



3rd Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

Key Outcomes Auckland, New Zealand 1st - 5th August 2011

The Third Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (the Platform) was convened in Auckland, New Zealand from 1st to 5th August 2011. The objectives were to:

- Galvanise the leadership and support of Chief Executive Officers for mainstreaming disaster risk considerations into national planning and budgetary processes
- Strengthen regional disaster risk management partnerships by establishing stronger linkages between representatives of Pacific island countries and territories with partner organisations
- Examine progress in disaster risk management in the Pacific and globally in the period 2009-2011
- Endorse a 'roadmap' towards the development of an integrated regional policy framework for disaster risk management and climate change beyond 2015.

In attendance were representatives of the following countries and territories of the Pacific and surrounding region including Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Japan, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, as well as local government, civil society, members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, representatives from the United Nations and other international, regional and national organisations, and representatives from the Caribbean. Particular welcome was extended to Territories and partners attending the Platform for the first time.

The Platform expressed its heartfelt condolences to the communities of Australia, Japan, and New Zealand for the losses they had experienced in recent catastrophes.

The Platform expressed appreciation to Pacific Island Countries and Territories, development partners and members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership for their ongoing support and contribution to the advancement of disaster and climate risk management in the region. The Platform also extended its gratitude for the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ministers and Chief Executive Officers, as well as the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in attendance. Special appreciation was conveyed to the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for hosting and chairing the Platform.

The Platform noted the lessons learned from the New Zealand response efforts following the Christchurch earthquakes which resonated with the stakeholders represented at the meeting, in particular:

- i. encouraging research in readiness, response and recovery,
- ii. investing in building codes and their enforcement,
- iii. backing community resilience with preparedness, and
- iv. ensuring impact and needs assessments are systematic.

The Platform noted:

1. the increasing vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to a wide range of natural and climate-related hazards and contributing factors, such as unsustainable resource allocation and land use management, as well as increasing urbanisation pressures;
2. the importance of effective prevention and risk-proofing development investments, and the strengthening of disaster risk management and related human resource capacities;
3. the progress made at the regional and national level as outlined in the progress report of the 2010 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the national progress reviews on implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (Regional Framework for Action or RFA) as reported to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform), and in the Mid-term Reviews of the RFA and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC);
4. the success in reducing the number of fatalities resulting from extreme events in the Pacific island region, and the ongoing challenges to reduce economic and social losses;
5. other significant progress such as the detailed information on exposure and hazards that is now becoming available to Pacific Island Countries and Territories, the implementation of early warning systems, the planning for integrated responses to the threats of disasters and climate change, and progress in reducing community vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience;
6. the Chair's Summary of the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which was attended by the largest delegation of Pacific island nations to date sharing their key messages;
7. the importance of the Platform as a strategic opportunity for dialogue and the sharing of experience and best practice in disaster risk management and its integration with climate change;
8. the need to evaluate options for promoting the integration of disaster risk management and climate change financing that are consistent with the decision of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders and the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting.

The Platform AGREED to work toward the following outcomes:

Advocacy

9. Increase regional multi-stakeholder representation at the Global Platform and greater involvement in its high level dialogues. In particular Pacific Island Countries and Territories, in conjunction with other Small Island Developing States, to be represented in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Advisory Group to formulate a global post-2015 instrument to succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action.
10. Increase participation of key stakeholders at the regional and national level in the processes related to the preparation of the 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

(GAR), for example through participation in the GAR Advisory Board, the contribution of Pacific risk information to the Global Disaster Risk Model, and the monitoring of progress against national disaster risk management priorities, the RFA and the HFA.

11. The opportunity for all partners to seek support for disaster risk management activities for Pacific island countries and territories during the 3rd World Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio, in June 2012, subject to further direction from Pacific regional meetings.

Disaster Risk Management Budgeting and Financing

12. Evaluate cost-effective risk financing options to minimize fiscal, financial and economic risk, including disaster reserve, trust funds or disaster risk insurance to facilitate post-disaster response.
13. Increase financial allocations to civil society organizations in support of more comprehensive and long-term community-based disaster risk management programmes.
14. Simplify arrangements and procedures for accessing disaster risk management funding and reporting on expenditure.

Integration of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

15. Incorporate comments from the Platform on the draft "Roadmap towards a Post 2015 Integrated Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation" with the view to submitting it for consideration to the Governing Councils of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.
16. Ensure disaster risk management and climate change policy cohesion across development sectors through greater linkages with finance and planning departments and alignment with the national Millennium Development Goal processes.
17. Strengthen the implementation of ongoing and new initiatives that pursue an integrated approach to disaster risk management and climate change in the context of development to further build on the existing body of experience and practice.
18. Prepare policy and practice guidance on the integration of disaster risk management and climate change into development to complement and support efforts being pursued by the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and relevant regional organizations and partners.

Natural Resource Management

19. More emphasis on, and recognition of, best practice in sustainable natural resource and land use management for increased cost effectiveness of disaster risk reduction options, including the documentation of traditional production practices in disaster risk management.

Early Warning Systems

20. Establish a Pacific regional early warning working group to coordinate and complement the efforts of other working groups and Pacific Island Countries and Territories to assist in the development of early warning systems both at regional and national levels and to establish clear standard operating procedures for relevant agencies, as well as simplify and standardize early warning messages and alerts for inclusion in ongoing education and public awareness programmes.
21. Improve guidance for accessing the Disaster Managers' Online Forum on Pacific Disaster Net to facilitate regional information exchange regarding the issuance of warnings and other key topics.

22. Secure financial support to operationalise a Pacific Desk in support of national meteorology services.

Preparedness and Response

23. Increase the frequency of exercises to test readiness and identify areas needing improvement using the variety of existing guidelines.
24. Broaden support for strengthening preparedness and response capability in high risk communities.
25. Strengthen legal arrangements at the national level to facilitate and regulate foreign disaster response, by making use of internationally recognized guidelines and the forthcoming 'Model Act'.
26. Increase involvement of preferably local specialists, including engineers, in post-disaster assessment and/or establish arrangements with international professional networks.

Damage, Loss and Risk Assessment

27. Introduce and adopt at the national level a standard methodology for systematically assessing damage, loss and risks as a basis for determining effective risk management strategies.
28. Establish and strengthen, where required, the collection of all-hazards and time-series information to enable the disaggregation of vulnerability data by (for example) hazard, gender and locations to facilitate evidence-based disaster risk management.
29. Establish national loss databases and improve economic valuation and scientific modeling for understanding of risk as a precondition for identifying high risk communities and strengthening policy and evidence-based decision making for disaster risk management, climate change and development planning at all levels.
30. Take stock of the existing vulnerability of key infrastructure in high risk areas whereby the enforcement of building codes can be prioritised.

Community level

31. Develop a framework/model to guide community-based disaster risk management and climate change work in the Pacific which incorporates traditional, local and scientific knowledge and examples of best practice in the region.
32. Ensure that institutional and policy arrangements acknowledge and establish communities and local government as active participants in setting national disaster risk management and climate change policies and priorities.

Risk Governance Capacity

33. Identify national 'champions' who proactively advocate for greater investments in risk reduction and adaptation.
34. Establish multi-stakeholder and multi-sector national platforms that meet at least bi-annually to strengthen exchange among disaster risk management and climate change practitioners, policy-makers and civil society to strengthen more inclusive disaster risk management policy setting and practice.
35. Support National Disaster Management Offices by strengthening disaster risk management coordination through enhanced human resource capacity in the form of providing peer support, on-the-job mentoring, and other solutions.
36. Include approaches that integrate gender and social protection issues into disaster risk management policy and practice.

37. Conduct national self-assessments and independent local level reviews of progress in disaster risk management and climate change to inform national planning and priorities, and at the same time to contribute to progress reviews of both the Regional and the Hyogo Frameworks for Action.
38. Identify at least one development sector for implementing a sector-wide mainstreaming initiative for disaster risk management and climate change with policy, plan and budget in place.

Information, Knowledge and Education

39. Ensure ongoing support for the tertiary disaster and climate risk management courses at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University and University of Papua New Guinea and strengthen collaboration between these universities and disaster risk management practitioners to ensure relevance and consistency in tertiary education.
40. Develop and implement a Pacific Disaster Risk Management Competency Framework to assist in the identification of professional development needs which could include training, mentoring, partnering, peer support and formal tertiary education.
41. Map the range of disaster risk management training and capacity building activities available across the region.
42. Identify national research priorities in hazard and climate change for improved evidence-based decision making, including the identification of high risk communities.
43. Continue to develop and strengthen the Pacific Disaster Net, taking into consideration the findings and new directions from the recent strategic planning process.

Participants of the Platform are invited to share on the Pacific Disaster Net, their action pledges to address the above outcomes.

5th August 2011
Auckland,
New Zealand