



NEED FOR ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE PACIFIC

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OUTLINE

the Pacific context and SPREP
adaptation to climate change and natural disasters
implications for the future





PACIFIC CONTEXT AND SPREP

Introduction - the Pacific

 vast distances many isolated islands vulnerability to climate change limited capacity • the Pacific Ocean - our lifeblood

How big is the Pacific region?





The Pacific has 3 of the 5 lowest countries on Earth













What's new? Last updated on 26 April 2006.



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SPREP

- regional agency for the environment
- focus on 4 areas: climate, biodiversity, waste, governance
- 40 years in the Pacific region
- 26 Governments members
- governance through annual SPREP Meeting

SPREP STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015 www.sprep.org



21st SPREP Meeting Officials Meeting Group Photo

Madang Resort, PNG 6 – 10 September, 2010

SPREP's work is based on partnership





ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS: towards a resilient Pacific





Predictions from IPCC by 2100 (4 scenarios)

- Temperatures increases up to 4.8 degrees C
- Sea level rise predictions up to 97cms
- Continuing and accelerating ocean acidification
- More very hot days
- Changing rainfall patterns
- More intense tropical cyclones



Impacts and responses

Pacific Heads of Governments climate change is the most important threat facing the Pacific region 2013 Pacific Islands Forum adopted the "Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership"











Coral reefs will bleach and die at 2 degree increase





Towards a Resilient Pacific

 Pacific Countries are developing their own approaches to climate change and natural disasters (Pacific solutions to Pacific problems) President Loek, Marshall Islands, Chair: "we are not just standing on the shore waving our hands"

14 PICTs

Cook Islands Fiji Nauru Niue PNG Samoa Solomons Tokelau Tonga

- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

PACC Solomon Islands – Food Security

New farming methods and crop varieties – Ontong Java, Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands
PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

www.sprep.org/climate_change/pacc

VANUATU (EPI) – CLIMATE PROOFING OF ROADS

Towards a Resilient Pacific

 Ecosystem based adaptation, such as through protection of coastal mangrove vegetation, and better management of ecosystems, is becoming increasingly important

Climate change vulnerability assessment

Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands

Improved Knowledge of Biodiversity and Ecosystems is essential for EbA

STATE OF CONSERVATION IN OCEANIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SPREP.ORG

Towards a Resilient Pacific

Invasive species are a major threat in the Pacific Effective control and management is a key element of better ecosystem management.

Invasive Species

Global cost: US\$1.4 trillion annually - almost 5% of the global GDP in 2001

Taro Leaf Blight in Samoa: Drop in export value from US\$3.2 million in 1993 to <US\$60,000 in 1994

Towards a Resilient Pacific

 Solid and Hazardous waste is a major challenge for the **Pacific** integrated approaches are required for **EbA**

Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015

Vision: A healthy and a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable Pacific for future generations

Overall Goal: PICTs adopt costeffective and self-sustaining waste management systems

Hazardous Waste Management

Integrated waste management includes hazardous waste

- Asbestos
- •E-Waste (electronic wastes)
- Chlorinated organics
- Insecticides and herbicides
- Heavy Metals
- •Waste oil
- Medical wastesODS Gases

Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change approaches

- The Pacific faces major challenges with natural disasters and climate change
- The combination of disasters and climate change is the major threat to livelihoods and sustainable development in the Pacific
- Pacific Leaders have asked that approaches to climate change and natural disasters be integrated at national and regional levels

- Knowledge, information, public awareness and education
- Early warning systems

Understanding root causes and vulnerabilities

Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change approaches

• Why have an integrated approach ? (a) many of the responses are similar; (b) limited capacity and resources make this a sensible and practical approach; (c) integration ensures that synergies are identified and applied

Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change approaches

 At national levels many countries are combining agencies responsible for climate change and disaster management and developing JNAPs. At regional levels an Integrated DRR/CC Strategy is being developed

Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS)

- Developed following a major review in 2009-2010
- Review underlined importance of Met Services and led to the establishment of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), the Pacific Met Desk, and the PIMS
- The PIMS highlights 14 priority areas linked to the WMO RAV Strategic Plan 2012-15 and has a focus on improving weather and climate services.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Implications for the future

- Pacific countries and SPREP must develop effective partnerships to address these challenges, including with the Government and people of Japan
- Support provided from Japan has been most welcome and appreciated. We should "build on success" such as the J-PRISM Project

Implications for the future

- Ecosystem based adaptation is increasingly recognized as an essential response to climate change and natural disasters in the Pacific
- Support from donors and partners, including the Government of Japan, should include a priority on ecosystem based approaches.

Implications for the future

- Pacific countries have much to learn from the experience of Japan and conferences - such as this one in Okinawa - are very important
- Increased involvement of researchers from Japanese universities should be encouraged, working with Pacific countries as well as SPREP and USP

Conclusions

- The Pacific faces major challenges from climate change and natural disasters
- The Government and people of Japan can - and do - play an important role in providing support for Pacific island countries and we look forward to this continuing.
- THANK YOU

THANK YOU