

# Pacific Islands Action Plan on Climate Change 2006-2015

**VISION:** Pacific people, their livelihoods and the environment are resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change

**GOAL:** Ensure Pacific island people build their capacity to be resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change through implementing adaptation measures; contributing to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions; improving decision making and good governance; improving understanding of climate change and its effects; education and awareness; and developing and strengthening partnership and cooperation

## Principle 1. Implementing adaptation measures

### Outcomes:

- Adaptation measures to the adverse effects of climate change developed and implemented at all levels
- Highly vulnerable priority areas identified through site- specific baseline data and adaptive actions developed
- Integrated approaches to adaptation embedded in national sustainable development plans and budgeting process

### National Actions:

- Develop and implement adaptation measures to protect coral reefs from bleaching
- Develop and implement adaptation measures that promote sustainable harvesting of in-shore fisheries
- Develop and implement integrated coastal integrated catchment and management adaptation measures to increase the resilience of coastal systems, foreshore protection measures including revegetation and establishment of set-back zones
- Develop and implement adaptation measures to control aggregate removal for construction and other uses
- Develop and implement adaptation measures focusing on mangrove protection
- Develop and Implement adaptation measures to the adverse effects of climate change focusing on freshwater resources and watershed management

- Develop and implement adaptation measures focusing on intercropping and increased diversity of crops, diversifying subsistence crops, promoting agro-forestry, encouraging sustainable practices and developing economic opportunities
- Develop and implement adaptation measures focusing on breeding and protection of salt tolerant crops, drought resistant cultivars and crops
- Develop and implement adaptation measures against introduced and invasive species
- Develop and implement adaptation measures focusing on improved soil and water conservation practices in both drought and flood prone areas
- Develop and implement adaptation measures focusing on the effects of climate change in human health
- Develop and implement adaptation measures/codes focusing on cyclone proof houses and other buildings through methods such as the structural design and choice of construction materials
- Develop contingency plans together with Disaster Management Offices for resettlement of populations, emergency and recovery plans
- Develop, design and implement appropriate adaptation technologies for protection from storm surges and flooding
- Conduct inventory and map coastal and near shore resources and processes (e.g... beaches, soils, bio-diversity), including baseline inventories against changes which can be monitored and coordinated.
- Conduct inventory in other highly vulnerable priority areas through site- specific baseline data and develop adaptive actions.
- Provide for the implementation of adaptation measures in national sustainable development plans to limit development in highly risk vulnerable zones and areas
- Provide for the implementation of adaptation measures in national budgetary planning processes

### **Regional Actions:**

- Assist with the design and development of national adaptation measures as requested
- Provide as requested, capacity building training for the implementation of national adaptation measures.
- Promote regional adaptation projects for implementation that involve local communities and promote livelihoods.
- Facilitate regional exchange on successful pilot adaptation projects that can be replicated within the Pacific Islands context

## **Principle 2. Contributing to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions**

### **Outcomes:**

- Energy efficiency actions and technologies promoted and implemented
- Renewable energy technologies promoted and implemented
- Commitments met under the Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances
- Clean Development Mechanisms initiatives developed and implemented
- Greenhouse Gas Inventories maintained

### **National Actions:**

- Adopt voluntary national GHG, renewable energy and energy efficiency targets
- Complete assessments of renewable energy resources potential as well as identify energy efficiency opportunities and GHG reduction equivalents
- Adopt national standards for renewable energy and energy efficient equipments and their installations
- Conduct feasibility studies of potential promising renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (and their GHG reduction equivalents) to sell to financing institutions and potential investors
- Build the capacity of local financing institutions to better understand and respond to the commercial attractiveness of local renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities for mitigating GHG
- Conduct public information and awareness enhancement programs including an Award program for innovative ideas and applications relating to GHG mitigation
- Promote carbon sequestration programmes through national forestry management schemes (potential CDM projects)
- Sustain National Compliance Centres (NCCs) established under the Montreal Protocol and comply with obligations under the Protocol.
- Enforce national regulations/legislation pertaining to imports of ODS
- Support initiative to address the management of waste refrigerants that are ozone depleting and greenhouse gases
- Support initiative to identify practical impacts of ozone depletion in the region through research and development

### **Regional Actions:**

- Review existing energy and climate change-related legislations, plans and policies to ensure effective utilization of feasible renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and applications for mitigating GHG
- Review the technical and financial sustainability of existing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in mitigating GHG, provide technical assistance to improve their performance and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt
- Assist with securing resources from international and global financial facilities to support both local and regional initiatives towards removing of barriers to the effective mitigation of GHG through renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
- Provide technical assistance to rehabilitate existing renewable energy projects
- Establish regional CDM Center of Excellence providing information and advice on CDM project activities
- Provide technical support to update or complete Greenhouse Gas Inventories in accordance with requirements for second national communications
- Assist in sustaining ODS National Compliance Centers and compliance national Montreal Protocol obligations
- Assist enforcement of national controls on imports of ODS. Coordinate management of waste refrigerants that are ozone depleting and greenhouse gases
- Coordinate research and development to identify impacts of ozone depletion in the region and coordinate collaboration with stakeholders

### **Principle 3. Improving decision making and good governance**

#### **Outcomes:**

- Climate change considerations integrated into national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent
- Organizational and institutional decision-making processes established to ensure harmonization and coordination of decisions across sectors and thematic areas affected by climate change effects
- Regulatory and incentive based approaches are developed and adopted to encourage appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Cost effective climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, strategies, decision-making processes and management instruments are developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated and improved

- Institutional capacity in integrated risk management, including economic and policy analysis developed and strengthened
- Risk and effects of climatic change are considered in economic and infrastructure development

### **National Actions**

- Mainstream climate change adaptation into economic planning, policies and regulations and programs
- Promote higher levels of decision-making by assisting countries with the development of national mechanisms that promote adaptation action at both the national policy level (top-down) and at the community level (bottom-up)
- Develop country specific national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent, incorporating adaptation considerations of risks and effects to climate change
- Where national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent exists, adopt explicit prioritization and resource allocation process and mechanism that also reflects considerations of risk and effects of climate change
- Identify, assess and implement integrated adaptation measures and responses to climate change effects, through a cross sectoral and multidisciplinary technical team together with community consultation and participation.
- Enhance an integrated approach to extreme weather events by promoting close links between National Disaster Management Units, Meteorology and Climate Change teams.
- Integrate applicable traditional knowledge management practices (climate prediction/ adaptation) into sustainable development plans
- Undertake cost effectiveness analysis to help underpin the choice of policies, strategies, projects and management instruments
- Mandate risk assessment requirement as part of project appraisal, together with Environmental Impact Assessment for all major infrastructure and economic development projects
- Implement project development and assessment process that incorporates considerations of risks and effects of climate change across sectors affected by or may affect climate change.
- Adapt, or develop and implement economic, social and environment impact assessment process to ensure risk and effects of climate change are explicitly considered in decision-making by government
- Adapt, develop and implement community based project development and appraisal process through community vulnerability assessments (incorporating economic, social and environment impact assessment) with a focus on livelihoods
- Identify, assess and implement suitable regulatory and incentive based strategies and instruments supported by appropriate legislations and informal institutions required to climate proof communities and physical infrastructure.

**Regional Actions:**

- Using a multidisciplinary team of technical experts to assist countries, where necessary, in developing their national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent by providing technical and scientific support
- Assist in the development of decision-making processes for prioritization and resource allocation at the national level that reflects considerations of risk and effects of climate change
- Document experiences of countries who have prepared their national sustainable development strategies identifying lessons learnt for the benefit of other PICT's
- Adapt CHARM Risk Management Process to include other tools, such as economic assessment of options, prioritization and decision-making process that includes scientific and technical assessment, economic and social assessment
- Develop/ adapt for use by the PICTs economic risk assessment and analytical tools for climate change risk assessment and for the assessment of cost effectiveness of adaptation policy, management strategy and instrument and project options
- Develop regional, and country specific if required, project development and appraisal process, incorporating considerations of risks and effects of climate change across sectors affected by or may affect climate change
- Develop community based project development and appraisal process through community vulnerability assessments that focus on livelihoods
- Integrate links between all regional centres compiling data on sea level rise
- Review regulatory and incentive based approaches and instruments adopted internationally and assess their suitability for use in the PICTs, nationally and regionally
- Assist countries to identify, assess and implement regulatory and incentive based approaches and instruments suitable to their social, political and economic context
- Assist countries to develop and implement formal (legislations) and informal institutions to climate proof communities and infrastructure and communities against climate change
- Provide technical assistance and build the capacities of PICT's for the integration of comprehensive risk management including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, into sustainable development planning
- Complete National Technology Transfer Frameworks and Strategies

## **Principle 4. Improving our understanding of climate change**

### **Outcomes:**

- Existing meteorological institutional capacity including data collection systems sustained and upgraded
- Existing hydrological institutional capacity including data collection systems sustained and upgraded
- Existing oceanographic institutional capacity including data collection systems sustained and upgraded
- Technical data sets integrated with relevant social and economic information, and traditional knowledge for risk management
- Appropriate products and services used by stakeholders
- Development and strengthening of technical data sets and tools for projections of regional climate variability and change including analytical and application systems for forecasting and early warning undertaken

### **National Actions:**

- Enhance existing institutional capacity of national meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic services
- Develop national data policies on how institutional capacity, including data from observational collection systems, networks and technical sets may be sustained and upgraded
- Rescue existing climate data in digital form (paper records to computer)
- Restore historical climate monitoring networks
- Install affordable and user friendly observation and application systems for local communities
- Increase use of tools to assess economic and social impacts of climate change, climate variability and sea level rise
- Maintain and enhance basic instrumentation (in-situ measurements and instrumentation systems such as satellites, ARGO floats) needed for weather, hydrological, terrestrial and oceanographic forecasting and prediction
- Improve national telecommunications capacity

### **Regional Actions:**

- Facilitate implementation of projects listed in PI-GCOS Implementation Plan
- Facilitate implementation of Meteorological Services Needs Analysis Projects not already covered under PI-GCOS Implementation Plan
- Develop HY-GCOS Action and Implementation Plan

- Develop PI-GTOS Action and Implementation Plan
- Develop PI-GOOS Action and Implementation Plan
- Promote regional mechanism that focuses on synergies and efficient delivery of above plans.
- Convene annual Regional Meteorological Directors Meeting
- National Implementation policies and plans supported
- Regional Clearing House Information Established
- Maintain Pacific Islands Regional Climate Bulletin
- Promote free and unrestricted use and access to data for agreed purposes in the context of WMO Resolutions 25 and 40;
- Promote improvement telecommunications capacity across the region
- Develop regional climate data policy for access and distribution of climate data
- Provide relevant documentation on climate and extreme events
- Facilitate the production of continuous long and short term monitoring of sea level at a local spatial scale;
- Facilitate assistance for the maintenance of meteorological equipment to ensure ongoing reliable data at the national level
- Promote Continuous monitoring and characterisation of the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges
- Assist countries with local spatial information, discrimination utilizing satellite technology
- Assist countries with calibration of satellite/remote sensing with in-situ monitoring
- Establish regional sea level database in the Pacific
- Promote Utilisation of satellite and altimeter data

## **Principle 5. Education and Awareness**

### **Outcomes:**

- Human capacity to monitor and assess environmental, social and economic risks and effects of climate change strengthened
- Human capacity to identify, analyze and implement cost effective adaptation and mitigation response measures and creation of a pool of informed resource persons conversant with development of practical steps in adaptation tools and methods strengthened
- Human capacity to identify and integrate scientific and traditional knowledge into adaptation and mitigation practices strengthened
- Negotiation and advocacy skills of government and NGOs to more effectively engage in the international *fora* strengthened



## National Actions:

- Complete needs assessment of human capacity (resources and training required) to operate viable and sustainable national climate centers
- Enhance human capacity to observe, predict and monitor on all the scales, seasonal, inter-annual, decadal, and longer, detect distribution of human-induced climate change in the region as well as understanding of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone, South Pacific Convergence Zone, and Inter-decadal Pacific Oscillation
- Enhance use of climate prediction by National Meteorological Services staff and potential users in climate sensitive industries
- Ensure Pacific island involvement in design and implementation of Phase IV of AUSAID SPSLCMP
- Training local people in understanding and analysing data from various monitoring projects.
- Strengthen the expertise of local staff for the effective management and coordination of climate change mitigation activities
- Facilitate and or provide the technical training required to enhance human capacity to observe, predict and monitor on all the scales, seasonal, inter-annual, decadal, and longer, detect distribution of human-induced climate change in the region as well as understanding of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone, South Pacific Convergence Zone, and Inter-decadal Pacific Oscillation
- Disseminate information and tools about climate change, variability and extreme events and issues related to economic and social implications to high-level policy makers as well as the general public
- Develop public awareness programmes related to malaria, dengue fever and other diseases to reduce public health risk
- Develop public awareness programmes on conservation of biodiversity as a viable no regrets adaptation measure
- Enhance efforts to develop and use criteria and teacher training focused on climate change as methods to integrate climate change at all educational levels and across disciplines
- Develop and implement education and training programmes focused on climate change, targeting youth in particular and including exchange or secondment of personal to train experts
- Develop and implement training programmes focused on climate change, for scientific, technical and managerial personnel
- Seek input and public participation, including participation by youth and other groups, in the formulation and implementation of efforts to address climate change and encourage the involvement and participation of all stakeholders and major groups in the climate change negotiation process
- Maintain national climate change country teams and a list of national climate change experts
- Improve public education and awareness at all levels particularly within local communities including the institutionalisation of participatory approaches to vulnerability reduction activities, particularly to disasters
- Hold national negotiation workshops to effectively engage in negotiation of climate change instruments

### Regional Actions:

- Develop and maintain regional expertise including research and development focused on climate change climate variability, sea level rise for scientific, technical and managerial personnel
- Develop a directory of regional and national organisations and individuals, with a view to building active networks in the implementation of education and awareness activities
- Seek resources to facilitate the up-skilling of nationals working on climate change and climate variability related issues
- Hold regional workshops subject to the availability of funding to prepare for climate change negotiations

## Principle 6. Partnerships and Cooperation

### Outcomes:

- Existing and emerging international partnerships for the Pacific islands region on climate change strengthened and established
- Access by the Pacific Islands Region to secure increased resources from funding mechanisms related to climate change instruments optimized.
- High level advocacy of climate change challenges faced by Pacific Islands in international *fora* maintained to encourage developed and developing countries to mitigate causes of climate change and to assist them.

### National Actions:

- Promote increased bilateral and international partnerships from traditional and non-traditional partners to address national climate change issues
- Secure increased resources for climate change assistance from traditional and non-traditional resources, including international and regional financing, lending and research institutions, the private sector and non governmental organizations
- Access and implement in a timely manner national assistance available under the NAPA's, Second National Communications, Special Climate Change Fund, GEF Adaptation Pilot funds, Clean Development Mechanism Adaptation Fund, Small Grants Scheme etc...)

- Implementing relevant parts of the Buenos Aires Plan of Implementation for Adaptation and Response Measures
- Finalize and facilitate the implementation of the Type II partnership initiative on Adaptation (bilateral and multilateral)
- Identify and seek the support of private enterprise in national climate change initiatives and in particular, the CDM
- Prepare national reports on action taken to implement the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change on an annual basis
- Prepare national positions for climate change negotiations in consultation with relevant national stakeholders
- Provide high level and consistent national representation to climate change negotiations meetings

### **Regional Actions:**

- Promote joint climate change projects between international organisations, education and research institutions and PICT's
- Establish Pacific Island Working Group Established connecting national policy makers and decision makers by email in all Pacific Island Countries and Territories
- Convene regular Climate Change Framework Roundtable Meetings to promote this Framework and its Action Plan
- Update annually regional climate change matrix in advance of Roundtable meetings with links to the Pacific Plan
- Complete regional strategy and plan for implementing Buenos Aires Plan of Implementation and assist PICs implement programme of work
- Finalize and facilitate the implementation of the Type II partnership initiative on Adaptation (bilateral and multilateral)
- Facilitate the involvement of high level private enterprise involvement in climate change at the regional level, including CDM activities
- National GEF Trust Fund pilot adaptation proposals supported and implemented
- Facilitate national implementation of UNFCCC under Special Climate Change Fund through technical support
- Facilitate the implementation of GEF Small Grants Scheme on climate change related grants
- Facilitate the implementation of National Adaptation Plans of Action through technical support
- Facilitate the implementation of National Capacity Self Assessments through technical support
- Facilitate the implementation of Second National Communications through technical support
- Facilitate national access to the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol
- Mobilise additional financing for the region
- Prepare briefs for Pacific Island Countries attending Climate Change Conferences
- Maintain high level advocacy to change challenges faced by Pacific Islands through partnerships within The Pacific Islands Forum, the Alliance of Small Island States and the GEF Council constituency
- Facilitate Pacific Island Countries meetings at UNFCCC COPs and related technical body meeting processes