

Inputs provided by: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Apia, Samoa

1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental agency that provides assistance and technical advisory services to Pacific Island countries, territories and administrations in the protection and management of their environment to ensure they achieve sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP's membership comprises 21 Pacific Island countries and territories and 5 developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America). SPREP has a current staff of more than 90, with at least 20 devoted to working full time on climate related issues. SPREP is a regional center of excellence and the lead Pacific organization in climate change work. It has implemented over 100 donor-assisted regional projects in climate change and environmental management, in general, and in CCA and DRR mainstreaming, in particular. SPREP was originally established by the governments and administrations of Pacific region nations in 1973 as part of the South Pacific Commission (SPC). It grew rapidly due to the need to address a variety of environmental problems in the region and became an independent entity in 1982. It has become a major intergovernmental organization in the Pacific region, with the mandate to promote environmental cooperation, provide assistance to protect and improve the environment, and ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. It fosters cooperation among countries in the Pacific region to ensure sustainable development. SPREP's vision is that people of the Pacific islands will be better able to plan, protect, manage, and use their environment for sustainable development. The SPREP Strategic Plan reflects countries' climate change priorities for action, particularly for capacity strengthening to respond to climate change through policy improvement, implementation of practical adaptation measures, and enhancing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change. These priorities are consistent with the detailed feedback from members on their priorities for country delivery and regional coordination. At the regional level, climate change has been the top priority among 14 environmental challenges in the region.

SPREP has been requested by Pacific Island Country members to assist on the issue of loss and damage, and has been doing so since 2006.

Pacific Island leaders have consistently requested for SPREP to lead on coordinating climate change issues across the Pacific Islands, and has a clear mandate to provide support to the National Meteorological Services that collate climate data and provide services for communities to adapt to climate variability and change.

2. Relevant operational framework(s)

Climate change is one of the four delivery programs of the SPREP Strategic Plan, 2011-2015. The goal under the Climate Change Strategic Priority is that by 2015, all members will have strengthened capacity to respond to climate change through policy improvement, implementation of practical adaptation measures, enhancing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change, and implementing initiatives aimed at achieving low-carbon development. It covers seven areas of intervention:

- Support to members with developing and implementing appropriate CCA and DRR measures;*
- Improvement of cooperative partnerships, engagement of all relevant regional and international stakeholders, and strengthening of coordinated action on reducing effects of climate change impacts consistent with the revised Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change¹ (PIFACC) and in support of national initiatives and priorities;*
- Enhancement and building capacity for conducting applied research, fostering meteorological,*

climatological, and oceanic observations and monitoring programmes to improve understanding, awareness, and applications of targeted responses to climate change and related disaster risk reduction;

- *Support to members to meet their obligations under the UNFCCC and related protocols and processes;*
- *Education and communication capacity to support climate change responses;*
- *Contribution to global greenhouse gas reduction; and*
- *Partnerships and cooperation to improve management of climate change issues.*

Ongoing and forthcoming climate change projects.

SPREP has had long experience in managing regional/multi-country projects, including Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded and UNDP-supported projects. It has many years of accumulated experience as a GEF executing agency (EA) for several major regional environment projects, particularly on climate change and biodiversity. It has also implemented projects on climate change supported by various donor agencies. SPREP will continue to assist member countries through the provision of technical advice and support. SPREP's Work Program and Budget for 2013 includes a number of activities and projects for implementation, including those which will continue ongoing projects as well as new projects to be implemented starting in 2013, namely:

- *Continuing support for the implementation of PIFACC;*
- *Advancing the implementation of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Changeⁱⁱ (PACC) and Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Projectⁱⁱⁱ (PIGGAREP);*
- *Mainstreaming of CCA and DRM;*
- *Supporting Kiribati and Solomon Islands in applying the ecosystem approach to adaptation;*
- *Managing the Pacific Islands Climate Change Portal^{iv};*
- *Coordinating the implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) through development of strategies for funding in consultation with partners and National Meteorological Services (NMS);*
- *Supporting regional coordination on climate change through the Chief Executives Sub-Committee Working Arm on Climate Change CES-CCC and Pacific regional agency Working Arm on Climate change (WACC), climate change portal, Pacific Climate Change Roundtable^v (PCCR), and implementation of the Climate Change and DRM Roadmap^{vi};*
- *Provision of continuing support for increased national capacity to access climate change resources, on-the-ground implementation, and training on UNFCCC processes and negotiations; and*
- *Strengthening of national capacity in the collection and analysis of climate data, and dissemination of climate change science including GOOS and GCOS.*
- *Ensuring that National Meteorological Services can deliver suitable climate services (forecasts) to the most vulnerable communities that need them through the Government of Finland-supported Finnish-Pacific Project to Reduce Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Countries' Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change (FINPAC).*
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In the area of CCA and DRR, both at the regional and national levels, SPREP will receive support for two new projects in 2013, viz.:

The Regional implementation of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) funded by Climate Investment Fund (CIF) through the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and

In addition, the second phases of the Australian Government-funded International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI), Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP), and Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) Program will continue to play a significant role in climate change mainstreaming, application of climate change science in development planning, communication, and enhancing ecosystem resilience.

In the area of national capacity building, PACC, PIGGAREP, and the USAID adaptation support will continue to support institutional capacity building to respond to climate change risks.

The Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2012-2021 clearly outlines the needs of Pacific Island National Meteorological Services (NMS) so they can provide weather and climate services to their governments and communities. The Early Warning Systems (EWS) that NMS provide can greatly reduce the damage and losses from fast-onset (e.g. cyclones and heavy rainfall), medium-onset (e.g. drought) and slow-onset (e.g. higher ocean and atmosphere temperatures, and ocean acidification) events. SPREP is assisting NMS to increase their capacity to provide these services under WMO's Global Framework for Climate Services (on which the PIMS is based).

3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

To demonstrate the range of loss and damage related activities by SPREP with and for the Pacific Islands region, some selected climate change projects implemented by SPREP will be discussed. Since the 1990s, SPREP has undertaken a wide range of climate change related activities, including collecting basic data related to global warming. The importance of basic data is recognized by partners and donors, resulting in AusAID providing financing, through ICCAI, for further collection of basic climate data in Pacific countries under the PCCSP (now PACCSAP) program. SPREP also currently coordinates the implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) in consultation with partners and the National Meteorological Services. These basic meteorological and climatic data are essential for designing CCA/DRR pilot projects under SPCR as well as larger projects.

The Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Program (PICCAP) was one of the earlier projects on climate change, implemented between 1997 and 2001 at a cost of \$4.5 million, including \$1 million for Phase II. The Project was funded by GEF and executed by SPREP to assist the ten Pacific Island countries that signed and ratified the UNFCCC with their reporting, training, capacity building, and institutional strengthening for national level work under the Convention. The main objective of the program was to enable completion of the Initial National Communications to UNFCCC. In addition, the project was also able to extend to other activities, as funding was flexible enough to allow for planning of adaptation activities through vulnerability and adaptation training and some individual site studies. PICCAP's components included: (i) inventory of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; (ii) identification and evaluation of mitigation options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (iii) assessment of vulnerability to climate change; (iv) development of adaptation options; and (v) development of a national implementation strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change over the long term. SPREP also assisted PICs with the establishment of national climate change coordination structures (committees, teams, inter-ministerial units, etc), which have been utilized in other project activities since.

The Pacific Islands-Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS) started in Samoa in 2000 as a result of the first regional Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Workshop organized by SPREP and the international GCOS Secretariat. The objective was to develop capacity for the application of climate information to cope with

climate variability and change. Therefore, GCOS addressed the total climate system across a number of scientific disciplines including physical, chemical, and biological properties; atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic, cryospheric, and terrestrial processes; and in-situ measurements. In addition PI-GCOS established numerous training programs, largely targeted at national weather services, as well as some community-based initiatives, such as deploying meteorological equipment to schools.

The Pacific Ocean is the dominant factor influencing Pacific Climate, provides a substantial proportion of most PI's GDP and is the source of many impacts that cause loss and damage. The Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) coordinator is hosted at SPREP, and is working with Pacific Islands to help understand and prepare for the impacts that a changing ocean will have on the Pacific Islands. Changing ocean currents will lead to increased drought in some regions and heavier rainfall in others. Warmer and more acidic oceans will have serious impacts on economies with significant fisheries and tourism sectors. Increased coral reef bleaching (due to warmer waters), compromised coral reef structural intensity (due to ocean acidification) and rising sea levels will increase loss and damage from large wave events which occur both during cyclones, and from waves generated from afar (e.g. Fiji, May 2011 and Marshall Islands May 2013). The impact that ocean acidification will have on the base of the oceanic food chain (phytoplankton) and therefore pelagic fisheries could be important, however is still poorly understood. Increasing the resilience of fisheries through effective management mechanisms is an active area of work for SPREP in collaboration with SPC.

The Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries (CBDAMPIC) Project, funded by the Canadian International Development Assistance (CIDA), addressed climate change adaptation in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu from 2002–2005. The project aimed to improve the sustainable livelihood of Pacific Island people by increasing their adaptive capacity to deal with climate change risks. This C\$2.2-million project, coordinated and executed by SPREP, was intended to develop and implement a capacity building program that will increase the capability of the four Pacific countries to reduce climate-related risks at the national and community level. The project³⁷ achieved its main purpose of increasing the resilience of 16 communities in four Pacific Island countries to the adverse effects of climate change. It was the first Stage 3 adaptation project implemented in the Pacific.

The A\$4-million South Pacific Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Initiative funded by AusAID was implemented from 2004–2008. It had three components: (i) small grants to support community-level adaptation activities; (ii) support for water resource activities in Tuvalu; and (iii) strengthening of meteorology services in the region. The implementing regional agencies were SPREP and SOPAC. The project responded to concerns expressed in the region regarding the potential impacts of climate change. Its aim was to enable Pacific Island countries to adapt to the future impacts of climate change, climate variability, and sea level rise. Consistent with the objectives of PIFACC, the initiative aimed to (i) strengthen regional collaboration between relevant multilateral and regional technical agencies and bilateral donors and (ii) enlist the support of key government, community, and private stakeholders.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project is an ongoing regional CCA project aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity of the participating countries to the adverse effects of climate change and climate variability, particularly in three main areas: (i) food security and production; (ii) coastal management; and (iii) water resources management. The program is designed to achieve three interrelated key results: (i) integration of climate risk into national and sectoral policies, strategies, and related instruments; (ii) implementation of on-the-ground adaptation measures in selected pilot communities, including the development of technical guidelines to support current and future initiatives; and (iii) strengthening of

technical capacities of national stakeholders to support and facilitate key sectors in managing the uncertainties of climate change. The PACC approach is to demonstrate adaptation planning and implementation through top-down (mainstreaming) and bottom-up approaches (community V&A assessments), consistent with both community and national priorities plans and methodologies. PACC is closely linked to national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies incorporated in government programs and plans. The project supports governments in addressing climate change issues to ensure resilience to current and future changes in climate.

The PACC Project is funded by GEF through the SCCF at \$13 million, with \$44 million of co-financing from countries. Additional funding has been provided by AusAID and USAID for additional activities, with support from UNITAR through the C3D+ Program³⁸ for developing adaptation measures and capacity building to effectively respond to climate change. Project implementation started in 2009 and will continue until 2013. It is led by SPREP in partnership with SPC, UNDP, PACC, and PACCSAP. Since its commencement, the project has carried out numerous socioeconomic and on-site V&A assessments in villages in order to design and implement actual on-the-ground adaptation measures with the full involvement of local communities. PACC has also assisted in the development of climate change policies and Joint National Action Plans on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAPs) in the Marshall Islands, Niue, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, and Fiji (climate change policy). JNAP is one of the successful tools and frameworks used in the integration of climate risk into national and sectoral policies, strategies, and related instruments.

The PACC Project covers 14 participating countries. Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have national projects to help increase food security and food production; Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are addressing coastal erosion management; and Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu are focusing on addressing water resources management. Tokelau joined the PACC Project in 2011, with the government requesting the project to address its water issues in response to climate change. PACC focuses on enhancing the resilience of development activities to the impacts of long-term climate change. This includes (i) incorporating adaptation to climate change risks and related vulnerabilities into existing institutional and decision-making processes ("mainstreaming") at both the community and national planning levels; (ii) recognizing the role of gender-sensitive approaches in enhancing communities' resilience through community-based ("bottom-up") vulnerability assessment and participatory adaptation planning approaches; (iii) promoting real community engagement in the processes addressing climate-related risks; (iv) delivering tangible adaptation measures through practical demonstration projects at selected pilot sites; and (v) selecting a foundation for a strategic approach to replicate and upscale adaptation at the Pacific regional level. Progress to date includes development of CCA tools such as the following: Guide to Mainstreaming Climate Change; Socioeconomic Assessment for Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SEA - PACC Guide), Cost Benefit Analysis Guide, Communications Plan, Monitoring, and Reporting. Each participating country has developed relevant projects, which are now under implementation.

4. Geographic coverage

14 Pacific Island Countries and 7 Territories (PICTs): American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Wallis and Fatuna.

5. Key stakeholders

Governments (Pacific Island and partners), national climate change focal points, civil society and community groups, academia, regional organizations and international partner organizations

6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms

- Direct in country assistance (ie deployment of technical staff to work alongside national institutions as requested)
- In country training programmes
- Regional training programmes and meetings
- Facilitation of regional dialogues to prepare for and input directly into international processes (ie UNFCCC and other MEAs)
- Provision of onsite technical support to work alongside countries in key regional and international processes
- Provision of media and communications support to governments
- Technical publications and policy advice
- Pacific Climate Change Round Table
- Pacific Working Groups on Adaptation and Loss and Damage

SPREP is building and supporting Pacific Island Countries capacity to respond to climate change risks. This is a new programme intended to provide strategic support to Pacific island countries in their climate change response through improved access to resourcing information, identification of funding opportunities and assistance in preparing funding applications, and pooling of Pacific experience and knowledge. This programme will involve two main activities: (i) development, establishment, and operation of a regional technical support mechanism (RTSM) that will facilitate links between countries' needs and available expertise; and (ii) establishment of a rapid response fund (RRF), including guidelines and policies governing the use and accountability of funds. The RTSM is essentially a network of experts who can advise on appropriate resource opportunities, strategic approaches, and technical assistance, and provide, where necessary, support in developing project concepts and proposals, preparing reporting requirements, and implementing and monitoring projects. It will facilitate rapid access to technical and advisory services by Pacific countries and provide capacity supplementation and, in the process, strengthen national capacity to effectively respond to climate change. The RRF is envisioned to fund, among others: (i) services, travel, and per diems of relevant independent experts requested by Pacific countries; (ii) travel and per diem costs of development partner experts or national government experts deployed to provide technical assistance to countries; and (iii) attendance at relevant training and capacity building workshops of participating RTSM countries. The RTSM and RRF will be established with oversight and coordination of the regional climate change officials and under the guidance of the Chief Executives of the regional organizations.

Please provide information related to reporting, if any

7. Key activities / outputs to date

Maybe here we could just provide a copy of our annual report or what ever has been prepared as input into this years SPREP meeting as an annex rather than re-invent a report here?

8. Any additional information and contact details

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ⁱ Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), 2012. Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015.

<http://www.pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/eresources/documents?task=view&id=194&catid=0>

ⁱⁱ SPREP, 2009. Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Australian Government (AusAID), and USAID.

<http://www.sprep.org/pacc-home>

ⁱⁱⁱ SPREP, 2007. Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) is funded by the GEF. <http://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Islands-Greenhouse-Gas-Abatement-through-Renewable-Energy-Project/about-piggarep>

^{iv} Pacific Climate Change Portal, 2012. <http://www.pacificclimatechange.net/>

^v PCCR, 2008. <http://www.pacificclimatechange.net/index.php/pccr>

^{vi} Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, 2013. <http://www.pacificdisasterclimatemeeing2013.net/index.php/about/joint-meeting>