

KEY CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORAL REEF CHALLENGES FACING THE PACIFIC

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This presentation will:

- Introduce the Pacific context and the work of SPREP
- Outline the impacts of climate change in Pacific countries, including on coral reefs, and discuss responses including PACC
- Identify Key Factors of Success for addressing climate change and coral reef conservation in the Pacific region

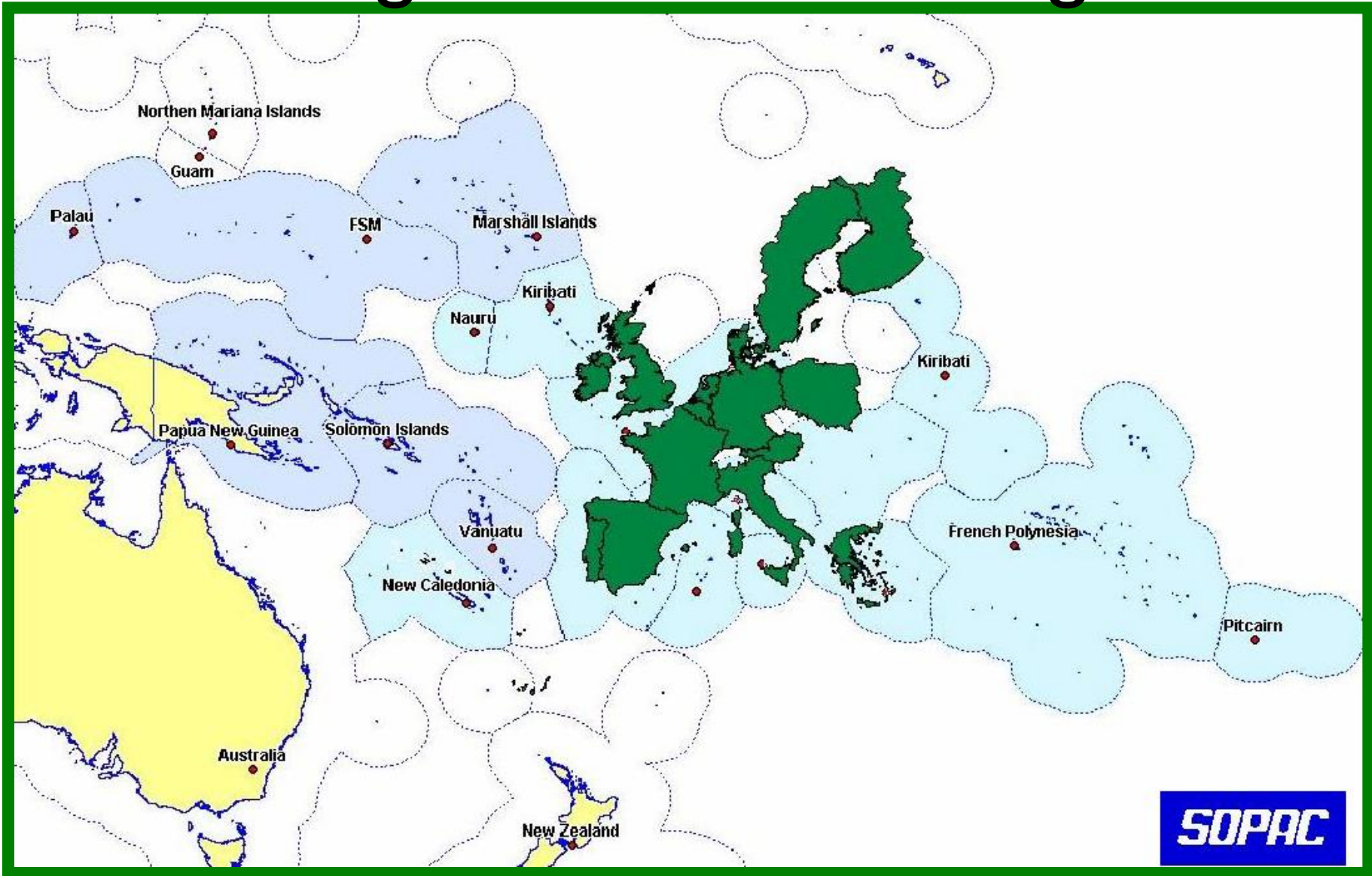
INTRODUCTION TO THE PACIFIC AND TO SPREP

Introduction - the Pacific

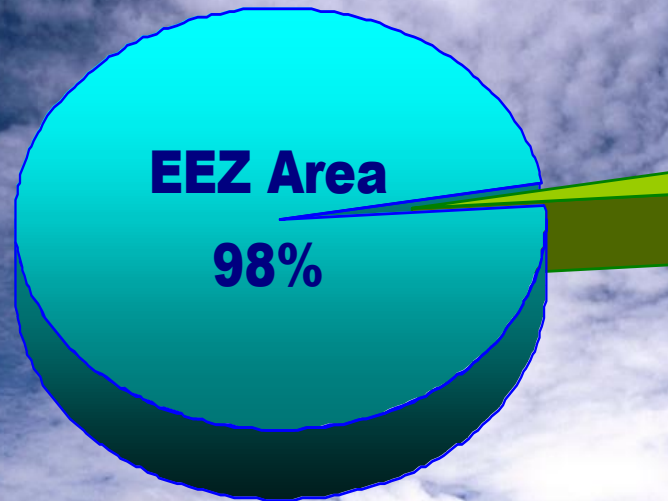
The Pacific is characterized by:

- vast distances
- many isolated islands
- high level of vulnerability to climate change
- limited human capacity and resources to address these issues
- the Pacific Ocean is our lifeblood

How big is the Pacific region?







Pacific
Island Land
Area 2%



Introduction - SPREP

- the Pacific regional agency for the environment
- sharp focus on 4 areas: climate, biodiversity, waste, governance
- working for 40 years in the region, 20 as an independent organisation (16.06.1993)
- belongs to the governments of the Pacific (21 Pacific island countries and territories) as well as 5 “metropolitan” members (Aust., NZ, USA, France, UK)
- Governance structure based around an annual SPREP Meeting – we are fully accountable to all Pacific countries



**21st SPREP Meeting
Officials Meeting Group Photo**

Madang Resort, PNG
6 – 10 September, 2010



SPREP STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PACIFIC RESPONSES

Predictions for the Pacific by 2100

- Temperatures increases to 3 degrees
- More very hot days
- Sea level rise predictions up to 80cms
- Continuing and accelerating ocean acidification
- More intense tropical cyclones
- Changing rainfall patterns

Impacts and responses

- The impacts of climate change can be clearly seen in all Pacific countries
- SPREP and other agencies are responding but the challenges are vast and ever increasing
- Pacific Heads of Governments have consistently identified climate change as the most important threat facing our region



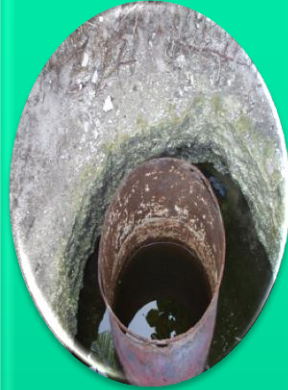
Water resource security



Coasts



Food security



Health



Bio-diversity based resources



Social Dimension

NATIONAL SECURITY







Climate impacts on coral reefs

- ✓ At a temperature increase of 1.5 small islands will encounter severe climatic stresses – coral reefs will bleach and eventually die at 2 degrees
- ✓ Global mean temperature will increase in a variable manner so localised impacts may be more intense than just 2 degrees increase





14 PICTs

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Nauru
- Niue
- PNG
- Samoa
- Solomons
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu



Australian Government
AusAID



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



SPC CPS
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU PACIFIQUE



Climate Change Adaptation

PACC Solomon Islands – Food Security



Farming and water systems exposed to inundation by high tides, storm surges and to changes in rainfall duration

PACC focus on introduction of new farming methods and different crop varieties – work in Ontong Java in Malaita Province



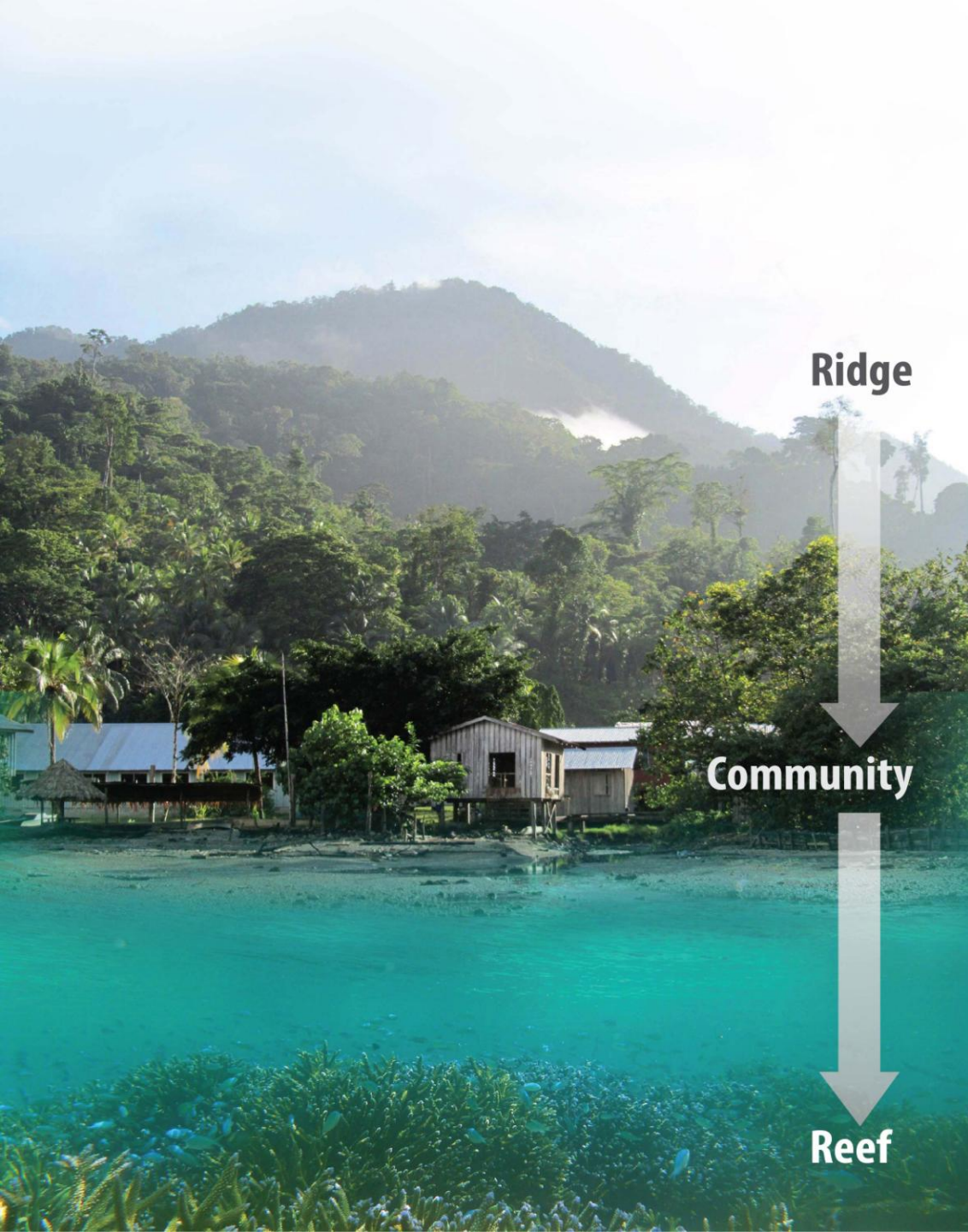
Solomon Islands

PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

www.sprep.org/climate_change/pacc







Ridge

Community

Reef

Adaptation
Focus on Ridge
to Reef with
the community
as the central
point.

Mitigation and renewable energy

- Pacific contributes 0.03% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions but we stand to lose the most from a changing climate – we are in the front line
- All Pacific countries have established energy strategies and there have been some major successes – Tokelau is now 100% solar, Tonga's Energy Road Map has generated significant support and momentum, and there are many other (+)ves
- SIDS DOCK is a major new initiative which will support renewable energy in SIDS
- **Pacific solutions to Pacific solutions** need to be encouraged and developed



Coastal, marine and coral reef responses

- Pacific efforts to better conserve and manage marine and coastal resources, including coral reefs, are coordinated through The Pacific Oceanscape initiative
- This aims to ensure sustainable fisheries, identification and protection of important marine habitats and species, and better protection of coral reefs
- It is important that the international community support Pacific efforts on Oceanscape and efforts by countries to protect their marine resources (LMMAs, WH, Marine sanctuaries)







KEY FACTORS OF SUCCESS FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

Key Factors of Success

- **Develop and apply practical adaptation measures** – tailored to the needs of each country. Build on success and processes that are working, such as PACC, and do not “re-invent the wheel”
- **Develop effective policy frameworks** at national and regional levels for climate change. These must ensure synergies between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction



Hyogo Framework for Action 2005



Strategic Operation Plan (SOP) 2012-2015

WMO Strategic Plan (SP) 2012-2015

RAV Strategic Plan (SOP) 2012-2015



United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention 1992



Pacific DRR & DRM Framework for Action 2005-2015



WMO Strategic Plan (SP) 2012-2015



NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL STRATEGIES

OUTCOMES

- Implementing climate change adaptation measures and policies
- Improve understanding of climate change
- Climate change knowledge, information, public awareness and education
- Improve weather and climate services
- Preparedness, response and recovery
- Early Warning Systems

- Timely weather, climate information, and predictions
- Reduction of underlying risk factors
- Understanding root causes of vulnerabilities and elements of risk

Key Factors of success

- **Ensure increased support** from the international community. The Green Climate Fund must be mobilized as quickly as possible, and targets in the Copenhagen Accord must be met
- **Strengthen capacity of Pacific countries** - both to manage climate change and also to effectively manage increasing levels of funds
- **Improve the research and information base** on climate change and ensure it is targeted to key stakeholders and applied

Key Factors of success

- **Develop better partnerships** at all levels – involving local communities, government and NGO’s – all must play an important role in addressing climate change. Partnerships should be developed within and between regions - such as those developing between SPREP, the 5Cs and the IOC
- **Donors must improve collaboration** and avoid each having their “own” climate programme – the Choiseul Province is a good model of this



Climate change vulnerability assessment

Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



giz



Key Factors of success

- Ensure that approaches to climate change in the Pacific are **multi sectoral** – climate change cuts across all sectors and responses must reflect this
- Make effective and **creative use of key events** such as the SIDS 2014 Conference in Samoa (August, 2014) to highlight and support Pacific issues and concerns regarding climate change and coral reef management

The role of Japan

- Japan has provided significant funding for the Pacific region under the PALM process, particularly for renewable energy, as well as through bilateral assistance
- There is much experience in Japan that is directly relevant and applicable to the Pacific – “we are all islanders”
- Japan-Pacific models which are working - such as J-PRISM - should be built on and expanded
- The support of the Government of Japan for the Pacific region over many years is greatly appreciated –
Thank You

Conclusion

- Climate change is the major challenge facing the Pacific region. Its impacts are far reaching and include major impacts on the coral reefs of the region
- Effective and coordinated responses are needed, building on approaches which are working, such as PACC
- Increased support from the international community is essential
- The Government of Japan has a clear and important role and we look forward to continuing our cooperation

THANK
YOU

