



**Joint Outcome Statement from the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September SPC Headquarters, Nouméa, New Caledonia**

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The 4th session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (Platform) and the Pacific Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations (RWSC) was convened in Nouméa, New Caledonia on 17th to 21st September 2012. The objectives were to:

- Facilitate improved learning by sharing experiences of Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs), donors and development partners through discussions on a range of topics including; early warning, training and capacity building; community-based DRM; DRM governance and the implementation status of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (commonly referred to as Regional Framework for Action or RFA);
- Enable interaction between the disaster and water & sanitation communities in the Pacific to identify and discuss common issues and strategies at a regional level;
- Provide opportunity for participants to contribute to a renewed regional framework to guide the sustainable management of water resources in the Pacific and the formulation of the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change 2015 including the Post-2015 Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In attendance were representatives of PICTs, members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (PDRMPN), RWSC and representatives from other international, regional and national organisations, as well as representatives from the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.

The Platform was officially opened by Mr. Hon. Jean-Claude Briault, Minister of Youth, Sport, Education, Francophonie and Relations with the Municipalities, and Mr. Thierry Suquet, Deputy High Commissioner of the Republic of France. Opening statements were delivered on behalf of the co-convenors of the Platform and RWSC, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Ms Margareta Wahlström Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

***Noted:***

**Opening of Platform & RWSC**

1. it's appreciation to the Government of New Caledonia and the Republic of France for hosting this meeting;

2. the commendation by Ms Margareta Wahlström on the work done by the Platform on strengthening end-to-end early warning systems, building capacity at national level, integrating disaster risk reduction/ climate change adaptation within the educational system and improving collaboration and coordination at regional and international level;
3. that this is the first time that the Pacific water and sanitation community has met with the disaster risk management community on a regional basis, and this has provided the opportunity to commence productive dialogue on common issues and challenges, as well as opportunities for collaboration;
4. the need to include other sectors and interest groups in our collective effort to bring about change and improvement in Disaster Risk Management (DRM);
5. the continuing support of many partner organisations in the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network and Water Partnership;
6. the importance of this forum as a strategic opportunity for dialogue and the sharing of experience and best practice in Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and the Water and Sanitation sector;
7. that PICTs remain vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, which are now coupled with the added pressures of climate change;
8. the role of Cabinet in embedding risk considerations in national policy;
9. the importance of the Platform in informing the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013;
10. the presentation from New Caledonia regarding the delegation of authority from the Republic of France to New Caledonia with respect to DRM and the full transition of authority will become effective in January 2014;

#### **Pacific DRM Partnership Network Coordinating Committee**

11. the objectives of PDRMPN, its role in regional policy development and its achievements;
12. the progress and achievements across the region and by individual countries as measured by the HFA 2011-2013 progress review and this year's linkages to the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility country implementation plan development process;
13. the importance of partnership and coordination to integrate efforts in DRM and to avoid duplication and ensure efficient mobilisation of resources and the need to strengthen institutional and governance arrangements in-country in monitoring and reporting of activities;
14. the outreach made by SPC-SOPAC and UNISDR to include the climate change community to integrate efforts in DRM and Climate Change and the recognition of progress at the national and regional level that these communities have made with their coordinated approach was applauded by GIZ ;

## **Rethinking DRM Governance Arrangements**

15. the need to secure strong political support when developing, planning and managing strategic change in DRM by identifying champions and showcasing the value of the alignment of DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) actions;
16. and reconfirmed the interoperability and/or integration required for managing incident control between the local, national and international levels, which requires clear articulation of control and command responsibilities to reduce any gaps and duplication of efforts and the adequate resource allocation to such control systems;
17. the challenge to attract and retain talented NDMO staff and the opportunity to create incentives such as training, professional development and travel opportunities to assist in the development of attractive remuneration packages;
18. the variety of options available to countries to improve DRM governance and the coordination between DRM agencies and emergency services, to promote and support community empowerment to manage their risks and strengthen resilience;
19. the challenge faced by NDMOs to be an active/implementing agency in the wide spectrum of DRM, recognizing that their comparative advantage remains in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response;

## **Progress and trends in DRM**

20. the progress in the region against the HFA and the RFA with national progress reports from the Disaster Managers by several countries and the use of the report to support of national planning, institutional strengthening and implementation efforts;
21. and discussed the progress, challenges and recommendations contained in the regional synthesis report, including the preparations for local level assessment of progress on DRM;
22. the positive steps by countries and the region in achieving the outcomes articulated in the HFA and RFA and expressed the need to continue these efforts;
23. the ongoing need to build capacity and allocate resources in many areas, in particular information management and data sharing, GIS and cost benefit analyses to support the coordination role of NDMOs;
24. confirmed the need for a more strategic and organized approach to DRM planning and programming at a regional level to ensure that agencies target national priorities and do not work in silos;

## **Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CDBRM)**

25. the need to identify community priorities and integrate into, and/or align with national DRM plans to support and implement National Action Plans for DRM and Climate Change mainstreaming for example by working with 'Champions';
26. the continued challenge of coordination of community-based DRM (CBDRM) in-country, and therefore the need for locally developed institutional arrangements/frameworks so that roles and responsibilities of communities, local and national authorities are clearly defined, linked, strengthened and resourced. These frameworks should also specify procedures that partners must comply with as well as consultation with and inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, children, people with disabilities, and other groups);
27. that climate change and climate variability science products need to be integrated in to CBDRM so that actors can understand the risks and forecasts, and improve implementation, creating incentives for local ownership;

## **Training and Capacity Building**

28. the need to ensure any training of trainers in DRM takes an inclusive approach, in particular, addressing the needs of those with disabilities or other special needs;
29. the improved collaboration, coordination and cooperation among DRM Training and Capacity Building (TCB) providers to ensure countries receive the best support possible from all partners working to improve country capacity;
30. the need for TCB to incorporate and adapt new technologies where feasible ensuring programmes remain relevant and build on successes across the region;
31. the example of New Caledonia to integrate DRM into school curricula, reaffirming the need to do so across the region;
32. that the current TCB offerings be reviewed to inform the design, development and direction of future TCB programmes and/or initiatives;

## **Early Warning Systems**

33. the significant progress made by a number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories in strengthening their national hazard monitoring and warning systems;
34. several PICTs are in the early stages of developing their Early Warning Systems (EWS) and in some cases, had little or no national EWS capabilities and were therefore reliant on regional warnings and/or advisories, especially for hazards such as tsunamis and droughts;
35. the developments to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Pacific Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System (PTWS) and proposed new products from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) and the opportunity to validate them during next Pacific Wave Exercise in 2013 as well as test national warning systems and processes;

### **Joint DRM and Water and Sanitation Meeting**

36. the strengths and weaknesses in the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) sector and the opportunities for the DRM community to support WATSAN to embed DRM in their work;
37. the importance of the legal and regulatory framework for WATSAN identifying key agencies/actors and their roles;
38. and discussed the potential strategies available to develop a regional policy framework to ensure the sustainable management of water resources;
39. the importance of strengthening relationships between the DRM and WATSAN community to improve dialogue between the WATSAN and the DRM communities;
40. the acknowledgement by the DRM community of the multi-faceted nature of issues of the policy and operational challenges facing the WATSAN community;

### **Pacific Islands Fire Services Association (PIFSA) Annual General Meeting**

41. the commendation by PIFSA of SPC-SOPACs initiative on the Strategic Alliance Proposal and recommended the proposal move forward and be further developed;
42. the progress achieved by member fire and rescue authorities and services in the region including the development of fire and emergency legislation and expansion of mandate areas;
43. and acknowledged with gratitude the value of partnerships between fire and rescue authorities across the region and with those in New Zealand and Australia;
44. the challenges facing member fire and rescue authorities, including ongoing resourcing issues including access to funding, vehicles and training;

### **Contemporary Issues in DRM (Session 10)**

45. the need to strengthen the role of women in DRM decision making including the commitment from partners to use the gender checklist and other appropriate tools that have been developed in the region as a DRM course material and that partners find ways to use and distribute;
46. the need to recognise and strengthen the significant role of persons with disabilities in all levels of DRM including decision making, coordination and implementation with an emphasis on encouraging the NDMOs work closely with national organisations set up to support disabled persons and the Pacific Disability Forum as the regional coordination body; .
47. the use of science in decision making and reaffirmed that DRM and CCA must be considered in an integrated manner within the context of adaptive capacity for sustainable development and support countries' efforts to operationalise their DRM National Action Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and /or Joint National Action Plans for DRM and Climate

Change (JNAPs), into action and in addition the need to prepare a Pacific summary for policy makers, bringing together the findings of the SREX report, Pacific Climate Change Science Programme (PCCSP) and other recently published material on the Pacific;

48. The research efforts investigating elements of adaptive capacity in the context of disaster response, given the frequency and intensity of disasters is likely to change with climate change.
49. the remarkable and comprehensive volume of data and information available to the Pacific islands region through the Pacific Risk Information System (PacRIS) and how the data contained in PacRIS can be used to inform a range of other disaster risk management activities in particular the various strategies and instruments available to countries to support disaster risk financing and the application of the data by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN-Habitat to understand climate risks and their future impacts to inform urban planning processes;
50. the opportunities to improve the hazard and risk models to address local level DRM and Climate Change interventions, implement disaster financing mechanisms to improve liquidity post disaster for example through the development and strengthening of trust funds;

#### **18th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting (RDM)<sup>1</sup>**

51. progress towards the implementation of the outcomes of the 17th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting;
52. progress of preparations for the EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility (NDF) and in this connection recommended that the RDM be used as an opportunity for the EDF10 steering committee to hold its annual discussions;
53. that a proposal to build regional capacity in Damage, Loss and Needs Assessments is under development and is at Phase II of application process to receive funds from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and has been endorsed and will be championed by the Cook Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu;
54. the update on the proposed Roadmap to integrate DRM and Climate Change in the region, noting the timeframe for this over 2012-2015 and the intent to recruit a specialist adviser;
55. the recent developments of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and its useful contribution to the implementation of the HFA and RFA and commended PDN for collating and housing data and information on DRM and the opportunity to expand to include climate change data and information and support the development of national disaster portals;
56. the role of the Regional Disaster Managers meeting to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experience in DRM and in this regard numerous countries (Palau, Cook Islands, New Zealand and French Polynesia) gave presentations on their recent developments in DRM;

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<sup>1</sup> For further information please refer to The 18<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Managers Meeting Summary of Decisions

57. the opportunity to visit the Fire-fighting training facility to observe first-hand the training and capacity building for Fire fighters to learn about local emergency response coordination and expressed their gratitude to the New Caledonia for this opportunity;

### **Integrated Regional Strategy for DRM & Climate Change**

58. and recognised that countries have achieved different levels of progress in addressing DRM and Climate Change priorities as such the development of an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change should have the flexibility to be adapted to country needs;
59. that the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change needs to be a high level strategic plan that is sector focussed and therefore needs strong inter-sectoral cooperation with robust monitoring and evaluation procedures;
60. the importance of the process in developing the 'Roadmap' is as significant as its content. An inclusive, participatory approach should be developed to inform the strategy that is gender sensitive and includes consideration of the needs of people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
61. the strong interest of the Pacific OCTs to participate in the development and implementation of an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change noting the opportunity to leverage support from their partners in particular France and Europe;
62. that scientific, technical and research networks in the region are utilised to guide interventions;

### ***Agreed:***

1. the outcomes of the 3rd session of the Platform held in 2011 remain relevant and encouraged all partners to continue activities to ensure these outcomes are achieved
2. that countries, and the region generally, are making positive steps in generating outcomes articulated in the HFA and RFA and expressed the need to continue these efforts;
3. that PICTs will actively participate in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System developmental process including in the 2013 Pacific Wave Exercise 13 to validate their national tsunami response plans and processes from monitoring to community response;
4. that PICTs consider models such as Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) to strengthen national warning and mitigation capacities through enhancement of regional cooperation between countries and partners to address needs such as the sharing of scientific data;
5. Pacific ACP States realise the opportunities of the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and at the same time pursue with other donors and partners to address gaps and challenges in strengthening national DRM priorities including early warning systems;

6. that people focused end to end early warning systems remain a priority in the post 2015 integrated DRM and CC Strategy and reiterated the need to investigate slow onset hazards and non natural hazards;
7. that locally developed institutional arrangements/frameworks are needed to guide CBDRM initiatives articulating the roles and responsibilities of communities, local and national authorities, a code of conduct for partners and consideration/ inclusion of vulnerable groups;
8. that SPC-SOPAC continue to develop and strengthen the Pacific DRM (Training) Program supported by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for the past eighteen years. SPC-SOPAC should engage in discussions with OFDA and other partners to continue a new programme upon its transfer to SPC-SOPAC in July 2013 and the opportunity for Overseas Countries and Territories to benefit from the training programme;
9. that Pacific ACP member states continue to work closely together with SPC-SOPAC and other partners to finalise Country Implementation Plans for the respective national allocations under the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility in early 2013;
10. that the annual Regional Disaster Managers meeting serves as the Regional Steering Committee for EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and that this Committee meet in conjunction with the annual Regional Disaster Managers meeting;
11. in principle to the establishment of a strategic alliance between NDMOs, PIFSA and AFAC and that SPC-SOPAC table the initiative for the further endorsement at the 2012 SOPAC Division Meeting and SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in November 2012;
12. in principle with the proposed programme to develop a regional pool of expertise for conducting damage, loss and needs assessments;
13. to use existing mechanisms such as the meetings of Forum Economic Ministers, relevant sector ministerials and Leaders meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States, to secure and sustain political commitment and leadership that is essential to the process of developing the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change. In addition to utilise the opportunity to participate in the review of the Pacific Plan
14. to have the summary statement of this 2012 Pacific Platform presented to the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Yogyakarta in October this year and that a PIC Minister attending this meeting be approached to present the Statement;
15. to encourage those inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) with DRR expertise representing small island states; the Indian Ocean Commission, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the SPC who were present at the meeting to continue their dialogue to establish an IGOs arrangement to promote the future interests of SIDS through South-South cooperation, particularly recognizing the Global Platform for DRR 2013 and 2015 and the third international meeting of SIDS in 2014.



## **Joint DRM and Water and Sanitation Meeting**

16. that an integrated approach to the management of disaster risk, climate change and water and sanitation is far more effective than individual sector approaches, and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) provides an important mechanism to bring the components of disaster, climate change and water management together
17. that the water and sanitation sector has a key role in disaster risk management, as demonstrated by case studies of the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in Samoa, the 2011 drought in Tuvalu, and the 2012 flooding in Fiji, particularly in the areas of:
  - a. Provision and maintenance of safe drinking water and sanitation;
  - b. Technical advice, monitoring and assessment;
  - c. Planning for resilience;
  - d. Supporting resilient communities;
  - e. Early warning systems;
  - f. Developing innovative approaches and technologies; and
  - g. Participation in disaster response.
18. that the capacity of the water and sanitation sector to adequately fulfil these roles varies across PICTs, however there is a clear need for this capacity to be significantly strengthened through targeted resourcing and collaboration with the broader disaster management and climate change communities, including through existing multi-sector coordination mechanisms
19. that there is also a need to harmonize efforts with the disaster management and climate change communities in order to more effectively address issues and resource solutions, particularly in regard to the above key roles
20. that the value of recent productive dialogue with DRM and CCA justifies an ongoing effort to maintain and develop this evolving partnership and continue the dialogue on the development of both the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change and the regional framework to guide the sustainable management of water resources, including potentially through participation in the 2013 Pacific Platform for DRM process

## **Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations**

21. that significantly increased efforts are required by all to secure the fundamental human right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the people of the Pacific
22. that despite good progress on the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation services, in general these efforts have been offset by mounting pressures affecting the region, including population growth, urbanization and economic development, compounded by the impacts of climate variability and natural hazards, and further exacerbated by the emerging impacts of climate change

23. that there is much to learn from the experiences of member countries and the outcomes of initiatives and demonstration projects, including those developed in atoll islands and in the Overseas Countries and Territories, and there is particular value in consolidating the various approaches to enable effective knowledge sharing and potential replication
24. that many sanitation systems currently used in the region consume potable water supplies and discharge significant pollutants to groundwater and ultimately to streams and coastal waters leading to significant remediation requirements, and these impacts should be fully considered by decision makers and users when planning and designing water and sanitation services
25. that community ownership and engagement are crucial to the success of water and sanitation improvement efforts, and the design and implementation of water and sanitation solutions should include measures to enable the effective participation of communities at all stages
26. that the need to improve data gathering, management and communication is critical, as a lack of useful data is limiting the ability to provide effective advice on risks and their management, and a greater commitment is required to improving this function
27. that reporting on MDG water and sanitation indicators and the post-2015 sustainable development indicators are important to countries in the region and stakeholders, however there is a need for more support to countries on how to better report on these indicators and how this may be achieved through the national and regional indicator frameworks
28. that the development of national water and sanitation indicators that are comparable across countries would provide greater transparency and important support to higher political and inter-sectoral awareness, with presentation summarised at a regional level reflecting national priorities
29. that there is a need for continued collaborative and adequately resourced efforts to update the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management (Pacific RAP) in accordance with the country directive given through the SOPAC Governing Council in 2010
30. that there is a need for the updated RAP to identify practical strategies that address the most critical water and sanitation issues in the light of evolving global frameworks (such as Rio+20) and emerging pressures identified in national and regional outlook assessments
31. The Pacific OCTs expressed a strong interest in participating more actively in the Pacific RAP updating process and noted their need to better explain to member countries and SOPAC their own specific circumstances in the area of water management. They also mentioned the possibility of sharing their technical expertise.

The representatives of PICTs and partners expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of New Caledonia for hosting the Pacific Platform for DRM and RWSC.