

Roadmap towards a Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) by 2015

Executive Summary



September 2013

Introduction

The Roadmap outlines a process to facilitate the development of a Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP), by 2015. The new strategy will succeed the existing Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (RFA) and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 – 2015 (PIFACC)¹.

The Roadmap process was initiated and endorsed in 2011 by the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, the Governing Council of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)². The process has been developed in response to DRM/CC integration efforts already ongoing at national and regional level, in consultation with a broad range of development partners and donors, in addition to DRM and CC stakeholder groups within Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). It has received widespread support at international, regional and national levels in the Pacific. The Pacific is leading the way on this process, as it will be the first region in the world to fully integrate Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change into a single overarching policy framework.



Background and Rationale for DRM/CC integration

The Pacific islands region is highly exposed to natural hazards of geological and hydro-meteorological origin including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, flooding, landslides, and droughts. Of the top twenty countries with the highest average annual losses to GDP from disasters, eight are Pacific island countries³. This exacerbates existing development challenges of the region.

The effects of climate change are likely to increase the frequency and/or intensity of climate related hazards and cause ecosystem degradation, reduction in food and water availability and changes in community livelihoods that in turn increase their vulnerability. Climate and disaster risks cut across all sectors (agriculture, natural resources management, transport, infrastructure, economic development, health, education, etc.) and hinder sustainable development efforts.

Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation share the same aim, to reduce the vulnerability of societies to hazards by improving their ability to anticipate, resist, prepare for, respond to and recover from their impacts. Similar tools are used to monitor, analyse and address adverse consequences of disasters and climate change. Therefore, it makes sense to consider and implement them in a systematic and integrated manner. For example, risk assessments, vulnerability assessments, flood management systems and building code enforcement contribute to both policy goals and more generally to building community resilience.

An integrated DRM/CC approach, working across all sectors, will be more effective at reducing risks to sustainable development as it can make better use of existing national and regional capacities and resources to address multiple hazards or phenomena, whether climate-related or geological, sudden or slow onset. It may also contribute to improving policy coherence and the coordination of donor-assisted investments.

Most countries in the Pacific region have already started taking concrete steps to address disaster and climate risks in an integrated manner. For example, through the development of Joint National Action Plans for DRM and CC (JNAPs), or by joining their national institutional arrangements for DRM and CC.

The new strategy will provide a framework to guide and support integration efforts at regional and country level. It will further raise the profile of DRM, CC and other cross-cutting development issues within governments and communities, will lead to improved monitoring and evaluation of progress, and demonstrate to the global community that integration at policy and operational levels are not only possible but also a key priority.

The integration process will entail working across different stakeholder groups to harmonise institutional arrangements for DRM and CC, ensure that efforts are nested within the context of countries' national development strategies and reflected in their budgets, encourage the participation of multiple stakeholder groups, strengthen countries' capacities for risk governance and support the development of well-coordinated innovative funding mechanisms.

Roadmap Process

The process for the elaboration of the Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) is led by a Steering Committee, established in 2013, whose members are PICT representatives from the SPREP Meeting, the SPC CRGA, the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, the Pacific Meteorological Council and the Forum of Economic Ministers Meeting, as well as a representative from the French Territories. These members jointly represent the interests of the Pacific region.

The Roadmap process is also facilitated by a Technical Working Group, established in 2013, comprising several partner organisations (SPC, SPREP, UNISDR, UNDP, PIFS and USP) who provide expert advice to the Steering Committee and support PICTs in relation to the development of the strategy and other Roadmap deliverables.

The PICTs are represented in both committees and in participatory and consultative processes where they will contribute to defining the focus and parameters of the new strategy. A broad range of stakeholders will also be invited to contribute their perspectives.

Outputs by 2015

- **Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)**
- **Regional Synthesis Report on the implementation of the current regional frameworks (RFA and PIFACC)**
- **Compendium of case studies on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Pacific**

Current CC/DRM efforts and initiatives⁴ also continue to be carried forward, and the experiences gained from these activities are informing the development of the new strategy.

The formulation and drafting process have started and will continue in 2014. The formulation process includes a wide range of consultations (which have already been initiated) at national, regional and international level, targeting a wide variety of stakeholders. Lessons learned from the implementation of the RFA and PIFACC are also being factored into the process.

Main milestones in the Roadmap process

- **July 2013:** Political support and priorities for considerations gathered at the Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
- **April 2014:** A complete draft of the Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development is in place and endorsed by the Steering Committee
- **September & November 2014:** Final draft of the strategy is submitted to the SPREP Meeting and SPC CRGA for endorsement
- **August 2015:** Endorsed draft of the strategy is submitted to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders for approval

The successful implementation of the integration process will rely on the leadership of PICTs through existing regional mechanisms and close collaboration between development partners and donor organisations.

¹ These regional instruments provide a policy basis for making investments that aim to strengthen the resilience to disasters and climate change at regional, national and subnational levels within the Pacific islands region. The RFA is the Pacific adaptation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015. The PIFACC is aligned to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The RFA and PIFACC were both identified as imperatives for action under the Pacific Plan endorsed by Pacific leaders in October 2005.

² The document was then revised and updated to take into account developments in the Roadmap process from 2011 to March 2013. The revision has not altered the focus and overall intent of the process endorsed in 2011. The full text can be found at: http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/SOPAC_SPREP_2013_DRM_CC_Revised180413.pdf

³ Acting Today for Tomorrow: A Policy and Practice Note for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific Islands Region (The World Bank).

⁴ For example, the current work on the development of Joint National Action Plans, the mapping of institutions, policies and mechanisms for DRM/CC, the improvement of databases on hazards, exposure, vulnerability and risk assessments, capacity building programs, projects, and information management systems to support DRM and CC actions.

Detailed Roadmap Events Calendar

- 1. July 2013: Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Round Table, 8th–11th July, 2013, Nadi, Fiji**

Opportunity for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, as well as various other stakeholder groups, to contribute to the formulation of the strategy
- 2. August 2013: Pacific Plan Action Committee Meeting, 6th–7th August 2013, Suva, Fiji**

Opportunity to link the formulation of the strategy with the review of the Pacific Plan
- 3. September 2013: SPREP Meeting, 16th–19th September 2013, Apia, Samoa**

Opportunity for SPREP Member Countries and Territories attending the SPREP Meeting to provide input into the formulation of the strategy
- 4. October 2013: Science Technology and Resources Conference - STAR (SPC) 9th–11th October 2013, Rarotoga, STAR Meeting Cook Islands**

Opportunity for SPC Member Countries attending the STAR meeting to provide input into the formulation of the strategy
- 5. October/November 2013: Stakeholder Consultation Workshops, Suva, Fiji**

Four dedicated workshops will be organised to gather the contribution of different key stakeholder groups (respectively, Civil Society Organisations including NGOs and Community groups, Private Sector organisations, Emergency/Disaster Managers, Development Partners and Donors)
- 6. November 2013: SPC Governing Council, Suva, Fiji**

Opportunity for SPC Member Countries attending the SPC Governing Council meeting to provide input into the formulation of the strategy
- 7. November/December 2013: Conference of the Parties, UNFCCC**

Opportunity to share an update on the Pacific Roadmap process at the CoP
- 8. April 2014: Draft Strategy completed**

Complete draft of the Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific is endorsed by the Steering Committee
- 9. June 2014: 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, 23rd–26th June, Thailand**

Opportunity to share an update on the strategy formulation with the Asia region
- 10. June/July 2014: Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (PPDRM)**

Presentation of the draft strategy for endorsement by the PPDRM
- 11. Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (date TBC)**

Presentation of the draft strategy
- 12. Pacific Plan Action Committee (date TBC)**

Presentation of the draft strategy
- 13. June/July 2014: Out of Session Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR)**

Presentation of the draft strategy for endorsement by the PCCR
- 14. September 2014: 3rd Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Global Conference, Apia, Samoa**

Opportunity to share an update on the strategy formulation and key messages on DRM and Climate Change
- 15. September–November 2014: SPREP Meeting and SPC Governing Council**

Presentation of the draft strategy for final endorsement
- 16. November/December 2014: Conference of the Parties, UNFCCC**

Presentation of the endorsed strategy to the CoP
- 17. March 2015: 3rd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Japan**

Pacific to present the endorsed strategy for DRM and Climate Change as the region's formal contribution to the meeting where the Post-2015 Framework for DRR is expected to be adopted
- 18. June 2015: Meetings of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (PPDRM) and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR)**

Present the approved strategy to DRM and Climate Change stakeholders with an emphasis on implementation arrangements from 2016
- 19. June 2015: Pacific Regional Synthesis Report completed**

A final draft of the Pacific Regional Synthesis Report 2015: Implementation Progress of the Pacific DRR and DM Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (RFA) and Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 (PIFACC) is finalised
- 20. June 2015: Compendium of Pacific CC/DRM Case Studies completed**

A compendium of case studies on DRM and Climate Change in the Pacific is finalised
- 21. August 2015: Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting**

The endorsed integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change is presented for approval by Heads of Government of Pacific island countries. The Pacific Regional Synthesis Report 2015 (Implementation Progress of the RFA and PIFACC) and the Compendium of Pacific DRM and Climate Change Case Studies will also be included as part of the presentation