Responses on Guiding Questions for Roadmap

FIJI

1. Kaloumaira – UNISDR Consultant, Fiji HFA Review

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**

* Not very comprehensive understanding though there is awareness through related increased occurrences of inclement weather, coastal inundation and erosion.
* Awareness and understanding of Fiji’s management of DRM and CCA 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. The absence of sector DRM policy is a contributing factor.
* 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 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.
  + 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 Fiji
  + The challenge for Fiji is to develop a coherent approach, as the JNAP of Tonga, to harmonise its CCADRM priorities with donor funding facilities.
  + With projections of increasing severity of cyclones and of more climate extremes, the role of NDMO 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 Fiji’s island-ocean ecosystem and vulnerability to climate variabilities bring in the need to monitor changes and in-built with an early warning approach for 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.
* 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”.
  + Inability to retain senior DRM staff within NDMO due to side transfer is a constraint
  + The NDMO is perhaps taking on an assumed lead agency role with responsibility to entice Departments and agencies to incorporate DRR in Project planning. NDMO 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 but their obligation to inform or partner government in activities around the nation should be improved through better coordination of programmes including transparent disclosures on usage of donated funds.
* 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
  + Establish JNAP, its management structure complete with 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 Divisional, Provincial and District levels to be DRM 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.
  + Budget support for networking, technical upgrading and skilling of human resources for Institutional Strengthening

**3.0 Disaster / Climate and Development**

* Understanding of Disaster and Development
  + This has heightened as national commitment to Disaster/Climate and Development is mapped out in the Roadmap for Change and adapted into ministerial policy and plans through the Integrated Rural Development Framework which has special targets on the most vulnerable population in the rural sector. Policy statements and strategies incorporating CCADRR burgeoned in the intervening two years; these governed the housing sector, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the relocation of informal settlements, a watch on child labour, bio-security authority in Fiji, marine pollution, and poverty reduction measures. Implementation practices were driven through Poverty and Monitoring Unit under the Prime Minister’s Office, the AusAID funded review of the Building Code by the Fiji Institute of Engineers, NBSAP, REDD+. Major cyclone and flood events in 2009 through to 2012 helped keep the focus on strengthening DRR in development planning.

SOPAC with assistance of Red Cross and key government departments conducted economic analysis of flood damages costs but this can still be of more use in development planning when mitigation and benefit options are incorporated to fulfil cost benefit analysis.

At the community level NGOs are very active around the country undertaking VCAs; partnerships of government-ngos-community have grown significantly with activities in bio-diversity, food security, micro-financing and a myriad of livelihood programmes. JICA successfully started implementation of the Community Flood Early Warning and Response Plan for Ba. Government has piloted a community integrated water resources management approach for Nadi River catchment to mitigate flood and land-misuse disasters.

* + Recent floods have affected the West –North regions of the two main islands which are the sugar-cane producing areas of Fiji. As well as direct crop damages all associated support services, commercial sector, and agriculture sector were the economic productive sectors most affected. Damages to the environment, health sector and education sector were the service sectors most affected.
  + The Water Sector has long supported integrated development of water sources which is mitigating water safety and security needs. Agriculture has mitigation plans like drainage and the supply of planting materials of short term quick return crops. FEA has installed pine posts to replace concrete post’

**4. Accountability and Governance**.

* + NDMO, Ministry of Provincial Development and Disaster Management is the lead agency responsible for RFA implementation and for climate change the lead agency is the Climate Change Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The NDMO is the Secretariat of the National Disaster Management Council whilst the CC Unit shift to MOFA is a new move.
  + Jurisdiction for monitoring the alignment of sector plans with the Roadmap rests with the National Planning Office whilst sector priorities and mainstreaming of DRM rests within each Ministry.
  + There is a DM liaison officer in each Ministry; and Disaster Management Committees at Divisional and District Levels maybe formed. The National Disaster Management Council has not been meeting regularly.
  + The Climate Change Policy and Strategy is a new initiative managed by the National Climate Change Country Team, and is now in place for implementation.
  + A DRM institutional design weakness is the absence of coherent DRR roles for the National Planning and for the key Administrators at Provincial and District Levels who are the drivers for bottoms up planning and for monitoring Government programme implementations.
  + The multi-sector members of the national Council and sub-national committees allows for good governance. However the NDM Act and the NDMP are over 10years old.
  + Stringent reporting requirement to National Planning on incorporation of DRR considerations in sector plans as per the Roadmap.

**5. Linking DRM and Climate Change**

* + Dialogue to continue on establishing a JNAP for Fiji
  + Land use policy and maps produced for Fiji
    - Agriculture continues strengthening good land use practices;
    - Some good practices are the tuition of communities in ecosystem management eg integrated water resource management systems, terrestrial and marine management areas; the provision of mangrove reserve strip on coastal development; and to reduce erosion with provision of natural vegetative reserve along the river banks; the payment for ecosystem reserves; 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.
* Most schools are committee school and must have permits to build new buildings, where 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.