Responses on Guiding Questions for Roadmap

TONGA

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Based on Assessing the Responses to the

 (a) Questionnaire on the HFA Review

(b) One-on-one interviews of key stakeholders and

(c) The 2011-2013 HFA Review report.

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**SUMMARY**

**1.0 Current Level of CC and DRM Awareness and Understanding**

* Awareness and understanding is widespread; in the outer islands there is comprehensive understanding and awareness through related increased occurrences of inclement weather, coastal inundation, cyclones and tsunamis.
* Awareness and understanding of DRM, CCA and JNAP management enhanced in presentations on the respective institutional arrangements in the National Workshops.
* The RFA is not widely known with many having not heard of it. Activities under the 6 Thematic Activities are happening but are being perceived in isolation from the RFA.
* CSOs and academia fare better in understanding PIFACC, some are implementing NAPA Projects in the context of the PIFACC.

**2.0 Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities**

* There are a number of activities underpinning key successes and achievements
	+ The National Disaster Awareness week always receives wide publicity and support from both government, schools, communities and non-government agencies.
	+ The frequencies of disaster occurrences are a prime mover urging the public to better understanding of DRM processes.
	+ The government driven whole of country approach to contingency and recovery operations is enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement and effective management of disaster events
	+ The increasing public reporting of impacts of extreme weather and sea level rises is sensitising the public to climate change issues.
	+ The incorporation of DRM and CC into school curriculum helps outreach into the communities.
	+ The establishment and successful achievements of JNAP is the model of best practice.
	+ The wide range of support from donors, IGOs, financial and technical institutions in capacity building, institutional strengthening, training and project funding and management.
	+ The national policies relating to sustainable development, environmental preservation and eco-system AND the CSOs hard work at the community level to improve resilience.
* The major challenges for Tonga
	+ Staff shortage in NEMO is the critical weakness as CSOs have strengthened their capacities.
	+ DRM capacity building at technical and island levels including proactive information dissemination.
	+ With projections of increasing severity of cyclones and of more climate extremes, the role of NEMO as the Disaster Management Office needs to be continually fortified.
	+ More training on cross-cutting issues and how they factor in DRM are needed as there is need to strengthen understanding of the issues.
	+ A lot of awareness activities are happening without a coherent countrywide awareness campaign strategy
	+ Partnership with the academia should be strengthened in expanding CCA-DRM informal training services into the community.
	+ The fragility of Tonga’s island-ocean ecosystem and vulnerability to climate variabilities bring in the need to monitor changes and in-built monitoring with an early warning approach targeting slow setting environmental hazards and risks.
	+ A big challenge is in modifying multi-hazard risk assessment information to meet the special needs of the deaf and blind as they are key recipients of hazards and vulnerability information. Additionally hazard risk assessment should be a key performance indicator in reporting on major investment projects.
	+ Accessibility to information via proactive sharing and production of user friendly information brochures from scientific reports in custody of individual agencies
* Underlying Contributory Factors to the Challenges
	+ The small scale in national CCA DRM institutional and human resources capacity and experiences is a limit vis-à-vis the pressures on national capacities from the diversity of CCADRM domain, driven by external funding facilities for “useful projects”.
	+ Ministry of Infrastructure long practice of stand-in staff in support of NEMO staff shortage is helpful but has limitations when long practiced.
	+ The NEMO is perhaps taking on an assumed lead agency role with responsibility to entice Departments and agencies to incorporate DRR in Project planning. NEMO and National Planning need to review the lead agency role.
	+ Cross cutting issues need to be campaigned and tutored appropriately into DRR sector policies.
	+ CSOs are very proactive and have a national CSO forum but they have little inputs at national DRM platforms.
* Key Elements of Focus
	+ Regional Strategy to Award Application of scientific and technical information for disaster risk management.
		- There is a lot of scientifically researched reports on DRR available with SPC and SPREP but extent of application is little understood.
	+ Regional Centre of Excellence for CCADRM and Mitigation
		- To consolidate the regional approach to country specific applied researches in CCARM and mitigation.
		- To develop a core of PICs researchers on CCADRM
	+ Strengthen JNAP outreach and decentralisation approach to island administration complete with Island Activity and Work Plan Matrix
	+ Strengthen Institutional capacities and networks on scientific hazard risk assessment, establish and upgrade disaster losses databases of key agencies
	+ Develop minimum standards and guidelines on acceptable methodologies of DRR assessment inclusive of cost benefit analysis.
	+ Mainstreaming gender, poverty and human rights issues in DRM Policies and Work Programmes
	+ DRR is structured in capital project planning and reporting systems and that DRR Cost-Benefit analysis is incorporated in project designs.
	+ Develop CCADRM training strategies to include considerations for right skilling staff at National, Island and District levels to be CCADRM Training Instructors.
* Top Three Element to be addressed in the Post 2015 Regional Strategy
	+ Development of Sectoral Policies in CCADRM with focus on reducing underlying risk factors
	+ Development and Funding Support of Country Wide Awareness Campaign Strategy.
	+ Funding and technical support for JNAP underpinned with secretarial roles, strengthening networking, technical upgrading and skilling of human resources for Institutional Strengthening

**3.0 Disaster / Climate and Development**

* Understanding of Disaster and Development
* Disaster risk considerations are being integrated into sustainable development planning as per focus of Goal 7 of Tonga’s Strategic Development Framework 2011-2014 “Cultural Awareness, environmental sustainability, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, integrated into all planning and implementation of programs, by establishing and adhering to appropriate procedures and consultation mechanisms.”
* Strengthening of DRM-CCA policy analysis and implementation capacities at sector level is being monitored by Ministry of Finance and National Planning eg Legislation for Tonga Met being developed.
* Sector policies, strategies and work plans are well formulated and achievements reflected across the nation in development of agency disaster risk management plans as now existing with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tonga Water Board, Ministry of Health, Disciplinary Forces in relation to the Civil Defence Policy, Strategy and Contingency Plans, Ministry of Land and Tonga Meteorological Services (Tonga Met).
* National goals are reflected in sector work plans
* sustainable use of the environment ensured and incentives created for limiting the use of resources and production of waste
* disaster risk management appropriately adapted to Climate Change
* social and micro-financing safety nets assimilated successfully and value adding to cultural tradition.
* Improved preventive health care programs are efficiently and effectively encouraging healthy lifestyles, including consumption of appropriate foods and increased exercise, so as to decrease the incidence of non-communicable diseases
* DRR considerations strengthened in sub-divisional development planning including regulatory building code compliance with designs of built structures.
* safe provisions and maintenance of lifeline services and infrastructures ensured e.g. water, power and telecommunication.
* Improved good governance for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management (mainstreaming, decision making, organizational and institutional policy frameworks).

**4. Accountability and Governance**.

* + NEMO, Ministry of Infrastructure is the lead agency responsible for RFA implementation as Secretariat to the National Emergency Management Committee (NEMC). For climate change the lead agency is the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and is the Secretariat to the National Environment and Climate Change Committee (NECCC)
	+ The JNAP arrangement has a Task Force that coordinates JNAP implementation and reports to the Joint Meeting of NECCC and NEMC and to Cabinet.
	+ Jurisdiction for monitoring the alignment of sector plans with CCADRM priorities is the mandate of the JNAP Secretariat and ultimately to align with Tonga’s Strategic Development Framework.
	+ There is a DM liaison officer in each Ministry; and Disaster Management Committees at Island, District and Village levels maybe formed.
	+ A DRM institutional design weakness is the absence of coherent DRR roles for the National Planning and for the key Administrators at Island and District Levels who are the drivers for bottoms up planning and for monitoring Government programme implementations.
	+ The multi-sector members of the national CCADRM platforms and sub-national committees allows for good governance.

**5. Linking DRM and Climate Change**

* + Safe land use and farming systems practices embedded in agricultural practices with support of Village Agriculture Committees.
		- Agriculture continues strengthening good land use practices incorporating successful traditional farming systems;
		- Resources management is a new tuition in ecosystem management for communities eg integrated water resource management systems, terrestrial and marine management areas; planting of coastal vegetations; and environmentally friendly waste management systems.
* EIA regulation ensures assessment of disaster and climate risks on all new developments including urban developments.
	+ - Researched information provides threshold data for Design Floor Levels against storm surges, tsunamis and flood levels.
* the Ministry of Education ensures buildings meet Building Codes standards. Health regularly conducts building audits and retrofit accordingly, whereas new buildings meet Building Code standards.