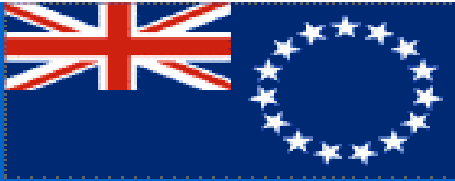


Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – 2nd Session, Geneva, Switzerland

Special Event:

Big Ocean, Small Islands – Addressing Disaster Risk in the Pacific



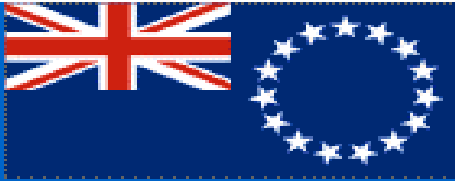


Bridging the Gap – Integrating DRR & CCA in the Cook Islands



***Presented by:
Charles Carlson, Director
Emergency Management Cook Islands
Office of the Prime Minister***





Outline

The Face of Climate Change in the Pacific and in the Cook Islands

The Regional and National Policy Context

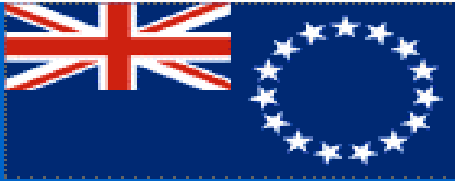
- **Challenges**
- **Case Study:**

Aitutaki Adaptation Programme *- Lessons Learned* *- Recommendation*



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

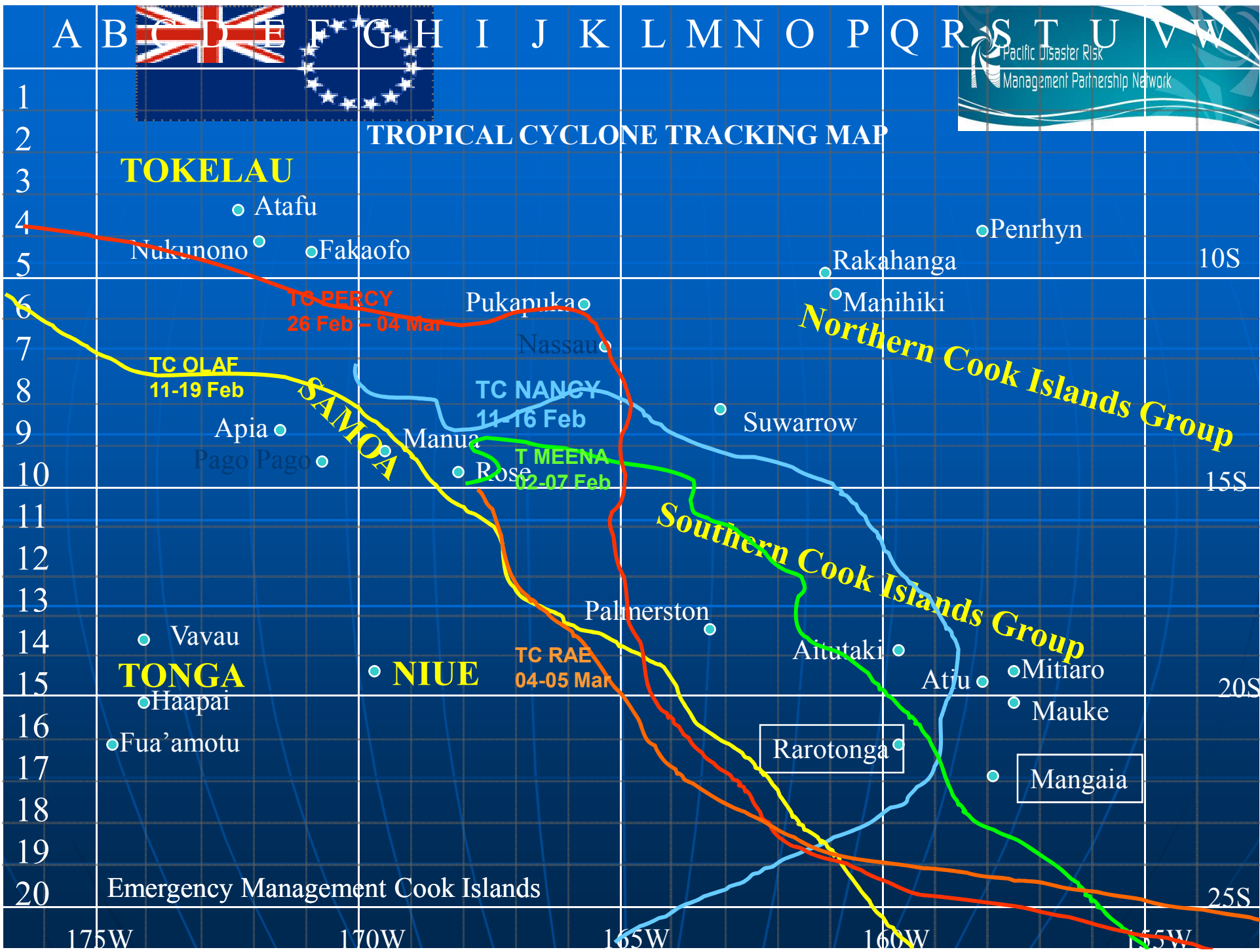
2nd Session, Geneva, Switzerland

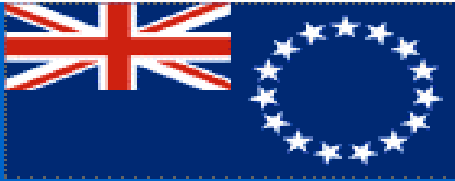


The Face of Climate Change – the Pacific and the Cook Islands

Environmental Impacts:

- Sea-level rise
- Limited fresh water resources
- Increased sea surface temperature leading to increased intensity and frequency of tropical cyclones
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Damages to coral reefs and other coastal systems

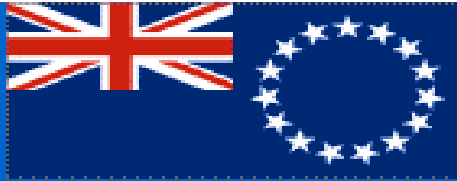




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Economic Impacts:

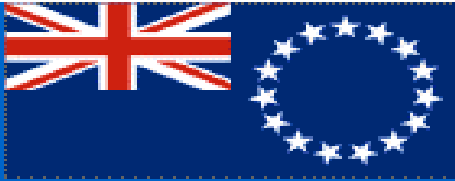
- High costs of adaptation relative to GDP
- Decline in tourism and associated industries
- High import dependencies



...continue

Social Impacts:

- Impacts on human and food security
- Real threat of displacement/relocation and migration
- Cultural dilution and a loss of traditional knowledge and practices



Regional Policy context



The Pacific Regional DRM Framework (2005-2015)

Vision: Safer, more resilient Pacific Islands and Communities to disasters, so the Pacific peoples may achieve sustainable livelihoods and lead free and worthwhile lives

Themes:

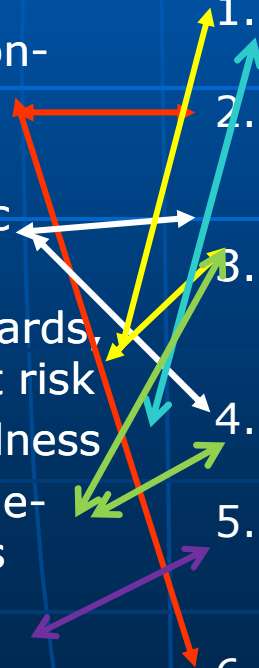
1. Governance – organizational, institutional, policy and decision-making frameworks, DRM & Climate Change Frameworks
2. Knowledge, information, public awareness and education
3. Analysis and evaluation of hazards, vulnerabilities and elements at risk
4. Planning for effective preparedness
5. Effective, integrated and people-focused early warning systems
6. Reduction and underlying risk factors

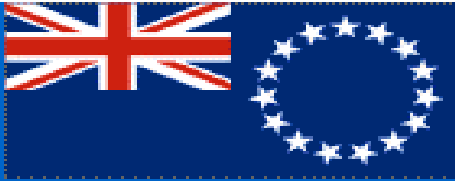
Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006-2015)

Vision: Pacific island people, their livelihoods and the environment resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change

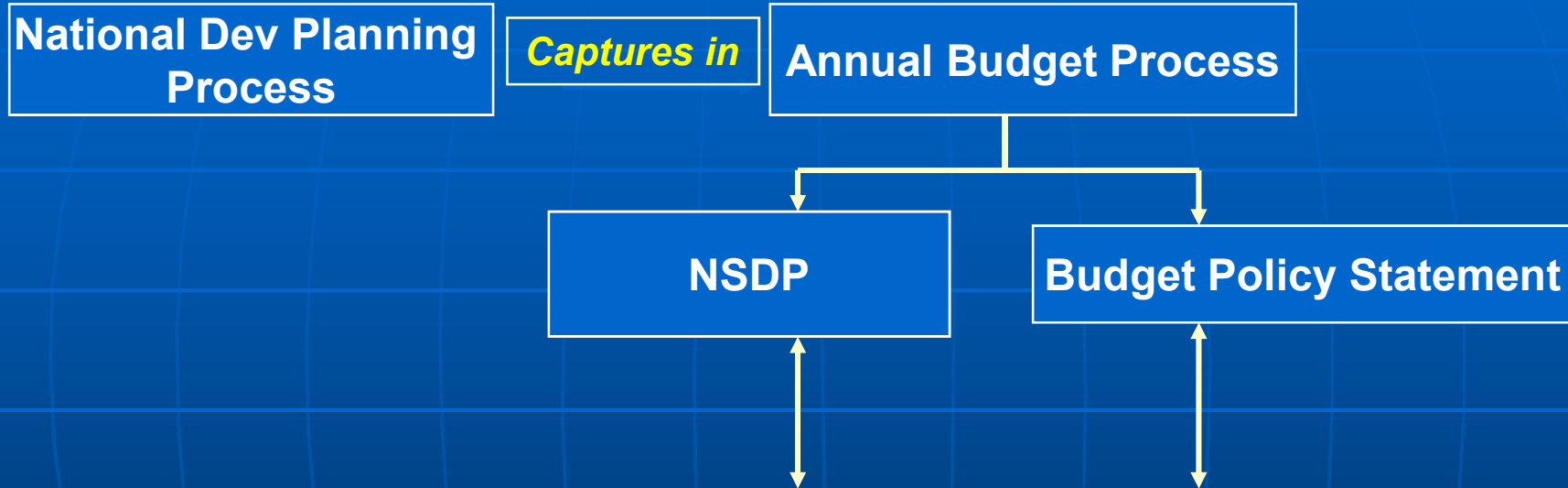
Principles:

1. Implementing adaptation measures
2. Governance and decision-making
3. Improving our understanding of climate change
4. Education, Training and Awareness
5. Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction
6. Partnerships and Cooperation

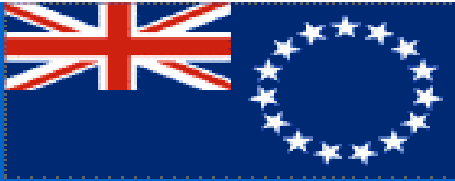




The National Policy Context



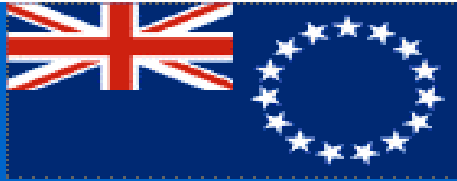
DRM Policy (2005), DRM Act (2007), National DRM Arrangements (2009), National Action Plan (2009 -2015), National DRM Council, National Climate Change Strategy etc..



Challenges

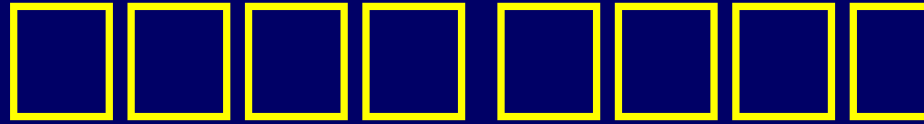
Although there are comprehensive regional and national policy frameworks the following remaining challenges constraint effective coordination of DRR and CCA both at the regional level and in Cook Islands:

1. Regional agencies responsible for DRR and CCA needs to be driven by joint and coordinated programming approaches
2. Progress with strengthening enabling environment for DRR and CCA, but still comparatively weak institutional frameworks in place for co-ordinated DRR and climate change adaptation actions at the national and community levels.
3. The national Sustainable Development Strategy of the Cooks Islands includes a DRM goal, CCA and DRR but not yet incorporated into economic and social planning instruments, budgeting and decision making
4. Limited capacity to address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation especially in view of parallel tracks for DRR and CCA
5. Delivery of services and capacity building at the community level where needs are greatest are hampered especially in the case of outer and remote islands



Case Study: Cook Islands – Aitutaki Adaptation

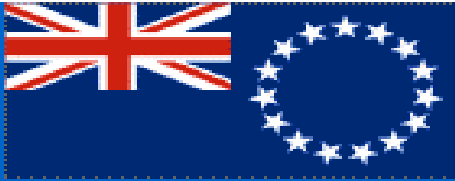
1. Aitutaki community is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
2. The project started in 2002-2005 and it is ongoing with partners support
3. The Canadian International Development Agency project applied the community vulnerability and adaptation assessment and action (CV&A) – a process of community consultation, prioritisation and actions
4. Project management: Inter-agency CCA committee with representatives of NGOs, civil societies and community groups



Community Vulnerability and assessment meetings

- Community Identification of the risk
- Prioritisation of risk
- Pilot project proposal





Aitutaki Adaptation Activities

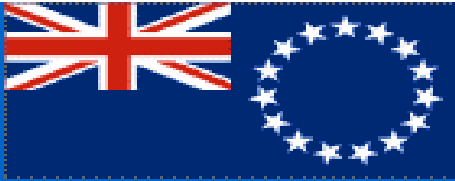
Adaptation options:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Mains leak reduction
- Hydroponics for agriculture when groundwater is saline
- Housing & Bank Loan Policy (all to have tanks)
- Desalinisation or other technology
- Education and awareness about water conservation



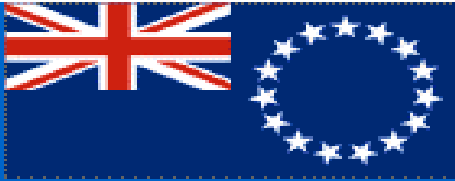


Final setup, gauge and bubbler pipe & orifice to monitor river flows and level



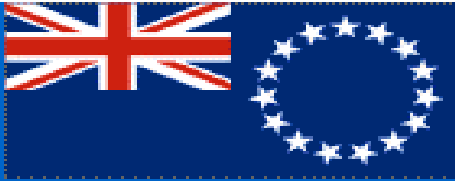
Lessons Learned from Aitutaki Adaptation Programme

1. Community identifying their own risks is a 'strong' indicator that community will commit to reducing those risks through implementation - community ownership
2. Expand climate adaptation programs to Outer Islands
3. Strengthen rainwater harvesting for the outer islands
4. Strong support of adaptation activities that have multi-benefits: -
 - organic agriculture (composting)
 - reforestation with traditional trees for watershed management provide habitat for wildlife and for traditional uses
5. Need for continuous community awareness programmes on climate change adaptation options



Recommendations - National

1. Need to strengthen linkages between technical, response and central planning agencies
2. Need to pursue mainstreaming of DRR/CCA into development sectors and strengthen capacities to work cross-sector and interdisciplinary
3. Need to improve forecasting and early warnings for cyclone and flood
4. Need to invest more into long-term capacity building programme to build required management, technical and scientific base for integrating DRR and CCA
5. Need to bridge the gap between local/community level and national level



Recommendations – Regional

1. Integrate regional support mechanisms for the implementation of DRR and CCA Frameworks. Opportunities for bilateral assistance to countries to address DRM and CCA.
2. Strengthen in-country capacity for hazard and risk assessments. There is a need for climate change projections at sub-national (State/Outer island and community level) for improved preparedness and response.
3. Strengthen monitoring and data collection capacity of hydrology and meteorological services to support climate variability, climate change scenarios and hazard and risk assessments.
4. Encourage DRR and CCA actors at regional and national level to work together in implementing DRM and CCA initiatives. (eg Pacific Platform and Climate Change Round Table)

An aerial photograph of a tropical atoll, showing a large central lagoon surrounded by a narrow strip of land. The water transitions from deep blue to light turquoise near the shore. The land is mostly green with some sandy areas. The text "Kia Orana" is overlaid in yellow in the center of the lagoon.

Kia Orana