

Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012
Noumea
New Caledonia

Agenda Item 9.2.1: SPREP Climate Change Adaptation Programmes - PACC & PACC+ Progress Report and Key Issues

Purpose

1. To update Member countries on the progress made by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project, and associated projects including PACC+.

Background and Context

2. The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project is funded from the Special Climate Change Fund of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is executed through UNDP and SPREP, and is now in its third year of operation. The goal of the PACC is to reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in three key development sectors (coastal, food security and water) identified as priorities by the 13 participating Pacific Island countries. The total PACC budget is USD 13.125 million.
3. PACC directly assists Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to mainstream climate change risks into their development and resource management planning at both the national and the community level. Specific climate change and/or sector policies are also developed to help countries better focus and coordinate adaptation and mitigation efforts at the national level. PACC also supports practical adaptation actions at selected pilot sites (Stage III Planning for Adaptation¹). Further, PACC establishes a foundation for a strategic approach to replicate and upscale adaptation at the country and regional level. The 2011 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) noted the approaches used by PACC could form the framework for future adaptation work in the region.
4. To date, PACC has developed practical tools to support evidence-based adaptation in the region. In late 2011 and early 2012, a cost benefit analysis (CBA) training workshop was conducted for the three PACC sectors to help countries conduct CBAs of their pilot project options. CBAs will incorporate climate change science and experience of other similar projects in the region to help in making choices between different climate adaptation projects. A CBA Guidelines tool will also be developed by the end of 2012.

¹ Staged approach to adaptation was agreed in UNFCCC COP 1, Decision 11CP.1. Stage III includes measures to facilitate adequate adaptation. The PACC is one of the few stage III adaptation projects in the world, with "stage III" indicating the highest level of advancement in adaptation projects.

Progress and Impacts

5. After the initial challenges of setting up project management units at the national level, significant progress have been achieved thus far. Under the mainstreaming outcomes, five countries have developed their climate change policies (Fiji, Niue, Solomon Islands, RMI and Tuvalu)² and four (FSM, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu), incorporated climate change into their sector policies³ under the PACC. Samoa on the other hand has developed sand-mining by laws which contribute to its overall integrated coastal adaptation efforts. Cooks, Palau and Papua New Guinea have yet to carry out their policy development activities.

6. Tangible adaptation interventions that will make a significant change to the lives and livelihoods of people are currently underway in five countries (FSM, Nauru, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga). New technologies such as a solar water purifier to improve water supply are being installed in the Aiwo district in Nauru. In Kosrae (FSM) climate proofing of Road Section 3 (Tafunsak) is now progressing, including the use of high quality road surfacing materials. Also roadbed and culvert freeboard are being increased to accommodate the risks posed by increased precipitation and high sea level events. Culvert numbers will be increased to take into consideration flooding risks which are being implemented. Six countries (Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) are about to start implementation, pending either Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Palau are still progressing with their vulnerability and adaptation assessments which will also include CBA.

7. One of the strengths of the PACC project is that it takes into consideration assessments that had been carried out by different projects funded by other donors and moves these forward into implementation. This approach was taken for the FSM and Samoa. In FSM, the study to climate proof the Kosrae (RS3) road was carried out by the Asian Development Bank (2007) and PACC is now progressing that assessment to implementation. In Samoa, PACC is building on the coastal infrastructure assessment carried out by the World Bank in 2009 which developed Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans (CIM Plans) for each district in Upolu and Savaii. The PACC Project in Samoa is using those plans as basis for implementation. This approach then allows countries to utilize resources better; not on more assessments but on focused on ground activities to be implemented with key stakeholders, including local communities.

8. Component three of the PACC project emphasizes the need for strong partnership and technical support. SPREP is pleased to report that many new strategic alliances and partnerships have been developed, including with UNDP (Samoa and the Pacific Centre in Suva), which is the main partner on PACC, and with SPC, GIZ, and UNITAR. PACC is also being developed as a “whole of SPREP” project and technical backstopping support is being provided to PACC from all four SPREP Divisions. At the national level, PACC encourages the use of multi-disciplinary core teams to support the PACC Project Management Units and the Implementing Agencies to support implementation.

² Fiji Climate Change Policy (2012) approved and published; Niue Climate Change Policy (2011) approved and published; Solomon Islands Policy (2012) published and to be approved end of June 2012; Marshall Islands Policy (2011) developed and in the process of approval; Tuvalu Climate Change Policy (2011)

³ Nauru's Water Sector Policy taking into consideration climate change (collaborative effort between SPREP PACC project and the SPC-SOPAC IWRM project, Vanuatu Roading Plan that would incorporate climate change; Incorporating of climate change into Kosrae, FSMs Environment Bill, management and Tonga's Water Policy.

9. There is already evidence of benefits in undertaking such an integrated approach in countries where the work of PACC and the SPC (SOPAC Division) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) had been carried out in close cooperation. For example, SPREP and SPC share office space in two countries (Nauru and Tuvalu) and they use the same national steering committees (Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu). This is an approach that builds synergies, better use of resources and also avoids duplication.

10. Significant progress has also been made on communication aspect of PACC. For example; eleven of the countries have a PACC Communications Plan which they are now implementing. PACC has also been active in communication in international fora. For example, at the 2011 Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Durban, PACC supported a side event to raise the profile of PACC and adaptation issues in the region. Efforts are currently underway to systematically document progress, impacts and lessons learnt such as through peer-reviewed papers, fact sheets, policy briefs and other communications formats.

Challenges

11. In the three years of project life, PACC has invested a lot of time, resources and effort on capacity building. However, a main challenge that plagues the project is the ability of in country coordinators to submit timely reports, contributing to slow or overdue delivery of reports, resulting in late transfer of funds for implementation. One of the key reasons is that most Coordinators take on extra works that are not project related.

12. SPREP has had a designated climate change programme in the Pacific region for 25 years. Recent times have seen many other agencies increasing their involvement in climate change. In particular SPC, with donor assistance from GIZ and the EU, is now running a climate change adaptation programme which is of a similar budget to the combined PACC and PACC+ programmes run by SPREP. The DGs of SPREP and SPC have directed their staff to ensure that these climate adaptation programmes are linked as fully as possible and, where possible, developed on a joint basis.

13. Regarding roles of SPC and SPREP on climate change adaptation, the SPREP Secretariat feels there is potential for confusion in the recently issued CROP CEO's Statement on Climate Change. In discussing roles of different CROP agency roles on adaptation and mitigation the Statement reads *"...practical application of adaptation and mitigation across many key development sectors is led by SPC and on some issues by SPREP"*. The SPREP Secretariat notes that both SPREP and SPC are playing key roles on adaptation and mitigation in the region and that these areas should be approached as a joint effort. Thus the SPREP Secretariat suggests the wording on adaptation and mitigation in the CROP CEOs statement be changed to *"...practical application of adaptation and mitigation across many key development sectors is jointly led by SPC and by SPREP"*.

Additional donor support (PACC+)

14. PACC has fostered close collaboration with donor partners and CROP agencies. This has seen an additional support from the Australian Government in the amount of AUD7.3 million endorsed in June 2011. With the additional funding, Tokelau is now the 14th member to be part of the PACC+ project.

15. PACC + will build on the existing project delivery mechanisms and national capacities established through the PACC project. It also represents a pilot model of donors and development partners working together to upscaling of practical adaptation measures at the national and community level, while also avoiding duplication of efforts.

16. As part of the PACC+, a gender assessment will be undertaken to review the different roles women and men play in fostering a climate resilient development. The role of gender in climate change resilience needs to be adequately recognized and addressed through gender related training, followed with action plans developed and implemented in each country.

17. Further support to PACC+ has been provided by USAID, who have now contributed an additional 2 million USD, initially targeting Solomon Islands and Kiribati with a view to extending to additional countries in future phases.

Recommendation

18. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the positive outcomes from the PACC project in assisting Pacific Island Countries and Territories to adapt to climate change;
- **Welcome** the increased support from the Governments of the United States and Australia for adaptation efforts under PACC+;
- **Reaffirm** the leading role of SPREP in the Pacific Region on climate change adaptation, and mainstreaming climate risks in national and sector development plans and budgetary planning and implementation;
- **Commend** SPREP's technical back stopping assistance on climate change provided to PICTs through the PACC project and note this should be adequately resourced to continue beyond the life of the PACC Project; and
- **Request** that the wording in the CROP CEOs Statement on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation be changed from “...*practical application of adaptation and mitigation across many key development sectors is led by SPC and on some issues by SPREP*” to “...*practical application of adaptation and mitigation across many key development sectors is led by SPC and by SPREP*”.