

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management – Concept Note

24-26 October 2016 | Venue: Holiday Inn - Suva, FIJI



Session number and title:

No. 8b: Use of Early Warning Systems

Date and time: Wednesday 26 October 2016, 09:00-10:30

Venue: Banyan Room, Holiday Inn

Length of session: 1.5 hours

Format:

The session will involve a series of presentations on key topics (45 minutes) followed by a panel discussion on use of Early Warning Systems (50 minutes).

List of Speakers:

- Cyprien Bosserelle (SPC): presentation on Coastal Inundation Forecasting during Tropical Cyclone Winston and the challenges of forecasting storm surge/wave run up (15 minutes)
- Kate Crowley (NIWA): Climate Early Warning Systems in the Pacific (15 minutes)
- 'Ofa Fa'anunu (TMS): presentation on Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems in Tonga (15 minutes)

List of Panel Members:

- Henry Taiki, World Meteorological Organisation
- Esline Garaebiti, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department
- Loti Yates, Director - Solomon Islands Natural Disaster Management Officer
- Rajendra Prasad, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Background:

The *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 - 2030* (FRDP) provides high level strategic guidance to different stakeholder groups on how to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, in ways that contribute to and are embedded in sustainable development.

It succeeds two separate regional frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management, the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change* and the *Pacific*

Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action which expired in 2015.

The document recognizes the need to strengthen effective multi hazard early warning systems as a specific priority action, in particular systems used for sudden and slow onset hazards.

The document complements the Sendai Framework which highlights the need to enhance, invest, promote and increase the availability of multi hazard early warning systems.

Purpose:

The purpose of the session is to highlight strategic directions by countries to improve hazard monitoring, warning and response capacities and to identify required actions needed to achieve goals outlined in the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 - 2030* (FRDP).

Outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of Early Warning System developments by national agencies and partners;
2. Enhanced understanding of Shared lessons learnt and experiences from Pacific Island countries to enhance early warning capacity;
3. Update on work undertaken by the Early Warning Work Group;
4. Identified actions needed to address goals detailed in the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 - 2030* (FRDP); and
5. Agreement on key messages for inclusion in the overall outcomes statement for the Platform.

Discussion

1. What were some of the lessons learnt arising from Tropical Cyclones Pam and Winston regarding actionable messaging?
2. What are some of the needs and challenges associated with early warning systems?
3. Can early warning systems be easily adapted to incorporate multi hazards?
4. What opportunities exist and what can partners do to support early warning initiatives?
5. How can we improve technical support to Pacific Island countries?

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