

Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)



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The Pacific will be the first region in the world to fully integrate climate change and disaster risk management into a single overarching regional policy framework.

Background

Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) are highly exposed to a range of natural hazards of hydro-meteorological origin (such as cyclones, droughts and floods) and geological origin (including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis). These hazards often lead to disasters, which exacerbate existing development challenges of the region. Of the top twenty countries with the highest average annual losses to GDP from disasters, eight are Pacific Island countries.¹

The effects of Climate Change (CC) magnify disaster risks by increasing the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather events. CC also causes progressive long term degradation to the natural environment, to critical ecosystems (eg. coral reefs) and to the social and economic systems upon which Pacific Island communities depend for their subsistence and livelihoods. Climate and disaster risks increase people's vulnerability and undermine the sustainable development of the Pacific region.

Recognizing the clear overlaps between CC adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and the similar tools and resources required to monitor, analyze and address climate and disaster risks, most PICTs have started taking concrete steps to manage these risks in a more integrated manner. For example, many have developed Joint National Action Plans for DRM and CC (JNAPs), have joined up their national institutional arrangements for CC and DRM or have adopted integrated measures at programmatic level.

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At a regional level, the Pacific has developed: The Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP). The SRDP will succeed the existing separate regional frameworks on DRM and CC (respectively, the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action, commonly referred to as the Regional Framework for Action or RFA, and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change or PIFACC) which both end in 2015.

The overall goal of the SRDP is to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of slow and sudden onset natural hazards by developing more effective and integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the SRDP provides targeted high level strategic guidance to key stakeholder groups that are recognized as having a critical role to play in addressing the challenges posed by CC and disasters in the Pacific.

Given the cross-cutting nature of CC and disasters, the strategy recognizes that social and economic sectors (such as health, education, water and sanitation, social assistance, energy, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, environment and infrastructure) have a key role to play in implementing resilience building solutions to deliver tangible results for communities.

The strategy also advocates for the pursuit of a low carbon development pathway that will benefit PICTs through increased energy security and self-sufficiency and more resilient economic and environmental systems, while also contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A number of principles have been identified, to guide these collective efforts and ensure a holistic, cooperative and effective approach to risk management, within development processes. For example: climate and disaster resilient processes must be multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, participatory and inclusive, including being gender balanced; and priority must be given to addressing the needs, and respective rights of the most vulnerable, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, children and the elderly.

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





Three strategic goals

1. **Strengthened integrated risk management to enhance climate and disaster resilience**
2. **Low carbon development**
3. **Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery**

Under each of these goals, the strategy outlines a specific set of priority actions targeted to the following stakeholder groups:

- 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, regional and international organisations.

The strategy also outlines an implementation framework including a coordination mechanism, the Pacific Resilience Partnership, which is intended to replace the current separate primary coordination mechanisms for CC and DRM for the Pacific region, namely the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management. The Pacific Resilience Partnership will strengthen coordination of CC and DRM and bring together the CC and DRM community along with other key partners and stakeholders.

A Results Based Management Framework is being developed and will be annexed to the strategy, as a tool for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning.

Roadmap Process

A Roadmap towards the development of the SRDP was developed and endorsed by the Pacific region in 2011. The Roadmap includes three deliverables, to be completed by 2015.

Outputs by 2015:

- The Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)
- A Regional Synthesis Report on the implementation of the current regional frameworks (RFA and PIFACC)
- A Compendium of Case Studies on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific

The three deliverables are being developed in parallel, under the strategic guidance of a Steering Committee comprising PICT representatives from regional meetings as well as representatives from civil society and from the private sector. A technical working group comprising representatives from partner organizations (SPC, SPREP, UNISDR, UNDP, PIFS and USP) provides technical advice and support to this process. PICTs are represented in both committees and in participatory and consultative processes where they have contributed to defining the focus and parameters of the strategy.

Consultation and Approval

The formulation process for the SRDP included a wide range of consultations at national, regional and international level, targeting a wide variety of stakeholders. These consultations comprised meetings and workshops but also face-to-face interviews and an online consultation open to the wider public, allowing all interested parties to provide their comments to the draft. Lessons learned from the implementation of the RFA and PIFACC have been factored into the process. Current CC/DRM efforts and initiatives continue to be carried forward, and the experiences gained from these activities have also informed the development of the strategy. The compendium of case studies, currently being developed as part of the Roadmap process, will provide a record of notable CC and DRM projects implemented in the Pacific region.

The SRDP is currently going through the endorsement process at regional level. The final step along this process will be the approval of the SRDP by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015.

For more information, see: <http://gsd.spc.int/srdp/>
Pacific Disaster Net: <http://www.pacificdisaster.net/dox/SRDP.pdf>

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