



SPREP PAPER TO PCCR 19-21 OCTOBER 2009

Niue Declaration and Cairns Call for Action on Climate Change: Roadmap for Implementation

Purpose:

1 This paper presents a summary of progress to date made in implementing the Forum Leaders' 2008 Niue Declaration on climate change, and proposals for how to further this implementation in light of the 2009 Cairns Call for Action on climate change.

Background:

2 As members will be aware there has been considerable effort invested in implementing the Forum Leaders Niue Declaration as well as earlier decisions of Leaders on climate change. At the 2009 Forum, Leaders issued a Call to Action on Climate Change, reaffirming the issues and priorities highlighted in the Niue Declaration and elaborated further on the need for redoubled efforts to secure a successful agreement at Copenhagen in December 2009.

3 A summary of activities can be found in **Annex 2** "Overview of progress to date", which highlights some of the climate change actions in the region following the Niue Forum and which are also in conformity with the Cairns Call to Action. **Annex 1** provides additional background details on the issues summarized in this working paper

Policy work in the region

4 Climate change policy in the region has informed the development of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), which in turn has informed climate change activities in the region. All the regional projects implemented by CROP are in alignment with PIFACC. Individual CROP agencies do provide policy advice and assistance to PICs in their own areas of work, which could be seen by members as duplicating/overlapping and/or exerting undue stress on their small civil service with an influx of CROP advisers visiting them one after the other! The issue therefore is how CROP can provide policy-relevant information and advice in a more coordinated fashion. The strengthening of



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PCCR and proposed NSDS partnership are two mechanisms that could provide that coordination among and between CROP and other partner agencies.

5 For input to the international negotiations, the SDWG would need to consider ways and means whereby input could be provided from CROP that would be useful to the negotiations and thereby contribute towards developing decisions at the UNFCCC level that in turn guides international decision-making on the financing of climate change activities.

Strategic considerations for climate change negotiations support

6 The current negotiations taking place within the UNFCCC, which culminate in Copenhagen in December 2009, represent one of the few decisive opportunities available for addressing climate change in a comprehensive manner. The negotiations are taking place within the context of the Bali Road Map, which addresses inter alia emissions reduction targets, adaptation, finance and technology.

7 It is also in the interest of PICs to ensure that they are clear on what they want (and what they cannot accept) from these negotiations, and that they speak with one voice through their representative grouping.

8 The PICs through AOSIS have set the following as the three prime objectives in the negotiations:

- a) An Agreement with Environmental Integrity
- b) Recognition of the Special Vulnerabilities of SIDS
- c) Avoidance of Unfair Burdens on SIDS (and other vulnerable developing countries)

9 In each of these three objectives there is a role for information from CROP to assist the PICs in the formulation of their responses and statements during the negotiations. Firstly, CROP could assist in identifying further impacts that would be expected given various scenarios that would arise from climate change in the region. CROP could look at the relative robustness with which the various options can be applied to addressing REDD issue, for example. Lastly, some analysis of the climate change burden that any new agreement may place on PICs would be useful.



Collaboration with other agencies

10 In addition to collaboration within CROP, several other agencies and organizations have undertaken or started activities in the region. The UN system and the GEF remain key funding and implementing partners for much of the regional climate change work. Large GEF projects such as PIGGAREP have benefited from partnership with IUCN, with funding from the Italian and Austrian Governments for practical mitigation measures. Similarly, SPC have benefited from their standing cooperation with the German Government through the GTZ. There is also growing interest in the Australian International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, which is commencing activities at the national and regional levels. Other funding opportunities that will be coming on stream include the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance, Japan's Cool Earth Initiative for the region through the Pacific Environment Community, and international funds such as the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund.

Engagement of donor partners

11 In addition to the donor partners mentioned above, there are many other climate change related activities planned for the region. While some of this information is made available to all CROP through the PPAC, there is a need for a coherent approach to engaging current and non-traditional donors and for sharing and disseminating the information to stakeholders. In the future this role should become part of the climate change portal, but in the interim SDWG could consider what other steps may be required in the near term. Providing information through the national climate change focal points alone may not suffice, and may overload the capacity of their institutions.

Support for PICs to access funding mechanisms

12 The 2009 SIS Leaders Summit concluded that there was a need for active assistance of both national and regional stakeholders, with the support of development partners, towards facilitating stronger regional coordination through mechanisms such as the PCCR. From this it can be inferred that there is a need for a function to be defined for the PCCR in facilitating access to available financing. Several technical resources are already in existence, and the issue has been included in the terms of reference for the development of the climate change portal. This could incorporate work already carried out by processes such as the Suva-based development partners (DPCC) and the Climate Funds Update.

13 The SDWG could consider providing further suggestions that could be included in the discussions on this item at the PCCR.



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Regional initiatives in support of the implementation of climate change mandates from the Leaders

14 As mentioned above, many of these initiatives are highlighted in the **Annex 2**, while some new initiatives have been discussed above and elaborated in **Annex 1**.

Recommendations

15 The DPCC is invited to:

- i. **Note** the developments since the Niue and Cairns Forum Meetings and to **seek** the continued regional efforts and collaboration in implementation of the Niue Declaration, as contained in the **Annex 2**
- ii. **Consider** what other steps may be required in providing and coordinating information on climate change activities, donor interest and involvement, etc in the region, bearing in mind the current developments on PCCR and climate change portal



Annex 1

Proposals for the further implementation of the 2008 Niue Declaration on climate change and the implementation of the 2009 Cairns Call for Action on climate change

Purpose:

This paper presents a summary of progress to date made in implementing the Forum Leaders' 2008 Niue Declaration on climate change, and proposals for how to further this implementation in light of the 2009 Cairns Call for Action on climate change.

Background:

As members will be aware there has been considerable effort invested in implementing the Forum Leaders' declaration on climate change. Through the 2008 Alofi Communiqué and the accompanying Niue Declaration, the Forum Leaders outlined their views and expectations as to climate change work in the region. Further elaboration was given at the Cairns Forum in 2009.

In the Niue Declaration Forum Leaders committed to continue to develop Pacific-tailored approaches to combating climate change, and to seek support of the international community for this. The Leaders also committed the region to carry out international advocacy on the climate change concerns, in particular of the urgent social, economic and security threats caused by the adverse impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

The Leaders requested the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), in cooperation with other agencies and programmes, to assist the Pacific Island Countries with the strengthening of meteorological services, consolidating and distributing information on climate change, strengthening adaptation and mitigation measures, and increasing Pacific Island countries' capacity to manage their engagement in the UNFCCC process. SPREP and others were encouraged to secure new and additional financial and technical resources to do this work, and regional partners were called upon to increase their technical and financial assistance in this regard. The Leaders also provided guidance on the sorts of priorities that should be set for adaptation, mitigation and improving knowledge of climate change in the region.



At the 2009 Forum, Leaders issued a Call to Action on Climate Change. The Leaders reaffirmed the issues and priorities highlighted in Niue, and elaborated further on the need for redoubled efforts to secure a successful agreement at Copenhagen in December 2009, emphasizing the need for that agreement to safeguard and assist those most vulnerable to climate change. In particular they recognized that in “view of the situation of Small Island States and their future survival action by the major emitters, both developed and developing countries, should embrace the possibility of going beyond the 2050 targets contained within this Call to Action.”

A summary of activities can be found in the Annex “Overview of progress to date”, which highlights some of the climate change actions in the region after the Niue Forum and which are also in conformity with the Cairns Forum.

Policy work in the region

At the international level all the PICs are members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which forms the primary negotiating block for the PICs. In terms of policy development within AOSIS, this is done by consensus and through a consultative process. Much of the physical meetings take place through the AOSIS meetings of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York. This has some limitations, as not all Permanent Missions have climate change expertise, and Cook Islands and Niue do not have permanent representation and are not UN members, while Kiribati is a UN member but has had limited representation and no Permanent Mission. Requests for briefings and information are regularly requested from CROP, and SPREP is often asked for commentary or inputs to papers and presentations. SPREP has also acted as a liaison point between the AOSIS Chairman and the climate change focal points and experts within all the PICs. While policy questions do arise during negotiation sessions of the UNFCCC, there has been an effort by some PICs to limit this, and instead referring such decisions back to New York.

Cooperation on the development of position papers has also been carried out on selected topics. SPC has been taking the lead on developing a briefing paper for the region on REDD. This topic is one where there are divergences of views within the PICs, but it is expected that a common understanding of the issues can be brought forward through this briefing.



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Briefings for the FCCC meetings have been developed in the past by SPREP. However, at the FCCC consultations in Samoa after the PCCR in 2008, SPREP was requested to provide updates on activities that have implications for the negotiations or that could be used to illustrate the particular needs of the PICs. These briefings have therefore a different purpose and content, in that they will assist in informing negotiating positions as opposed to informing policy as such.

At a broader level, climate change policy in the region has informed the development of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), which in turn has informed climate change activities in the region. All the regional projects implemented by CROP are in alignment with the PIFACC. The issue that will need to be discussed is how CROP can provide policy-relevant information and advice without seeking to influence the setting of policy, which has been clearly agreed as the domain of the PICs. A mechanism for providing information and advice to PICs may need to be established, but is not without challenges, including confidentiality, relevance and timeliness.

Strategic considerations for climate change negotiations support

The current negotiations taking place within the UNFCCC, which culminate in Copenhagen in December 2009, represent one of the few decisive opportunities available for addressing climate change in a comprehensive manner.

This is so, because the framework convention provides a forum where all the members of the global community can come together to focus on climate change issues and where each has an equal voice. In addition, it has in place an institutional framework that is designed specifically for addressing climate change and therefore has the capacity to implement the decisions taken at the global level in a legally binding manner.

The negotiations are taking place within the context of the Bali Road Map, which was agreed to in December 2007. Under the Bali Road Map, the negotiations are being conducted in two parallel tracks:

- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties (AWG-KP) – which is mandated to come up with new emissions reduction targets for Annex 1 Parties for the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol (post-2012). This working group does not deal with the emission commitments for industrialized (Annex 1) parties that have not ratified the Kyoto protocol, which is essentially the United States; and
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperation Under the Convention (AWG-LCA) – which is mandated to come up with means to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, now, up to and beyond 2012.



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The AWG-LCA is further mandated to conduct its work with a focus on four building blocks:

- o Mitigation – in both developed and developing countries, which addresses human interventions to reduce GHG emissions by sources or enhance their removal from the atmosphere by “sinks”. The mitigation part of the negotiations for developed countries under the AWG-LCA exists because the United States has not and will not ratify the Kyoto protocol. This political fact significantly complicates the relationship between the work of the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP.
- o Adaptation – which refers to adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to climate change or its effects with a view to moderating negative impacts or exploiting beneficial opportunities
- o Finance – which addresses the sourcing, management and utilisation of funds required by developing countries to support adaptation and mitigation under a strengthened climate change regime.
- o Technology – which addresses development and access to environmentally sound technologies for emissions reductions and adaptation in the developing world

The Bali Action Plan (BAP) contains a non-exhaustive list of issues to be considered under each of these areas, and also calls for articulating a ‘shared vision for long-term cooperative action’, including a long-term goal for global GHG emission reductions (i.e. by 2050).

These negotiations therefore represent an opportunity for PICs to put forward their concerns and their proposals for addressing these concerns. Decisions are taken by consensus and this also provides PICs (and all other Parties) with an opportunity to reject proposals that are seen as harmful to their interests. PICs have taken a decision to work through the AOSIS grouping, as it would seem to be in their best interest to build coalitions, particularly with other island countries that share the same concerns. They have also sought to build wider cooperation and coalitions with other vulnerable States, such as the Least Developed Countries and the African Group. With the former AOSIS held a joint press conference in Bonn in August 2009 indicating their common ground on most issues. The African Group was unable to reach a consensus due to the presence of Nigeria (oil producer) and Algeria (natural gas producer).

It is also in the interest of PICs to ensure that they are clear on what they want (and what they cannot accept) from these negotiations, and that they speak with one voice through their representative grouping.



The PICs through AOSIS have set the following as the three prime objectives in the negotiations:

- a) An Agreement with Environmental Integrity – To ensure that the Copenhagen Outcome is one that has environmental integrity and will deliver the emissions reductions that are needed to ensure the survival of small island states.
- b) Recognition of the Special Vulnerabilities of SIDS – To ensure that the Copenhagen Outcome recognizes and provides for the special vulnerabilities of small island developing states. These vulnerabilities include the lack of financial resources, technology and human capacity to respond to climate change; the openness of the economies and the high physical vulnerability to extreme events like tropical cyclones.
- c) Avoidance of Unfair Burdens on SIDS (and other vulnerable developing countries) – To ensure that the agreed commitments to address climate change do not place additional burdens on small island developing states that will hinder their economic development. These commitments include targets for greenhouse gas reduction, commitments to finance the agreed actions and the like.

These objectives are treated as cross cutting issues that are relevant across all the building blocks and are used to assess the various proposals that are advanced by the different Parties in the LCA, as well as to determine the second commitment period targets in the Kyoto Protocol.

In each of these three there is a role for information from CROP to assist the PICs in the formulation of their responses and statements during the negotiations. Firstly, CROP could assist in identifying further impacts that would be expected given various scenarios that would arise from climate change in the region. For example, an analysis of the difference between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees as the long term goals for an agreement could be sought. Analysis could also be made in relation to any new mechanisms under negotiations. For example, the role of reducing emissions from deforestation. It is estimated that deforestation contributes about 18% of global emissions and thus has to be addressed. The challenge has been in agreeing on the policy approaches for addressing REDD and REDD-plus activities. A number of proposals for policy approaches and positive incentives have been presented, including market, non-market and hybrid mechanisms.

It is widely acknowledged that any REDD mechanism would require robust methodologies to monitor changes in forest cover (and associated carbon stocks



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and CO₂ emissions) and a significant improvement in the technical capacities of developing countries to undertake forest carbon inventories and estimate emissions.

CROP could look at the relative robustness with which the various options can be applied – in keeping with the PICs objective of ensuring the environmental integrity of the Copenhagen outcome and the achievement of deep emission reductions.

Lastly, some analysis of the climate change burden that any new agreement may place on PICs would be useful. For example, if a levy is placed on international aviation and maritime transportation, this could have potential economic impacts on the Pacific if applied without differentiation.

Collaboration with other agencies

In addition to collaboration within CROP, several other agencies and organizations have undertaken or started activities in the region. The UN system and the GEF remain key funding and implementing partners for much of the regional climate change work. Large GEF projects such as PIGGAREP have benefited from partnership with IUCN, with funding from the Italian and Austrian Governments for practical mitigation measures. Similarly, SPC have benefited from their standing cooperation with the German Government through the GTZ. There is also growing interest in the Australian International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, which is commencing activities at the national and regional levels.

Other funding opportunities that will be coming on stream include the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance, Japan's Cool Earth Initiative for the region through the Pacific Environment Community, and international funds such as the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund.

Other agencies are also providing resources to assist with climate change related activities in the region. SPREP is cooperating with the Finnish Meteorological Institute to upgrade skills in forecasting to meet new international standards. The World Wide Fund for Nature and Canada are supporting media training for climate change reporting through SPREP. The Bishop Museum is supporting work on biodiversity and climate change in Vanuatu. Collaboration with Victoria University on climate change impacts on tourism is commencing. In addition, AOSIS has proposed a collaborative partnership between the AOSIS regions on financing for adaptation and mitigation called SIDS Dock Ltd.



Engagement of donor partners

In addition to the donor partners mentioned above, there are many other climate change related activities planned for the region. While some of this information is made available to all CROP through the PPAC, there is a need for a coherent approach to engaging current and non-traditional donors and for sharing and disseminating the information to stakeholders. In the future this role should become part of the climate change portal, but in the interim SDWG could consider what other steps may be required in the near term. Providing information through the national climate change focal points alone may not suffice, and may overload the capacity of their institutions.

Support for PICs to access funding mechanisms

A paper on financing for climate change was developed at the request of the SIS Leaders, and considered at the SIS Meeting in Cairns. They concluded that there was a need for active assistance of both national and regional stakeholders, with the support of development partners, towards facilitating stronger regional coordination through mechanisms such as the PCCR. From this it can be inferred that there is a need for a function to be defined for the PCCR in facilitating access to available financing. Several technical resources are already in existence, and the issue has been included in the terms of reference for the development of the climate change portal. This could incorporate work already carried out by the meetings of the Suva-based development partners and the Climate Funds Update. The latter is an independent website developed by a German foundation that provides information on the growing number of international funding initiatives designed to help developing countries address the challenges of climate change. The funds will be tracked over the next, crucial year in the lead-up to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Copenhagen. This site aims to detail where these climate change funds are being developed, what the funds support, the scale of the proposed funding, how the funds are to be disbursed, and what had been achieved so far. It details numerous funding opportunities that may otherwise have been overlooked by the region.

Regional initiatives in support of the implementation of climate change mandates from the Leaders

As mentioned above, many of these initiatives are highlighted in the annex, while some new initiatives have been discussed above.

Recommendations

1. The DPCC is invited to take note of the developments since the Niue and Cairns Forum Meetings and to seek the continued implementation of the Niue Declaration, as contained in the annex.



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2. The DPCC is invited to consider what other steps may be required in providing information on climate change activities, donor interest and involvement, etc in the region, bearing in mind developments on PCCR and climate change portal



Annex 2

Overview of progress to date

Mitigation

Since the Niue Forum the region has implemented or planned several activities in response to this mandate. On mitigation, regional efforts are largely driven through the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) implemented in 11 Pacific Island Countries. This project seeks to remove barriers to the implementation of renewable energy technologies at the national level, and seeks to find the best possible options for specific national circumstances. It is a highly country-driven project that also seeks synergies with other funding opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency applications. PIGGAREP is expected to reduce fossil fuel emissions from the region by 33% by 2015. National level projects have also been introduced in non-PIGGAREP countries, thereby contributing significant sustainable development benefits. This work derives from national policies and plans, and responds to the growing recognition of the economic benefits as well as the political message that these efforts provide. These efforts were well summarized at the meeting of the SIS Leaders in Cairns in 2009:

Almost all the SIS has made commitments to utilize feasible renewable energy technologies in order to reduce pollution, save foreign exchange and improve on their energy security.

Goal 5 of the National Sustainable Development Plan of the **Cook Is** aims at decreasing by 20% its per capita energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency through the adoption of new technologies and energy conservation practices by 2010; and increasing by 30% the use of renewable energy by 2010.

In May 2009, **Kiribati** adopted its National Energy Policy in which it declared that 58% of its population resides in the outer islands and only 30% have access to electricity. Promoting sustainable renewable energy development has therefore been adopted as the most appropriate policy and the long term alternative to conventional energy systems.

The broad goals for the development of energy services in the **Marshall Islands** include the provision of 20% of energy through indigenous renewable resources by 2020 and to reduce supply side energy losses from Marshall Energy Company by 20% by 2015.

Nauru has adopted a National Energy Strategic Action Plan Framework where it has set itself a target of 50% renewable energy by 2015.



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At the 2008 Forum meeting, the Premier of Niue announced a plan to invest in RE technologies that in future will provide significant supply coverage for all of Niue's national power needs and simultaneously add value in respect of commitments to climate change responses that it is pursuing.

The Board of the Tuvalu Electricity Corporation (TEC) has endorsed and approved for TEC to reduce its oil consumption by 3% by 2009-2010, 7% by 2011-2013 and 12% by 2014-2018.

The Regional Energy Meeting of 2009 encouraged PICs to adopt voluntary national renewable energy and energy efficiency targets. Being among the most vulnerable in the world to the adverse impacts of climate change, any effort by the most vulnerable communities in the world to voluntarily cut down on their greenhouse gas emissions would send a very strong political message to the rest of the world.

But while it is important to adopt voluntary national targets, it is crucial from a climate change negotiation point of view that these commitments are voluntarily made, that they are achievable and practical and that they are mainstreamed into governments' planning and budgetary processes. Targets should therefore be supported with road maps or action plans for their achievements. In 2008, the Tonga Government announced that it has embarked on a major renewable energy campaign with a target of having 50 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources within three years. Tonga is presently working together with the World Bank, ADB and development partners on a road map for pursuing its target."

At the international level the Pacific have been seeking strong mitigation measures from developed countries and significant deviations from baselines from developing countries, and the highlighted activities in the region are therefore backing up this basic position with examples that can be emulated by other developing countries.

Adaptation

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change has been a long-standing priority for the region. A regional project called the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) has been under development in the past few years by SPREP in partnership with 13 PICs. The PACC Project, which has conducted its regional inception workshop at the end of June 2009, will contribute significantly to knowledge and experience with adaptation in the region. It builds on the community based approach that SPREP developed in the implementation of a Canadian funded project between 2002 and 2006, and has carried out extensive national and community level consultations in order to fully reflect stakeholders



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concerns. PACC will focus on adaptation measures in the areas of food security, water resources and coastal zone protection or infrastructure protection. It is expected to be implemented over four years, with the possibility of a one year extension if necessary, and will provide important experience with the physical assessment, planning and implementation of adaptation interventions in the region.

In addition, Kiribati has been implementing its national Kiribati Adaptation Project (KAP Phase II), which also seeks to introduce locally appropriate adaptation measures. USP has also carried out nine community based adaptation projects in Fiji. SPC has started a new project in 2009 in partnership with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) that will focus on integrating climate change into agriculture, forestry and land use plans, policies and adaptation strategies in Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji Islands, with Fiji also investigating carbon finance for avoided deforestation. SPC has also begun working with PICs and WHO to improve the capability of national health laboratories to undertake diagnostic work needed for many of the diseases that could be worsened by climate change events. This also involves developing strategic policy and practical responses to address the social determinants of health that are affected by climatic events but are outside the remit of health departments or ministries. These include environment, food, housing, water and sanitation.

SPC is assisting PICs adapt to anticipated climate change impacts of fisheries, by diversifying how fish are produced, processed and distributed to enable a switch to methods and areas that are least affected (or are favoured) by changes in climate. SPC contributed to a 'Preliminary Assessment of the Effects of Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Pacific', published by the Asian Development Bank, outlining these approaches. SPC is also leading scientific research to assess the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture to climate change in the Pacific, to determine the: (i) observed and projected changes to Pacific atmospheric climate and oceanography, (ii) effects of these changes on the ecosystems that support fisheries, and (iii) projected changes in fish stocks.

In terms of researching adaptation, SPC researches, develops and maintains an increasing diversity of crops to provide PIC farmers with as many options as possible to respond to climate change and safeguard food security. This collaborative work is developing a 'climate ready' collection of crops and varieties from the region and elsewhere that are resilient to marginal conditions and are salt and drought tolerant, and has a particular focus on application in atoll environments. SPC is also working with farmers and extension officers on appropriate technologies to improve production in different climatic conditions, such as irrigation systems, promoting cover crops and multipurpose tree species,



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combining charcoal with compost to build soil carbon and increase productivity, particularly on atolls, and processing animal waste to reduce methane emissions. SOPAC has continued to support the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project since 1991, and continues to generate an accurate record of variance in long term sea level and climate monitoring for the region and to establish methods to make data readily available and useable by the Pacific island Countries. The information gathered through the project is an important input into national policy development in responding to changes in sea level under climate change, the planning and development of coastal resources, and the management of fresh water resources, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and infrastructure in member countries.

Strengthening meteorological services

Adequate and accurate scientific information as well as targeted research on Pacific tailored solutions are the bases of all climate change work in the region. Access to regular, timely, and quality weather and climate information is of extreme relevance and importance to people of all walks of life in the Pacific. Safety in maritime transport and the aviation industries depends highly on actions taken in response to weather conditions. It is also of importance to agriculture and fisheries productivity, and industries such as tourism upon which Pacific peoples are dependent on for their livelihood, including its use in predicting the availability of water for human consumption. These and several other key national sectors will also be highly vulnerable to increased incidence of extreme weather events brought about by the effects of climate change.

The regional meteorological services provide an important information resource in regards to climate change. However, the need for its strengthening has been recognized, and consequently SPREP is engaged in a regional review on ways and means to do so. A policy oversight group comprising the Forum Officials Committee members has been established to provide oversight and guidance to the review, which shall be conducted by an independent team of consultants commissioned by SPREP. An update on the progress of the review was provided to Leaders in August 2009, outlining the budgetary constraints that delayed the inception of the review. The review has now commenced with the full review team having been contracted.

Systematic observation of climate change in the region are carried out by Pacific Climate Observing System, Pacific Ocean Observing System and Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing System. These have overall objectives of attaining a sustainable level of capacity in Pacific Island Countries to be able to assess and monitor the status and trend of climate change related information and hazard warnings needed to support national strategies and planning.



In addition SPREP has embarked on a joint project with the Finnish Meteorological Institute to upgrade national meteorological services to meet new international standards. This work will also have impact on knowledge of climate change and climate change observation in the region.

Consolidating information and efforts in the region

After the Niue Forum, SPREP reconvened the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) in Samoa in October 2008. It was convened as a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and participatory body, supported by SPREP, and had representation from Pacific Island Countries and Territories Governments, other Government representatives, NGOs, academia, researchers and other stakeholders. The PCCR is premised on the Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) and its Action Plan, and as such has been successful in coordinating information and activities in the region. It is intended that the PCCR will meet at least once per year, but that a mechanism would be established for virtual meetings and communications, and that virtual ad hoc working groups may also be established to consider special topics. For example, an ad hoc working group on the development of a climate change portal has been established, while on adaptation the national focal points for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project have also formed themselves into a working group focusing on adaptation. The PCCR will strengthen capacity in the Pacific region by providing a forum for representatives of organizations and institutions who are responsible for working on climate change at the national and regional levels to exchange experiences (lessons learned, good practices, impacts and benefits) and use those experiences as the basis to develop a long-term need driven strategy for strengthening national, regional and inter-regional capacity through collaboration. As a result of the PCCR the development partners based in Suva have been meeting regularly to update each other on activities. The resultant matrix will be a useful starting point for this aspect of coordination to be developed through the climate change portal. It has also attracted interest from other donors to support climate change work in the region. The PCCR will be convened in Majuro, Marshall Islands in October 2009.

Linking disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation

SOPAC supports climate change adaptation in the region through a range of disaster risk management initiatives. Significant amongst these has been the development and implementation of DRM National Action Plans (NAPs), which are national adaptations of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015. These have been developed in several PICs and work is currently underway to address the implementation of



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these, through funding support from Australia and from the European Union. In 2009 four PICs will be assisted with developing these plans. A set of guidelines for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster management (DM) has been developed, and assistance has been provided for review of institutional arrangements and legislation.

Support for disaster risk management will be assisted in relation to the development of a web information portal - the Pacific Disaster Net, launched in 2008 - which provides an easily accessible and maintainable web-based database/portal providing a comprehensive overview of data, information and analysis related to all aspects of disaster risk management in the Pacific. Complementary to this work is the EU-funded Project on Reducing Vulnerabilities of Pacific ACP States, which acquires satellite imagery combined with bathymetry data and topography to provide essential baselines for hydrodynamic modelling for sea-level rise incursion, storm wave impacts and tsunami impacts and inundation. The imagery sets provide an effective tool for visualizing the impacts of natural hazards on coastal areas and is useful for development planning for high-risk areas.

SOPAC works with a range of regional and international partners to support the Pacific DRM Partnership Network since 2006. The Network has focussed on a number of key initiatives linked to its objectives, such as the plans referred to above, the portal, the development of a capacity matrix, regional reporting and monitoring, and mainstreaming of DRM, which has clear synergies with climate change adaptation. SOPAC will be working closely with SPREP and a range of other regional and international partners to further integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.

Engagement in the UNFCCC

SPREP continues to coordinate and provide negotiations support to the PIC delegations attending the FCCC meetings at the international level. This work is carried out at the request of the PICs, and has consisted of dedicated briefings, preparation of position papers, assistance with interventions, liaison with other Parties and organizations as well as assistance within the negotiating groups and within the Alliance of Small Island States. With the international schedule becoming very busy in the preparations for Copenhagen, SPREP will continue to liaise with the climate change focal points and respond to any needs or concerns that they express.

At the request of PIC delegations SPREP organized a negotiations training workshop at SPREP in May 2009, to better prepare the delegates for the June FCCC meetings. The objectives of the workshop were to provide participants



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with an overview of issues leading to a new legal agreement on climate change that will be agreed upon in Copenhagen, to provide a forum for participants to discuss these issues and to develop positions that they could take back to their governments. It also provided an introduction to negotiations training skills so that participants could actively engage in future climate change negotiations. There was also an opportunity to dialogue with the European Union on the process towards implementing the joint EU-PIF declaration on cooperation on climate change issues. Based on feedback from the participants, and on observations of the participants while in Bonn, the workshop was a success that SPREP will strive to continue. Participants exhibited much more confidence and were much more active in the Bonn meetings than previously. In addition FCCC consultations will be held during the 2009 PCCR.

Capacity building and raising awareness

Media training in improving climate change knowledge for journalists and the general public was carried out by SPREP in 2008, in partnership with Canada, UNESCO and the Pacific Islands News Association. Many reporters received training at SPREP, and some were selected to attend Poznan in December 2008. This project was deemed a success and helped raise the profile of climate change issues and decisions being made. One of the outcomes from the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable was that this project continues again in 2009. The impacts of the training were felt throughout the Pacific region with an increased amount of climate change reporting to help build awareness on climate change issues. Having had such successful outcomes, SPREP is seeking to continue to build on this and achieve more by way of building capacity for Pacific reporters and more climate change reporting published and broadcast in the Pacific region. Pacific islands journalists from throughout the region would undergo a week of Climate Change media training in Apia in September 2009. After follow up and evaluation, some reporters will be selected to attend Copenhagen in December 2009.

While a number of regional agencies and programs are engaged in providing capacity building and training related to climate change initiatives, in terms of more formal training this is being provided by USP through its postgraduate courses and research on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and mitigation. This will strengthen the overall cadre of qualified Pacific Islanders in climate change issues. SPC and SOPAC are collaborating on developing national capacity in biofuel from agricultural products and held a workshop on the topic in November 2008.



SPREP

As a result of the Niue Declaration and work emanating from PIFACC and the PCCR, significant pledges of financial and technical assistance have been received in the region. There is a renewed interest in assisting the region on climate change issues, but the pledges now need to be realized and put into action.