



Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Support Facility

Information note on the GCCA events

*Training on mainstreaming of climate change
(28th February to 2nd March 2011)*

*Policy dialogue
(3rd March 2011)*

*High Level Regional Conference on climate change in the Pacific
(4th March 2011)*

Port Vila, Vanuatu

28 February to 4 March 2011



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by the European Commission



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by MWH

1 SUMMARY

As agreed during the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on a Pacific-EU Joint Initiative on climate change by Commissioner Piebalgs and PIF SG Slade (Strasbourg, 15.12.2010), COM and PIFS will launch a series of follow up events, namely a senior level technical workshop, a senior level policy dialogue and a high level conference, in Vanuatu, from 28th February to 4th March 2011.

- The three-day technical workshop will deliver training on mainstreaming climate change into partner countries policies, strategies and budgetary processes and is part of a series of workshops provided worldwide under the Global Climate Change Alliance.
- The one-day policy dialogue will focus on two different topics that are particularly important for an efficient Pacific response to climate challenges: (1) taking forward the aid effectiveness agenda in the area of climate change financing in the Pacific; (2) deepening the debate on linking in practice climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific.
- The half-day High Level Regional Conference will provide political guidance to launch the implementation of the Joint Pacific-EU Initiative on climate change.

The overall objective is to advance towards a more comprehensive, inclusive and coherent Pacific-EU strategy to address climate change challenges, building on the experience gained on cooperation and dialogue on climate change related issues at country, regional and global levels.

These events will be organised within the framework of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), a climate initiative of the EU to support in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to better address climate change, including through integration of climate change into development planning.

These follow-up events will bring "budget/finance" and "climate/environment" communities together to turn the "Joint Pacific-EU Initiative on climate change" into concrete action. A Plan for Action to deliver on the objectives of the Joint Initiative will be submitted to the High Level Conference for consideration.

2 LOGISTICS

The three follow-up events are financed by the GCCA Support Facility. A consultancy firm will be responsible for all logistical aspects (accommodation, travel arrangements and per-diem of the funded participants, booking of the facilities and IT equipment, interpretation EN/FR for the high-level conference).

Venue: Hotel Le Lagon (Port Vila – Vanuatu)

3 CONTENTS AND ORGANISATION

3.1 TRAINING ON MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE (28.02 TO 02.03.2011)

The target groups are senior officials working in Ministries of Finance and Environment in the 15 Pacific ACP countries and the 4 OCTs (two officials per country/territory). Other participants are

staff from Pacific Regional Organisations (PIFS, SPC/SOPAC, SPREP, USP, FFA), and from EU (HQ, Delegations, ECHO). Other organisations active in the field of climate change mainstreaming in the region have been invited as well (GTZ, ADB, WB, UN, AFD).

As 50-60 persons could attend the training, it will need to be delivered to two groups in parallel. Two trainers, supported as appropriate by resource persons, will introduce 9 modules illustrated by case studies and will facilitate group discussions (see Annex 1).

3.2 POLICY DIALOGUE (03.03.2011)

Co-chaired by Vanuatu and SPREP; participants will be those who attended the training; invitations to participate in this policy dialogue have in addition been sent to Australia, New Zealand, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNEP, OECD-DAC, WB, EIB and chairs and members of the European Parliament DEVE and ENVI Committees. EU MS Embassies in the Region have been invited as well

Morning

- After an introduction by the co-chairs, participants will break in two groups and two sessions will be organised in parallel
 - aid effectiveness and climate change financing
 - linking in practice climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- For each session, a concept note will be prepared and circulated to the participants ahead of the conference in order to steer the debate. A resource person will give an introductory presentation of the topic, a panel will respond and an open forward looking discussion, facilitated by the resource person, will follow. The resource person will report to the plenary. A document will be prepared to facilitate the follow-up of the discussions, with a summary of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the High Level Conference.

Afternoon

- Report of the morning sessions by the resource persons to the plenary.
- Draft outcome document of the High Level Conference (including the Joint Plan for Action on climate change) finalised, under PIFS/EU responsibility.

3.3 HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE (04.03.2011 – HALF DAY)

The Conference, hosted by Vanuatu, organised by the Commission and supported by the Forum Secretariat, will be chaired by Vanuatu PM.

Invitations co-signed by Vanuatu PM and Commissioner Piebalgs have been sent to Prime Ministers of all Pacific Islands Forum Member States, highest authorities in EU OCTs in the Pacific Region and heads of key Pacific Regional Organisations (SPC, SPREP, USP, FFA). Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNEP, OECD-DAC, WB, EIB and chairs, members of the European Parliament DEVE and ENVI Committees and EU MS Embassies in the Region have been invited as well.

A panel discussion on "Addressing development challenges in the Pacific through more effective cooperation on climate change" will address the following issues

- climate change impacts on MDG agendas in the Pacific

- delivery modalities for development cooperation and for climate change funding in the Pacific: lessons learned and the way forward
- addressing climate change and achieving MDGs in Pacific Islands: how to ensure coherence and higher impact

An outcome document, which will include a Plan for Action on Climate Change, will be presented for endorsement by the Conference.

All countries represented at ministerial level will be given the opportunity to speak in the Conference, either as panellists or being invited to take the floor.

The "outcome document and plan for action" is being prepared in advance, and discussed within and between the EU and the Pacific in an iterative process of exchange of drafts.

The Conference will be followed by a ceremony of signature of development cooperation agreements between the Commission and Pacific counterparts and a press conference.

ANNEX 1. AGENDA OF THE GCCA PACIFIC TECHNICAL WORKSHOP (28 FEB.-2 MAR. 2011)

Monday, 28 February 2011
Morning (9:00 -13:00 with coffee break around 11:00)
Participants' welcome, introductory speeches
Roundtable – Presentation and expectations of participants
Module 1: Seminar objectives and programme
Presentation by SPREP – Pacific experience: Key lessons for climate change mainstreaming
Activity 1 – Group work: Climate change – development linkages Based on Timor-Leste's Government Programme 2007-2012
Module 1: Climate change – development linkages, rationale for mainstreaming environment and climate change
Module 2: Basics of climate change science
Afternoon (14:00 – 17:30 with coffee break around 15:30)
Module 2: Sources of uncertainty, planning in the face of uncertainties
Module 3: Vulnerability and related concepts, development-adaptation continuum, from biophysical to socioeconomic impacts
Activity 2 – Group work: Vulnerability factors and possible impacts Based on various Solomon Islands-related materials
Module 3: Moving to climate-resilient, low-emission development

Tuesday, 1 March 2011
Morning (9:00 -13:00 with coffee break around 11:00)
Module 3: Raising awareness and building partnerships
Module 4: Strengthening institutions and capacities
Presentation by SPC – Support for CC mainstreaming, institutional and capacity building in the Pacific
Activity 3 – Discussion: Institutional and capacity strengthening in the Pacific region
Module 5: Rationale for mainstreaming CC in national, sector and local policies, key stakeholders, main entry points
Afternoon (14:00 – 17:30 with coffee break around 15:30)
Activity 4(1) – Group work: Climate change mainstreaming in a national development strategy Based on Kiribati Development Plan <i>or (split groups):</i> Activity 4(2) – Group work: Climate change mainstreaming in a sector programme Based on Samoa Water & Sanitation programme
Module 5: Tools for mainstreaming climate change
Wednesday, 2 March 2011
Morning (9:00 -13:00 with coffee break around 11:00)
Module 6: Costing, assessing and selecting adaptation and mitigation options and measures
Module 7: Entry points for climate change mainstreaming in the budgetary process, implications for public revenue and expenditure
Activity 5 – Discussion: Budgetary processes and climate change mainstreaming in the Pacific
Module 7: Public expenditure review, external resources incl. budget support
Activity 6 – Illustration: EC climate-related budget support Based on Solomon Islands Climate Assistance Programme
Afternoon (14:00 – 17:30 with coffee break around 15:30)
Module 8: Mainstreaming climate change in monitoring systems
Activity 7 – Group work: Identification of suitable performance indicators
Module 9: Recap of tools, conclusions
Summary of discussions, planned actions, seminar evaluation

ANNEX 2. AGENDA OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE (3 MARCH 2011)

Morning	
9.00 – 9.15	Introduction by the co-chairs Vanuatu (Hon. Mr Roy Joy, <i>Ambassador in Brussels</i>) and SPREP (Mr David Sheppard, <i>SPREP Director</i>)
9.15 – 13.00	Participants break in two groups
<u>Group 1 - aid effectiveness and climate change in the Pacific – Chaired by Vanuatu</u>	
9.15 – 9.35	Introductory remarks by Mr Neroni Slade, Secretary General of PIFS, and Mr Ranieri Sabatucci, Head of Pacific Unit, EEAS.
9.35 – 10.00	Input speech by Ms Tamara Levine, <i>Administrator, Environment and Development Network, OECD</i> : aid effectiveness and climate change financing: some general perspectives, state of play, and possible implications for the Pacific
10.00 – 11.00	Reactions from panel and group discussion to be moderated by Mr Ranieri Sabatucci , <i>Head of Pacific Unit, EEAS</i> . Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Espen Ronneberg, <i>Climate change adviser, SPREP</i>; • Ms Dalcy L Tozaka, <i>Director of the Financial and Economic Development Unit, Ministry of Finance, Solomon Islands</i>; • Mr Minute Taupo, <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu</i>; • Mr Jotham Napat, <i>acting Director General, director of Meteorology, Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Vanuatu</i>; • Mr Jonathan Wolsey, <i>EU EuropeAid</i>; • Mr James Sweeting, <i>Assistant Director General, Infrastructure, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, AusAID</i>
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.00	Discussions in subgroups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What could be the most important characteristics of effective climate change financing in the region?</i> • <i>What role for budget support in climate change financing in the Pacific? How to ensure that CC funds provided through the budget will target relevant CC activities? How to monitor the effective use of these funds?</i> • <i>What would be the added value of a regional mechanism/fund as opposed to existing or future global funds?</i>
12.00 – 12.45	Reporting back and discussion
12.45 – 13.00	Summary and closing by the Chair

Group 2 – Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific – chaired by Mr David Sheppard, SPREP Director	
9.15 – 9.20	Introduction by Chair outlining objectives and working arrangements for the session
9.20 – 09.40	Presentation by regional experts (SOPAC/SPC and SPREP): Implementation of Climate change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: general perspectives, state of play, implications for the Pacific.
09.40-10.05	Response from the panel. [Interventions should aim at sharing experience, success stories and visions from the horizon of Pacific countries, civil society, and donors]. Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Yumiko Crisostomo, <i>Director Office of Environmental Planning & policy coordinator, Marshall Islands;</i> • Ms Angelika Planitz, <i>Sub-regional coordinator Pacific, UNISDR;</i> • Mr Etienne Coyette, <i>Climate Change Coordinator, EU EuropeAid;</i> • Ms Jacqueline De Gaillande, <i>Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Red Cross;</i> • Mr Loti Yates, Director, <i>National Disaster Management Office, Solomon Islands</i>
10.05-10.30	Questions from the floor (moderated by the Chair)
10.30-11.00	Coffee break (before breaking, the regional experts will introduce the items for group discussion to take place after the break)
11.00 – 12.45	Discussion (will take place in one group) for which a background paper is provided. An attempt will be made to focus the discussion around the following questions which will lead to forward looking outcome language (not a statement of status quo nor a repeat of existing language) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the NAPs and/or NAPAs not sufficient, and how can enhanced donor and regional organisation support help? • How can donors and regional organisations support implementation to ensure effective “no regrets” adaptation strategies and maladaptation is avoided?
12.45 – 13.00	Summary and closing by the Chair
Afternoon	
15.00 – 15.30	Group 1 and Group 2 report to the plenary
15.30 – 16.00	Exchange of views in plenary
16.00 – 17.00	Final review of the draft outcomes document and plan for action to be submitted to the High Level Conference
17.00- 17.15	Conclusions

See Background Note 1 and 2 of the current document for more information on the Policy dialogue.

ANNEX 3. AGENDA OF THE GCCA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Morning	
09.00 – 09.30	Arrival of participants
09.30 – 09.40	Welcome by H.E. Mr. Sato Kilman , Prime Minister of Vanuatu
09.40 – 09.50	Introductory speech by H.E. Mr. Andris Piebalgs , Commissioner of the European Union for Development
09.50 – 11.00	<p>Panel discussion: "Addressing development challenges in the Pacific through more effective cooperation on climate change" facilitated by H.E. Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. H.E. Andris Piebalgs, <i>Member of the European Commission responsible for Development</i>; • H.E. Mr. Anote Tong, <i>President of Kiribati</i>; • H.E. Mr. Toke Tufukia Talagi, <i>Prime Minister of Niue</i>; • H.E. Tom Marsters, <i>Deputy Prime Minister of Cooks Islands</i>; • H.E. Mr. Ali'ioaigi Feturi Elisaia, <i>Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN</i>; • Mr. Jimmie Rodgers, <i>Director, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)</i>; • Mr. David Sheppard, <i>Director, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)</i>,
11.00 – 11.30	Group picture and coffee break
11.30 – 12.30	Presentation of the outcomes of the conference by Vanuatu (TBC) and exchange of views
12.30 – 12.45	Signature of Agreements
12.45 – 13.00	Concluding remarks by H.E. Mr. Sato Kilman Vanuatu
13.00 – 13.30	Press Conference
13.30 – 14.15	Lunch

BACKGROUND NOTE 1. POLICY DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AID EFFECTIVENESS

Drawing on the lessons from aid effectiveness to build sustainable and effective climate change financing in the Pacific. What are the implications for donors? What is the possible role of aid modalities such as budget support?

1. OBJECTIVE

The half-day meeting, involving senior policy makers from around the Pacific region and beyond, will address the critical question of how best the international community should deliver its support to Pacific countries and Territories' efforts to address climate change, drawing on the lessons from aid effectiveness and taking into account the Pacific's specific characteristics.

2. BACKGROUND

The Pacific region is heavily impacted by climate change. Pacific islands are inundated by rising sea levels, increasing erosion occurs from intense storms, and saltwater intrudes into freshwater supplies. These changes are affecting livelihood activities such as hunting and fishing and impacting on island infrastructure, access to water resources, food and housing availability. Pacific Island countries feel particularly helpless and treated unfairly. While they are the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases, they are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their small size, coastal populations, high dependence on natural resources and low-lying nature.

Against this background, it is expected that Pacific Countries and Territories will receive over the next few years large amounts of funds from the international community, including the European Union (EU), to help them address some of the critical climate change-related challenges they are facing. The question about how these funds will be delivered is likely to be as critical as the amounts themselves.

As highlighted at the recent Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun (COP 16), the international discussions on climate change financing cover questions such as who will pay how much, which institutions should govern and spend the money, and how to guarantee that climate funding will be "new and additional" to existing aid targets. Also important, but less discussed at present, are other issues such as how the funds use country systems, how they link to national plans and democratic processes. It is increasingly recognized that unless these funds are provided in ways that strengthen government systems and accountability mechanisms, rather than evade or undermine them, the large increased international funds expected to flow to the Pacific and elsewhere in the name of climate financing may indeed undermine years of efforts promoting national ownership and accountability.

The messy patchwork that seems to characterise climate change financing, with a large and increasing amount of funds, raises legitimate concerns in that regard. Many of these funds come with their own reporting and accountability mechanisms, and don't align well with national systems. This fund fragmentation can be particularly detrimental in small island Pacific states given limited government capacity. The need for climate change funds to be linked to national plans and to use country systems (and not undermine them by creating new systems) is likely to be especially critical in the Pacific.

It is widely agreed that, in order to be accepted and successful, climate finance cannot be based simply on the same principles as aid, and must use different mechanisms and approaches than the

majority of aid to date. In parallel though, it is also increasingly recognized that, while different, climate change financing should draw on the lessons of 30 years of aid, and what has worked badly and what has worked better in previous experiences with aid transfers. These experiences – covering for example the conditions linked to aid and the unpredictability of aid flows - have been captured in international agreements, such as the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action, themselves translated into the Cairns Compact for the Pacific region. The need for climate change finance to draw on these principles and experiences and on the important progress made in aid effectiveness in recent years is likely to be one of the major topics of the next High-Level aid effectiveness conference, due in Busan, South Korea in November 2011.

This demand to mainstream climate change finance into domestic policy-making and budgeting processes recognises that climate adaptation is not just a matter for the environment ministry, but for the whole of government. It should be delivered across existing national and sub-national processes and institutions, including development plans. From the Commission on Climate Change and Development to a number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), there seems to be a growing consensus on that matter.

3. OUTLINE

Taking on board the key findings of the training on "mainstreaming of climate change" of the three previous days and using as a starting point recent discussions in the region (i.e. the workshop organised the previous by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on the Cairns Compact and climate change), the objective of this session is to move a step further in defining what, based on the feedback from senior officials from Pacific Small Island States and other stakeholders present, this objective to strengthen this link to country plans and systems of climate change financing could mean for donors present in the Pacific. A specific result would be the outline of key characteristics of effective donor support to climate change in the region.

The half-day session will also try to discuss how specific aid modalities such as budget support (i.e. the transfer of funds directly to the recipient country's consolidated fund, typically pending respect of eligibility criteria and achievement of disbursement triggers) could be relevant as a modality for climate change financing. Budget support has been the preferred aid modality of the European Commission over the last years, particularly as it is seen as supporting more than other aid modalities the principle of country-ownership.

The European Union is now keen to better understand from the key potential beneficiaries the extent to which budget support could be, subject to the appropriate adaptations and absorptive capacity, a relevant modality for climate change financing, including in the Pacific. The structural and horizontal nature of climate change, in particular adaptation, together with its long-term nature and its scale would seem to make budget support or similar instruments relevant and natural tools for climate change financing (in complementarity to shorter-term project approaches). Additionally, many if not most of the expenditures which need to be financed for environmental and climate change policy to be effectively implemented are recurrent expenditures. These would typically be financed from normal operating budgets, and not from project funding, which is generally intended for investment activities. In parallel, budget support may have the advantage to be more transaction-friendly than other modalities.

The EU would welcome feedback on these perspectives from government officials, regional organisations and donor partners during the workshop. In that respect, it will also be keen to discuss the possible role of revenue equalisation funds such as the Tuvalu Trust Fund or the

Kiribati Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund as channels for climate change financing, as those funds have characteristics (such as predictability and durability) which are potentially very relevant modalities from a climate change financing perspective. Other related questions, such as the role of a regional fund for climate change, will also be touched upon.

The session will be chaired by the Ambassador of Vanuatu in Brussels (Mr. Roy) and will benefit from the presence of a resource person from the OECD's Environment and Development Network, Tamara Levine. The agenda has been established with a view of giving ample time for practical discussions, including in sub-groups.

4. GOING FORWARD

It is expected that this policy dialogue session on aid effectiveness and climate change financing will feed in the High-Level Conference of the following day and the resulting outcome document. The outcome of this session could also facilitate the preparation of a joint paper on the topic. It should as such contribute to the overall objective of the various Climate Change events taking place in Vanuatu during that first week of March, which is to advance towards a more comprehensive, inclusive and coherent Pacific-EU strategy to address climate change challenges, building on the experience gained on cooperation and dialogue on climate change related issues at country, regional and global levels.

BACKGROUND NOTE 2. POLICY DIALOGUE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The objective of this dialogue session is to move a step further in outlining possible key characteristics and key actions for effective donor support¹ towards climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction so as to make societies more resilient to natural disasters in the Pacific.

The dialogue will use as a starting point recent national initiatives such as the Tonga Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2010-2015, the Pacific (Madang) Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action and the Global (Hyogo) Framework for Action both 2005-2015, and the recently reviewed Pacific Climate Change Framework and its global equivalent in the UNFCCC

The dialogue session will also discuss how activities within the two sectors/areas can be better linked and more efficiently coordinated. Taking on board the key findings of the training of the three previous days, and building on concrete examples.

Three recent publications were useful in preparing this background note: (i) Mainstreaming Climate Change – a Guidance Manual for PICTs (SPREP 2010); (ii) Guide to Developing National Action Plans: A Tool for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management (SOPAC/PIFS/UNDP Pacific); and (iii) A review of Disaster Risk Management Mainstreaming in the Pacific Sub Region (UNDP Pacific Centre, not yet published) The first two publications can be downloaded through the following links: www.sopac.org.

For the past several years including 2010, Pacific Leaders in the Forum Communiqué have continued to highlight that climate change (including climate variability, extreme weather events and sealevel rise) remains the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific. In 2008 Leaders provided the Niue Declaration on Climate Change to highlight the regional needs that should be addressed by CROP organisations. As highlighted in the February 2010 Pacific Regional Report prepared for the five-year review of the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for SIDS, climate change and disasters are key to addressing the vulnerability of small islands as articulated in the globally accepted “special case for SIDS”. Events in the Pacific in recent years have highlighted that this vulnerability is increasing whilst the capacity to cope is not. In the context of natural disasters which may become national disasters, the adverse impacts of climate change will make matters worse.

Pacific island countries remain highly disaster prone with all of them threatened by a variety of natural hazards of geological and meteorological origin including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, river and coastal flooding (including permanent coastal inundation due to sea level rise), landslides, and droughts. In the past decade social, including health and pollution hazards, and civil unrest have also increased as a result of population increase, urban drift, uneven wealth distribution and political pressures. Tropical cyclones and other extreme events (floods, droughts, extreme temperatures) are the most frequent cause of disasters in the region, but geological hazards and other anthropogenic hazards (fire, chemical spills or infrastructure collapse) have the potential to cause greater losses as recent tsunamis and inter-island ferry disasters have demonstrated.

¹ Effective donor support consistent with the Paris Declaration (2005), the Pacific Principles on Aid Effectiveness (2007), and the Cairns Compact (2009).

The most recent major events occurred in April 2007 when a magnitude 8 earthquake and tsunami occurred in the western Solomon Islands costing the country an estimated US\$90 million equivalent to 90% of the year's operating budget; in January 2009 flooding in western Viti Levu, Fiji, families and small businesses in sample areas in Nadi and Ba alone lost an estimated US\$160 million (7% GDP); and in September 2009, the magnitude 8 earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, a result of which the Samoa Government estimated the losses at US\$104 million (more than 5% GDP); and in January 2010 when a magnitude 7.2 earthquake and tsunami occurred again in the western Solomon Islands for which costs are still to be assessed. All except the latest event included loss of lives.

It is important to stress that natural hazards by themselves do not cause disasters. It is the combination of an exposed, vulnerable and ill-prepared population with a hazard event that results in a disaster. Climate change increases disaster risks in two ways. Firstly, climate variability is being reflected as an increase in the frequency and/or severity of weather hazards. Secondly, climate change through slow onset processes will simultaneously increase communities' vulnerability to natural hazards due to the combined effects of ecosystem degradation, reduced availability of water for ecosystems and agriculture, and changes in peoples' livelihoods.

Clearly, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) share common goals: reducing the vulnerability of communities and achieving sustainable development. Whilst there is increasing recognition that DRR should become a core component of adaptation measures (The Cancun Adaptation Framework included a paragraph on "enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action where appropriate" and a two year work programme on loss and damage), only few of these synergies are currently exploited. The tools developed under DRR – which build essentially on recent past and historical data – need to be expanded to accommodate the longer term requirements of CCA.

A key common link between DRR and CCA is the need to provide early warning systems that are effective, integrated and people-focused and that are able to communicate information that is understood over vast ocean distances both within and between countries and to generally isolated populations.

It is however also important to stress that differences between DRR and CCA do exist. There is no agreed evidence that hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes, for example, are climate-related and therefore cannot be absorbed by the CCA "politics", which indeed have a much higher profile in the international agenda than DRR. It is important to consider DRR separately or else the financing of risk reduction for geological disasters will face the risk of being neglected. This could be particularly devastating for the Pacific region, which as outlined above is painfully aware through recent events of the effects of geological disasters.

In addition, there are a number of development related trends that increase the risk profile of Pacific island countries. These include: rapidly changing population dynamics, urbanisation, loss of traditional knowledge, and changing social, economic and environmental conditions associated with globalisation.

It is crucial that governments "mainstream" plans and strategies that are "whole of country" in order to implement "no regrets adaptation" to anticipated adverse effects of climate change, reduce risk, and hence achieve an overall reduction in the extent of vulnerability at all levels.

The SPREP Manual provides a valuable discussion on the meaning of "mainstreaming" (most simply read - integration). The OECD has recently developed the most comprehensive guidance

manual for integrating climate change considerations into national, sectoral, project, and community levels (OECD 2009).

The SOPAC/PIFS/UNDP publication outlines some factors that constrain the adoption (mainstreaming/integration) of modern disaster risk management approaches in Pacific island countries, including:

- Disaster management has been largely considered in terms of response and recovery from disasters without considerations of risk reduction options as an integral element of development planning at all levels;
- Generally, there is a lack of government policy, organisational structures and legislative framework to underpin disaster risk reduction and disaster management in a holistic, coordinated and programmatic manner;
- Decision-making processes at the national, sectoral, provincial and community levels do not explicitly reflect considerations of hazard and vulnerabilities assessment;
- There is inadequate allocation of national financial resources for disaster risk reduction at all levels;
- A lack of, or inadequate, quality information about hazards and vulnerability to support decision-makers at all levels;
- The absence of, or weak, information systems available for each key hazard and which can provide 24-7 monitoring and early warning to communities at risk; and
- Communities at risk have limited disaster risk reduction efforts to minimize their exposure to risks; and coordinated disaster management arrangements, which can be utilised in times of disaster.

National Action Plans (NAPs) for DRM, and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) for CCA are intended to facilitate the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into national plans and budgets. Their development involves a process of high level advocacy, situation analyses, and stakeholder consultations at different levels which leads to the definition of a range of actions to be prioritised and implemented in order to strengthen the safety and resilience to disasters of the community within each country.

Their success along with other similar national level mainstreaming initiatives depends on consistent and ongoing interaction and dialogue between key stakeholders within a “whole of country approach” together with dialogue with development partners.

It is crucial that this interaction and dialogue ensures an improved enabling environment (refer to the explanatory text at end of this background note) that does indeed provide for cost effective implementation so that no regrets adaptation strategies are in place and maladaptation avoided, in order to achieve the objective of this dialogue session which is “*to move a step further in outlining possible key characteristics and key actions for effective donor support towards climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction so as to make societies more resilient to natural disasters in the Pacific*”.

Furthermore, in order to provide for cost effective implementation so that no regrets adaptation strategies are in place it is vital to understand the current situation on the ground. Data collection, historical and ongoing through sound monitoring programmes must underpin the knowledge base upon which no regrets adaptation strategies can be designed. Otherwise, costly mistakes are

inevitable. Pacific island countries will need technical capacity building and in many cases capacity supplementation in order to establish and achieve the adequacy of these information databases.

It is useful to reflect on the six priority themes of both the regional disaster framework and the regional climate change framework. These themes were considered and adapted in Tonga and as a result Tonga has been able to develop the region's first Joint National Action Plan on CCA and DRM. The themes provide an insight into what is needed (and needs resourcing) for effective joint DRM/CCA implementation:

- Improved good governance for CCA and DRM (mainstreaming, decision making, organisational and institutional policy frameworks);
- Enhanced technical knowledge base, information, education and understanding of CCA and DRM;
- Analysis and assessments of vulnerability to climate change risks and disaster risks;
- Enhanced community preparedness and resilience to impacts of all disasters;
- Technical reliable, economically affordable and environmentally sound energy to support the sustainable development;
- Strong partnerships, cooperation and collaboration within government agencies and with civil society, NGOs and the private sector.

During the dialogue, participants will be invited to look into the link DRR/CCA and beyond across a “whole of country” platform, and spot key characteristics and actions for better integration “mainstreaming”, in light of the particular situation of the Pacific region and with the ultimate scope of making Pacific island countries more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards including through the implementation of effective “no regrets” adaptation strategies. The outcome text should be that of providing indications on how donors can support policies enhancing practical link between and implementation of no regrets adaptation strategies across the two areas/sectors at different levels of intervention, i.e. regional, national and local.

- Why are the NAPs and/or NAPAs not sufficient, and how can enhanced donor and regional organisation support help?
- How can donors and regional organisations support implementation to ensure effective “no regrets” adaptation strategies, and maladaptation is avoided?

1. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

Bearing in mind particularly the call by Pacific Leaders, through the Pacific Plan, for the establishment of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) or the like, a challenge remains, and to ensure that in regard to improving the national enabling environment PICTs need the support of the international community to progress this work. Success at the national level might be an outcome that includes, but is not restricted to the following.

- Visible long term national strategic vision, linked to medium term goals/targets, and short term actions.
- Visible, operating linkages of coordination “horizontally” across sectors.
- Visible, operating linkages “vertically” of local to national and to international policy and governance efforts, and that these linkages are supportive.

- Visible and operating national and regional policies developed that address science and technology and the protection of natural resources as tools to support sustainable development and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Streamlined, efficient and effective national effort to link NSDS, MDGs and other related global commitments.
- Genuine partnerships operating between government, development partners, the private sector, the NGOs, and the community at large.
- Sustainable financing including through an increased allocation of domestic resources for NSDS or the like, that contributes to social and economic development and environmental protection and adaptation activities.