health research in the Pacific, and improve regional and international collaboration in this regard

Relevant ongoing activities on improving our understanding of climate change are the PI-GCOS implementation projects, the SPSLCMP as well as regional implementation of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme and Research and Systematic Observation.

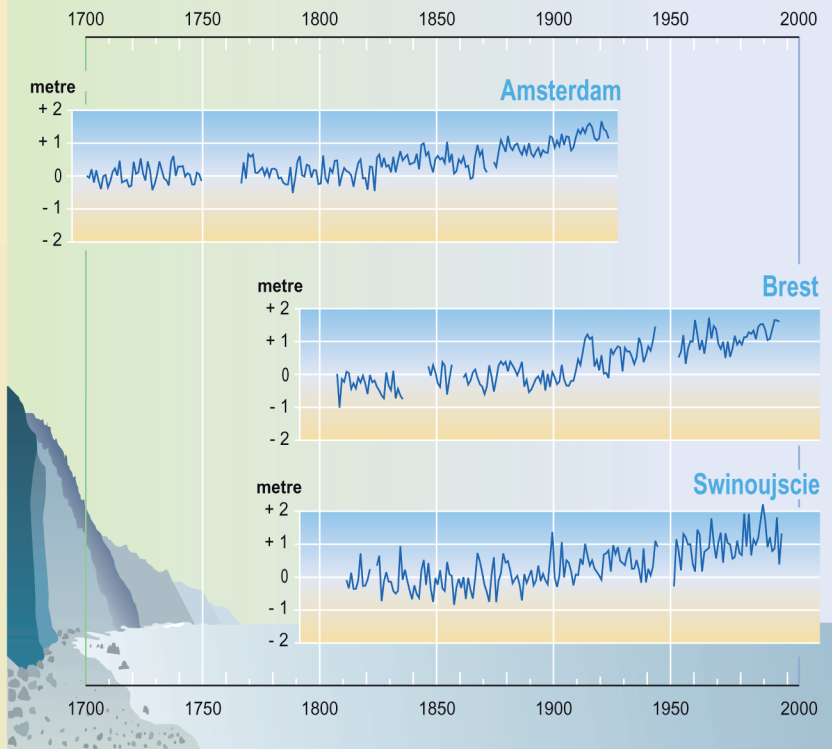
## 4. Education, training and awareness

Climate change in the context of sustainable development necessitates a holistic approach conducive to a better quality of life within a long-term time frame, rather than one aimed at short-term gains. Sustainable development strategies are multifaceted, taking into consideration economic, social, cultural, environmental, participatory, and political factors that affect human welfare. An optimal level of understanding of climate change in PICT communities can only be fruitfully and effectively realised if the stakeholders are adequately educated to understand the values underpinning sustainable development and to participate in relevant and appropriate action on climate change. Even more so, public education and awareness are prerequisites for behavioural change and for gaining support among the general public for actions to implement climate change action for sustainable development.

# The Rising Sea

## Estimations and Predictions of Our Changing Sea Levels

### Relative Sea Level Over the Past 300 Years



### Possible Scenarios

#### A1FI, A1T and A1B

The A1 scenario family describes a future of rapid economic growth, a global population that peaks in the middle of the 21st century and then declines, and the rapid introduction of new and more efficient technologies. The major underlying themes are convergence among regions, capacity-building, and increased cultural and social interaction, with a substantial reduction in regional differences in per capita incomes. The A1 scenario family develops into three groups with alternative directions of technological change according to their energy systems: fossil intensive (A1FI), non-fossil energy sources (A1T), or a balance of both (A1B).

#### A2

The A2 scenario describes a heterogeneous world, with underlying themes of self-reliance and the preservation of local identities. Fertility patterns slowly converge across the regions, resulting in a continuously increasing population. Economic development is primarily regionally oriented and per capita economic growth and technological change are more fragmented and slower than the other scenarios.

#### B1

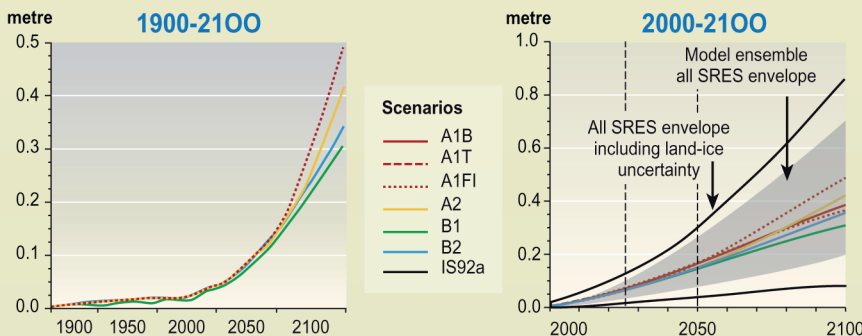
The B1 scenario describes a convergent world with a population that peaks in mid-century and declines thereafter (as in A1), but with rapid change in economic structures towards a more service and information oriented economy, with reductions in material intensity and the introduction of clean and resource-efficient technologies. The emphasis is on global solutions for economic, social and environmental sustainability, including improved equity, but without additional climate initiatives.

#### B2

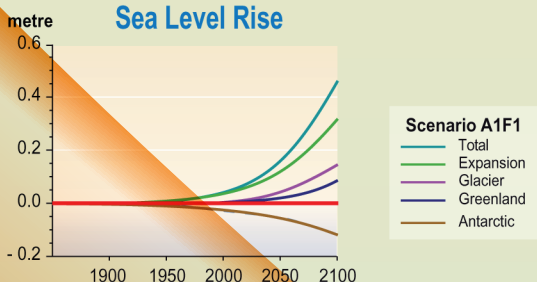
The B2 scenario describes a world in which the emphasis is on local solutions for economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is a world with a continuously increasing population (at a rate lower than A2), intermediate levels of economic development, and less rapid and more diverse technological change than in the B1 and A1 scenarios. While the scenario is also oriented towards environmental protection and social equity, such initiatives are primarily focused at local and regional levels.

### Causes of Sea Level Change

#### Simulated Global Mean Sea Level Changes



#### Components of Mean Sea Level Rise





Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

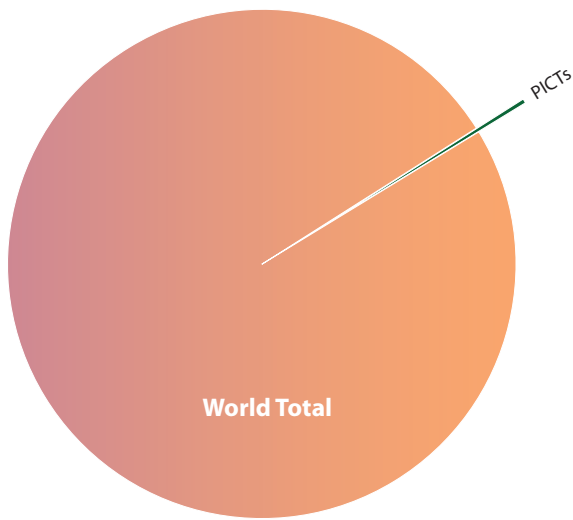
- 4.1 Strengthened human capacity to monitor and assess environmental, social and economic risks and effects of climate change.
- 4.2 Strengthened human capacity to identify, analyse and implement cost effective adaptation measures as well as greenhouse gas reduction measures and creation of a pool of informed resource persons conversant with development of practical steps in adaptation tools and methods.
- 4.3 Strengthened human capacity to identify and integrate economic, scientific and traditional knowledge into adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction practices.
- 4.4 Better informed public on climate change issues.

#### a) National Actions

In order to ensure that education, training and awareness are given appropriate attention the following actions could be considered:

- appoint national focal points for education, training and awareness<sup>10</sup> and seek resources to complete the needs assessment under relevant articles of UNFCCC for appropriate community level training, development of curriculum for all levels and translation of educational material into local languages for advocacy and awareness purposes
- develop national communications strategies appropriate to local and national needs
- strengthen the expertise of local staff for the effective management and coordination of climate change activities<sup>11</sup>
- disseminate information and tools about climate change, variability and extreme events<sup>12</sup>, and on issues related to economic and social implications and health risks, to policy makers, landowners, private sector, the general public and outer island and remote communities, acknowledging the importance of individual responsibilities in tackling climate change issues
- promotion in schools of the range of career opportunities in climate science, targeting both boys and girls
- incorporate climate change adaptation into public awareness programmes on conservation of biodiversity
- establish exchange, secondment and mentoring programs for training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel and for the media, including on climate change negotiations
- develop and implement training programmes that enable local implementation, management and ongoing maintenance of renewable energy technologies.





### PICT share of global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels, 2004

*Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center for United Nations. Data includes 207 countries and territories; PICT total is incomplete, but includes Niue, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, French Polynesia, may be aggregated in municipal country total. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and New Caledonia. Territories not listed may be aggregated in municipal country total.*

#### b) Regional Actions

Regional organizations and international partners can provide the following support as requested:

- the development and maintenance of regional expertise for research and development focused on climate change, climate variability and sea level rise
- developing a directory of regional and national organisations and individuals, with a view to building active networks in the implementation of climate change activities, and increase the capacity of regional educational and research institutions
- providing resources to facilitate the capacity development of PICTs working on climate change and climate variability related issues through intra-regional cooperation and training
- regional workshops to prepare for climate change negotiations
- regional scholarship funds, mentoring programs and expert training in support of national actions outlined above, including for climate change negotiations
- coordinate the collection and dissemination of information, advice, training, networking and linkages to ongoing research in CROP, at USP and other tertiary institutions, through the Clearing House Mechanism

Relevant ongoing activities on education and awareness include work done on UNFCCC Article 6, as well as communications strategies under development in the context of 2nd NatComs.

#### 5. Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction

While GHG emissions in the PICTs are minimal on a global scale, there is recognition of the valuable contributions that action to reduce GHG emissions may have. The aim of this component is to promote cost effective measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including increased energy efficiency and increased use of appropriate low carbon and renewable energy technologies in the region.

Improving energy efficiency has a key role to play in promoting cost effective measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Efficient and transparent utility governance and pricing of energy and energy services is essential given ongoing dependence on fossil fuels, and high power losses.

Interventions contributing to the removal of barriers to the widespread and cost effective use of feasible renewable energy technologies are expected to bring about in the PICTs: (1) Increased number of successful commercial RE applications; (2) Expanded market for RET applications for

power generation and productive uses; (3) Enhanced institutional capacity to design, implement and monitor RE projects; (4) Availability and accessibility of financing to existing and new RE projects; (5) Strengthened legal and regulatory structures in the energy and environmental sectors; and, (6) Increased awareness and knowledge on RE and RETs among key stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

- 5.1 Energy efficiency actions and cost effective technologies promoted and implemented.
- 5.2 Cost effective renewable energy technologies and local sources promoted, shared and implemented.
- 5.3 Commitments met on ozone depleting substances.
- 5.4 Clean Development Mechanism initiatives developed and implemented, where appropriate.

#### a) National Actions

In order to contribute to the reduction of GHGs, in the context of the regional energy policy PICTs are working with the commercial sector, the CROP Energy Working Group and stakeholders to derive greater efficiency by utilities and to reduce power consumption. The following actions could be considered: improve efficiency of energy utilities and networks and substantially reduce energy losses; encouraging adoption of best practice maintenance policies and preventive maintenance culture by energy utilities; voluntarily adopt national targets<sup>13</sup>, including through national standards for equipment and installations; implement national assessments of renewable energy resources potential and energy efficiency opportunities; build the capacity of local businesses and financing institutions to understand and respond to local renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities; and develop initiatives to support the environmentally and socially sustainable production and use of biofuels, sustainable transport and the cost effective use of energy.

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#### b) Regional Actions

Regional organizations and international partners can provide the following support as requested:

- a regional review of existing energy and climate change-related legislation, plans and policies to ensure effective utilization of feasible renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and applications for mitigating GHG
- facilitate cooperation between regional projects and policy frameworks<sup>14</sup>
- disseminate reports on the technical and financial sustainability of existing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in mitigating GHG, provide technical assistance to improve their performance and enable local maintenance of new technologies and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt
- assist with securing resources from international financial facilities to support both local and regional initiatives towards effective mitigation of GHG through renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
- provision of technical support to update or complete Greenhouse Gas Inventories in accordance with requirements for second national communications

- facilitate the involvement of PICTs in implementing relevant international programmes, as well as international and regional public/private partnerships in sustainable energy as they relate to climate change activities at the national and regional level, including through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) activities.

Relevant ongoing activities on reducing greenhouse gas emissions include the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project, the Pacific Regional Energy Policy, as well as aspects of the development of 2nd NatComs.

## 6. Partnerships and cooperation

The success of this Action Plan will be directly linked to the commitment and political will of the partners. Engagement by all relevant stakeholders, coupled with integrated national and local partnerships will be important. At the regional level coordination is ongoing, but there is also a corresponding need for national coordination between the various relevant agencies engaged in climate change and sustainable development. Building capacity is vital to greater national coordination in PICTs. Key challenges include the need for measurable partnership targets, maintaining momentum and for securing a sustainable financial base. A range of concrete outcomes could be pursued under this component, including regional information-sharing networks; capacity-building activities at the local level; utilizing non-climate change related festivals and conferences; and the launch of a number of new partnerships on specific climate change areas.

Expected Outcomes by 2015 as presented in the Framework are:

- 6.1 Existing and emerging international partnerships for the Pacific islands region on climate change and related issues strengthened and established.
- 6.2 Enhanced coordination of regional action on climate change issues.
- 6.3 Climate change related assistance from development partners coordinated and harmonized \ to maximize benefits to PICTs.
- 6.4 Access by PICTs to secure increased resources from funding mechanisms related to climate change instruments optimized.
- 6.5 Promote significant international support through advocacy for further reduction in greenhouse gases and securing resources for adaptation.

### a) National Actions

In order to enhance partnerships and cooperation the following actions could be considered:

- seek to promote increased bilateral and international partnerships from traditional and non-traditional partners to address national climate change issues and to secure funding and seek access to financial and technical assistance under all currently available sources<sup>15</sup>
- participate actively in the development and implementation of relevant international programmes<sup>16</sup> and provide high level and consistent national representation to climate change negotiations meetings
- seek the support of the private sector in national climate change initiatives
- prepare reports on national activities taken to implement the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and this action plan



15. NAPA's, Second National Communications, Special Climate Change Fund, GEF Adaptation Pilot funds, Clean Development Mechanism Adaptation Fund, UNDP Small Grants Scheme etc.

16. Eg the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation

## b) Regional Actions

Regional organizations and international partners can provide the following support as requested:

- promotion of joint climate change projects between international organisations, education and research institutions and PICTs
- assistance in convening regular Pacific Climate Change Roundtable Meetings to promote the Framework and this Action Plan
- assistance in updating the regional climate change matrix to be developed for consideration at Roundtable meetings
- facilitate the involvement of international and regional private enterprises in climate change activities at the national and regional level
- facilitate national access to all available climate change funds through technical support, and assist PICTs to mobilise additional financing for the region
- maintain high level advocacy on the climate change challenges faced by PICTs through partnerships within CROP, the Alliance of Small Island States and the GEF Council constituency, and to continue to provide relevant briefings to international meetings on climate change

Relevant ongoing activities on partnerships include work done by the PPAC, the work of the CROP sustainable development working group as well as aspects of the development of 2nd NatComs.

## Financing

The implementation of this Action Plan will be dependent on the financial contributions of PICTs, CROP agencies and international donor and financial institutions for its success. In addition funding will be required for the convening of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable to monitor and enhance implementation.

## Review

The Action Plan will be reviewed and modified as required every 3 years by the meetings of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. The matrix will be considered at each meeting of the Roundtable.

## ■ Scope

In this framework, Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) refers to American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

The timeframe for this Framework is 2006-2015. This Framework builds on *The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise 2000-2004*

In this Pacific regional framework, climate change refers to any change in climate over time both as a result of human activity and natural variability<sup>1</sup>.

### I. Preamble

The adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them. This was agreed to generally by Small Island Developing States together with the international community most recently in the *Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*.

PICTs' priorities and needs in the area of climate change are reflected in international documents such as the Mauritius Strategy. These are also reflected in national communications, the outcomes of the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties and the outcomes of related international meetings.

At the regional level, PICTs' priorities and needs have been reiterated for over a decade in relevant documents such as Forum Leaders Communiqués, regional policy frameworks and related action plans together with the strategic plans of the regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

At the national level, PICTs are also taking action to address climate change through their national sustainable development strategies, or their equivalent, which are linked to national budgetary and planning processes.

PICTs recognize their commitment to sustainable development is a national responsibility but realise that this cannot be achieved without development partner support. Within this context the Framework identifies broad priorities for PICTs. It provides a strategic platform not only for use by policy and decision makers at all levels, but also for the development and strengthening of partnerships for implementation of national and regional initiatives.



The Framework runs from 2006-2015 and is consistent with the timeframes of the *Millennium Declaration*, the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* and the subsequent work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. It does not create legal rights or impose obligations under international law.

The Framework is intended to promote links with, but in no way supercedes, more specific regional and national instruments and plans across specific sectors that link to weather and climate including: water, agriculture, energy, forestry and land use, health, coastal zone management, marine ecosystems, ocean management, tourism, and transport.

Addressing the issues of climate change requires an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach. Furthermore, a strategic programmatic approach is required rather than an increase in stand-alone project initiatives.

## II. Pacific Context

PICTs experience a high level of risk from the effects of extreme weather and climate variability. Climate models suggest that the tropical Pacific region will continue to warm. This warming has the potential to alter and indeed increase such risks, through changing the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather or climate variability phenomena or through accelerated sea-level rise. The impacts of these climate events will exacerbate already stressed marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments.

Reducing the risks associated with the impacts of extreme weather and climate variability is a fundamental developmental challenge faced by PICTs. This must be urgently addressed in order to contribute to improving livelihoods, economic wellbeing and health, as well as maintaining biodiversity and culture.

An integrated and multi-stakeholder approach that considers the complete cycle of interlinked causes and effects, within the context of risk management across all sectors, is vital. A high priority is the need to develop and strengthen community-centered initiatives.

## III. Vision

Pacific island people, their livelihoods and the environment resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change.

## IV. Goal

Ensure Pacific island people build their capacity to be resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change with the key objective to deliver on the expected outcomes under the following Principles:

- implementing adaptation measures;
- governance and decision making;
- improving our understanding of climate change;
- education, training and awareness;
- contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and,
- partnerships and cooperation.

## V. Principles Principle

### Principle 1. Implementing adaptation measures

Building resilience through adaptation to climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events has been identified as the key priority for PICTs. All PICTs agree that they are already witnessing the adverse effects of climate change. Atoll states in particular believe that their very survival is threatened.

The ecological fragility, economic and social vulnerability, and the remoteness of many PICTs makes recovery from extreme weather events very difficult.

Adaptation now will greatly increase our capacity to better adapt to future climate change impacts. Appropriate adaptation measures using a multi-stakeholder approach need to be integrated into national/sectoral sustainable development strategies or their equivalent.

PICTs will encourage adaptation measures based on the principles of risk management and where this is not possible the “no regrets” or precautionary approach with a focus on improving the livelihoods of their people including safety and security.

Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 1.1 Adaptation measures to the adverse effects of climate change developed and implemented at all levels.
- 1.2 Identification of vulnerable priority areas/sectors and appropriate adaptation measures using available and appropriate information recognizing that such information may be incomplete.
- 1.3 Adaptation measures in vulnerable priority areas supported by existing data sets and traditional knowledge, or new data developed in some instances as necessary.
- 1.4 Appropriate adaptation measures integrated into national/sectoral sustainable development strategies or their equivalent and linked to the budgeting process.

## Principle 2. Governance and decision-making

PICTs recognize that they have a national responsibility for addressing the risks and effects of climate change in the context of their national sustainable development strategies, reflecting the principles of sustainable development and good governance.

All stakeholders have a role to play in developing individual and collective resilience through adapting, preventing and/or mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change and its effects is a shared responsibility, which also requires effective partnership with all relevant stakeholders in decision-making and implementation of strategies and actions at all levels.

Recognizing the presence of limited technical and financial resources and institutional capacity at the national and regional levels, collaboration and partnerships between CROP agencies in support of national efforts, consistent with the Pacific Leaders' vision, is critical for harnessing key disciplinary skills and expertise across the region.

Good governance ensures the adoption of core principles of accountability and transparency by all stakeholders and at all levels, which is critical for cost effective adaptation against the risks of climate change and greenhouse gas reduction activities .

### Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 2.1 Climate change considerations mainstreamed into national policies, planning processes, plans and decision-making at all levels and across all sectors.
- 2.2 Partnerships and organizational arrangements between government agencies, private sector, civil society, community and other stakeholders strengthened.
- 2.3 CROP agency partnerships coordinated, harmonized and strengthened to ensure country, and outcome, focused delivery of services.
- 2.4 Good governance by all stakeholders in climate change activity management at regional, national and local levels strengthened.

## Principle 3. Improving our understanding of climate change

Better understanding of climate change, variability and extreme weather events is needed to inform local, national and regional responses. This will mean enhancing human resource capacity for generating, analyzing and managing climate related data sets; sustaining and upgrading existing observation and application systems; developing and strengthening technical data sets and tools for climate observations; establishing baseline data in different sectors; and maintaining the collection of the latest information on sea level rise.

A basis for improving our understanding of climate change is the ongoing need to engage research into improving understanding in the variations, circulations and climatic patterns in the Pacific region.

Translating climate change science into applicable information products through user-friendly materials and tools is necessary to inform the decision-making process at all levels.

Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 3.1 Existing meteorological, hydrological, oceanographic and terrestrial institutional capacity including data collection systems sustained and upgraded.
- 3.2 Technical data sets integrated with relevant climatic, environmental, social and economic information and data sets, and traditional knowledge for risk management.
- 3.3 Analytical frameworks, models and tools for projections of regional climate change and variability, risk assessment and management strengthened.
- 3.4 Develop, and strengthen where, necessary datasets and information required to underpin, strengthen and monitor vulnerable priority areas, sectors and adaptation measures.

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Principle 4. Education, Training and Awareness

PICTs' capacity to use economic, scientific and traditional knowledge to monitor, assess and predict environmental, social and economic risks and effects of climate change needs strengthening. This is critical for developing and implementing viable and sustainable national programmes on cost effective adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction measures.

Concerted efforts need to be undertaken to enhance human capacity in the assessment of the risks and impacts of climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events. A pool of informed resource persons conversant with development and application of practical steps in adaptation tools and methods is critical. Increased awareness and understanding of risks and effects of climate change is particularly important at the community level to increase their resilience.

Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 4.1 Strengthened human capacity to monitor and assess environmental, social and economic risks and effects of climate change.
- 4.2 Strengthened human capacity to identify, analyse and implement cost effective adaptation measures as well as greenhouse gas reduction measures and creation of a pool of informed resource persons conversant with development of practical steps in adaptation tools and methods.
- 4.3 Strengthened human capacity to identify and integrate economic, scientific and traditional knowledge into adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction practices.
- 4.4 Better informed public on climate change issues.



## Principle 5 Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction

PICTs' contributions to the total global emission of greenhouse gases are insignificant compared to the rest of the international community. Nonetheless, PICTs wish to contribute to the global effort to reduce emissions. As part of their national policies, PICTs will promote cost effective measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including increased energy efficiency and increased use of appropriate low carbon and renewable energy technologies.

There may be the opportunity to work with developed countries on Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism projects to support these efforts. Complementing the effort will be national plans and policies to ban the use of ozone depleting substances.

Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 5.1 Energy efficiency actions and cost effective technologies promoted and implemented.
- 5.2 Cost effective renewable energy technologies and local sources promoted, shared and implemented.
- 5.3 Commitments met on ozone depleting substances.
- 5.4 Clean Development Mechanism initiatives developed and implemented, where appropriate.

## Principle 6. Partnerships and Cooperation

Partnerships and cooperation provide an enabling environment and are an essential part of PICTs' efforts to build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change.

PICTs will continue to advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to advance adaptation internationally. Networks and partnerships to inform policy development for harmonized regional, national and local responses to climate change are necessary.

Additional resources will need to be accessed through multilateral and bilateral funding. One of the roles of regional organizations is to support national efforts to access this assistance and to coordinate existing and new innovative projects and programmes, including the *Pacific Partnership Initiative for Adaptation to Climate Change* launched by Pacific leaders at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Efforts will be taken to ensure climate change partnerships are strategic and well coordinated.



Expected Outcomes by 2015:

- 6.1 Existing and emerging international partnerships for the Pacific islands region on climate change and related issues strengthened and established.
- 6.2 Enhanced coordination of regional action on climate change issues.
- 6.3 Climate change related assistance from development partners coordinated and harmonized to maximize benefits to PICTs.
- 6.4 Access by PICTs to secure increased resources from funding mechanisms related to climate change instruments optimized.
- 6.5 Promote significant international support through advocacy for further reduction in greenhouse gases and securing resources for adaptation.

## VI. Implementation Strategy

PICTs recognise that the implementation of this Framework, the *Mauritius Strategy, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the *Millennium Declaration*, are mutually reinforcing.

The implementation of this Framework will be further elaborated in the *Pacific Islands Action Plan on Climate Change 2006-2015*. It will require more focused and substantially increased effort by PICTs and appropriate support from their regional organisations and the international community. PICTs recognize that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies, development strategies and the allocation of dedicated financial resources cannot be overemphasized.

## VII. Monitoring Progress and Updating this Framework

Targets and indicators will be established within the Action Plan linked to the Framework and set at the appropriate levels. The framework will be subjected to a mid-term review in 2010 to determine overall progress.

Evaluating progress towards achieving the outcomes of this Framework will be measured every two years against the agreed national and regional indicators with the support of regional organizations and the international community. This will require PICTs to identify progress towards achieving the principles contained in this Framework, and to identify emerging gaps requiring priority action and adjustment of priorities in future. The regional organizations will, where necessary, provide support and a coordinating role for regional and international reporting.



Acronyms

