



4th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network

SUMMARY RECORD

Adopted by the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network meeting
Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji
12th-13th May 2009

1. The 4th Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Meeting was convened in Nadi, Fiji from the 12th-13th May 2009 and was chaired by the Director, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Ms Cristelle Pratt. The theme of the meeting was *Strengthening Collaboration and Cooperation*.and specific objectives were to:
 - review the status of current and planned Partnership activities in the Pacific;
 - establish South-South cooperation with the Caribbean community;
 - examine opportunities for improved strategic alliances and engagement at regional and national level within Pacific countries;
 - and prepare for the Pacific region's contribution to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. As well as members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (henceforward referred to as the "Partnership Network"), the meeting was attended by representatives of other international, regional and national organisations as well as national disaster managers and directors of meteorological services in Pacific Island Countries (PICs). A full list of participants is in Annex 1.

Official Opening

3. The Meeting observed a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of Dr. Langi Kavaliku.
4. The Chair noted the productive and successful meetings which preceded the 4th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network: 15th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and the Joint Pacific Regional Meeting of Meteorological Service Directors and Disaster Managers. In particular, following the Joint Meeting, the Chair acknowledged the close and inextricable links between climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM), and the need for stronger collaboration between National Disaster Management Officers (NDMOs) and National Meteorological Services (NMS) as respective DRM and CCA focal points in their countries.
5. The Chair welcomed the attendees from the Caribbean, and acknowledged the opportunity for South-South cooperation which this meeting may inaugurate given the similarities between the two regions and the unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the face of climate change and disaster risk management issues.
6. The meeting was informed that the outcomes from this meeting will inform the 2nd Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for Pacific CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management, beginning 13th May 2009. Furthermore, the outcomes from the entire series of meetings on the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (7th – 15th May 2009) will inform the upcoming Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland.
7. The Chair congratulated the Partnership Network and encouraged it to continue using its collective strengths and resources to support national and regional actions against the *Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Regional Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: An Investment for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Island Countries* (henceforth referred to as the “Regional Framework”) which was endorsed by the Leaders in 2005.

KEY OUTCOMES

8. The Meeting committed to work cooperatively and collaboratively to address disaster risk management as guided by the Regional Framework.

Specifically, the Meeting:

- i. Recognised that **disaster risk management (DRM)**, which covers both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster management (DM), is a **sustainable development imperative** with socio-economic consequences in various sectors including infrastructure, tourism, water, health and agriculture;
- ii. Reemphasised the links between **climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRM**, and noted the increasing need for **precise, high-quality baseline data and the capacity to generate such data** to inform efforts in both areas;
- iii. Related to above, noted the importance of strengthening and building the capacity of **Pacific Island scientists at the national and/or regional levels** in providing rigorous, data-driven hazard risk assessments/analyses and climate change projections to support DRM and CCA policies and actions;
- iv. Noted the unique opportunities offered by **South-South and North Pacific-South Pacific collaboration and cooperation** given the similar challenges which Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face, in facilitating technology transfer, sharing experiences and lessons learned, and ultimately building their communities' resilience to disasters. The Meeting recognised that this would enhance current North-South collaborations already in place;
- v. Acknowledged the work of **international, regional and national agencies** in coordinating and supporting regional efforts towards DRM and CCA;
- vi. Recognised the **diverse expertise that Network Partners bring to DRM**, and agreed that Partners need to proactively work together in sharing information and implementing initiatives;
- vii. Emphasised the benefits of **systematic, cross-sectoral, proactive DRM**, as compared to a reactive, ad hoc approach, and noted the importance of **mainstreaming CCA and DRM** into national and sectoral planning,

- budgetary processes and the overall development framework in order to encourage the former approach;
- viii. Noted the importance of **identifying vulnerabilities** in sectors such as transport infrastructure, the tourism industry, agriculture and water supply when integrating DRM and CCA considerations for sustainable development;
 - ix. Recognised the critical role of the continuation and, where needed, implementation and strengthened coordination of DRM/CCA **education, awareness, training, capacity development and advocacy** at local, national and regional levels by relevant national, regional and international organisations based on identified needs;
 - x. Recognised the opportunities for PICs to address **priorities identified through NAPA and DRM NAP** process for bilateral funding assistance; acknowledged donors in supporting NAP process and the *implementation of priorities identified in DRM NAP and NAPA. [text developing DRM NAPs]*
 - xi. Noted the **integrative, collaborative role** between local, national, regional and international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental or civil society actors, in mainstreaming DRM and CCA issues into high-level government planning;
 - xii. Noted the need for greater **harmonisation of donor and development partner support** to countries on the implementation of the Regional Framework and DRM NAPs;
 - xiii. Acknowledged the importance of ensuring **long-term or multi-year programmes to enhance the sustainability** of DRM and CCA outcomes in the region;
 - xiv. Reemphasised the need for developing and/or encouraging improved **end-to-end early warning systems (EWS)** as an integral aspect of DRM recognising the important role of NMS in this;
 - xv. Acknowledged the usefulness of **high-level advocacy** and **institutional strengthening**, for example, in the form of champions within government, recognition of key focal point agencies such as NDMOs and NMSs and/or, where lacking, developing dedicated centres or organisations related to DRM and CCA while minimising the bureaucratic levels associated with implementing these activities;
 - xvi. Reaffirmed the importance of **synchronised outreach activities** at the community level;

- xvii. Noted the value of recognising the **existing capacities and resilience** and at the same time recognising the needs of **vulnerable groups** within Pacific island communities, and identifying ways in which to strengthen and support those existing capacities while promoting community ownership and building links between communities and national stakeholders;
- xviii. Welcomed the representation of the Pacific Platform at the Global Platform through a sizeable Regional delegation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9. After consideration of the issues noted above, the Partnership Network identified concrete initiatives for greater immediate focus following deliberations amongst Partners in working groups. The meeting recommended :
 - i. Continued support in the provision of technical and financial support by the Partnership Network to **mainstream DRM and CCA** to enhance the resilience of Pacific island communities.
 - ii. Continued support in the establishment of new working groups of Partnership members. These working groups would have the task of further exploring and developing the need (how do you “explore and develop a need”?) to mainstream DRM and CCA and creating effective advocacy techniques. These working groups will report back to the PDRMPN. Opportunities for further working groups, where these do not already exist, are encouraged.
 - iii. To encourage partners to support countries in the **incorporation of risk reduction and disaster management measures into sectoral plans, development projects and early warning systems**, as well as the design of technical projects and/or programmes;
 - iv. To encourage further **South-South collaboration between Pacific Island Countries and Territories and cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean Partners**. This could include the development of a programme for Pacific-Caribbean cooperation, joint research by educational institutions in each region, regular meetings for interregional exchange and mutual training modules between the two regions;
 - v. Continued support to **enhance and standardise Pacific island technical capacity** in DRM, including compiling baseline data, accessing and using space-based information, conducting risk assessments and other analyses and developing relevant policies based on the scientific

- information. In the meanwhile, the Meeting encourages Partner agencies with technical capacity in relevant assessment areas to support Pacific island countries in conducting this work;
- vi. To improve support and collaboration between countries and partners the development and implementation of **National Action Plans (NAPs)** where present;
 - vii. To continue collaboration between Pacific island ministries, agencies and Partners in identifying and conducting **education and training opportunities** at all levels (community, national, regional). These opportunities include the incorporation of disaster risk management to educational curricula, the enhancement of current education/awareness initiatives such as scholarships or academic collaboration, and the support of retaining capacity and minimising “brain drain”;
 - viii. To apply **adequate communication or technological tools** to match **locally available resources/ capacities** to ensure that information reaches remote areas and outer islands;
 - ix. To encourage use of **Pacific Disaster Net** as a platform for information exchange;
 - x. To facilitate the **accreditation of DRM/CCA** by Pacific Universities as well as the integration of DRM/CCA into education curricula;
 - xi. To review the Terms of Reference (TORs) of **PENTAG** in order to include other regional and national members;
 - xii. To increase support of **awareness-raising and advocacy** activities, particularly in the use of socio-economic tools such as cost-benefit analyses, community communication activities, and increased engagement at all levels of society;
 - xiii. SOPAC and other members of the Partnership Network to encourage the **broadening of the Network base** to include all relevant donor, non state and regional organisations and SOPAC to encourage their attendance at the Meeting in the future;
 - xiv. **To enhance harmonisation** of partner efforts in the areas of **DRM and CCA** as a way to achieve sustainable development, mindful of each country’s absorptive capacity such that additional burdens on countries with time, funding and human capacity constraints will be minimised;
 - xv. To increase **institutional strengthening and governance** in order to facilitate mainstreaming of DRM and CCA issues in Pacific island

countries, with particular encouragement of the **High-Level Advocacy Team (HLAT)**;

- xvi. To support **evidence-based decision making** and include economic/financial stakeholders, assessments (such as cost-benefit analyses, risk assessments and so forth) and advocacy tools;
- xvii. To integrate the regional frameworks for DRM and CC and thus support the integration and implementation of NAPs and NAPA, ensuring their link to National Development Strategies to refine resource mobilisation strategies;
- xviii. To support the **development and application of mainstreaming tools**;
- xix. Partners to support governments to develop or strengthen national laws and policies for enhanced legal preparedness for national and international disaster response;
- xx. Partners to continue to improve **communication and coordination** with other partners, particularly community-level agencies, in order to ensure dialogue, mutual understanding and effective implementation of DRM and CCA activities;
- xxi. Continued use of **Pacific Disaster Net (PDN)** and other available communication technologies as a forum to coordinate and exchange information, lessons learned, expertise and so forth; noting that partners should be obligated to provide accurate and current information to PDN for improved support and collaboration between countries and Network Partners in supporting the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs);
- xxii. To support and strengthen Pacific Island community Early Warning Systems (EWS), particularly via: demonstrating the critical role that EWS plays in terms of development; communicating the outcomes of forthcoming regional reviews to EWS practitioners and partner agencies; assisting SOPAC in acting as an 'intermediary' between partner agencies and EWS practitioners; developing programmes for South-South exchange; applying the Regional Early Warning Strategy as a basis for strengthening coordination amongst partners and EWS practitioners.
- xxiii. To review the **Regional Early Warning Strategy** to incorporate the important role of National Meteorological Services with respect to EW in the region;
- xxiv. To encourage the strengthening of the current **Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) initiatives in emergency health training and education** as part

of integrated DRM capacity building in the region, and to recognise the importance of health institutions and training in disaster scenarios;

- xxv. To encourage partners to continue collaboration through inter-meeting regional working groups – potentially as a subgroup of the Partnership – which can share information and develop country-specific national mechanisms on building resilience among **vulnerable communities**;
- xxvi. Pacific regional delegation attending the Global Platform to highlight the progress and challenges of the Pacific region and to act as strong DRM/CCA advocates for the region at the global level;

10. These issues and challenges are to be presented for the consideration of the 2nd Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for Pacific CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management, 14th – 15th May 2009.

11. The Partnership Network, in collaboration, consultation and cooperation with the National Disaster Management Offices, National Meteorological Services, relevant national, regional and international agencies and civil society organisations, are called upon where possible to provide support, and work together for the realisation of the above recommendations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

12. The Meeting extended its thanks to Partners for actively participating in the Meeting and commended the Chair and the SOPAC Secretariat for its support to the Meeting.

13th May 2009

Nadi

Fiji

**4th Annual Meeting of the
Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network
12-13 May, 2009
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