

Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation

**19th Asia-Pacific
Seminar on Climate Change
20th – 22nd July 2010
Righa Royal Hotel – Kokura
Kitakyushu, Fukuoka
Japan**

Solar Eclipse in the Cook Islands

Mangaia Island 11th July 2010

[8:00am – 8:10am CIST]



Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation

- Outline of Presentation
- Introduction – Cook Islands
- Organization Involved in Climate Change
- Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation
- Adaptation Measures and Actions
- Lessons Learnt
- Conclusion

Background of the Cook Islands



- Cook Islands – Consists of 15 low lying atoll and volcanic Islands scattered in the Pacific Ocean and Rarotonga being the capital of the Cook Islands
- It lies between Latitude - 10°S - 21°S and between 155°W - 165°W Longitude
- Total Land Area – 240km²
- EEZ – 1.8million km² of ocean
- Population – just under 20,000
- Government – Self Govt in free association with NZ
- Currency – NZ Dollar
- Climate – two distinct season
 - Wet season also the tropical cyclone season November – April where 2/3 of our rainfall are recorded.
 - Dry season May to October where 1/3 of rainfall are recorded



Organizations Involved in Climate Change

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
 - international communication and logistics
 - Signing and agreeing to international conventions
- **National Environment Service [NES]**
 - Policy Development and Implementation on CC issues
 - Compliance Monitoring
 - Adaptation and mitigation Awareness and Education (Schools and Communities Outer Islands and Main Island)
- **Meteorological Service**
 - Data Collection and Analysis, dissemination of early warnings
 - External Programs Involvement for Capacity Building
 - Seasonal Climate Outlook for Pacific Island Countries [SCOPIC]
 - Pacific Climate Change Science Program [PCCSP]
 - Both Programs involves institutions such as National Institute of Water and Atmosphere [NIWA] New Zealand
 - Climate and Research Department of the Bureau of Meteorology, and CSIRO of Government of Australia.

Organizations Involved in Climate Change

- **Ministry of Utilities**

- Water Works Fresh Water Sustainability [subsidy of water tanks to homes on elevated areas and the outer islands]
- Energy Department Renewable Energy [Solar Power and wind power generation]
- Planning and Infrastructure [monitoring and compliance of building codes]
- Waster Management [monitoring and compliance of waster disposal]

- **Non-Government Organizations**

- World Wide Fund for nature – awareness programs to schools, communities, woman groups, youth and church organizations.

- **Private Sectors**

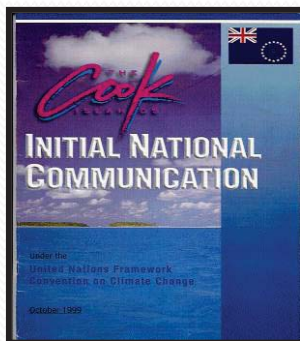
- Commercial businesses investing in renewable energy especially prospects of solar power.

Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation



- Distance and Isolation to the Islands especially Northern Cooks.
- Limited budget and resources
- Require external expert for professional assistance and consultation advice
- Capacity Building
- Increasing amount of development along the foreshore.

Adaptation Measures and Actions



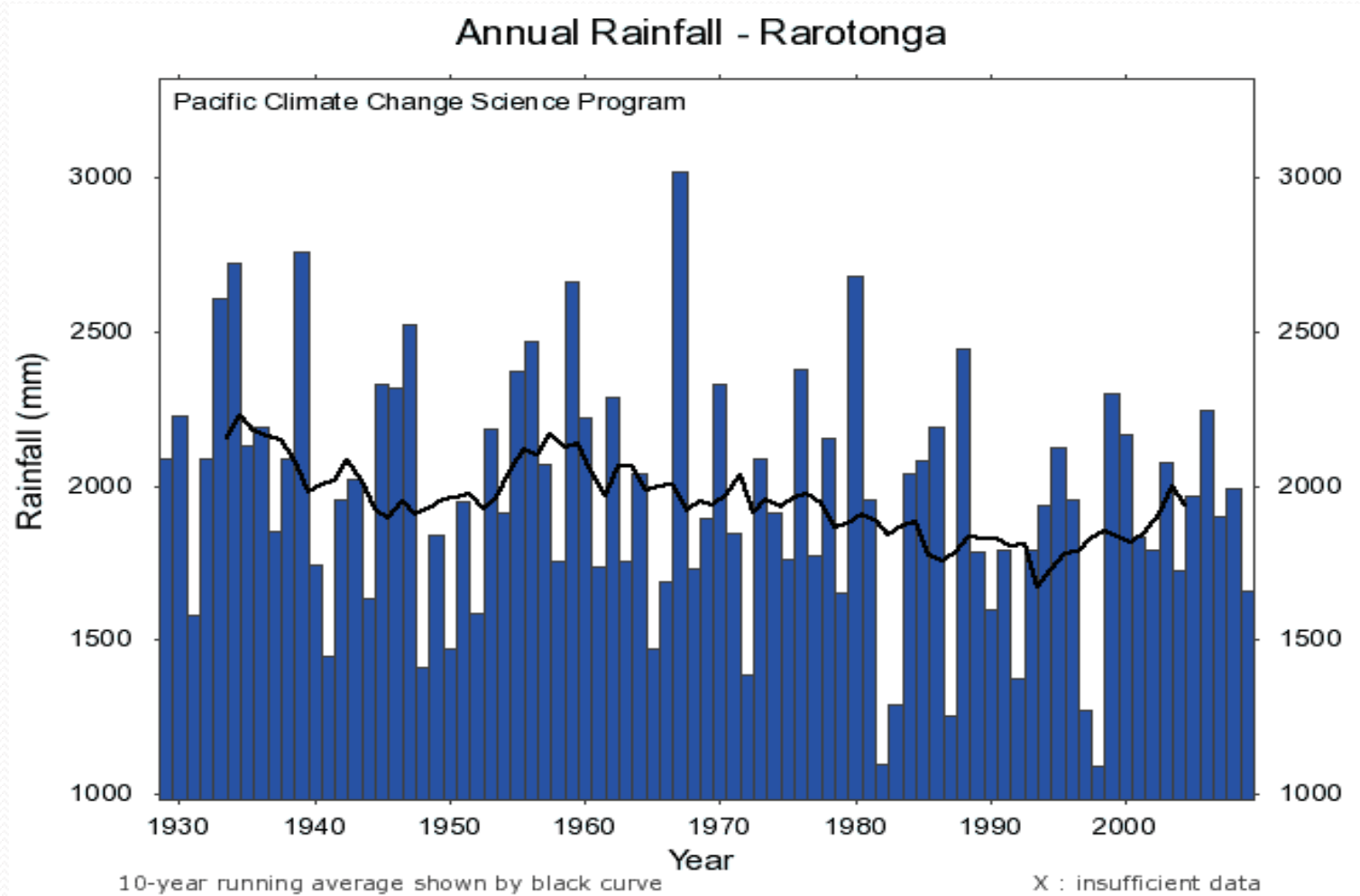
- Subsidy of water tanks to families and the community in the outer islands
- Education and Awareness strategies
- Using the local media for information and option surveys
- Development of the Second National Communications document [laying down the policies and responsibilities]
- Using the media effectively in the distribution of early warning systems

19th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change
Maara Vaiimene Cook Islands

Lessons Learned

Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation

- Meetings and consultations are sometimes difficult to arrange
- Recording, documenting and verification of facts during the consultation process is time consuming.
- Poor linkages between levels of government, departments, and external projects/consultants
- Much awareness can be generated simply through audio-visual resources which are effective
- Lack of quantitative assessment tools
- Different islands in the Cooks have very different vulnerability profiles and adaptation needs
- Assessments are the ideal tool for the initiation of adaptation measures and understanding to the wide issues on climate change to the community



National Climate Change Team
[Government/NGO's/Private
Sector]

Issues

Climate Impacts
[Rainfall/Temperature/
Ext Events]

Adaptation
[Response Options]

Mitigation
[Minimize Carbon
Emissions]

National Activities

**Research and
Development**
[quality data collection]

**Integration of CC
Assessments**
[National Com Plan]

Renewable Energy
[wind and solar]

International Efforts

Integration
[Scientists – Externally]

Negotiations
[IPCC/UNFCC/AOSIS]

Conventions
[Ratifying]

Conclusion

- Integration of responsibilities with concerned Government Organization to improve adaptation measures
- Consultation with “external experts” in-country and externally
- Continuous Capacity Building
- Participation at International Seminars to enhance knowledge on issues related to climate change
- Learning from each other to adapt and mitigate climate change issues.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING [MEITAKI MAATA]



KIA ORANA