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The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction Perspectives from the Pacific

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*APN Climate Adaptation Framework Workshop on
CCA, DRR and L+D: Linkages, Priorities & Limitations
Kobe, Japan*

Mr Timothy Wilcox
Sub-Regional Coordinator (Pacific)
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
Suva, Fiji

The Pacific

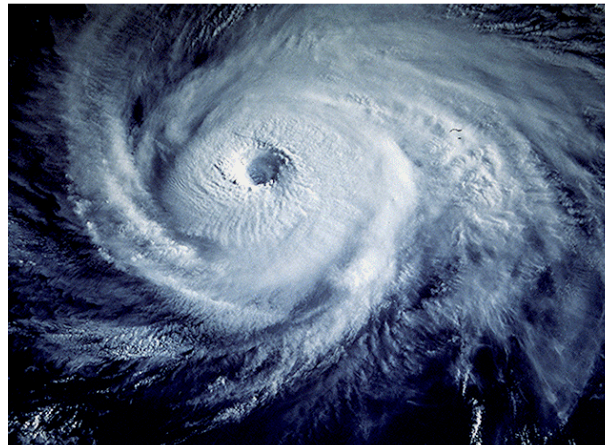


Outline

- Disaster Risk Profile of the Pacific
- Current DRR Issues, Challenges & Opportunities in The Pacific
- Key Outcomes of Pacific Platform for DRM (July 2013)
- Integration of DRM and CC in the Pacific
- Draft Regional Strategy for Integrating DRM and CC (2015-20)
- Summary

Pacific Disaster Risk Profile

- Pacific Region: One of most disaster prone areas in the world.
- 8 PICTs are in the World's Top 20 Countries with the highest average annual losses to GDP from disasters.
- 5 PICTs are in the World's Top 15 'Most at Risk' countries.
- Climate Change: Exacerbating natural hazard severity.
- Infrastructure at risk.
- Further contributes to loss of development gains.



Issues, Challenges & Opportunities 1

- 1) DRR must be part of PICT Sustainable Development Goals
- 2) Greater inclusiveness of all relevant stakeholders
(disability, gender, private-sector, youth, communities etc.)
- 3) Private Sector must be engaged with and opportunities for cross-regional linkages further explored *(e.g. tourism and hotel industries)*

Issues, Challenges & Opportunities 2

- 4) More Community-Based DRR activities
- 5) Greater Community Awareness of Disasters
- 6) Encourage use of proven Traditional Knowledge
- 7) Need for greater collection of data on disaster losses - in particular smaller/frequent disasters, not just major disasters.
- 8) Greater use of risk assessments and data loss in development activities.

Issues, Challenges & Opportunities 3

Biggest development in the Pacific currently is:

9) Integration of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC)

DRR & CCA Shared Aim

- *Shared 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 to monitor, analyse and address adverse consequences of disasters and climate change.*
- *PICTs have decided to implement in an integrated manner.*
 - Don't have the resources to deal with both separately.

Integrating DRR & CCA

- PICTs have started to integrate DRM and CC
 - Joint National Action Plans for DRM and CC (JNAP)
 - Joining national institutional arrangements for DRM and CC
- 12 JNAPs have now been finalised or in the process of being finalised or developed.

New Regional Strategy for DRR & CCA

- New *Integrated Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Pacific (2015)*
- In 2011, PICT Leaders agreed to build upon existing work at national & regional levels to develop integrated strategy
- First region in the world to integrate the two.



Executive Summary



Introduction

The Roadmap outlines a process to facilitate the development of an integrated strategy for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) for the Pacific region by 2015. This integrated strategy will succeed in meeting Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (2005 - 2015) (DRM) and the Pacific needs to prepare for Action on Climate Change (2005 - 2015) (PACC).

The Roadmap process was developed and initiated in 2011 by the Pacific Platform for DRM, the Governing Council of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Committee of Representatives of Secretaries and Administrators (CRSAs) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The process has been developed in response to SPREP's integration efforts already ongoing at national and regional levels, 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 substantial support of governments, regional and national levels in the Pacific. The PACC, set in motion during the early stages of this process, will be the first region in the world to fully integrate Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change into a single overarching policy framework.

Benefits

Benefits of an integrated approach will include:

- More effective at reducing risks to sustainable development by making better use of existing national and regional capacities and resources.
- Contribute to improving policy coherence
- Improve coordination of donor-assisted investments.
- Provide a Framework to guide and support integration efforts at the regional and national level.
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of development progress.
- Show the global community that integration at the policy and operational levels are not only possible but a key priority

Strategy Time Line

The Outputs for the Road Map to this Strategy will include:

1. By June 2015 Compendium of case studies on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Pacific
2. By June 2015 Regional Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the current regional frameworks on DRR & CC
3. By August 2015 Final Integrated Regional Strategy

Joint Meeting of DRM and CCA

Key Messages from the 1st Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and the Climate Change Roundtable in July include:

- “IMPLEMENT, where possible, climate and disaster resilient practices in all development sectors including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, education, health, energy, transport, infrastructure water and sanitation and tourism, including inter-linkages among sectors...”
- “ENCOURAGE public-private partnerships at all levels and ensure a whole-of-society participation involving vulnerable communities, particularly persons with disabilities, women, youth, children, and the elderly and consider their particular skills and knowledge in efforts to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience;

Joint Meeting of DRM and CCA

Key Messages from the Joint Meeting in July 2013 include:

- “ENSURE the preservation and the use of traditional and local knowledge and practices to increase community resilience...”
- “RECOGNISE the importance of loss and damage for Pacific Island Countries and Territories...”
- “STRENGTHEN the process of developing an integrated strategy for disaster risk management and climate change with a clear focus on resilient development...”

Summary

- Despite its high risk profile and range of challenges and issues, the Pacific is getting on with the job of building more resilient communities.
- Recognition that a change in path is needed to build more sustainable economic growth and not lose development gains.
- A key change is the integration of DRM and CC.
- Acknowledgement that it is essential to build partnerships across all sectors and with all relevant stakeholders.

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Thank you

More info:

Mr Timothy Wilcox

Email: timothywilcox.unisdr@gmail.com