Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program

Supporting National Adaptation Climate
Change Planning and Policy Development –
SPREP Adaptation Planning Initiatives



FINAL REPORT – AUGUST 2013

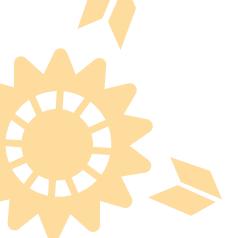
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General Information

About SPREP

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the intergovernmental agency charged with the protection and sustainable management of the Pacific island region's environment. SPREP's vision is for a Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures. SPREP works at the forefront of regional efforts to address environmental concerns by providing national-level technical advice, programme support, human and institutional capacity building and coordinated regional responses to global issues and international agreements. The work of SPREP is guided by a 5-year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) which was formally adopted at the 21st SPREP Meeting in Papua New Guinea in September 2010.

SPREP Climate Change Programme

SPREP's Climate Change Programme is one of the four Strategic focal areas of the SPREP Strategic Plan. The other three are Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management; Waste Management and Pollution Control; and Environmental Monitoring and Governance.

SPREP's climate change programme has three sub-programmes: Adaptation; Science and Policy; and Mitigation.

The strategic goal of the climate change programme is "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". The strategic goal is to be achieved through:

- supporting Members with developing and implementing appropriate adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures;
- improving cooperative partnerships and engagement of all relevant regional and international stakeholders and strengthen coordinated action on reducing risks of climate change impacts consistent with the revised Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, in support of national initiatives and priorities;
- enhancing and build the capacity for conducting applied research, fostering meteorological, climatological
 and oceanic observation and monitoring programmes to improve understanding, awareness and
 applications of targeted responses to climate change and related disaster risk reduction;
- developing and implementing coordinated education and awareness programme and communication strategies across the region to enhance the capacity of Members to address climate change issues;
- supporting Members to meet their obligations under the UNFCCC and related protocols and processes;
 and
- promoting low-carbon development by supporting Members to implement, in partnership with the SPC a
 nd the Regional Energy Policy, cost effective renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) measures
 and low carbon technologies in the regional and monitoring GHF emissions.

Acknowledgement

The Australia Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE) is gratefully acknowledged for its partnership and advice on this project, in particular through input of Cameron Darragh, Liz Dovey, and subsequently, through Shin Furuno and Purdey Wong.

The Government of Australia's support through the International Climate Change Initiative (ICCAI) and DIICCSRTE continues to be invaluable to the work of SPREP in delivering on the needs of Pacific island countries and territories.



Background

SPREP is a lead member of the group of regional organisations supporting Pacific island countries and territories to mainstream climate change and disaster risk issues into their national development and budgetary planning and decision making processes. The other core partner is the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). More recently the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), GIZ, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) have also come on board as supporting partners.

The inter-linkages between disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) have been identified as priority issues which require special attention. Climate-related risks, and the high likelihood that these will increase substantially in the future, have made DRR and CCA key policy goals in the region. DRR and CCA are increasingly recognised as having a common focus: reducing the vulnerability of the communities while contributing to sustainable development.

The joint national action plan for climate change and disaster risk management (commonly referred to as JNAP) was one of the processes SPREP and SPC used to guide Pacific Island Countries (PICs) on how and where the integration of climate change and disaster risk management could strengthen national and sector development and action plans. The JNAP process started in 2009 and the first country to request this support and complete a JNAP was Tonga.

In 2011, SPREP requested financial assistance through the Government of Australia's Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program (PASAP) to enable SPREP to provide technical support to develop national climate change policies and joint Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management National Action Plans (JNAPs) in identified partner countries.

The total funding for the project was USD200,000 over a one-year period. In 2012 SPREP requested an extension to June 2013. This was approved and managed under the auspices of the successor program to PASAP, the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP), managed by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency – now known as the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE). The approval also requested that a review of the JNAP process be carried out. This review report is attached as Annex 1.





Rationale for the JNAP

From a regional perspective the rationale for advocating and supporting PICs with their JNAP came about through regional and national experiences of both SPREP and SPC where it was noted that:

- Regional organisations need to better coordinate their climate change and disaster risk management activities as countries are burdened with a large number of development assistance projects and over consultation;
- There is a need to minimise the duplication of effort and redundancies at both national and regional level;
- There is a need to make more efficient use of scarce resources;
- There is a need to carefully analyse and assess the root causes of vulnerability to ensure actions (money and efforts) are not wasted or causing further vulnerability;
- There is a need to support and promote convergence as players increasingly recognize that there is little practical difference in the implementation of disaster risk management and climate change solutions, especially at the community level.

Constraints at the national level also highlight the need for JNAPs. These constraints include the following:

- Limited mainstreaming of CC and DRM into national and sector development and budgetary decision making and planning;
- Lack of capacity in both CC and DRM.
- Lack of coordination and collaboration between agencies and with NGOs, civil society and community groups to enable best use of capacity building opportunities;;
- Lack of a holistic approach to problem and risk analysis and assessment, with adaptation and risk reduction activities carried out on a short term and, in some cases, demonstrating that the root causes of issues are not being addressed;
- Misperceptions that DRR and CCA are different thus requiring different actions and interventions;
- Decisions are not based on sound baseline information;
- Weak institutional arrangements, resulting in lack of coordination; and
- Limitation in quantifying the benefits of an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) to convince decision makers.

Therefore JNAP is a multi-sectoral plan that covers priorities for implementation of DDR and CCA at the national level (including sector, provincial and outer islands). A JNAP could address both adaptation and mitigation such as in Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and Cook Islands, or only adaptation such as in Nauru, where the National Energy Strategy addresses mitigation through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Project Objectives and Indicators

The objective is to provide technical and financial support to SPREP to assist the development of joint national action plans for climate change and disaster risk management partners initially for the following countries:

PICs	Tasks Requested	Tentative time line
RMI	Develop JNAP on CCA & DRM	First Quarter 2011
Niue	Develop JNAP on CCA & DRM	First Quarter 2011
Nauru	CC Policy and NAP	Second Quarter 2011
FSM	Develop JNAP on CCA & DRM	Second Quarter 2011
Cook Islands	Develop JNAP on CCA & DRM	Third Quarter 2011

With the project approved extension, additional requests were received in 2012 from the following countries:

- Tuvalu
- Kiribati
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu
- Palau
- Fiji

Under the agreement between SPREP and PASAP, SPREP will provide assistance to PICs to strengthen national capacity to: embed climate change adaptation into national development planning and re-programming; coordinate and integrate national adaptation and disaster risk management planning, policies, on-the-ground implementation, and strengthen institutional arrangements.

As per the original agreement, a process was used in each of the target countries which ensured that the "Verifiable Indicators" were met, i.e.:

- Participatory and Consultative processes and stakeholders are actively involved in the development and implementation of national policies and national action plans
- Climate Change is viewed as a cross cutting issue and integration into national development planning and budgetary processes is under way
- Integration of CCA and DRR planning, policy and intuitional arrangements is under way in key ministries.

Expected Project Outcomes

The envisaged outcome was for national governments, sectors, community groups, civil society and NGOs to integrate climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management into decision making at the national level (sector, provincial and outer islands), policies (including legislation), plans, strategies and budgetary planning processes in the context of sustainable development planning and programming.





Purpose of this Report

This final report covers the progress made on supporting PICs in the development of Joint National Action Plans for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP's) from 2011-2013 as per the MOU signed for this project. A financial report is also provided.

The JNAP Process

The support to PICs in facilitating and supporting the development of a JNAP is based on country readiness and official requests to SPREP and SPC. Upon receipt of official requests both SPREP and SPC mobilised the regional support team (confirming which organisation is available to provide the specific support requested) and conducted discussions at national level prior to commencing implementation of the programme. The general JNAP development process was as follows:

- 1. Preparing for the JNAP planning process
 - Request from countries is received
 - Initial planning considerations and literature review
 - Obtain political support through high level advocacy
 - Establish national multi-disciplinary teams for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management

2. Situation Analysis

- Information collection and literature/national reports and studies review
- Stakeholder engagements and consultations
- Identification of key issues by sectors or thematic areas

3. Action Plan Development

- Validation and prioritisation of key issues
- Problem-Solution tree analysis/identification of root causes
- Action matrix development

4. Implementation Plan Development

- Institutional arrangements
- Costing
- Financing strategy

5. Communication strategy

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Towards Implementation
- Government approval
- Donor Interactions







The duration of the project is too short to report on longer term impacts. Despite the short timeline however, some project results are available. Four countries (Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Niue) of the five that were included in the first phase of the project have either completed and approved their JNAP or are in the process of completing (also refer Tables 1 and 2). For example, Nauru has completed most components but costing and finalisation is yet to be completed. Federates States of Micronesia (FSM) has completed a National Climate Change Policy first and this will be followed by development of a JNAP towards the end of 2013. SPREP participation in the FSM work was not funded from this project as SPREP staff time was covered from another project activity carried out at the same time as the country consultation for FSM policy.

Both RMI and Tuvalu completed national climate change policies and JNAPs during the same consultation process.

In the second set of countries (as per the Project Extension request) Tuvalu has approved its JNAP (the National Strategic Action Plan for CC and DRM – NSAP) and Kiribati is in the final stages of the development phase. It is expected that that Kiribati will approve their JNAP (the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for CC and DRM – KJIP) before the Pacific Forum leaders meeting in September 2013. Solomon Islands started its process in early 2013 and decided to use the JNAP process and methodology to develop a climate change national action plan (NAP) to access the Least Developed Country (LDC) climate change funds.

In Vanuatu, the national advisory board on climate change and disaster risk reduction is developing an integrated policy as the current policy on climate change and disaster risk reduction will end 2013. SPREP has been requested to assist in the provincial and outer islands consultation especially with taking climate change information to the communities. SPREP involvement in Vanuatu was linked to and funded from SPREP meteorology and climate work. As a result, funds from this project were not utilised.

Although a request from Palau was received by SPC and SPREP in 2012, the recent change in Government has stalled the process in Palau. Change of staff is another factor as the National Emergency Management Office Director has retired. None of the project funding has been used in Palau. There are ongoing discussions between SPC, SPREP and Palau and there may be a need for high level advocacy with the new government. SPREP, SPC and UNDP commenced discussions with Fiji in July 2013 and this is ongoing. No money from this project is going to Fiji.

Details of the results are presented in two tables. Table 1 has the results and impacts against the indicators and Table 2 shows the overall results and progress at time of reporting. Annex 1 provides a detailed analysis of not only the JNAP process but the views of the participating countries on the impacts of the JNAP in mainstreaming and advancing the integration of climate change and disaster risk management into national and sectoral development planning processes and on implementation.

Table 1: Progress against the project indicators

Verifiable Indicators	Countries	Achievements	Evidence
Participatory and consultative processes and stakeholders are actively involved in the development and implementation of national policies and national action plans	RMI, Niue, Nauru, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati	 national workshops sector workshops Consultations with Government agencies, private sectors and NGO Consultations with donor communities in Country Consultations with state Mayors (RMI) Island mayors from the Pa Enua (outer islands), (Cook Islands. Te Rito Enua, Taporoporo Ipukarea Society, Takitimu Conservation Area and the Red Cross (Cook Islands) Focused groups discussions (youth and women) Youth and disability groups were consulted (Kiribati) Outer islands consultation (Tuvalu) National Task Force Team to lead on the development process made up of all government agencies, representative of private sectors, NGO's and community groups including women and men in RMI, Niue, Nauru, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati. 	Respective countries final draft JNAP or approved JNAP or its equivalent Contact SPREP and SPC climate change and disaster risk management programmes. Contact climate change and disaster risk management offices at the national levels. www.pacificdisasternet.net www.pacificclimatechange. net
Climate change is viewed as a cross cutting issue and integration into national development planning and budgetary processes are under way.	RMI, Niue, Nauru and Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati	 CC and DRM are very much treated a cross cutting issue in all All JNAP developed covered climate change and disaster risk reduction priorities from country priority sectors Integration into the Health Sector (Tonga) Integration into the Water Sector (Nauru and Tuvalu) Integration into the Education Sector (Kiribati) CC and DRM under the Office of the Prime Ministers allowed for improved coordination (Cook Islands) 	As Above

Integration of CCA and DRR planning, policy and institutional arrangements is under way in key ministries. Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands	 CC moved to central agency – Office of Prime Minister (Cook Islands) Climate change and disaster risk management legislative review (Cook Islands) Portal for CC and DRM projects developed (Cook Islands) CC and DRM both moved to President's Office (Kiribati) 	Te Kaniva: Tuvalu Climate Change Policy: http://www. sprep.org/attachments/ Climate_Change/Te_ Kaniva_Tuvalu_Climate_ Change_Policy_2012_Eng_ Translation.pdf Tuvalu NSAP for CC and DRM 2012-2016: http:// www.sprep.org/attachments/ Climate_Change/Tuvalu_
	 Consultancy on adaptation planning (Solomon Islands) inception workshops at the community levels where linkages between climate change and disaster risk management were explained and demonstrated with local examples- many regional and 	National_Strategic_Action_ Plan_for_Climate_Change_ and_Disaster_Risk_ Management_20122016_ Eng_Translation.pdf
	international partners involved	

Table 2: JAAP Progress - 19th August 2013

Country	Status	Comments	Confirmed partners
Cook Islands	JNAP completed and formally endorsed	In terms of JNAP implementation work is underway on a review of DRM and Climate Change legislation for the Cook Islands in connection with the JNAP. In addition the Cook Islands DRR / CC Projects Portal has been developed with the support of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center working with SPC/SOPAC. The portal includes 107 DRM and Climate Change projects that have supported or are supporting the Cook Islands. Those recorded in the portal are a combination of both national and regional projects	SPC-SOPAC, SPREP
FSM ¹	JNAP development in progress	A draft nation-wide DRM and Climate Change Policy had been developed in June 2013 and is to be submitted to Congress in September. The policy will enable the development of integrated DRM and Climate Change Action Plans at the State level. Thus far there are no formal requests for support of State level action plans however there is potential in a number of States to build on the momentum created by existing projects like the GIZ, GCCA:PSIS and PACC in order to move State level action planning forward.	SPC-SOPAC, GCCA:PSIS, GIZ SPREP, IOM

¹ FSM, Vanuatu and Fiji processes were not funded from this project however, it is included in this report to give the reader an awareness of what's going on in the Pacific in this area.

Country	Status	Comments	Confirmed partners
Kiribati	Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan (KJIP) draft completed on 3rd August and sent to the Office of the President on 7th August.	A Kiribati National Experts Group (KNEP) had been constituted to coordinate all DRM and Climate Change activities. The KNEP comprises of national and community stakeholders and also includes a range of partner organisations such as SPREP, SPC, GCCA:PSIS, GIZ, UNDP and UNICEF. The KNEP has been supporting efforts to develop a Kiribati Joint Implementation Programme for Climate Change and DRM (KJIP) and a draft was completed on 3rd August and is to be sent to the Office of the President for consideration by 7th August. The President of Kiribati has set a deadline of 31st August for the completion of the KJIP.	SPREP, UNDP, GCCA, SPC- SOPAC, GIZ, UNICEF, PACCSAP
RMI	Draft JNAP developed	Draft JNAP developed with SOPAC/SPREP support in 2011. Implementation arrangements are yet to be drafted and further follow up is required. SPC-SOPAC is to pursue with the Chief Secretary and OEPPC.	SPREP, SPC- SOPAC, GCCA
Nauru	Nauru Climate and Disaster Risk Strategic Framework under finalisation	The Republic of Nauru Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (RONAdapt) is to be finalised (including costing and an M&E framework) with the support of a consultant. SPC-GCCA and SPC/GIZ are co-financing this work. At the request of the Nauru government this work has been combined with support to the development of a climate change policy statement which will link to RONAdapt. Calls for expressions of interest for this work closed on Friday August 2nd. and an update will be provided once the consultant(s) are on board. The work is expected to be completed by November 2013.	GIZ, SPREP, SPC-SOPAC, GCCA
Niue	JNAP document completed in draft and awaiting finalisation by the Government	JNAP actions directly integrated into an updated revision of the Niue Sustainable Development Plan. As a result DRM and Climate Change Adaptation interventions will be mainstreamed into the national development strategy. Niue will also prepare a brief version of the JNAP for circulation. SPC- SOPAC is awaiting feedback from Niue on the finalization of the 2 documents and will follow up with the Secretary to Government.	SPREP, GCCA, SPC-SOPAC

Country	Status	Comments	Confirmed partners
Palau	Request for JNAP received in Feb 2012. Further action to be taken once a new NEMO Director has been appointed in 2013.	The proposed JNAP had been discussed between SPC-SOPAC and the GCCA:PSIS project and it had been agreed that for the time being the initiative should be held in abeyance until a new Director of NEMO had been appointed. The current NEMO Director is retiring from 8th August and partners will need to support the incumbent of the position to strengthen relations with OERC before discussions can resume on a JNAP. There is also the concern that the Government has a new President and Vice President in place following the recent Elections and so the JNAP needs to be prefaced with further advocacy at a high level. In the meantime, partner organisations should continue to undertake their respective DRM and Climate Change programmes with Palau noting that the JNAP will eventually build on these initiatives.	SPREP, SPC- SOPAC, GIZ, GCCA:PSIS
Solomon Islands	JNAP development in progress	Joint Mission to Solomon Islands conducted from 12-22 March with partners including, SPREP, SPC SOPAC, SPC SEPPF, UNDP PC, UNDP and the World Bank working with MECDM in Solomon Islands. Following a 2 day national consultation, a Strategic note has been prepared by MECDM highlight the outcomes of the workshop and the initiative to develop a Joint Framework for CC/DRM to address the enabling environment for integrated climate/disaster development planning and mainstreaming for more effective on the ground implementation.	WB, UNISDR, OCHA, UNDP, SPC-SOPAC, SPC-SEPPF, SPREP, GIZ
Tuvalu	NSAP (JNAP) completed and formally endorsed. Donor roundtable is to be undertaken.	The implementation of the Tuvalu NSAP was awaiting the convening of a donor roundtable as the Government requested this earlier. Through the Tuvalu High Commission in Suva there are regular aid coordination meetings and this being explored by SPREP for the purpose of a NSAP round table. A GIZ Officer should be starting shortly within the Department of Environment. One of their roles will be to support the development of an M&E framework for the NSAP.	SPREP, SPC- SOPAC, GIZ
Vanuatu	National CC & DRR Policy (end 2013) and Implementation Plan (mid 2014) under development	Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction is taking the approach to develop first a National Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (which outlines institutional and governance issues) and a separate CC & DRR implementation plan which outlines activities, roles, timelines and financing requirements. Both the policy and the implementation plan are being locally coordinated and developed	Multiple partners are supporting, most significantly SPC-GIZ, UNDP, EU GCCA and UNFCCC.

Project Outcomes

The envisaged outcome of the project was for national governments, sectors, community groups, civil society and NGOs to integrate climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management into decision making at the national (sector and provincial and outer islands) policies (including legislations), plans, strategies and budgetary planning processes in the context of sustainable development planning and programming.

The project timeline however (2 years), is considered too short for monitoring of the outcomes. But more significantly the project was to develop JNAPs and, although there were opportunities for capacity building within the process, the project did not include funds for actual implementation of the JNAP. It was only in the Cook Islands that this project contributed to the implementation of one of its JNAP priorities – a review of climate change and disaster risk management legislation with a view to identifying opportunities for integration. However, at the time of preparing this report, the review is not yet completed.

One of the rationales for developing JNAPs was the lack of mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk management. While all the JNAPs include priorities for mainstreaming at national and sectoral and community levels, these activities are yet to be implemented or, have been implemented but the outcomes have not been achieved.

All JNAPs have direct links to national sustainable development plans. Thus JNAPs will effectively contribute to long term sustainable development by reducing the risks in key development sectors to climate change and disaster risks



Expected long Term Benefits and Sustainability

There are also long term benefits such as promoting networking and collaboration at the national and community levels through the various country teams. It was also expected that ministries, departments and community groups would integrate priorities relevant to their mandates or integrate action items of direct relevance to them into their everyday business to ensure sustainability. In most cases, the project has been too short for this to be evident.

An example from Tonga, however, does show that the Ministry of Health has incorporated health related priorities from the JNAP into the health plans and taken the lead in its implementation².

In Kiribati, a National Expert Group (KNEG) has been established to guide the JNAP development process and has been approved by the Government of Kiribati as the expert group to coordinate all national climate change and disaster risk management activities. KNEG is very proactive in this role³.

This project has also contributed to strengthening the collaboration between SPREP, SPC and UNDP. Although the project has limited funds, SPREP, SPC and UNDP were able to bring to the table additional funds as well as technical expertise and collaborated in funding national level activities. This is a very positive spin-off from the project that it is important to note.

The JNAP review funded by this project (Annex 1) will be used by SPREP and SPC and their partners to develop a guide for JNAP development in the region and a set of tools to support those who are involved in the JNAP process. The JNAP review, another example of the very positive spin off of this project, contains an invaluable record of lessons learned across countries and regional organisations that could be used to strengthen the JNAP process in the future.





- 2 Tonga JNAP was the first JNAP to be developed and approved. This project didn't fund the process in Tonga. More information from the Tonga JNAP could be obtained from https://www.facebook.com/tongajnap.secretariat
- 3 Personal observations

financial Report

In June 2013, SPREP and the DIICCSRTE agreed to the use of USD20,000 unspent project funds for coordination of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and Disaster Risk Management Platform joint meetings in July 2013. The balance of USD6000 would be used for the completion of the JNAP review, edits, layout and printing. A detailed financial report covering variance between actual expenditure and planned expenditure is provided directly to DIICCSRTE. Table 3 outlines the different activities and the range of inputs provided by SPREP to all JNAP countries funded by this project.

Table 3: Activities and Inputs in Countries funded by the Project

RMI	 SPREP personnel input (Netatua – Climate Change Director and Diane – Climate Change Adviser) Internal consultation cost such as workshops venue, refreshment and transport
Nauru	 SPREP personnel input (Netatua – Climate Change Director) Internal consultation cost such as workshops and transport
Niue	 SPREP personnel input (Netatua – Climate Change Director and Tagaloa – Climate Change Coordination Adviser) Internal consultation cost such as workshops venue and transport
Cook Islands	 SPREP personnel input (Diane – Climate Change Adaptation Adviser) Fund outer islands representatives to participate in workshops in the capital Internal consultation cost such as workshops venue and refreshments, transport Contract national consultants to carry out legislative reviews for climate change and disaster risk management
Tuvalu	 SPREP personnel input (Netatua – Climate Change Director) Internal consultation cost such as workshops venue, refreshment and transport Fund the outer islands consultation (hire boat and cost of the Tuvalu team to do the consultations Launch of the CC policy and JNAP
Kiribati	 SPREP personnel input (Netatua – Climate Change Director and Tagaloa – Climate Change Coordination Adviser) Internal consultation cost such as workshops venue, refreshment and transport Fund the outer islands consultation (boat hire)
Solomon Islands	 SPREP personnel input (Salesa – Weather and Climate Officer)
JNAP Review	 International consultancy contract contract of editor contract of layout
CC and DRM Joint Meeting	SPREP staff travelCountry representatives travel

Discussion

The output from a JNAP process is the approved JNAP. Once this is achieved, the regional organisations 'stepped back to the background' in an attempt to reduce their direct involvement and encouraged the country to lead in advocating for and implementing the JNAP. However, it was noted that countries with completed JNAPs continued to expect the help and support of regional partners in implementation and monitoring. This difference in expectations may be due to the fact that countries lack the necessary capacity to commence implementation. At the same time, regional organisations are constrained since they do not have additional dedicated funds for JNAP implementation.

An increase in integrated planning and on the ground implementation of complementary adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities addressing the needs and challenges identified by countries in relation to DRR and CC is yet to be verified due to lack of JNAP implementation. It is too early to consider what the real impacts of the JNAPs are at different levels.

The JNAP takes into account the aspirations of the countries and is aligned with the national sustainable development goals. Its successful implementation supports the national development agenda. Also the strengthening of the sector plans contributes to the achievement of these goals. Although the development process of JNAPs has picked up momentum now in the Pacific, implementation is very limited. Thus, an overall impact is yet to be realised where there is a shift of paradigm. There is need to foster a culture of prevention and risk reduction with active engagement of the public and communities and where there is an effective use of financial and human resources for building resilience at all levels for both women and men.

Information management to support monitoring and evaluation of JNAPs needs to be strengthened. The capacity at the national level is still very limited. Basic requirements to update regional partners or for regional partners to keep track of progress on the ground is onerous.

Key staff moving on or resigning is another challenge at the national level. When this happens, the momentum of either JNAP development of implementation is delayed as evidenced with many of the JNAPs not yet approved at the national level.

Detailed discussions per country could be found in the attached JNAP review (Annex 1). It is not intended to repeat the review findings here.





Recommendations for further support to SPREP

The conclusion of this project signals the end of the financial resources enabling SPREP to continue in this partnership and this important work supporting PICTs and linking directly to the implementation of the SPREP strategic plan. Continued financial and technical support through SPREP is recommended, and to ensure that this support to countries continues, SPREP is already canvassing support from partners.

The JNAP process and eventual implementation is very important in building resilience at the national level and because the JNAP links policy, capacity building and implementation on the ground. This is very unique to the JNAP thus the continued support to SPREP through the Government of Australia is very important to ensure the sustainability of the JNAPs – which allows the continued linking to policy and building capacities at the national and community levels.



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