Regional Synthesis Report

On the Implementation of the

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)

Executive Summary June 2015

Background

In 2005 the Pacific Leaders endorsed for implementation, the *Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (RFA) and Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 – 2015 (PIFACC)* as frameworks for the region respectively on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change.

A review of the progress made by the Pacific region on implementing the two frameworks from 2005 – 2015 is captured in this Regional Synthesis Report (RSR). The review was undertaken as part of the Pacific Roadmap process, agreed by the region for the development of the *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific* (SRDP), successor to the RFA and PIFACC. A desktop assessment and interviews of representatives of donors, development partners and government representatives in the Pacific region was undertaken. The outcomes of the RSR and of previous reviews have indeed informed the development of the SRDP.

The RSR is the final report in a series of reviews for each of the frameworks (including mid-term reviews). It summarises and consolidates the progress achieved from 2005 – 2015 in the implementation of both regional frameworks, in line with the integrated approach advocated for within the SRDP.

Key Regional Progress for 2005 – 2015 (see also timeline of regional milestones)

- Pacific Island countries (PICs) have committed to mainstreaming climate change and DRM into national policy, budgetary and financing processes. This has been reflected in institutional and policy changes within government resulting in partner and donor support streamlined to implement priorities outlined in Joint National Action Plans (JNAPS) for climate change and DRM. The SDRP at a regional level reflects the commitment by countries to solidify integrated approaches to address climate change and disaster risks.
- Regional coordination mechanisms such as the Pacific Platform for DRM, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, Pacific Meteorological Council, Water and Sanitation Consultations and the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) have been established to provide an avenue for partners and donors to coordinate their support to the implementation of national climate change and DRM priorities and share experiences in areas of comparative advantage.
- Progress has been made to develop and strengthen climate change and hazard data collection, observation systems and early warning systems that incorporate multiple hazards as well as improve coordination and interoperability of response to natural disasters, especially at the subnational and local agency level.
- Information portals have emerged and are increasingly utilized (Pacific Disaster Net, Pacific Climate Change Portal, USP EU-GCCA Knowledge Hub, Pacific Solutions Exchange) that provide mechanisms for exchange of information between stakeholders.
- There has been significant capacity development in relation to climate change and DRM. The capacity development has taken place within relevant national agencies (NDMOs etc.), and within national education systems including academic institutions and schools. Technical skills training has been provided via standalone training programmes or through capacity building components of projects and programmes.

Recommendations and opportunities

- Continue and enhance integrated approaches to address climate change and disaster risks within the context of sustainable and resilient development.
- Continue and build efforts to mainstream actions to address climate change and disaster risks across sectors. Empower sectors to take a leading role in resilience building through integrating consideration of climate and disaster resilience at all levels of sectoral initiatives, for example, in the design and maintenance of key

infrastructure and community assets. The SRDP advocates for the importance of actions at the sectorial level (such as health, education, water and sanitation, social assistance, energy, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, culture, environment and infrastructure) in order to build climate and disaster resilience.

- Strengthen and build partnerships for resilience across stakeholder groups including national and sub-national governments as well as private sector, civil society, regional partners, donors and communities. Opportunities for coordinated or network approaches to climate change and DRM projects can assist in addressing the challenges posed by increased development partners and funding.
- Facilitate inclusive processes for resilience building which directly involve vulnerable groups including youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly, are gender balanced, and build on and help reinforce cultural resilience and community knowledge.
- Robust and coordinated monitoring and evaluation is essential for measuring progress in and recording lessons learnt which can then inform future design of policies and initiatives. Encourage continued good practice of joint reporting and joint in country missions for reporting where practical to reduce the burden on Pacific nations.
- Continue to develop and implement policies and practices that reduce the carbon footprint of PICs, increase energy efficiency and energy security, while preserving the natural capital of the region. This can be done for example through investing in renewable energy sources, improving waste management practices, and by sustainably managing marine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Strengthen national capacities to improve scientific tools to inform hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments as well as understanding of slow onset climate change impacts. In particular, data collection, analysis and communication to the public in relation to meteorological, hydrological, and seismological hazard and risk information. Improve avenues for national and sub-national agencies to link information to evidence based planning and decision making that take into account climate and disaster risks.
- Strengthen coordination in preparedness and response to disasters through avenues such as end to end early warning systems and a common management system for international, national, and local agency interoperability.

Challenges to Implementation

- As many regional and national climate change and DRM priorities and needs are addressed through overseas development assistance or targeted environment and climate funds, they tend to be project based and remain by and large supply driven. The increasing number of partners and diversity of programmes offered in the area of climate change and DRM to the region continue to cause difficulties with coordination, cooperation and coherence.
- Efforts to mainstream integrated approaches to climate change and DRM into national planning and budgetary processes have been progressing at a national level. Nevertheless, though substantial national achievements have been attained there are recognised limitations in capacities and resources to translate integrated approaches into national and sector planning, and local actions.
- At both national and regional level, climate change and DRM have traditionally been the responsibility of different agencies or departments. This has created cooperation challenges, despite their inter-related nature, and led to inefficient use of resources and uncoordinated efforts.
- Systematic monitoring and evaluation of climate change and DRM programmes and actions has been limited at the national and regional level. This has meant limited recording of results and limited use of lessons learnt. Limited capacity at the national level to report upon national, regional and global strategies has further complicated the ability to monitor and evaluate at the country level without external assistance.
- More investments in scientific data and information have been made in the past decade however, better links to policies and actions are required.
- Limitations in collection and access to data in a user-friendly format to assist in decision making has presented a challenge for the region. Information such as demographic data, hazard mapping, weather and climate data and high resolution climate change projections is required for national and sub-national agencies to undertake evidence based planning and decision making and to implement climate change and DRM initiatives on the ground.

The report acknowledges that it is not exhaustive of efforts undertaken nor lessons learnt during the timeframe and rather a broad summary of key achievements at a regional level.