

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

(Holiday Inn, Suva, 24-26 Oct 2016)



Session 9a: Build Back Better (BBB) and Heritage Safeguarding Strategy for the well-being of community in the Pacific

Session title:	Build Back Better (BBB) and Heritage Safeguarding Strategy for the well-being of community in the Pacific
Date and time:	11h00 – 12h30, Wednesday 26 October 2016
Venue:	Lali Room, Holiday Inn, Suva

Description

The Sendai Framework for Action (2015-2030) adopted at the 3rd World Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (Sendai, March 2015) is the important international policy document for disaster risk reduction (DRR). The Sendai Framework has four Priorities: Priority 1 – Understanding disaster risk, Priority 2 – Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, Priority 3 – Investing in DRR for resilience and Priority 4 – Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to Build Back Better (BBB) in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. BBB is a strategy to support the resilience of societies and empower communities for DRR.

DRR of cultural heritage covering historical buildings and indigenous traditional architectures and cultural institutions such as museums, libraries and archives had long been excluded from DRR framework. However, thanks to the efforts of the heritage community supported by UNESCO, the Sendai Framework includes substantial references to the importance of DRR of cultural heritage and institutions. The Sendai Framework also underlines the importance of the integration of traditional/indigenous/local knowledge or intangible cultural heritage into DRR.

The Pacific islands have significant cultural heritage and adaptation of their heritage to a changing environment is part of the lifestyles of Pacific islanders. Their tangible and intangible heritage underpin their ability to successfully live and thrive in the Pacific environment.

Some of these heritage are vulnerable to different types of threats and risks including those related to disasters and climate change, and are increasingly endangered due to the lack of the lack of awareness on DRR of cultural heritage and institutions, the fragmentation of heritage protection related policy/legislations and the insufficient level of awareness on the importance of cultural heritage impact assessment as part of DRR among stakeholders. Under this circumstances, how can we understand and explain better the link between BBB - in particular in recover, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases - and heritage safeguarding and preservation giving adequate consideration to the need to retain its cultural value, integrity and authenticity in the context of Pacific islands, and develop and promote an effective strategy linking the heritage preservation and enhancement to the wellbeing of community and sustainable development?

This session aims to address issues over BBB and heritage safeguarding based on the findings of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) following Tropical Cyclones of Pam and Winston. These issues include BBB strategy in the recovery phase following the cyclones which will be presented by the representative of the Strategic Planning Office of Fiji and Vanuatu. The heritage and culture experts will shed light on the built-in DRR measures of indigenous architectures, traditional knowledge and skills or intangible cultural heritage held by communities, and environmental restoration and management for BBB strategy that would meet the needs and demand of the Pacific island community. The recent initiatives with the aims of promoting networking and awareness raising spearheaded by regional NGOs and agencies will also be presented at the session.

The session intends to discuss the topic from holistic perspective - not only from legal, economic and infrastructure, but also from socio-cultural and sustainable development, developing key messages for inclusion in the Platform outcome.

Objectives of the session

1. To share information on progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework as it relates to “Build Back Better” and the heritage safeguarding in Pacific SIDS, highlighting the findings of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) following Tropical Cyclones Pam and Winston.
2. To identify priority actions to promote “Build Back Better” and the heritage safeguarding strategy in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030 (FRDP).
3. To discuss key messages for inclusion in the overall outcome of the Platform.

Outcome of the session

1. Enhanced understanding of BBB and heritage safeguarding in Pacific SIDS.
2. Updated action plan for DRR of the culture sector in Pacific SIDS.
3. Session report including key messages.

Contact

Akatsuki Takahashi, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States - a.takahashi@unesco.org

Tomoko Minowa, UNISDR Pacific, Suva - tomoko.minowa.unisdr@gmail.com

Draft Programme

Time	Speaker	Title	Topic
11:00-11:05	Dr Akatsuki Takahashi – a.takahashi@unesco.org	Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States	Opening Introductory Remarks
11:05-11:25	Mr Shah I. Mohammed – shah.mohammed@economy.gov.fj & Mr Maciusela Raitaukala – mraitaukala@govnet.gov.fj	Manager of Construction Implementation Unit (CIU), Ministry of Economy & Department of Heritage and Arts, Ministry of Education, Fiji	“Build Back Better” strategy: Case study on PDNA following TC Winston in Fiji
11:25-11:45	Mr Shadrak Welegtabit - swelegtabit@vanuatu.gov.vu & Ms Wendy Christie – wendymchristie@gmail.com	Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) & Architect and advisor for Vanuatu Culture Centre (VCC)	“Build Back Better” strategy : Case study on PDNA following TC Pam in Vanuatu
11:45-12:00	Adi Meretui Ratonabuabua – merefiji@outlook.com	Acting Director of the Fiji Museum and Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP) Secretariat	Activities of Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP)
12:00-12:15	Dr Elise Huffer - EliseH@spc.int	Cultural Advisor at the Pacific Community (SPC)	Integrating culture in DRR
12:15-12:30			Final discussion Closing