

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY****FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 4–7 November 2014)

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRAMMES DIRECTORATE REPORT**PAPER 6.2: STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE
PACIFIC (SRDP)**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

1. This paper calls CRGA's attention to the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP), a new regional policy instrument providing high-level guidance in regard to climate change and disaster risk management, aimed at building resilience of Pacific Island communities through the integrated management of climate change and disaster risks. This regional strategy will succeed the current Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 and Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005–2015.
2. Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) are particularly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards of hydro-meteorological origin (e.g. cyclones, floods) and geological origin (e.g. earthquakes, tsunami). Climate change exacerbates extreme weather events, and causes progressive long-term degradation of the natural environment and of ecosystems upon which Pacific Island communities depend for their livelihood (e.g. coral reefs). Climate and disaster risks increase people's vulnerability and undermine the sustainable development of this region.
3. Recognising the clear overlaps between climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, and the similar tools and resources required to address these risks, PICTs have started to develop integrated approaches in managing climate and disaster risks, at both policy and programmatic level. Upon request by PICTs, SPC has provided assistance and support in the development of a high-level strategic framework for the Pacific region, which has now taken shape as the draft SRDP.
4. The development of SRDP has involved an extensive engagement and consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders at national and regional levels, PICT governments and administrations, civil society organisations, the private sector, and development partners such as donors and regional and international organisations. This process has been guided and supervised by a steering committee comprising PICT representatives from governments and administrations, the private sector and civil society.
5. The main features of SRDP include:
 - a. The promotion of integrated and multi-sectoral approaches in the management of natural hazards, whether slow or sudden onset, and whether geological or climate related;
 - b. The identification of three inter-related strategic goals:
Goal 1: Strengthened integrated risk management to enhance climate and disaster resilience,

Goal 2: Low-carbon development,

Goal 3: Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery;

- c. The provision of differentiated guidance to different stakeholder groups;
- d. The inclusion of tailor made approaches for the needs of vulnerable groups;
- e. The creation of an enabling environment through communication and advocacy, capacity building and effective human and financial resource mobilisation;
- f. The development and consolidation of partnerships between stakeholder groups aimed at developing effective solutions to jointly address climate and disaster risks;
- g. The establishment of the Pacific Resilience Partnership as the overarching coordinating mechanism replacing the existing separate regional coordinating structures on climate change and disaster risk management, namely the Pacific Climate Change Round Table and Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management;
- h. The promotion and use of open and accessible sources of traditional and contemporary knowledge and information; and
- i. The development of a results-based management framework to accompany the SRDP as a tool for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. CRGA is invited to:
 - i. Recognise that natural hazards, including the impacts of climate change, pose significant risks to achieving the sustainable development objectives of PICTs;
 - ii. Note the progress made by Pacific Island countries in the development of integrated climate and disaster risk management approaches at national and regional level;
 - iii. Note the different features of the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific;
 - iv. Endorse the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development, and request that the Roadmap Steering Committee and Technical Working Group address, as necessary, concerns raised by members in an updated draft; and
 - v. Support the onward submission of the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development to the 2015 Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting for consideration and approval.
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STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC (SRDP)

Purpose

7. This paper calls CRGA's attention to the different features of the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP). It also explains the 'roadmap' process used in the formulation of this strategy, noting that members endorsed this process at CRGA 42.

Setting the scene

8. Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) are particularly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards of hydro-meteorological origin (e.g. cyclones, floods) and geological origin (e.g. earthquakes, tsunami). Climate change exacerbates extreme weather events, and causes progressive long-term degradation of the natural environment and of ecosystems on which Pacific Island communities depend for their livelihood (e.g. coral reefs). Climate and disaster risks increase people's vulnerability and undermine the sustainable development of this region.
9. The region's vulnerability is compounded by the small and geographically dispersed characteristics of most PICTs; the high proportion of people and infrastructure located in hazard-prone coastal regions; and the dependence of economies on the productivity of natural ecosystems, in particular in sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry and tourism, which account for a significant share of national income for most PICTs and which underpin the livelihoods of many people. These sectors are expected to be significantly affected by climate change. In addition, the projected increase in intensity of extreme weather events will place critical economic and social infrastructure (including hospitals, schools, cultural sites and agricultural land) at greater risk of damage and loss and will undermine human welfare and livelihoods. Impacts on vulnerable populations could be even greater, which could further exacerbate social and economic inequities.
10. Some progress has been made in recent years in addressing the risks posed by climate change and disasters, but much work remains to be done to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of communities. It is recognised that PICTs face many constraints – of which limited human and financial resources are perhaps the most important – that reduce their ability to effectively manage these risks. On the other hand, in keeping with their heritage of resilience, solidarity, and traditional knowledge and knowhow, many PICTs have already taken steps to integrate their response to climate change and disasters at country level through national plans and programmes.

Background: The roadmap process

11. At the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2011 and CRGA 41 in 2011, the region agreed to the development of a 'roadmap' process to facilitate the formulation of a regional strategy integrating climate change and disaster risk management, by 2015. This 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).
12. The roadmap process commenced in earnest in July 2013, with the first Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, and was officially endorsed at CRGA 42.
13. A Steering Committee (SC) was established in 2013 to provide leadership and guidance to the roadmap process. The SC members are PICT representatives from the SPREP Meeting (the governing body of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme), CRGA, the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, the Pacific Meteorological

Council, and the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, a representative from the French Territories, the Chair of the Pacific Islands Alliance of NGOs (PIANGO) and the Chair of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO).

14. A Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising members from six organisations (SPC, SPREP, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [UNISDR], the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat [PIFS], the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and the University of the South Pacific [USP]) has been in charge of providing technical advice and support to implement the roadmap process. SPC serves as secretariat for the TWG and SC.
15. As part of this roadmap process, an extensive engagement and consultation phase has been carried out, from 2013 to the first half of 2014, targeting the different stakeholder groups. The groups targeted include humanitarian actors (through the Pacific Humanitarian Team meeting), donors and development partners (through the Development Partners on Climate Change and the Coordinating Committee of the DRM Partnership Network), the private sector (through a workshop jointly facilitated with PIPSPO), gender practitioners (through a dedicated workshop), and civil society organisations (within the context of a PIANGO workshop). There have also been a number of national-level consultations (for example in Guam, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea [PNG]). The engagement process has also included a series of in-depth face to face interviews with a number of selected stakeholders, an online discussion via the Pacific Solutions Exchange, and an open online consultation process that allowed all stakeholders to provide comments on the draft strategy.
16. Following this broad engagement process with key stakeholders at national and regional level, a draft of SRDP was released and presented to the Sixth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, in June 2014. The Platform recommended that the SRDP draft be tabled for consideration and endorsement by the SPREP Meeting and CRGA 43, pending a number of revisions. These revisions have now been integrated and approved by the Steering Committee at its meeting in August 2014.
17. The revised draft of SRDP was tabled for endorsement at the SPREP Meeting on 1 October in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The SPREP Members expressed their support for SRDP, acknowledged the significant work undertaken in its development, and requested the active and joint involvement of SPREP and SPC in its implementation. A few issues were raised by SPREP Members on the draft SRDP, some of which were addressed during that meeting (the official record of the SPREP Meeting on the SRDP is in **Annex 1**). Those which require follow-up include:
 - i. In relation to the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) proposed in SRDP, the manner in which PRP should be supported by the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) should be discussed at head of agency level by SPREP and SPC within CROP and resolved prior to the Pacific Leaders Meeting in 2015.
 - ii. With regard to the implementation mechanism, clarification should be provided in relation to existing structures, including the Pacific Plan Review and the PIFACC framework.
 - iii. In relation to the implementation arrangements articulated in SRDP, the development of indicators aligned with the Kyoto and Hyogo Frameworks, as well as short- and long-term resourcing expectations are needed.
18. In terms of (i) above, the issue will be tabled at the next available opportunity for the consideration of the CROP CEOs Sub Committee on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development. In regard to (ii), the text of SRDP has been revised to clarify the linkages. In terms of the concern raised in (iii), the financial requirements of the implementation frameworks will be determined once the Roadmap Technical Working Group has the opportunity to identify the potential resource requirements in consultations that will take place following CRGA. A results-based management framework (RBMF) for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning is being developed, and its indicators are to be

harmonised with those included in relevant regional and global frameworks such as the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Accordingly, RBMF will be finalised when the global-level indicators have been set, and will be included as an annex to SRDP.

19. SRDP is the main deliverable of the roadmap process. However, it should be noted that there are also two additional deliverables, which are currently being developed. These are a regional synthesis report on implementation of the current two regional frameworks for climate change and disaster risk management (respectively PIFACC and RFA), and a compendium of case studies of successful disaster risk management and climate change initiatives, programmes and projects implemented in the Pacific in recent years.
20. It should also be noted that the partnership established between SPC, SPREP and UNISDR within the Roadmap Technical Working Group for the development of SRDP was highlighted at the 3rd United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, which took place in Samoa in September 2014, as a highly successful partnership. SRDP was also presented in the context of a side event led by the Government of Tonga with the support of the above mentioned organisations.

Key features of SRDP

21. The vision outlined in SRDP is for Pacific peoples, societies, economies, cultures and natural environments to be resilient to changing conditions and extreme events, including those resulting from climate change, climate variability, and geological processes, so as to promote people's well-being and the sustainable development of the Pacific region.
22. The mission of SRDP is a statement of intent by all stakeholders to work collectively to strengthen resilience to climate change and disasters through improved adaptation and risk management, low-carbon development and more effective response to and recovery from emergencies and disaster events.
23. Building on the premise that 'resilience of the Pacific Islands is everybody's business', SRDP provides differentiated strategic guidance for the different stakeholder groups that each have a critical role to play in building resilience, namely:
 - PICTs, at all levels of governance and administration;
 - Private sector entrepreneurs;
 - Civil society organisations and Pacific communities, including their leaders; and
 - Development partners, including donors and regional and international organisations.
24. SRDP is complementary to a number of other relevant regional plans and strategies, such as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy, and so on.
25. SRDP advocates for actions aimed at reducing climate and disaster risks to be nested within social and economic development processes, such as national sustainable development strategies, budgeting and sector planning. Considering the cross-cutting nature of climate and disaster risks, SRDP recognises that sectors (such as health, education, water and sanitation, social assistance, energy, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, environment and infrastructure) have a key role to play, for example through the development and implementation of targeted sectoral and multisectoral programmes delivering concrete results to the communities.
26. SRDP advocates for actions to be gender-balanced, drawing on gender disaggregated data, providing equal opportunities to women and men in key role and decision-making processes, and actively and consistently engaging national women's mechanisms such as national women's councils.

27. SRDP advocates for priority to be given towards addressing the needs, respecting the rights and including the voices of the most vulnerable members of society, in all actions and processes aimed at addressing climate change and disaster risks in an effective and equitable manner.
28. SRDP recognises that access to accurate and timely information is critical to managing disaster and climate risks effectively. As such it encourages the open and ready access to reliable sources of traditional and contemporary knowledge and information.
29. Three inter-related strategic goals have been identified at the core of the strategy:
 - Goal 1: Strengthened integrated risk management to enhance climate and disaster resilience
 - Goal 2: Low-carbon development
 - Goal 3: Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery

The first goal is to achieve efficiencies and strengthen resilient development of PICTs by pursuing more integrated approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The second goal is to reduce the carbon intensity of development, render end-use energy consumption more efficient, increase the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and increase the resilience of energy infrastructure in PICTs.

The third goal is to improve the capacity of PICTs to prepare for emergencies and disasters, thereby ensuring timely and effective response and recovery in relation to both rapid and slow onset disasters.
30. SRDP advocates for the creation of an enabling environment through strategic communications and advocacy, capacity building, and the effective mobilisation of human and financial resources.
31. The development and consolidation of partnerships between stakeholder groups for the purpose of implementing inclusive and effective resilience building solutions is at the core of the strategic approach articulated in SRDP.
32. SRDP proposes the establishment of an overarching regional coordinating mechanism replacing the existing separate regional coordinating structures on climate change and disaster risk management, namely the Pacific Climate Change Round Table and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management. The Pacific Resilience Partnership will build on existing structures but encompass a wider range of stakeholders.
33. A results-based management framework (RBMF) will be developed to accompany SRDP as a tool for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning. SRDP does not have any set end date, but will be reviewed using RBMF at regular intervals.

Conclusion

34. The development of SRDP has included a broad and extensive engagement process, allowing all relevant stakeholders to provide their input into the draft strategy. This inclusive process has already raised awareness of SRDP and is a first step towards ensuring the ownership of the document by Pacific Island stakeholders.
35. SRDP advocates for inclusive and joint approaches for managing climate and disaster risks in a more effective and equitable manner. The focus of all these approaches is on building resilience to enhance sustainable development of PICTs.

36. The draft SRDP has been recognised by Pacific Environment Ministers in their Declaration, issued at the SPREP Meeting on 3 October 2014. The Declaration commended the draft SRDP as a guide for resilient development through the mainstreaming of integrated climate change and disaster risks into political, social, ecological and economic development of Pacific Island countries and territories. It also welcomed the intended support from the European Union, World Bank and other donors for the implementation of SRDP and the proposed Pacific Resilience Partnership and encouraged all efforts to ensure the early adoption and implementation of SRDP in the Pacific.

Recommendations

37. CRGA is invited to:
- i. Recognise that natural hazards, including the impacts of climate change, pose significant risks to achieving the sustainable development objectives of PICTs;
 - ii. Note the progress made by Pacific Island countries in the development of integrated climate and disaster risk management approaches at national and regional level;
 - iii. Note the different features of the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific;
 - iv. Endorse the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development, and request that the Roadmap Steering Committee and Technical Working Group address, as necessary, concerns raised by members in an updated draft; and
 - v. Support the onward submission of the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development to the 2015 Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting for consideration and approval.
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**Report of the Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials, Majuro, Marshall Islands,
30 September – 2 October 2014**

Agenda Item 10.2.4: Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

1. The Secretariat provided an update on the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) noting the vigorous and participatory process in its development. The SRDP aims to improve coordination in all areas but most especially in cross cutting areas such as climate change and disaster risk reduction. The SRDP is a strategic approach and needs to be considered in line with other regional strategies and policies such as the meteorological strategy, water strategy and energy strategy. Details, including an outline of the strategy, are provided in WP.10.2.4.
2. Tuvalu, Samoa, New Caledonia, Australia, Tonga, United States and New Zealand acknowledged the significant work undertaken in developing the document.
3. Tuvalu requested whether loss and damage could be included in the SRDP and if not, suggested that the Secretariat have a clear mandate to work on the issue for the Pacific islands.
4. Samoa proposed a new recommendation that would direct the Secretariat to play a key role in implementation of the strategy.
5. New Caledonia noted the value of the SRDP particularly in managing their civil defence (which covers disaster risk reduction). EU support would allow New Caledonia to share their skills and competencies in DRM and to participate fully in the implementation of the SRDP.
6. Australia, United States and New Zealand reiterated their support for the development of the SRDP but noted the need for more work. This included development of indicators aligned with the Kyoto and Hyogo Frameworks, development of an implementation mechanism in relation to existing structures, including the Pacific Plan Review and PIFACC framework; and short and long term resourcing expectations. United States expressed concern that comments provided by NOAA were not included in the latest draft.
7. Australia urged that the SRDP's focus must remain strategic and observed that both SPREP and SPC members should support the SRDP and work together.
8. Tonga noted that the SRDP was in line with Tonga's joint national action plan (JNAP) and outlined the new institutional arrangements, which groups together ministries with related climate change activities. Tonga supported the role of SPREP in the SDRP noting the experience of SPREP in coordinating climate change activities from which countries have benefited.
9. The Secretariat noted that the intention of the SRDP is to mirror the Kyoto and Hyogo Frameworks, not replace them. The Secretariat also clarified that the SRDP would be reported back to the Forum Leaders Meeting 2015 and noted that the SRDP process was an example of collaborative effort by CROP Agencies and the Director General assured the meeting that the SRDP seeks to build on existing structures and not create new ones.
10. Regarding the issue of loss and damage, the Secretariat advised that this was being discussed at negotiation level and was yet to be finalised. The decision by the Steering Committee has been not to include loss and damage until the negotiation process is completed. However, this would not eliminate technical assistance and advice from SPREP and SPC as needed.

11. The Meeting:

- **noted** the features of the draft SRDP;
 - **endorsed** in principle, the draft SRDP and request the Roadmap Steering Committee and Technical Working Group to address as necessary concerns raised by Members in an updated draft;
 - **requested** that the Secretariat play an active role in supporting the SRDP and the Pacific Resilience Partnership;
 - **requested** that the manner in which the Pacific Resilience Partnership is supported by CROP Agencies be discussed at head of agency level by SPREP and SPC and that the matter should also if possible, be discussed within CROP and resolved prior to the 2015 PIF.
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