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1) Outline

The vast geographic spread of many Pacific island countries makes capacity building, networking and communication more difficult, resource and time consuming adding to the challenges of capacity building for disaster reduction and recovery. The degradation of natural capital and ecosystems and the erosion of traditional knowledge and practices are of particular concern to the resilience of Pacific island countries and communities. At the same time, the high level of gender inequality in some Pacific countries is a factor limiting overall development and community resilience. The capacity of Pacific island countries to absorb available financial and technical support, in the aftermath of disasters and in general terms, is strained due to limited human resources and increasing brain drain. Climate change is showing disproportionate and growing impacts in Pacific island countries, of which many are low lying and prone to sea level rise. This is resulting in high costs of adaptation relative to the GDP of Pacific island countries.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- The achievements of the Pacific island countries in disaster risk management have been predominantly driven by their own successes and led by their national contexts, concerns and priorities as per their national DRM Planning arrangements. Hence, they have been taking the lead in linking National Action Plans and Policies for DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). ***Recommendation:*** *Enhance Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation through innovative financing modalities, integrated approaches, cooperation and capacity building at national and regional levels.*

- Local governments in Pacific islands have recognized the importance to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in their efforts to build the resilience of their

communities to disasters and climate change. They have engaged stakeholders at a number of levels through a variety of approaches, i.e. the identification of hot spots/sensitive areas, awareness raising, developing community plans and assessing capacity in urban risk reduction and adaptation. Also national governments have had successes by bringing together community based, participatory disaster risk management with the more technocratic approaches of integrated coastal risk through Village Sustainable Development Plans. ***Recommendation:*** *Increase investments in community based and local level disaster risk management to be able to reach the brunt of widely dispersed and remote island communities at high risk from disasters*

- The tracking of national investments in DRM is recognized as a key step when advocating for more resources to build disaster resilient in Pacific islands. The development of NAPs for DRM combined with requirement to provide information on the level of national investments for DRM as part of the biennial RFA/HFA progress review process, has been the starting point for carrying out reviews national budgets in several PICs, i.e. PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. The reviews provided an analysis of the level and extent of budgeted investments in disaster risk management. ***Recommendation:*** *Continue on the path of mainstreaming DRM in national policies, budget and all national sector plans where feasible .*

- People-centered early warning systems integrate the local knowledge of island communities: Community-based and people-centred approaches to early warning are now being practiced in several PICs. A common feature of many of them is the documentation and usage of local knowledge, coping strategies and warning signs. These include traditional land use practices; strengthening of homes using traditional knotting; people centered early warning system; food preservation techniques; water use practices in dry areas; and Community-based DRR and DRM plans/safer village plans. ***Recommendation:*** *Document and preserve local/indigenous knowledge as a matter of priority to counter the erosion of local coping capacities.*

- Gender equality is now recognized as a pre-requisite for reducing vulnerability, and developing resilient island communities: The consideration of gender issues in disaster risk management has not been an easy process in the Pacific where women have usually been cast as victims of disasters, assigning them a passive role and hence disempowering them from makings meaningful contributions to disaster risk management. **Recommendation:** Ensure that DRM policies and activities equally reflect the priorities, needs and contributions of women and men, and that they contribute to increasing gender equality.

- South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS is gaining new momentum. With the greatest concentration of small island states worldwide, both

the Pacific and the Caribbean regions face common threats based on the similar geography and vulnerabilities of small islands. Exchanges between these two regions to address common climate change adaptation and disaster management issues have been renewed commitment to south/south cooperation between the Pacific and the Caribbean that is based on the transfer of appropriate 'southern' expertise and technologies. **Recommendation:** Establish a SIDS Network on DRM.

3) Conclusions

At the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio, the special case of Small Islands Development States (SIDS) was recognized for the very first time. Today, almost 20 years down the line, the vulnerability of Pacific SIDS has further increased whilst their capacity to cope has declined. The so-called special case for SIDS is hence as important as ever, and should be well reflected in the Chair's summary.

The above key messages and recommendation have been endorsed by the national and regional delegations from the Pacific as their collective messages to the Global Platform. They do not necessarily reflect each Pacific island country's national position in all parts. It is also noteworthy that the achievements of the Pacific island countries in DRM have been predominantly driven by their own successes and led by their national contexts, concerns and priorities as per their national DRM Planning arrangements.

4) Attachments

List of Participants:

Name	Organisation	Region/Country
Mr Jiuta Korovulavula	Foundation of the People's of the South Pacific International (FSPI)	Pacific
Ms Elizabeth Wright-Koteka	Office of the Prime Minister Government of the Cook Islands	Cook Islands
Mr Charles Carlson (TBC)	Emergency Management Cook Islands	Cook Islands
Mr Vaitoa Toelupe	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment	Samoa
Mr Loti Yates	NDMO	Solomon Islands
Ms Ethel Sigimanu	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs	Solomon Islands

Ms Antonneth Arnhambat	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	Vanuatu
Mr Peter Korisa Kamil	NDMO	Vanuatu
Mr Manasa Ramasirai Vaniqi	Ministry of Provincial Development	Fiji
Mr Pajilia Dobui	NDMO	Fiji
Ms Preeya Ieli	Lami Town Council	Fiji
Mr Aisea Tuidraki	Nadi Town Council	Fiji
Mr Sumeo Silu	NDMO	Tuvalu
Mr Michael Foon	Disaster Risk and Climate Change Unit, Office of Te Beretitenti (President)	Kiribati
Ms Luisa Tui-Afitu	Ministry for Environment and Climate Change	Tonga
Ms Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga	Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs And Culture	Tonga
Mr Ngiratmetuchel Belechl	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, Office of the President	Palau
Mr Alistar Humphrey	Ministry of Health	New Zealand
Ms Jessica Smith	Permanent Mission of New Zealand	New Zealand
Mr Russell Howorth	SOPAC/SPC	Pacific
Ms Litea Biukoto	SOPAC/SPC	Pacific
Ms Jutta May	SOPAC/SPC	Pacific
Ms Samantha Cook	SOPAC/SPC	Pacific
Mr Isiye Ndombi	UNICEF	Pacific
Ms Angelika Planitz	UNISDR	Pacific
Ms Laura Niskanen	UNISDR	Pacific
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Suzanne Paisley	Gender and Disaster Net	London

Background Document:

Key Messages from the Pacific Delegation

INTRODUCTION:

This paper has been prepared in support of national and regional delegations from the Pacific region participating at the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It aims to assist delegates share the unique experiences and challenges in disaster risk management (DRM) in the Pacific with a broad range of ISDR system partners and stakeholders attending this global forum.

It is also hoped that some of the presented lessons learned and experiences will inform the Chair's Summary of the Global Platform. This will be of strategic importance, since the outcomes of this year's Global Platform will feed into the Rio +20 Conference in Brazil that will take in 2012. At the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio, the special case of Small Islands Development States (SIDS) was recognized for the very first time. Today, almost 20 years later, the vulnerability of Pacific SIDS has further increased whilst their capacity to cope has declined. The so-called special case for SIDS is hence as important as ever, and should be well reflected in the Chair's summary.

Whilst this paper has been endorsed by the national and regional delegations from the Pacific as their collective messages to the Global Platform, it does not necessarily reflect each Pacific island country's national position in its entirety. It is also noteworthy that the achievements of the Pacific island countries in DRM have been predominantly driven by their own successes and led by their national contexts, concerns and priorities as per their national DRM Planning arrangements.

The financial contributions from development partners for DRM are greatly appreciated as being instrumental for the current level of achievement across the Pacific island countries. Nevertheless, global level advocacy with donors and policy makers needs to be further intensified to raise the awareness of Pacific island countries' challenges and needs as highlighted in their national DRM planning arrangements.

The paper does not intend to provide an exhaustive list of initiatives and experiences from the Pacific islands. Instead, only a selection of the very recent and innovative or outstanding initiatives was chosen that were deemed to be particularly relevant to the main themes of this year's Global Platform. The paper sets out with a brief introduction to the regional hazard risk context and the prevailing socio-economic and development challenges. It then presents a selection of messages to the Global Platform which originate in success stories and good practices from the Pacific islands. These are followed by an overview of recent policy recommendations from the region. The paper closes with a description of success stories and progress which have evolved over recent years in DRM policy and practice both at the national and regional level.

SETTING THE CONTEXT:

- Pacific islands countries (PICs) are characterized by a high degree of disaster risk, with small and scattered populations spread out across a vast ocean vulnerable to a disproportionate amount of the world's natural disasters. Even relatively minor emergencies can significantly affect populations, overwhelm national response capacity, and slow down advances in development. The prevalent natural hazards that cause regularly damage and loss in PICs include floods, cyclones, king tides, droughts, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Climate change is showing disproportionate and growing impacts in Pacific island countries, of which many are low lying and prone to sea level rise. This is resulting in high costs of adaptation relative to the GDP of Pacific island countries. In the past decade also social, including health and pollution hazards, and civil unrest have increased as a result of population increase, urban drift, uneven wealth distribution and political pressures.

- Whilst the scale and impact of disaster events in Pacific island countries is often not significant enough to feature at the global level and in international disaster databases, they are immense relative to Pacific island countries' economic, social and environmental context (often losses in the realm of 25 – 100% of GDP).

- The vast geographic spread of many Pacific island countries makes capacity building, networking and communication more difficult, resource and time consuming adding to the challenges of capacity building for disaster reduction and recovery. Customary tenure versus resource tenure systems makes compliance to spatial planning, land use, building codes and similar risk reduction initiatives more challenging. The degradation of natural capital and ecosystems and the erosion of traditional knowledge and practices are of particular concern to the resilience of Pcific island countries and communities. At the same time, the high level of gender inequality in some Pacific countries is a factor limiting overall development and community resilience, and increasing overall vulnerability. The capacity of Pacific island countries to absorb available financial and technical support, in the aftermath of disasters and in general terms, is strained due to limited human resources and increasing brain drain.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS:

"Pacific islands take the lead in linking National Action Plans and Policies for DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)"

"Participation and multi-stakeholder approaches are practiced as the key to building resilience to the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change"

"Gender equality is recognized as a pre-requisite for reducing vulnerability, and developing resilient island communities
"***The tracking of national investments in DRM is a key step in advocating for more resources to build disaster resilient in Pacific islands"***

"People-centred early warning systems integrate the local knowledge of island communities which must be systematically documented"
"Trans-boundary risk assessment is an accepted practice in the Pacific region."

"DRM mainstreaming is now well advanced in the education sector"

"The Pacific regional policy and institutional framework for DRM is robust and can look back to a long history"

"DRM progress monitoring has taken root in the Pacific"

"Tertiary education in disaster risk management is making major strides in the Pacific"

"A regional DRM information platform is firmly established"

"South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS is gaining new momentum"

Regional Policy Recommendations:

This section introduces the main policy recommendations from the Pacific region to the Global Platform for DRM. It draws on the recommendations from leading regional policy mechanisms that provide guidance to regional and national DRM and climate change adaptation (CCA) programmes and initiatives, i.e.

- The 2010 Pacific Platform for DRM, co-convened by SPC/SOPAC and UNISDR in August 2010 in Fiji.
- The High Level Conference on Climate Change in the Pacific, organized by the EU Global Climate Change Alliance in March 2011 in Vanuatu.
- The Pacific Climate Change Round Table coordinated by SPREP in March 2011 in Niue.
- The Pacific National Stakeholders Meeting on Climate Financing, organized by UNDP in Palau.
- The Pacific regional consultations on the HFA and RFA Mid-Term Reviews, coordinated by SPC/SOPAC and UNISDR.
- The National HFA Progress Reports of selected Pacific island countries.

Recommendation I: Enhancing Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation through innovative financing modalities, integrated approaches, cooperation and capacity building at national and regional levels, by:

- Maximizing synergies and interaction between biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;

- Developing and implementing a common resilience framework to address the multiple risks from disasters, climate change and other socio-economic processes.

- Merging the two relevant regional frameworks for action, namely the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and to encourage complementary processes at the national level.

- Defining tailor-made financing modalities for CCA and DRM that take into account the different levels of threats that PICTS are facing, different levels of capacity, and different circumstances; also considering the establishment of natural hazard insurance policies.

Recommendation II: Increase investments in community based and local level disaster risk management to be able to reach the brunt of widely dispersed and remote island communities at high risk from disasters, by:

- Strengthening the network of regional and national stakeholders that work in local governance and community based DRM;

- Systematically analyzing the lessons learned and experiences of pilot CBDRM and local governance initiatives in order to set standards that allow for scaling up such initiatives;

- Documenting and preserving local/indigenous knowledge as a matter of priority to counter the erosion of local coping capacities;

- Investing in building the technical and facilitation capacity at intermediary level of government and civil society to be able to deliver community based and local level initiatives.

Recommendation III: Ensuring effective national oversight, coordination and implementation mechanisms that are adapted to the specific country contexts, by:

- Strengthening joint coordination mechanisms for DRM and climate change adaptation that bring about greater transparency, accountability and improved planning, financial management, and monitoring to provide clear guidance for DRM and CCA investments in accordance with national priorities.

- Examining the establishment of National Platforms for DRM in Pacific island countries that encompass key climate change stakeholders and foster the involvement of communities, women and youth, politicians and parliamentarians, as well as civil society and sector experts when developing and implementing DRM plans and efforts.

- Monitoring and measuring the performance of DRM and CCA instruments and programmes based on clearly established targets to measure how effectively resources are delivering results.

- Building regional and national capacities to assess the short and long-term economic impacts of disasters, as well as to assess the costs and benefits of DRM options for evidence-based decision-making.

Recommendation IV: Continuing on the path of mainstreaming DRM in national policies, budget and all national sector plans where feasible, by:

- Building on experiences and lessons learned with the development and implementation of National Action Plans for DRM in the Pacific and elsewhere;

- Launching of sector strategies and plans that demand the assessment of hazard and climate risks for all development investments, a critical assessment of the resilience all vital infrastructure already in built, and establishing national action plans for safe schools and hospitals.

Recommendation V: Ensuring that DRM policies and activities equally reflect the priorities, needs and contributions of women and men, and that they contribute to increasing gender equality, by:

- Designing DRM initiatives that specifically describe how they will reduce inequities between women and men;

- Conducting gender analysis of investments in DRM;

- Taking special measures to ensure a gender-balanced representation in all DRM forums.

Recommendation VI: Strengthening South-South Cooperation and inter-regional learning and exchange, by:

- Establishing a SIDS Network on DRM.

SUCCESS STORIES & GOOD PRACTICES:

Despite these challenges, PICs have made consistent progress with their national DRM agendas, especially in the areas of disaster preparedness, and putting in place improved governance arrangements for DRM. A selection of some of the recent achievements, successes and good practices from the region is introduced in the following.

At National and Local Level

(1) Pacific islands take the lead in linking National Action Plans and Policies for DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA): A growing number of Pacific island countries, have taken steps towards bringing together the two cross-cutting issues of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. The impetus for this lies in the need to avoid duplication and reduce the burden on overstretched and under-resourced public administrations having to deal with these highly synergetic issues through separate policies, plans, strategies and even institutional mechanisms. Whilst the global and regional policy frameworks for DRM and CCA are still largely pursued in separate ways, PIC governments have taken the lead towards integration.

The government of Tonga has been the first Pacific island country harmonizing national planning for disaster risk management and adaptation in the form of a Joint National Action Plan (NAP). Others are also following the road of integration, i.e. the Cook Islands and recently also the Marshall Islands and Niue with Fiji and the Federated States of Micronesia to follow suit in 2011. Joint NAPs are intended to facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster risk consideration into the national planning and budgetary processes. Their development typically has followed a process of high level advocacy, situation analyses, and stakeholder consultations at different levels. This has ensured a "whole of country" approach to (1) implement "no regrets adaptation", (2) anticipate the adverse effects of climate change, and (3) reduce disaster risk in order to build the resilience island communities and nations.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- National Action Plans (NAP) for Disaster Risk Management in Pacific island countries: AusAID NAP Facility, SOPAC.
- Development and Implementation of National Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management in Pacific island countries: ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility under the 9th European Development Fund, SOPAC.

(2) **Participation and multi-stakeholder approaches are practiced as the key to building resilience to the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change:** Local governments in Pacific islands have recognized the importance to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in their efforts to build the resilience of their communities to disasters and climate change. Lami Town in Fiji, is one of them. The Lami Town Council has engaged stakeholders at a number of levels through a variety of approaches, i.e. the identification of hot spots/sensitive areas, awareness raising, developing community plans and assessing capacity

in urban risk reduction and adaptation. Ownership for the initiatives is built by encouraging academia, the private sector, CBOs/NGOs and international community to participate in planning and implementation. Also the Community Centred Sustainable Development Project (CCSDP) in Samoa is an interesting example of bringing together community based, participatory disaster risk management with the more technocratic approaches of integrated coastal risk management by involving a wide cross section of line ministries and departments in the development of Village Sustainable Development Plans.

In support of village level DRM and CCA planning a "Village Disaster Risk Planning Template" has been developed on the Solomon Islands. The template provides for a consistent output from agencies undertaking community-based disaster risk management (including climate change adaptation) with the aim to provide a consistent and expanding network of capacity over time in the widely geographically dispersed 8000 villages of the Solomon Islands. The NGO and civil society agencies are increasingly comfortable working within this framework.

Some of the lessons learned around which good practice has evolved include: (1) The need to be proactive. Local governments and communities need to initiate a relationship with provincial and central agencies. (2) Governance is fundamental for the sustainability of risk management efforts and owning the process is essential, not only by council, but also by the wider community – residential, informal, business and industry. (3) Partnerships are essential, this is everyone's business. Working in isolation could result in a disconnected and unaligned effort. (4) Awareness raising is a continuous process. (5) Challenges linked to financial and staffing capacity can be overcome by strategic partnership building with national authorities and NGOS. (6) The *Making Cities Resilient*-campaign provides useful guidance to building adaptation responses.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Pacific Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI): Lami Town, UN-Habitat.
- Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme (CCSDP): Samoa Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, United Nations.
- Review of Solomon Islands National DRM Arrangements: Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, SOPAC.

(3) Gender equality is now recognized as a pre-requisite for reducing vulnerability, and developing resilient island communities: The consideration of gender issues in disaster risk management has not been an easy process in the Pacific where women have usually been cast as victims of disasters, assigning them a passive role and hence disempowering them from makings meaningful contributions to disaster risk management. Big advances, however, have now been made in the Solomon Islands. The National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) is the first such plan in the Pacific region to mainstream gender equality concerns. It, therefore, sets a good example for other Pacific island countries to

follow. This plan was developed by the National Disaster Council of the Solomon Islands in 2009, through a consultative process. It is a good example of a detailed, yet concise and very readable plan, which makes it accessible to a wide group of stakeholders. One of the plan's key guiding principles recognizes that "The involvement of women in DRM arrangements at all levels is essential for effective DRM."

Other Pacific island countries have also started establish a formal role for the National Women's organizations in their National Disaster Management Arrangements, often as the lead agency for Protection of human rights in disaster preparedness and planning, i.e. Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu. The Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR) works with individual villages to enable them to design their own Community Disaster Plan thus making the village better prepared to cope with disasters. Operating in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga, the program emphasizes the participation and contributions of both women and men, as vital to the success of community-based DRR; a majority of the vice-chairs of community committees are women.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Review of Solomon Islands National DRM Arrangements: Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, SOPAC.
- Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDDR): Act for Peace, AusAID.

(4) The tracking of national investments in DRM is recognized as a key step when advocating for more resources to build disaster resilient in Pacific islands: The development of NAPs for DRM combined with requirement to provide information on the level of national investments for DRM as part of the biennial RFA/HFA progress review process, has been the starting point for carrying out reviews national budgets in several PICs, i.e. PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. The reviews provided an analysis of the level and extent of budgeted investments in disaster risk management. The reports provide the basis for focused advocacy for increasing investments by governments and donors and development partners in DRM. They also advocate making DRM investments more visible in sector budgets. This work is part of an overall process of DRM mainstreaming through National Action Plans which has been undergoing implementation in the Pacific since 2006.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Analysis of Disaster Risk Management Investment Profiles in Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji and PNG: AusAID NAP Facility, SOPAC.

(5) People-centred early warning systems integrate the local knowledge of island communities: Community-based and people-centred approaches to early warning are now being practiced in several PICs. A common feature of many of them is the documentation and usage of local knowledge, coping strategies and warning signs. These include traditional

land use practices; strengthening of homes using traditional knotting; people centred early warning system; food preservation techniques; water use practices in dry areas; and Community-based DRR and DRM plans/safer village plans. Examples include Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. In view of several tsunami disasters (Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, PNG) and frequent Pacific wide tsunami warnings over recent years, there has been an increasing emphasis in particular on tsunami early warning. The capacity to conduct community drills and public education campaigns has much improved with a number of state-of-the-art awareness spots for television and radio now availably (notably Samoa and Solomon Islands). These advances have been complemented by investments into the national emergency communication infrastructure through the establishment of National Emergency Operation Centres in Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

A selection of projects & initiatives :

- The Fiji Disaster Food Security Program: Ministry of Defence, National Security, Disaster Management, Immigration.
- Collation of information on traditional knowledge and community coping mechanisms in times of disaster: Vanuatu Cultural Centre.
- Community training on preserving traditional knowledge and practices to support the revival of the traditional means of DRM: SPC.
- EU EDF 9 B Envelope Multi Country Project for PNG, Solomon Islands, FSM and Palau.
- UNICEF-supported sentinel monitoring in 18 communities in six Pacific countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) for real-time pulse monitoring and reporting on vulnerabilities.

(6) DRM mainstreaming is well advanced in the education sector: Fiji has made excellent progress towards integrating DRM in the national curriculum of primary and secondary schools, and drills are regularly carried out. The majority of schools in Fiji are privately managed by school committees; however, the curricula are guided by the education policies of government. School committees have strong outreach into the community which support DRM activities with emphasis on safety and security measures for children as well as school assets and investments. EW messages as for cyclones and floods are observed strictly and evaluated through checks on school attendance records; children are assigned research projects on DRM topics and schools develop SOPs. New developments consider risks through EIA assessment. Also the National Fire Authority organises activities in primary and secondary schools and PCIDRR organises awareness and simulation exercises in schools. Some schools in Suva have conducted earthquake retrofitting assessments.

Also in Vanuatu, DRM has found its way into the Ministry of Education which has developed a sector strategy for DRM, and successfully updated the education curriculum to incorporate emerging DRR-DM issues (e.g. what to do in the event of a tsunami, cyclone, and volcanic

eruption). The new curriculum will be progressively rolled out over the coming years, starting with students aged 11-13. There are also plans to introduce safety drills as part of the curriculum. The Ministry also began to use risk assessments in its planning which resulted in the relocation of a vulnerable school. In the Solomon Islands progress in mainstreaming DRM has been achieved through a focus on school infrastructure as well as by working with school boards, parents and children on emergency planning and the curriculum development.

At Regional Level

(7) Trans-boundary risk assessment is an accepted practice in the Pacific region: Considerable progress has been made towards the development of eight national databases for PICs (i.e. Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), and a consolidated regional database encompassing risk, hazard, and vulnerability data that is required for the future development of a Pacific regional catastrophe insurance scheme. The Pacific Exposure Database and Risk Model utilizes a geographic information systems (GIS) platform, already in use across the Pacific, to enable the easy manipulation of data for presentation that facilitates public policy and decision-making in DRM and CCA. The information allows Government departments and other stakeholders to collaborate much more effectively in zoning of hazardous areas, or the development and design of engineering standards to inform building codes.

The initiative is the first region wide attempt to assess and record disaster risk in such a comprehensive manners. Data collection first captures building and infrastructure 'footprints' using satellite imagery followed by on-the-ground surveys to record the attributes of as many of the footprints as possible. The attributes of each building for example, such as roof type, construction type and material, foundation types can then be used to determine vulnerability to certain hazards e.g. floor height as an indicator of susceptibility to flood impact. Database development is ongoing and is slated for completion in 2011.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative: World Bank, ADB, GNS NZ, SOPAC/SPC, Pacific Disaster Center and AIR World Wide.
- Pacific Avian and Pandemic Influenza and Preparedness Project: SPC.

(8) Regional Tsunami Modelling: Since the Indian Ocean Tsunami the Pacific experienced 2 major Tsunami events , i.e. in the Solomon Islands and off the coast of the Samoa, which affected several Pacific Islands countries including Tonga. The post tsunami technical assessments by scientific and technical agencies have helped document these impacts.

Tsunami warnings in the Pacific are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center with the intention that technical agencies responsible further evaluate them for the country. Most

countries have limited capacity to run tsunami models to determine at risk areas, and recent progress is been made through the support of technical agencies from Australia and New Zealand. In 2009, national assessments of the ability of Pacific Island Countries to receive, issue and respond to tsunami warnings was carried out. This included deep sea tsunami modelling to ascertain tsunami wave heights along the coast from potential regional and distant sources, providing the groundwork for tsunami inundation models.

The availability of high resolution nearshore bathymetry and topography have made it possible to develop tsunami inundation models for Tonga. These will be used to produce tsunanmi innundations maps to guide response efforts and development on Tongatapu. A similar in Samoa will help develop tsunami evacuation maps for a number of coastal communities.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Tsunami Warning Capacity Assessments in Pacific island countries: the Bureau of Meteorology, AusAID, Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD), SPC/SOPAC.
- Capacity-building for Tsunami Risk Assessment in the South West Pacific – Phase 3 in Tonga: Geoscience Australia, SPC/SOPAC, Government of Tonga

(9) The Pacific regional policy and institutional framework for DRM is robust and can look back to a long history: The Pacific Disaster Managers Meeting has a long tradition dating back to the early 1990ies and has been meeting regularly ever since. The Pacific region was also the first to adapt the Hyogo Framework for Action by endorsing the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. Since its inception, SOPAC in close collaboration with members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (Partnership Network) have supported national adaptations of the global/regional policy guidance through the development and implementation of DRM NAPs for Pacific island countries. In 2006, the Pacific DRM Partnership Network was established to assist PIC implement the global, regional and national DRM frameworks, plans and priorities. The most recent instrument introduced to the region is the Pacific Platform for DRM, established in 2008 to harmonize existing regional mechanisms for DRM. The Regional Platform serves as the link between Pacific Island Countries and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the ISDR system and is the main policy setting mechanism for DRM in the Pacific. Advances have also been made in the humanitarian sector with the establishment of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) in July 2008 to support Pacific Island governments in providing timely, consistent and coordinated disaster response. The PHT is made up of all major disaster response stakeholders[1], whose members are grouped into seven response

[1] INGOs, regional organizations, UN Agencies, ICRC, IFRC, donors

sectors or "clusters".[2] Since its inception three years ago, the PHT has been involved in more than 15 emergencies in 8 countries.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Pacific Platform for DRM: SPC/SOPAC, UNISDR.
- Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT): UNOCHA.

(10) DRM progress monitoring has taken root in the Pacific: As part of the biennial progress review process of the HFA and Pacific DRM Framework for Action, an increasing number of national DRM progress reviews are being carried out by PIC governments, i.e. in 2010/11 in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The majority of these countries have accepted regular monitoring of DRM as a key element of their activities, are those with NAPs for DRM requiring regular reporting and M&E. The reviews will assist countries to determine new DRM initiatives and importantly provide an opportunity to re-think existing governance arrangements for DRM. One such opportunity is the establishment of a national platform for DRM whereby a range of stakeholders form government, non-government and private sector have the opportunity to collaborate to enhance DRM investments at all levels within each country. A regional online monitoring tool to measure progress against the implementation of the Pacific DRM Framework for Action was developed by SOPAC and is currently undergoing improvements.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Biennial HFA Progress Review Process: PIC Governments, SPC/SOPAC, UNISDR.
- Mid-Term Review of the HFA and RFA: SPC/SOPAC, UNISDR.
- The RFA Online Monitor: SPC/SOPAC, UNISDR.

(11) A regional DRM information platform is firmly established: Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) - a web portal and database system – has evolved into the largest and most comprehensive information resource for DRM in the Pacific. It has been launched in 2008 and is the growing information resource for all Disaster Risk Management partners working in the Pacific region including government agencies, regional bodies, non-government organizations, and international agencies. It supports DRM and development decision making and provides in-country information for distribution within the region in a range of formats, including contacts, alerts, documents, calendar, audio / visual files etc..

Many features have been added during 2009 and 2010 in PDN such as Google maps / earth integration, Users can add documents and other information, a Wiki with details about PDN, Help, development and weekly updates about new documents etc. The PDN is available online (www.pacificdisaster.net), offline as DVD (without internet access) and as a mobile edition for handheld devices. The PDN Team is very consistent with research, content population and improvements of the portal. Currently PDN hosts more than 6500 documents, 1250 events (records with disaster details), 450 calendar records, 600 contacts and 27 videos. Collaboration and exchange with other online systems such as

[2] Early recovery, emergency education, health & nutrition, logistics, protection, shelter, and water-sanitation- hygiene (WASH)

PreventionWeb etc. is maintained. During events in 2009 and 2010, including the Samoa and Tonga Tsunami, TC Mick and TC Tomas in Fiji, PDN supported the information management and response with additional tools like the wiki. Other highlights for recent content include the complete Pacific Protection Toolkit, gender resources and some history documents. The Asia-Pacific DRR Project Portal – launched at the Pacific Platform for DRM in 2010 provides an easily accessible overview ongoing and planned initiatives in the region (current focus is regional level, with a view to be expanded to also cover national level).

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- The Pacific Disaster Net (PDN): SPC/SOPAC, IFRC, UNDP, UNISDR.
- The Asia-Pacific DRR Projects Portal: ADB, ADPC, ADRC, IFRC, SPC/SOPAC, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNISDR, UNOCHA, World Bank.

(12) Tertiary education in disaster risk management is making major strides in the Pacific: The University of the South Pacific launched a new Post Graduate Diploma Program in Climate Change in 2009 and in 2010 a Masters program on Climate Change. First steps have been made by USP towards developing a new disaster management unit as part of this academic program. The courses under both programs are drawn from existing disciplines and incorporate DRM concepts that have already been developed for the Pacific region. SOPAC in collaboration with The Asia Foundation/USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is support the Fiji National University to develop two post graduate courses in Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Health respectively. The first module of the DRM course will be offered in Semester 2011.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Communities (CCARC) Project: Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development Project (PACE), Government of Fiji, AusAID.
- Collaboration on DRM at tertiary level: SOPAC, TAF/OFDA, Fiji School of Medicine.

(13) South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS is gaining new momentum: With the greatest concentration of small island states worldwide, both the Pacific and the Caribbean regions face common threats based on the similar geography and vulnerabilities of small islands, accelerating climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of related disasters, with the consequent damages and setbacks for human development. At the same time, SIDS countries and local communities have a range of capacities and practices for effective disaster prevention and management, as well as for coping with and adapting to climate change.

Exchanges between these two regions to address common climate change adaptation and disaster management issues have been sporadic, with interest

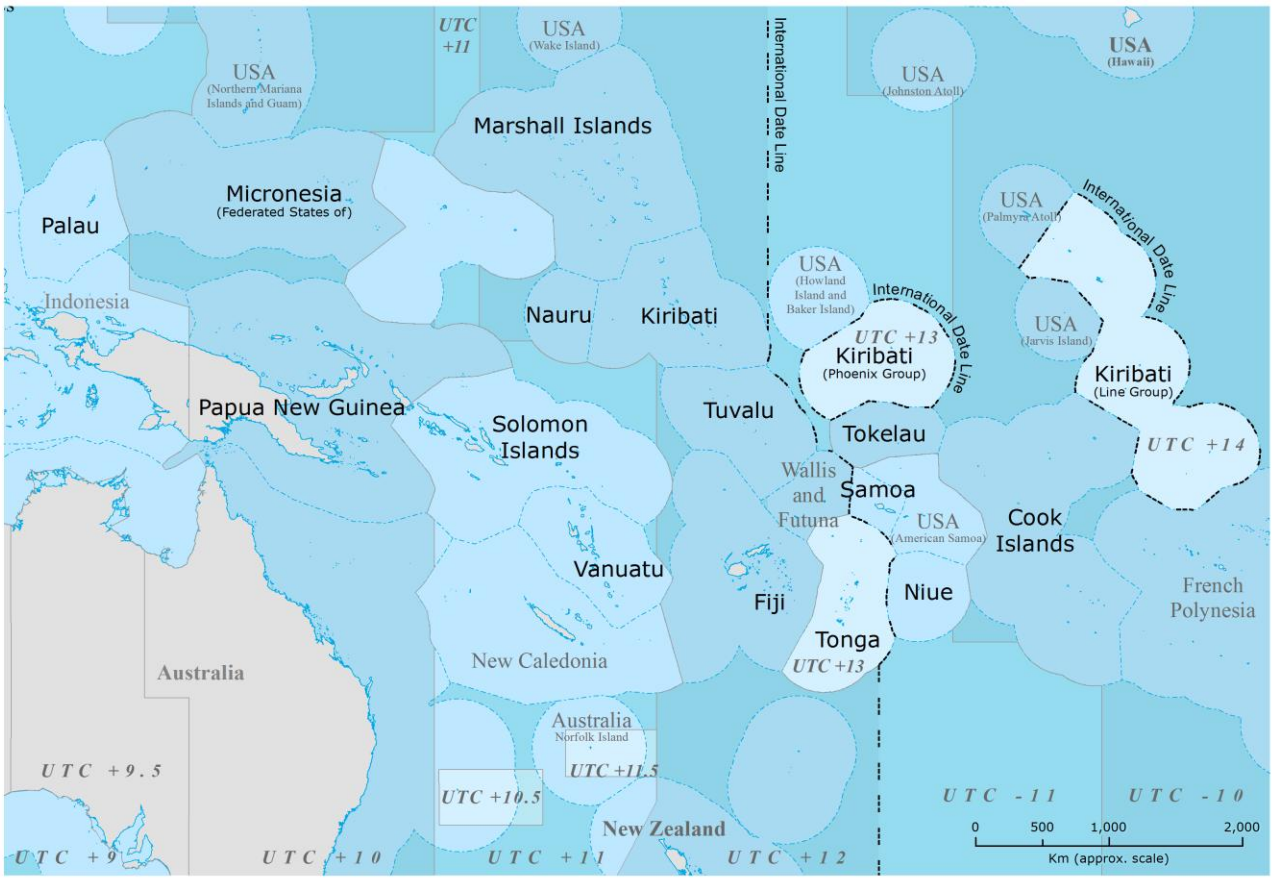
repeatedly expressed in various fora but insufficient follow-up to capitalize on the opportunities to identify and share southern solutions. This has now changed with a renewed commitment to south/south cooperation between the Pacific and the Caribbean that is based on the transfer of appropriate 'southern' expertise and technologies.

A selection of projects & initiatives:

- South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS in CCA and DRM: UNDP, JICA.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1: Map of Pacific Region



Annex 2: Key socio-economic development indicators

Table 1 GDP Summary

Country	Year	Currency	GDP Current	GDP Current per capita
Cook Islands	2008	NZD	289,329	13,648
Fed States of Micronesia	2008	USD	253,500	2,347
Fiji Islands	2008	FJD	4,861,300	5,808
French Polynesia	2006	XPF	536,334,000	2,100,000
Guam	2005	USD	3,700,000	22,661
Kiribati	2008	AUD	159,668	1,629
Marshall Islands	2008	USD	166,017	3,130
Nauru	2007	AUD	26,897	3,064
New Caledonia	2008	XPF	728,500,000	2,953,000
Niue	2006	NZD	20,541	12,158

N Mariana Islands	2007	USD	962,000	
Palau	2007	USD	167,029	8,268
Papua New Guinea	2006	PGK	16,896,500	
Pitcairn Islands				
Country	**Year**	**Currency**	**GDP Current**	**GDP Current per capita**
Samoa	2009	WST	1,429,500	7,802
Solomon Islands	2009	SBD	4,549,600	8,439
Tokelau				
Tonga	2009	TOP	648,600	6,306
Tuvalu	2002	AUD	27,490	2,872
Vanuatu	2007	VUV	51,980,000	227,206
Wallis and Futuna	2005	CFP	18,000,000	1,184,000
Source: http://www.spc.int/prism				

Table 2: Population at last census

Country	Year of Last Census	Population at Last Census	Land Area
Fiji Islands	2007	837,271	18,273
New Caledonia	2009	245,580	18,576
Papua New Guinea	2000	5,190,786	462,840
Solomon Islands	1999	409,042	30,407
Vanuatu	2009	234,023	12,281
Fed States of Micronesia	2000	107,008	701
Guam	2000	154,805	541
Kiribati	2005	92,533	811
Marshall Islands	1999	50,840	181
Nauru	2006	9,233	21
N Mariana Islands	2000	69,221	457
Palau	2005	19,907	444
American Samoa	2000	57,291	199
Cook Islands	2006	15,324	237
French Polynesia	2007	259,706	3,521
Niue	2006	1,625	259
Pitcairn Islands	2007	66	5
Samoa	2006	180,741	2,935
Tokelau	2006	1,151	12
Tonga	2006	101,991	650
Tuvalu	2002	9,561	26
Wallis and Futuna	2008	13,445	142

Source: http://www.spc.int/prism