



Climate Change & Development (CCD) Community, of the Pacific Solution Exchange

Consolidated Reply

For Comments: Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

Compiled by [Setaita Tavanabola](#), Research Assistant

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From **Cristina Casella**, on behalf of the Secretariat of the SRDP Technical Working Group, Suva, Fiji

Posted 10 February 2014

Dear Members,

You will be aware of the Pacific taking a leading role globally in the approach to integrate Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into a united effort, focussed on building resilient development.

First step is to develop an integrated strategy. The draft *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific* (SRDP) builds on the two current regional policy frameworks it aims to replace, namely the *Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action* (2005 – 2015) (RFA) and the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change* (2006 – 2015) (PIFACC). Both expire in 2015.

The draft strategy has now been released following extensive and ongoing stakeholder engagement at both national and regional levels conducted by a Technical Working Group (TWG^[1]) in charge of supporting the process (more details online: www.pacificdisaster.net:8080/Plone/roadmap). This effort has been carried out under the overarching guidance of a Steering Committee comprising Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) members from various regional meetings as well as civil society and the private sector.

We would like your involvement in this collective effort of developing an integrated strategy. We have great privilege in inviting you to provide your online feedback and personal insights on the draft of the new *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific* (SRDP). There are two ways you can provide your feedback:

^[1] The multi-stakeholder TWG comprises: Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Firstly, use this link to the 'Online Feedback Tool' to directly provide your feedback to the draft SRDP document: www.pacificdisaster.net/srdp (you can choose to read the document in its entirety or just the sections that relate to your CC, DRM or development expertise).

Secondly, we ask PSE members to reply-email (ccd-pc@solutionexchange-un.net) with your key comments and overall insights on:

(a) Content of this draft strategy, and

(b) What are the key elements to make the Strategy relevant and successful?

The *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development* (SRDP) is intended to provide guidance to PICTs, on how they might enhance their efforts to become more resilient to disasters and climate change, and guidance to regional and international partners on how best to assist PICTs in these efforts. Hence, the Strategy has direct relevance to country stakeholders, regional organisations, development partners, communities, donors and all people involved in building resilience in the Pacific.

Responses were received, with thanks, from

1. [Dr. Mahendra Kumar](#), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Fiji Government, Suva, Fiji
2. [Tukatara Tangi](#), Australian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, Suva, Fiji
3. [Setareki Macanawai](#), Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji
4. [Sharon Bhagwan Rolls](#), FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji
5. [Jiuta Korovulavula](#), Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, Suva, Fiji
6. [Dr. Wulf Killmann](#), German Technical Corporation (GIZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Suva, Fiji
7. [Anna Gero](#), Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
8. [Marc Overmars](#), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Pacific, Suva, Fiji
9. [Thierry Catteau](#), Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Environment & Energy Section, European Commission, Suva, Fiji
10. [Stephanie Hodge](#), Education Unit, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York, USA
11. [Safaira Tagivuni](#), Grace Trifam Ministry, Suva, Fiji
12. [Solomone Fifita](#), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji
13. [Chris Manu](#), USAID/Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
14. [Isikeli Mataitoga](#), Embassy of Fiji, Tokyo, Japan
15. [Elise Remling](#), Climate Change Research, Suva, Fiji
16. [Malcolm Dalesa](#), Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department, Port Vila, Vanuatu
17. [Dr. Johanna Mustelin](#), Griffith University, Queensland, Australia
18. [Dr. Isiye Ndombi](#), UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

Further contributions are welcome!

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Summary of Responses

The Pacific is taking a leading role globally in the approach to integrate Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management into a united effort focused on building resilient development. The draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) aims to replace the two current regional frameworks – the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (2005 – 2015) and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006 – 2015).

The discussion posed by the Secretariat of the SRDP Technical Working Group sought members' feedback and personal insights on the content of the draft strategy and key elements to make it relevant and successful.

Overall, members commended the great work put in to the draft. It is very well informed and structured. The formatting and use of sub-headings is helpful as readers navigate through the document. They felt however, the language should be more plain and simple so everyone from Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) practitioners to community representatives and elders can understand and relate to the strategy.

Members offered a number of suggestions to enhance the content of the draft strategy. Two that was repetitive was the need to highlight the community/local level and where they fit within references to subnational, national and regional level and ensuring planning and design of development outcomes are inclusive; if the term subnational includes community/local level it is quite vague. Second, the need to balance the content between CC and DRM as there are less climate change content and more of disaster risk management.

The SRDP is the result of both CC and DRM discussions in the region and is based on the 'lesson learned'. Members felt the need to highlight in detail the main emerging lessons as this would benefit stakeholders that have not necessarily been involved with the high level strategic discussion but will be the ones to implement and use the strategy.

For the Funding section, they view the draft SRDP clarify future strategies to ensure two pools of funding, the DRR and CC, are retained into a large pool and not halved into smaller pools. The funding implications may warrant serious considerations for example, reconfiguring the existing funding windows.

A member argued the need to change the use of the term 'persons with disabilities' as per the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The draft strategy needs to explain clearly the 'marginalized and vulnerable groups' and clarify the term 'people with special needs'. Suggestion to use the words 'inclusive' and 'accessible' where appropriate especially where it talks about 'lack of available and accessible support', the member pointed out that support is available but not accessible for people with disabilities.

Few members emphasized that women's role should not be limited to 'vulnerable groups' as it counters the whole idea of including women in decision making roles and as leaders and agents of change. Others noted, the existing text makes little reference to gender differentiated impacts and humanitarian consequences of climate change.

There are suggestions to include a statement about 'equality' perhaps as part of the Guiding Principles instead of reiterating it throughout the draft i.e. equal representation regardless of age,

gender, disability and sexual orientation. It could be crosscutting to ensure there is equal representation by women, the disabled and other marginalized group.

A member opined the need to clearly include capacity strengthening, training, education and its role for resilience in the draft SRDP. From experience, many have taken learning and systematic learning approach for granted when in fact they are the glue that tie strategies to a systematic learning approach that also reach the individual level.

Many of the members stressed the need to have more citations to specific facts and data to lend it credibility and provide it date context in case data becomes outdated over the lifecycle of the strategy that is to exist for several years. A glossary to ensure consistent terminologies could be considered as it can also cite where each definition is sourced from as different source documents for DRM and CC often define terms differently.

While exploring key elements that would make the SRDP relevant and successful, members agree that any new regional strategy is only as good as the ownership it can generate during its consultation process. One way is for the draft strategy to focus only on aspects and approaches that are best undertaken at regional level and would add value to nationally-led and community-led consultations and planning processes.

What the consultation process will hopefully demonstrate is where the integration can assist the mainstreaming of risk resilience into existing processes such as island development plans, provincial and urban planning, infrastructure investments, water resources management etc. Whole-of-island or whole-of-government approaches may be considered but these should not raise expectations that everything can be solved under just one plan or just one or two entities that 'control' these processes.

In communicating the strategy, a member pointed out the need to explain further the communications objectives and how communications will be used to encourage buy-in and implementation of the strategy. From experience the member explained that it cannot be about promotional tool or a series of press releases or an afterthought, the communications strategy must be linked to the changes in practice and enhancing community responses.

Members agree the SRDP be a living document and a review mechanism should be included to ensure it does not become obsolete half way through its life avoiding the pitfall of so many previous strategies.

They emphasized on evaluation indicators that are measurable with clarification about who will be responsible for evaluations and to have regular reporting, as much as it is good to have these strategies, it is better if it is making a difference in the communities. Regular progress reports on these regional frameworks and strategies ought to be regularly produced with a focus more on impacts and outcomes rather than outputs.

An Implementation Plan is recommended by members to support the strategy, 1 to 2 pages of specific actions and indicators are sufficient.

Members propose an overview of the consultation process in which this document has been developed to be included in the final SRDP given its commendable approach in inclusive feedback and consultation.

In conclusion, members note that any strategy sounds good in theory, it makes sense in principle however, a lot of work needs to be done before it can be operationalised in terms of policy, support and ensuring there is financial support. The inclusiveness and integration of the consultation process for the new strategy so far has been unique. With the ownership of the new strategy expanded beyond environment and disaster management it will provide the best

possible guidance and support perhaps not only for climate and disaster risk but also for overall development.

Comparative Experiences

Pacific Region

Risk Reduction should not be Ad hoc (from [Tukatara Tangi](#), Australian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, Suva Office, Fiji)

The focus on partnerships for development and resilience is well supported and they should mainstream risk reliance across programs. Linked to these are the 'common thread' of socio-economic facts in relation to development and resilience. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community new Corporate Plan lists risk resilience as a mainstreamed issued across all programs showing a good way to address the need for more mainstreaming.

Confusing terminologies (from [Sharon Bhagwan Rolls](#), FEMlink Pacific, Suva, Fiji)

Women in communities impacted by flooding time and time again are confused about the use of climate change and disaster risk terminologies when being interviewed. In their view it is one in the same thing as it destroys their food security and livelihood. The merger of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management therefore may have little impact communities as they don't really notice the difference between the two terms.

From [Jiuta Korovulavula](#), Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, Suva, Fiji

Learning from the past

In the past most development initiatives fail to achieve its purpose mainly because it lacks critical advice from local knowledge and experience. The draft SRDP must illustrate where local structures are linked to national structures to ensure planning and design of development outcomes are inclusive.

Having a Common Resilience Framework

The current trend is that civil society Organisations and development partners work separately with specific target groups through a specific program approach. The draft SRDP must guide how various community interventions can coordinate at local level under a localized version of the draft strategy. It can coordinate local efforts and easily link community efforts to subnational, national and regional strategy.

Tested on the principle of subsidiarity (from [Marc Overmars](#), UNICEF, Suva, Fiji)

Just like for the Pacific Plan, the added value of the draft SRDP for Pacific Island Countries and Territories should be tested on the principle of subsidiarity i.e. the draft SRDP should focus on aspects and approaches that are best undertaken at regional level and would add value to nationally-led and community-led consultations and planning processes.

Related Resources

Recommended Documentation

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Corporate Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)
(from [Tukatara Tangi](#), Australian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, Suva Office, Fiji)

E-Book; Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia; 2013;

Available at: www.spc.int/images/publications/en/Corporate/corporate-plan.pdf (PDF; 1.35MB)

SPC is an international organisation that works to help Pacific people achieve their development goals by delivering technical, scientific, research, policy & training services.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol (from [Setareki S. Macanawai](#), Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji)

E-Book; United Nations;

Available at: www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf (PDF; 448KB)

It promotes, protects, ensures full equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities; promotes respect for their inherent dignity.

From [Jiuta Korovulavula](#), Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, Suva, Fiji

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

E-Book; United Nations;

Available at: www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/participation/CRC-C-GC-12.pdf (PDF; 159KB)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a unique provision in a human rights treaty; it addresses the legal and social status of children.

A Regional Framework for Action (2005 – 2015)

E-Book; Leaders at the Thirty-Sixth Pacific Islands Forum; Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji; October 2005;

Available at: www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/mr0613.pdf (PDF; 519KB)

It directly supports the development and implementation of policies and plans for the mitigation and management of natural disasters.

Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006 – 2015)

E-Book; Leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Apia, Samoa; 2005;

Available at: www.sprep.org/climate_change/pycc/documents/PIFACC.pdf (PDF; 4.09MB)

The Framework's goal is to ensure that Pacific Island peoples and communities build their capacity to be resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change.

Hyogo Framework for Action (2005 – 2015)

E-Book; International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Tokyo, Japan; 2005;

Available at: www.unisdr.org/files/1037_hyogoframeworkforactionenglish.pdf (PDF; 576KB)

The Framework addresses challenges posed by disasters, Yokohama Strategy's lessons learned and gaps identified; priorities for action; implementation and follow-up.

The Mauritius Strategy: A Programme of Action (2005 – 2015)

E-Book; combined effort of the Small Island Development States; 2005;

Available at: www.undppc.org/fj/resources/article/files/Mauritius_Strategy_Inserts.pdf (PDF; 340KB)

It covers the problems, needs and vision of Small Island Developing States whose leaders played an important and active role in its discussions and adoption.

Learning and Capacity Development Programmes for Resilience (from [Stephanie Hodge](#), Education Unit, UNICEF, New York, USA)

E-Paper; Stephanie Hodge; 2014; Available upon request;

Draft available at: www.solutionexchange-un.net/repository/pc/ccd/draftpaperbyshodge.pdf (PDF; 500KB)

It advocates for the integration of accelerated work on integrating risk based on compulsory multi-risk assessment in education systems planning etc.

Implementation Plan for Energy Security (2010 – 2020) (from [Solomone Fifita](#), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji)

E-Book; Secretariat of the Pacific Community; 2011;

Available at: www.spc.int/edd/en/download/finish/11-reports/360-energy-framework-final (PDF; 478KB)

It is designed to provide guidance to the Pacific to enhance their national efforts to achieve energy security and, in line with the principles of the Pacific Plan.

Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership

E-Book; Pacific Islands Forum; September 2013;

Available at: www.majurodeclaration.org/the_declaration (PDF; 592KB)

It declares all governments in the region are committed to demonstrating climate leadership and calls on all countries to list specific pledges to reduce pollution.

Recommended Organizations and Programmes

Women's Weather Watch Campaign, Suva, Fiji (from [Sharon Bhagwan Rolls](#), FEMlink Pacific, Suva, Fiji)

190 Rodwell Road, Suva; Tel: 331 0303; Email: info@femlinkpacific.org.fj; Web: www.femlinkpacific.org.fj / www.youtube.com/user/femLINKPacific;

A nonprofit community media organisation; empowers women, communities giving them a voice to participate in decision making for equality, development and peace.

From [Anna Gero](#), Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

SEA Change, Washington, USA

1828 L Street NW, Suite 300, Washington DC, USA; Email: info@pactworld.org; Web: www.seachangecop.org;

SEA Change CoP is a free online Community of Practice on monitoring and evaluation of climate change interventions in South-East Asia and beyond.

Institute of Development Studies, England

Library Road, Brighton BN1 9RE, United Kingdom; Email: ids@ids.ac.uk; Tel: +44 (0)1273 606261; Fax: +44 (0)1273 621202; Web: www.ids.ac.uk;

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a leading global charity for international development research, teaching and communications.

Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney, Australia

Level 11, UTS Building 10, 235 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007; Tel: + 61 2 9514 4950; Fax: + 61 2 9514 4941; Email: isf@uts.edu.au; Web: www.uts.edu.au;

It is a university research institute that creates change towards sustainable futures by conducting independent project based research for Australian and international clients.

Recommended Portals and Information Bases

Regional Frameworks and Strategies Directory, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Apia, Samoa (from [Solomone Fifita](#), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji)

Web: www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/regional-frameworks-and-strategies-director; Email: irc@sprep.org; Tel: +685 21929;

The Directory is a browsable directory of regional environment frameworks, strategies and action plans.

Recommended Tools and Technologies

FemLink Community Radio (from [Sharon Bhagwan Rolls](#), FEMlink Pacific, Suva, Fiji)

Communication technology; Femlink Pacific; 190 Rodwell Road, Suva;

Visit them at www.femlinkpacific.org.fj / www.youtube.com/user/femLINKPacific; Tel: 331 0303;

Email: info@femlinkpacific.org.fj

A nonprofit community media organisation; empowers women, communities giving them a voice to participate in decision making for equality, development and peace.

Responses in Full

Dr. Mahendra Kumar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Fiji Government, Suva, Fiji

Hello PSE team,

Thank you for posting the draft strategy on this public forum, so we may all comment on its contents to ensure it is truly 'developed' by the Pacific, and for the Pacific.

It is good to see the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) into one proposed strategy, as I think we have come a long way from treating climate change as a standalone environmental issue, there is recognition now that climate change is not just science or a technical issue, it is a development issue. Here in the Fiji Government our Climate Change Division already has the mindset that the two (DRR and CC) belong together, and so this strategy just reinforces existing beliefs and processes – it won't be a big change for the team.

The challenge is how to create a workable or implementable regional strategy from two separate strategies with which countries have had long experience. Integrating this on paper is the easy part, making them operational and effective is the challenge.

I have gone through the document in quite a bit of detail, and I think it does cover most of the key issues comprehensively and I do have a few specific comments about content starting with the need for more specific actions.

If one strategy replaces two then it becomes a 'joint mantra for the region', there has to be specific actions on how to implement this – and not just statements of generally what needs to occur. Of course, I know that in a broad regional strategy we can't be too specific but the real issues have to be addressed somehow.

Other comments:

The separation of the responsibilities for government and local partners and donors, regional organisations and nongovernment organisations seems like an innovative approach and should enable a more robust system of monitoring and evaluation.

We need to address also the integration of the responsibilities of the regional organisations, donors and development partners. I would have thought that the donors and development partners and regional organisations have distinct roles and responsibilities. Two related points emerge:

1. As long as donors provide separate funding windows for the two areas, and regional organisations/implementing agencies focus on the distinct streams, the national

structures will respond to these through their separate mechanisms. Who should go first? I think the integration should begin at this level.

2. The completed Results Based Management Framework (last pages of the draft strategy) will be important for a more holistic consideration of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP). I would be keen to see what baselines and indicators will be used as these would vary widely across countries.

Also to think about is funding and access to funding. Maybe in the funding sections we may need to clarify future strategies to ensure the two pools of funds (DRR and CC) are retained into a large pool, and not halved into smaller pools. The funding implications warrant serious considerations, would the existing funding windows for example the Global Environment Facility (GEF) etc. be reconfigured.

It would be good to see more about communities especially regional communities as key stakeholders in the document.

It would also be good to see more about CC. Our team perceives a slant in the document toward DRR and immediate responses and less so on CC. Perhaps we could use strategy to also focus more on long term climate change adaptation and resilience approaches, with more emphasis on long term actions.

In summary, I think the strategy sounds good in theory, it makes sense in principle, and in terms of integration we all can see the rationale for that, that's not our problem. Unfortunately at the end of the day sometimes technical arrangements and what makes sense gets overtaken by higher political decisions.

But when people look at the real implications, practical things on the ground, how it'll affect the delivery, how it'll affect the financing, how it'll affect the institutional arrangements and so forth and so on then they'll obviously have another look at it and say 'hey is this the best way forward?'. It may well be.

This Pacific Solution Exchange is a good forum for us in the Pacific to collectively look at this document and ask those questions.

What is clear is that there's a lot of work to be done before it can really be operationalized in terms of policy, support and making sure there is the budget for that as well.

[Tukatara Tangi](#), Australian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, Suva Office, Fiji

Hello,

As a donor it's good to see documents such as this draft 'Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific' go through such rigorous consultation, both in person and via online channels like Pacific Solution Exchange (PSE). I hope others in the Pacific will add their input via PSE.

Firstly it's good to see this draft is regional and incorporates all stakeholders, including donors, though I think it would be good to highlight 'community' more, and perhaps clarify where they fit within references to "subnational, national and regional". For example in the 'Background and Introduction' it says: "These actions will take place at sub-national, national and regional levels"

but does not mention community or if the term sub-national includes community, so it's a bit vague.

The focus on partnerships for development and resilience is well supported, as that's when you start to link it back to mainstreaming risk resilience. Linked to these are also the "common thread" of socio-economic facts in relation to development and resilience. Development partners should be mainstreaming risk resilience across programs, so risk reduction should not be ad-hoc but something mainstreamed across all sectors, for example the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) new Corporate Plan lists risk resilience as mainstreamed issue across all programs. That is a good way to address the need for more mainstreaming.

I think it would be good to see more plain language, so that everyone from Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) practitioners to community representatives and Elders can understand and relate to this document.

Also it would be good to have more citations to specific facts and data to lend credibility and it is useful in providing date-context, in case data becomes outdated over the lifecycle of the strategy that's to exist for several years. I noticed some sections were particularly data rich compared with the other sections. It would be good to have more data in some of the other sections, or at the least have a consistent amount through the document.

On a separate note, in priority actions we should split the grouping of "Donors, Development Partners and Regional Organisations" especially given priority actions differ between these bodies. Also bullet point three mentions "Base humanitarian actions on need along and not **political interest...**" and maybe that could be rephrased, as a number of factors influence donor investment including but not limited to addressing priorities or interests of beneficiaries and donors. Likewise, there are a number of vehicles through which to access donor investment for DRR and CCA (i.e. resilience) including Humanitarian action.

In this section it may be good to also consider adding an additional bullet point to highlight the importance of using existing, effective programs for risk reliance. Let's not try and create something new to address something when it would be easier to throw more resources into a program that is already working. For example, the section on 'Indicative Guidance to National and Local Government and Administration' does this, when it says: "Strengthen existing instruments and tools, such as land-use plans, vulnerability and risk maps, building codes and environmental impact assessment regulations, to ensure a high level of resilience to all hazards."

For me the dilemma with this strategy is that we are trying to do this for 2016 and the future, so we're trying to describe actions we have not already perceived, and years in advance, to create a document that stays relevant for many years. What is to say there is not a new type of technology that blows us away and we did not include that, because it was simply not conceptualized now at the time of writing?

Look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts on the draft strategy.

[Setareki S. Macanawai](#), Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji

Hello,

I am pleased to be invited to provide feedback for this strategy, and I feel the consultation process been very good over the past months inviting individuals and groups for input, and now this online forum that is open to everyone to provide their feedback on the strategy.

This has ensured the voice of persons with a disability are heard; [I am sure other marginalized and vulnerable groups can also benefit from taking advantage of this opportunity].

I have provided some direct feedback to the strategy author about some terminology they may like to consider changing, such as the use of the term "persons with disabilities" as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (especially Article 11 'Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies'); explaining more clearly 'marginalized or vulnerable groups' and who specifically are these groups (including indigenous people); clarify the term people with 'special needs'; and use the words "inclusive" or "accessible" where appropriate especially on page 17 that talks about "lack of available and accessible support".

Sometimes the support is available but not accessible for people with disabilities. For example, sometimes evacuation centers are available but they cannot enter because they are inaccessible, as they maybe on piles or high ground; making them more accessible to people with disabilities also makes them more accessible to the elderly and children.

Overall, I am very impressed with the draft strategy and consultation process.

I also support the integration of disaster risk management and climate change into one strategy, under the banner of 'resilient development in the Pacific'. This strategy's content and impact is very important to the disability sector, as in the past I think maybe Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was quite good at including disability and climate change less so, and hopefully through this strategy both will equally consider disability in their longer term approaches.

For us, both climate change and disasters affect us as people with disabilities. So we need to ensure that strategies like this, that become policy or guidance to governments and donors, include our issues so we're [subsequently] captured in planning, strategizing, funding, partnerships and all those things.

For us the danger is that, if we are not included in strategies or processes like this, then funding for disability or vulnerable groups can fall off the discussion tables. We need to be on the radar or involved in the process, and so it is good that we can do this for both DRR and Climate Change (CC) via one strategy and one process.

Sometimes our issues are not included because we are not present at the table. If we're not there and no party is there to raise our issues then we risk being excluded in the process. Over the last 3-4 years we have been participating a lot more in discussions, and not just being invited to discussions for the sake of making up the numbers but to contribute in a meaningful way.

"If we were not consulted or if we were not included it would make it very difficult to ensure disability issues are included or development initiatives become disability inclusive. As I said for disaster risk reduction we have been increasingly involved in some of those conversations and consultations, and now we feel we are improving our engagement with the climate change sector via this draft strategy process.

Being more involved has proven to help us be more involved in planning and enable improved access to funding.

A lot of funding has been poured into supporting both the areas of risk reduction and management and climate change at the moment. Now this strategy is unifying the two areas, probably there will be a demand for more funding. I'll qualify that with how funding is actually being used at the moment, and the effective and efficient use of available resources.

I think there is a responsibility of governments in the Pacific to demonstrate their commitment to funding and investing what we can, and thereafter having the support from international aid. I

think there is a responsibility of governments and International agencies to provide funding and also to be in compliance with the United Nations convention

Funding also needs to be more inclusive and a document like this will help achieve this across both disaster risk and climate change, and help us comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability.

Thank you for the chance to contribute my feedback and for the inclusion of persons with disabilities within this strategy, that I think makes a good first attempt to merge DRR and CC in the Pacific.

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, FEMlink Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Hello,

As the Executive Director of FemLINKPACIFIC, my comments are primarily around communications and gender, though I have sent some additional comments direct to the strategy authors.

Initially on reading the strategy I thought to myself - who is the target audience for the document? Many people seem to be part of the target audience but most important this should be about enhancing impact at local level and engaging with and addressing local level players especially communities, and local district / provincial level governments. More target audience focus on communities would be good. It's not just about the NDMO (National Disaster Management Office) but the local coordination and the capacity building at where the impact is felt the most – where the community is and so this document needs to highlight and target the 'go to' people.

Having said that the merger of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) into one strategy will have little impact on communities as they don't really see the difference, we just make it complicated! For example, I recently visited a cane farming community and we were talking about our Women's Weather Watch campaign. The women in these communities have been impacted by floods time and time again and can see the difference caused by the changes in climate because it affects their livelihood and food security. But in their interview even though they just wanted to talk about the issues of flooding they were getting confused about using the right terminology as they interchanged between reference to climate change and DRR.

In the "Communications and advocacy" section (p16) the focus is on communicating the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP), but what about the Communications Strategy' for 'disaster and climate resilient development in the Pacific'? Firstly, in communicating the SRDP, the strategy needs to provide more explanation about communications objectives and how communications will be used to encourage buy-in and implementation of the strategy. Secondly, there is a need to include more detail about the role of communications for DRR and CC 'priority actions'. For example, the strategy talks about priority actions for private sector, and perhaps communications strategies and tools should be included in that private sector section, i.e. collaboration with private sector and the use of Short Message Service (SMS) for disaster alerts. It is important SMS and use of communications technologies be addressed by the sector as it is not working well enough (especially the use of such technologies for disasters like the suitcase radio technology we are using. Perhaps the strategy could detail some of the specific tools i.e. phone, radio, as that will have implications for that resource mobilization.

This increased emphasis on communications and technology use for DRR and CC links back to my earlier point about communities, and the need to highlight them more in the strategy. It really cannot be about a promotional tool or a series of press releases or an after-thought – the

communications strategy must be linked to the changes in practice and enhancing community responses. It must be about the communities.

"Low lying communities are not getting information they can access and when they need to. It's only if there is high level emergency, but not day to day information that is useful to them, like tide times." "At that local level, that's where community radio comes in."

National broadcasters are increasingly commercial and provide less information about tides, weather, etc. so communities are increasingly relying on community radio for this daily information - and you don't need fancy equipment." During disasters less so, but still national broadcasters have a far less proactive role in getting information to the community; and forget print when it comes to disaster situations.

"There's a need for distinction [between] public media and then recognizing the role of community media"

Finally a comment on gender – I recommend that women's role in the strategy not be limited to "vulnerable groups". Limiting their role to vulnerable groups counters the whole concept of including women in decision making roles and as leaders and agents of change. "There's a growing commitment to see women in leadership and to recognize that – particularly at the local or community level. Women leaders in those communities are actually going to be the key partners, or should be the key partners for the implementation of this strategy." In fact the role of women needs to be more acknowledged, for example, when there's a cyclone, traditionally women at home do much of the preparing, and also women's local knowledge can contribute to resilience.

So I would also recommend that there is a statement about equality (perhaps as) part of the Guiding Principles – up the front of the strategy so then you don't need to keep reiterating it. That is about equality in representation regardless of age, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. It could be cross-cutting to ensure there is equal representation by women, the disabled and other marginalized group.

Jiuta Korovulavula, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, Suva, Fiji

Bula Vinaka,

I would like to thank those involved in the development of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) for their effort in developing the draft SRDP that is currently shared with us for comments and queries. From a community development perspective I would like to comment and share my views on the following:

1. Under 'Purpose' the Strategy lacks focus at local level, it mainly highlights strategic guidance at sub-national, national and regional level. I understand emphasis on local level actions is mentioned in the latter part of the document (2.8.5) but I feel we should not miss the opportunity to mention it at the beginning. Figure 2 must also illustrate where local level structures are linked to national structures to ensure planning and design of development outcomes are inclusive. If we have learnt anything from the past, most development initiatives fail to achieve its purpose mainly because it lacks critical advice from local knowledge and experience.
2. On **2.4 Value Adding**, this is critical for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT), whereby investments are channeled to address DRR and CCA through sectoral legislations, policies and plans. The key here

is to highlight the complementarities that exist between various sectoral instruments through policy reviews to ensure sustainable outcomes are achieved strategically.

3. The Strategy seems to be silent on **Conflict** as it is one of the major setbacks to development and an underlying driver that escalate hardship and poverty increasing disaster and climatic risk. How do we address conflict **before, during** and **after** to ensure that at least some of the good work done is not wasted? Perhaps, some guidance around this drawing from experiences from around the region may help strengthen this document.

4. The importance of participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups is covered to a certain extent but it lacks guidance on how the participation of the vulnerable is ensured at all levels of decision making for informed actions.

5. Guidance on civil society organisations (CSO) participation under the strategy is weak on **how** community practitioners for CCA, DRR and poverty reduction will engage and collaborate to ensure wider CSO consultation and avoid the current trend of **“preaching to the converted”** as we intend to embark in pooling CSOs efforts and resources to address community resilience for sustainable development.

6. Any strategy for the Pacific needs to have a strong focus on children and youths especially when our young people make up a significant portion of the population in PICTs. For instance, in Tuvalu over 40% of the population is children under 18 years old. In addition, most PICTs lack national legislations, policy and plans for children and youths even after ratifying to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Investment in our children and youth is crucial through education and awareness to ensure they effectively participate in resilience development.

7. SRDPs priority actions should focus on integrated community programs through multi-stakeholder partnership that are not only inclusive of vulnerable groups but focused on reducing duplication of efforts and working in silos. The current trend is that CSOs and development partners work separately with specific target groups through a specific program approach. SRDP must provide guidance on how various community interventions are coordinated at local level under a localized version of the SRDP or a “common resilience framework” that coordinate local efforts and could also easily link community efforts to sub-national, national and regional strategy.

8. As mentioned earlier, the document is also silent on **community risk governance structures** to link community to local government, sub-national, national, regional and global governance structures. Community risk governance structures should be mandated by community and government to ensure communities are accountable and effectively addressing their risk and vulnerability in their effort to strengthen their resilience. We should give recognition to the value of our traditional governance structures and collectively work together in designing appropriate and effective community risk governance structures that can facilitate connection of traditional with scientific knowledge and make decisions that are informed by community experience of shocks and stresses and learning to ensure community resilience is attained and sustained.

9. I commend the notion of involving faith based organization under the SRDP as an untapped opportunity. However, guidance must be provided to avoid confusion. Clear coordination and clarification of functions is needed between community risk governance structures and church governance structures at community to national level.

10. Certainly, capacity building on the SRDP is key at all levels especially for our leaders as they wield the power to ensure progress is made towards resilient development at all levels. More

attention should be focused in this direction to educate our leaders on resilient development and hopefully convert them as **Champions** for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

11. On the baseline for the Strategy, guidance must also be provided towards a process of taking stock of our competencies and capacity at all levels, across sectors and among development partners, CSOs and communities to allow us to identify competency, capacity gaps and strengths to inform training and capacity building programs under the Strategy.

12. Lastly, as we continue to develop indicators under the three goals, clarity must be provided on the linkages of indications on DRR and CCA, low carbon development, disaster management and poverty reduction and sustainable development. This is crucial as we tend to under report on most of our actions during national progress reports on regional and global frameworks such as the Regional Framework for Action (RFA), Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), National Communication Reports under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Mauritius Strategy (for Small Island Developing States). Indicators are crucial in the coordination of reporting mechanisms under this draft regional strategy to avoid duplication of effort during national reporting. If possible, national reporting mechanisms to be appropriately designed so it can be done only once in a reporting period to avoid repetitive reporting, save resources, effort and time and capitalize on the learning attained from achievements made and challenges encountered during implementation.

Dr. Wulf Killmann, German Technical Corporation (GIZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Suva, Fiji

Hello colleagues,

I think this is a tremendously important document because it brings together the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFFAC) and Disaster Risk and it is also singular as far as I know globally; I don't know any other place where they're doing that.

I've three major points:

- 1) More climate change adaptation content should be included in this strategy. This is a big issue and this seems to be very much a document from the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) side. It needs a bit more thinking to bring in more climate change adaptation. We should really put in efforts to ensure that climate change adaptation issues are covered equally along with DRM. Similarly, in the rationale more clarification is needed and the logic clarified regarding the relationship between climate change and disasters.
- 2) Navigation and format is important. The substance that is written here is all fine; I think it is more a matter of organizing these things. Ensure the navigation and inner logic of the document is clear and easy to understand as this is a strategy for use and ongoing reference.
- 3) That language should be simple. The issue is already complicated enough so try to use as much as possible a language that is plain and easy to understand. Some terms are not at all understandable. Terminology should also be consistent. I suggest a glossary, one that cites where each definition has come from as different source documents for DRR and Climate Change (CC) sometimes define terms differently, so it's helpful to know where the glossary definition was sourced from.

As mentioned, this is a tremendously important document and I hope this 'Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific' (SRDP) becomes a document we'll soon all rely on and use as we integrate DRR and CC.

There are challenges ahead, for example, while the draft strategy's vision says "... the region's natural capital is resilient to all hazards..." realistically we will never be resilient but we can become more resilient.

[Anna Gero](#), Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Hello Pacific Solution Exchange Community,

It is fantastic to be able to provide feedback on such an important document and I look forward to reading other responses which provide insight into the many aspects of dealing with disasters and climate change in the Pacific. I have a few comments, some are "big picture" while others are more minor. Let's start with the big picture:

- It would be good to state upfront specifically who the audience for this strategy paper is. This would clarify the language required; the level of detail needed how much context to include etc., and help to set the scene for the document as a whole. It would also be good to provide an overview of the process in which this document has been developed, given its commendable approach in inclusive feedback and consultation.
- To ensure feedback is sought and received from all important stakeholders, perhaps specific groups could be requested for feedback, particularly those traditionally not part of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) community in regards to the sections relevant to them. For example, faith based groups, the private sector (e.g. through active national Chambers of Commerce), National Tourist Boards / Associations, the media, disaster / CCA related nongovernment organisations.
- A particular interest of mine is in regards to monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation programs and initiatives, a tricky task given the inherent difficulty in measuring what "effective" adaptation looks like. From who's perspective? Using whose definition of "effective"? Over what timeframe? Measuring process-based or outcome-based indicators? I'm therefore keen to know what the process will be to develop the performance indicators for the Goals, and what the Life Cycle Approach to MERL will look like. It would be great to build off what is already being done in this space (e.g. by groups such as SEA Change (<http://www.seachangecop.org/>) and IDS (<http://www.ids.ac.uk/>) and CCA program evaluations. My Institute (Institute for Sustainable Futures - ISF) is currently involved in two specific projects (in the Pacific and SE Asia), hence my keen interest!
- Provide a section on "Progress to date" – or "recent successes". The Pacific is not starting from scratch with regard to addressing DRR and CCA. The Regional Framework for Action (RFA) and Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) have galvanised support for, and commitment to, addressing risk at the national and regional level. Some countries approaches to addressing the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), and their development of Joint National Action Plans further support this concept. While there is much still to do, there has been an enormous amount of work put into addressing existing levels of risk, and these need to be raised. Without doing so, the document could be seen to overlook the dedication and leadership of many stakeholders in the region, and the efforts to put into practice the much talked about ideal of integrating DRR and CCA.

More minor comments:

- I find the formatting and use of sub headings helpful to navigate through the document, but am confused as to the third level numbering with no headings. Short sub headings would be helpful there.
- Figure 3: given the explicit mention of faith based organisations in 2.10.2, perhaps they could be included on this Figure. I also see a role for education institutions such as the University of the South Pacific and others – and also suggest including a mention of them here in Figure 3 too.
- Section 2.6 (Climate Change) could benefit from examples of the changes being observed e.g. in 2.6.1 to provide Pacific context. I also echo [Tu's comments](#) on the need for referencing, particularly in regards to the science of climate change and projections.

[Marc Overmars](#), UNICEF Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Hello members of the Pacific Solution Exchange,

Any new regional strategy is only as good as the ownership it can generate during its consultation process.

It is therefore commendable that the facilitating partners, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC/SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) have engaged in this online feedback process and actively supports in-country consultations.

As climate and disaster risk resilience have now widely been accepted as everyone's business, it will be an arduous task to get views from all parties and all aspects of resilient development covered. What has been quite clear over the last few years though is that the engagement and leadership of government and communities, beyond the National Disaster Management Offices and the Ministries of Environment will be required to truly mainstream risk resilience in development. Quite some agencies and communities have made strides to this effect, and opportunities to engage with groups that are usually only marginally involved in community, government or regional processes should be further empowered to meaningfully partake. One can think of specific emphasis on particularly vulnerable groups who can play active roles in the formulation of the new strategy and can receive recognition as important "agents of change".

The above has to go with the notion that not all elements of risk resilience can be integrated, and neither do they necessarily have to be, as there can be different schools of thought on how to deal with risk management required now and how to address adaptation for the future. What the consultation process will hopefully demonstrate is where the integration can assist the mainstreaming of risk resilience in existing processes, such as island development plans, provincial and urban planning, infrastructure investments, water resources management etc. It requires the full engagement and leadership of decision makers and sectors. Whole-of-island or whole-of-Government approaches may also be considered but these should not raise expectations that everything can be solved under just one plan or just one or two entities that "control" these processes, as we all agree that resilience will have to be everybody's business.

Just as for the Pacific Plan, the added value of the new strategy for Pacific island countries and communities, should be tested on the principle of subsidiarity i.e. the regional strategy should focus on only those aspects and approaches that are best undertaken at regional level and which are adding value to nationally-led and community-led consultations and planning processes. This could very well include providing guidance on best practices, resulting from various sectoral demonstrations over the last few years through a proliferation of climate and disaster risk

projects. The lessons from past experiences not only include what works but importantly also what didn't work and will require a change of approach or engagement. In this way, taking steps for incremental increases of resilience through better understanding will be made possible, without getting hung-up on non-existent quick fixes for adaptation.

The inclusiveness and integration of the consultation process for the new strategy so far, has been unique. With the ownership of the new strategy expanded beyond environment and disaster management, it will provide the best possible guidance and support, perhaps not only for climate and disaster risk, but also for overall development.

I wish all the countries, communities and participants in this process, as well as the facilitators, all the best for a successful process that demonstrates the existing resilience of Pacific communities and clearly articulates where additional assistance and support can be directed.

**Thierry Catteau, Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Environment & Energy Section,
European Commission, Suva, Fiji**

Hello colleagues,

This is beautiful as a document in terms of aid effectiveness principles. As development partners, we must align our priorities with those of our partners so this is a document which will provide added-value and that we are definitely going to use.

From a practitioner perspective, the existence of indicators is something very important. Results based management frameworks with indicators provide a compass for everybody to come together and to track down progress. We, as part of our aid effectiveness agenda, need to use in priority indicators produced by the region. So we need to find the best possible indicators, we need to have SMART indicators.

At a general level it is very well-informed, maybe some parts would gain to be little bit more quantified and illustrated with numbers to make it more 'graphic'. For example, when you talk about disasters it would be good to provide a figure or specific example or case study to shed a bit of light on the urgency and how meaningful the adverse impact has been. The objective is not to have scientific study but also to use the best figures to convey a message as strong as possible, for example, imagine a person 20,000 kilometers away from the Pacific and you tell her/him "we are all affected", this is interesting but what does it tell her/him? We should give her/him a reference point or something that makes sense, something that builds a clear picture of the statistics and human impacts. It is also critical to convey a sense of urgency. For example, if we continue doing business as usual then we are going to have 'x' percentage of the population whose food security is endangered. That sort of impactful statistic would be good throughout.

The sub-regional and the sub-national levels should be given more importance. Over the last two years I haven't been to a meeting or conference or workshop where the lack of sub regional level (community) was not mourned literally because at the end of the day you can have the best strategy ever but it is how this strategy benefits the people especially at the community level.

Part of the target audience is the general public so I believe the right balance between technical and plainer language could be enhanced for example in the rationale and preamble.

Also a review mechanism should be included. This document should be a 'living' one and a review mechanism should exist to ensure it does not become obsolete after only half way through its life, avoiding therefore a pitfall of so many strategies.

When you read this strategy you should understand what would happen if we don't have the strategy. That should be the guiding principle in the writing; after someone reads it their reaction should be 'okay why haven't we done this before?' That might sound very trivial but it's very important because we don't want a shopping list but a strategy from which concrete actions can be derived from.

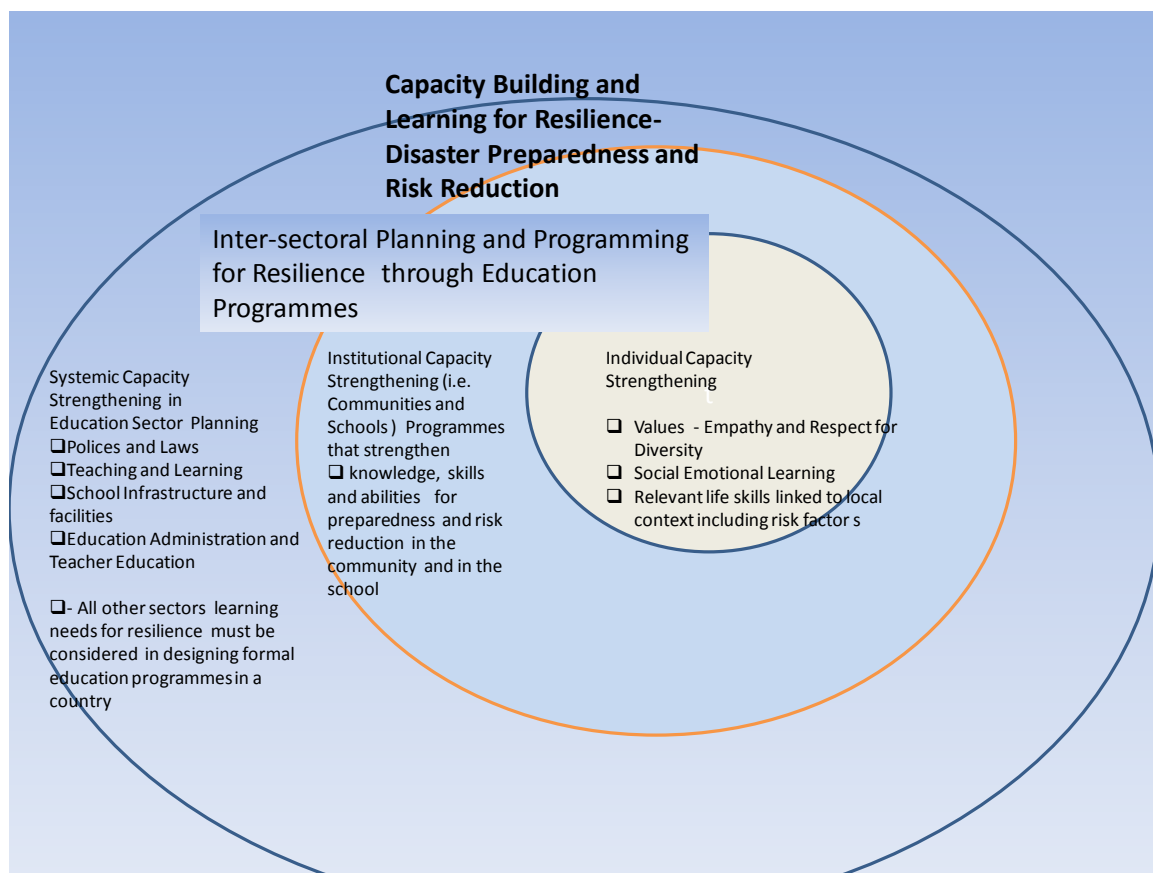
The overall structure of the strategy is good.

Stephanie Hodge, Education Unit, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York, USA

Dear colleagues,

My main comment on the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) is to include education, capacity strengthening and training and the role of education for resilience clearly in this strategy. People take learning and systemic capacity building approaches for granted when in fact they are the glue that tie the entire strategy to a systematic learning approach that also reach the individual level. See figure below, it is annexed in a paper on education and resilience I am developing.

Annex 3: Learning for Resilience, Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction
(Draft – to be improved - Hodge, 2014)



Note that one of the pillars of the global Hyogo strategy is Education and Learning for Risk Reduction.

The United Nations declared the 1990s the first 'International Decade for Disaster Reduction' (IDNDR) and this led to the formation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in 2000. The ISDR Secretariat promotes disaster risk reduction and is tasked with supporting governments in the implementation of The Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005 – 2015 'Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster' adopted by 168 member states in January 2005, containing the following five priorities:

1. To ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
2. To identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
- 3. To use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;**
4. To reduce underlying risk factors;
5. To strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Governments, civil society, and international cooperating partners are increasingly developing DRR policies, networks, bodies and capacities.

Specific comments:

2.1 Purpose, you need to highlight upfront the important role of democratic and participatory education and capacity development planning and strategies that link individuals, institutions and the systemic

2.2 Scope, education, capacity and skills are the key to resilience whether it is conflict, climate or disaster risk reduction. The ability to withstand and recover from adversity and shocks are central to education's core mandate. Social emotional and skill based learning starts with education.

2.3.2 Rationale, do not forget the 'individual' strategy with education programmes i.e. social and emotional learnings and skills based training in and through education. What about education's role in communities? It is huge – school gardens, parent and teachers associations, rainwater harvesting etc.

2nd Paragraph, education, capacity development and training are central to an inter-sectoral planning approach for resilience, adaptation and risk reduction.

2.3.3 Rationale, best to give an example of a democratically and risk informed education planning. It is with the people's involvement that we will get a sustained change and risk reduction.

2.4.1 Value Adding, it would be good to think about here the primordial role of quality and equitable education for all.

2.4.3 Value Adding, education is the glue for this. Mention its important role here otherwise it will get left out.

2.4.4 Figure 2, put education as a cross cutting strategy here or you will miss a key point about the link between the individual, institutional and systemic capacity development and sector changes.

2.10 Key Opportunities, add on eon retooling Education for risk informed programming.

2.10.2 *Faith-based organisations*, mention their instrumental role in delivering education services in the Pacific and programmes in and through education including instilling sustainability values and skills.

3.1 *Guiding Principles*, equity in services delivery (especially in education and access to CB programs) is central to reducing risk.

4.1.2 *Figure 3*, where is Education for all?

4.2.1 *Figure 4*, see my Paper on Learning for Resilience and refer to annex 3.

6.7 *Climate and Disaster Resilient Development* need to reinforce the role of Education in Resilience here.

Here also are excerpts from my Paper:

www.solutionexchange-un.net/repository/pc/ccd/draftpaperbyshodge.pdf. I have a full draft of this paper available which can be shared with interested individuals on request.

Safaira Tagivuni, Grace Trifam Ministry, Suva, Fiji

Dear colleagues,

I really do support the fact that the focus and the target group should be the grass-root people. As the Director of Grace Trifam Ministry – a community organisation that works closely with rural communities, I believe that more focus should be at community level and more windows of opportunities to be created by multi-stakeholders at community level.

As I sat at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas late last year, I was amazed at the opportunities available but only wish it could be directed at community level so that communities receive a lion share rather than the trickle-down effect.

I realize this is quite common that little reaches the very people we want to protect, the vulnerable, the marginal and the grass-root people. Grace Trifam would like to suggest that the target or focus to include grass root level, people who need to know what we are talking about here in the draft Strategy.

Solomone Fifita, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji

Hello,

I would like to add to this sharing of ideas and feedback about the draft 'Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific' (SRDP).

As Deputy Director (Energy), Economic Development Division for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), I come across a lot of strategies in the Pacific and so a main concern for me is that each one is meaningful, useful and used. This strategy is particularly important as it takes the big and game changing step of combining Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) efforts in the Pacific. We want to support the people developing this to create a valuable strategy we can each use as a guidance and reference document.

There are a lot of regional frameworks, regional strategies, regional action / implementation plans, etc. When my consultant doing the mid-term review of the implementation plan for the Regional Energy Security Framework met our SPC reviewer and Pacific Plan reviewer in Apia, her

first remark was "**another regional framework and implementation plan!**" Is there a message there?

1. Consistency is important.

There has to be some consistency in these regional documents – in terms of titles, purpose, structure, contents, etc. For instance, the Energy Security Framework and its Implementation Plan is a guiding document for the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies working in the energy sector. Is that the purpose of the other regional frameworks and strategies?

Here is a stock of regional frameworks and strategies in the Pacific:

www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/regional-frameworks-and-strategies-director

2. Evaluation and monitoring.

That brings me to my second point, and that is ensuring this strategy has mechanisms in place for sturdy evaluation. We work with our own sector strategy called the 'Towards an energy secure Pacific - A framework for action on Energy Security in the Pacific'¹. Currently, after just 2 years since it was adopted in late 2010, we are doing a mid-term review of the energy strategy, which is a ten year document (2010-2020), in conjunction with its associated Implementation Plan 2010-2015².

I know we that we have achieved bits and pieces here and there, but it's not perfect yet and that's why we want an early evaluation, mid-term, to look at how we can do it better. I think that is the thing lacking in this regional framework and guidance documents, and so we need to ensure the evaluation indicators are measurable, clarify who is responsible for evaluations and have regular reporting.

It is good to have these framework and strategies, but better to know how they have made a difference to the communities in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Regular progress reports on these regional frameworks and strategies ought to be regularly produced with a focus more on impacts and outcomes rather than outputs.

3. An Implementation Plan is recommended to support the Strategy.

Sometimes just 1-2 pages of specific actions and indicators is sufficient, like what they have done with the log frame matrix in the back of the SRDP draft strategy (p20). This can clarify stakeholder responsibilities and assist in the implementation and evaluation of the strategy.

4. Buy-in and getting people to want to adopt the strategy is a challenge.

This is a regional document cross-cutting all sectors, from donors to government and community, and so it will be a challenge meeting the needs of these target audience. Then if you get people's buy-in, will they then 'practice what they preach'? Will they use the document and incorporate its indicators in their own reporting and in their own plans and strategies?

5. How / Actions

¹ In August 2010 at the 41st Pacific Islands Forum at Port Vila, Vanuatu, the Leaders endorsed the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP): 2010–2020 as the regional blueprint for the provision of technical assistance to the energy sectors of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs). <http://www.spc.int/edd/section-01/energy-overview>

² The Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific (IPESP) (2011–2015) is a five-year plan for pursuing the vision, goal and outcomes of FAESP <http://www.spc.int/edd/section-01/energy-overview>

There are sections on actions but it would be good to have some more specific details, and to explain 'how' the ideal outcomes may be achieved. For example, 'It is a common thing that in (nearly) every document you see the private sector should be encouraged, everybody is talking about encouraging private sector participation **but the actual how to bring in the private sector is lacking.**'

That's all my feedback and I wish the authors and the team behind the strategy development all the best, and thank them for inviting feedback so broadly.

Chris Manu, USAID/Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear colleagues,

There have been a number of worthy contributions to the forum; those who have coordinated the collective effort in developing the integrated strategy are to be commended for their work, including those who have diligently contributed to the draft.

My comments will hopefully contribute to the final draft of the *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development* (SRDP) and provide guidance that best assists Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), country stakeholders, regional organisations, development partners, communities, and donors involved in building resilience in the Pacific.

As summed up by the preceding contributors, all stakeholders will play a critical role in implementing the adaptation and mitigation activities that are anticipated through the strategy. However, there is little in the way of specific commitments within the current draft strategy to ensure that local players will have access to the critical resources necessary to implement the adaptation and mitigation activities in a profound way. Moreover, the existing text makes little reference to the humanitarian consequences and gender differentiated impacts of climate change.

To address these issues, the following strategies could be reflected in the development of the next SRDP draft.

i. Build expected climate change related trends into current disaster risk and vulnerability assessments in order to design effective short, medium, and long-term disaster risk management strategies that strengthen response capacities and preparedness while reducing risks, as well as promote effective adaptation. Current climate variability and dealing with ongoing disaster impacts is always going to be an essential focus for highly vulnerable communities. However, wherever possible these immediate concerns need to be integrated into longer term strategies that address future risk and the drivers of vulnerability. This can be done through development actions aimed at reducing overall vulnerabilities through addressing, for example, livelihoods and environmental degradation which, whether they incorporate specific Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) actions or not, are crucial in supporting households and communities to manage climate risks. The rising impact of disasters, and the corresponding increase in the need for international cooperation, also calls for improved systems at the domestic level to facilitate and regulate international disaster relief efforts to ensure that they are rapid, effective and complementary to local capacities.

ii. Incorporate adaptation into national and local development planning including poverty reduction strategies. The integration of CCA and associated Disaster Risk Reduction

(DRR) into development offer protection of overall development goals and could also provide the basis for building community safety and resilience.

iii. Adaptation within communities needs to be ranked or prioritized, especially where vulnerabilities are high and where safety and resilience is of importance.

Although national (supported by regional) policies and strategies are important, the outcomes of the implementation of these policies and strategies at the community level will be the ultimate test of CCA. It is at this level that lives and livelihoods can be protected, development promoted and safety and resilience built.

iv. Encourage disaster prevention and preparedness, by improving early warning systems, and promoting emergency and response planning, in order to foster effective community-based adaptation and risk reduction and to strengthen local systems for managing international disaster cooperation.

It is important to recognize the opportunities in disaster prevention and response to raise awareness of the longer-term needs in CCA and DRR and to strengthen the enabling environment for advocacy and capacity development.

v. Categorize the strengthening of existing capacities – among local authorities, civil society organizations, and the private sector – to lay the foundations for strong management of climate risk and the rapid scaling up of adaptation through community-based risk reduction and effective local governance.

Capacity building and capacity development are among the most urgent requirements for addressing climate risk, particularly at the community level. Community capacity to understand climate risk issues; effectively use available information; develop the necessary institutions and networks; plan and build appropriate CCA actions; and evaluate and monitor these to learn from experience is an essential prerequisite for effective adaptation.

vi. Develop robust resource mobilization mechanisms for adaptation that encourage the climate-proofing of development programs, promote the integration into development planning of dedicated CCA measures, and ensure the flow of both financial and technical support to local players.

It is imperative to develop dedicated funding mechanisms to support local action on CCA and regulatory structures that align the broad range of development activities taking place at national and local levels. Further, it is important to ensure that whatever resources are mobilized, they are all committed to one integrated agenda – the achievement of development goals and the building of community resilience, protected from climate and other disaster risks.

vii. It is widely recognized that adaptation planning and financing need to be attuned to the varied needs and interests of women and men. However, to ensure the long-term sustainability of adaptation investments, it is essential to go beyond mainstreaming and convert gender perspectives into actionable, budgeted activities in the planning and implementation of both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives at all levels.

While mainstreaming a gender perspective at the policy and strategic planning phase are critically important, project activities with specific, practical components focusing on gender issues are the key to ensuring truly effective adaptation and risk reducing responses. Incorporating dedicated (read: budgeted) gender-sensitive actions into a project's design is necessary to most effectively capitalize on both women's and men's capabilities and strengths, which in turn leads to greater returns for environmental sustainability, the MDGs, and broader development objectives.

In the end, effective growth and development will rely on the level of **safety** and **resilience** maintained by communities, where resilience is defined in plans and strategies such as the one being developed.

Isikeli Mataitoga, Embassy of Fiji, Tokyo, Japan

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for sharing the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP).

It would be good to mainstream the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership adopted by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders into the draft SRDP.

The declaration was issued at last year's PIF meeting in Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands declaring all governments in the region are committed to demonstrating 'climate leadership' and calls on countries to list 'specific' pledges to reduce pollution.

To view the Declaration, go to www.majurodeclaration.org/the_declaration

Elise Remling, Climate Change Researcher, Suva, Fiji

Dear PSE colleagues,

Thank you Cristelle Pratt and John Hay for posting the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) on this public forum, thereby allowing a wider public to partake in the consultancy process and comment on its contents.

Given the amazing number of very detailed responses I've seen so far through this platform, the PSE seems to be an excellent forum for the Pacific to collectively look at this document, raise key questions and provide suggestions on how to improve the current draft.

As a researcher with a focus on the social implications of climate change, particularly the process of adaptation, my comments are primarily around social aspects of vulnerability, though I also have some additional comments.

Key comment:

My main concern is that the draft strategy seems to be a document written from a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) or technical perspective and does not adequately address climate change adaptation. I believe the document would benefit from some substantive rewriting to assure that social variables, which are keys for the outcome of slow and sudden changes, are appropriately included. I would recommend having a social scientist with expertise in climate change and/or disasters review the strategy thoroughly.

Specific comments:

- **Understanding of social aspects of Climate Change (CC).** This is to be the guiding document for *Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific*. However (and reiterating my comment above), as it stands, the document reflects a poor understanding of social impacts of CC and does not give consideration to current debates in academia. The scientific discourse has shifted from understanding climate change as a standalone

- technical or environmental issue, to a wider recognition of it being strongly linked to underlying social issues. This means that a group's (or a person's) vulnerability is not determined solely or primarily by climate, but rather by a range of social, economic, and political factors inherent to the social system in which people live.
- **Section on climate change (2.6).** This part particularly mirrors a very technical understanding of vulnerability, not reflecting the current understanding of vulnerability in the academic discourse or even, as the least denominator, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As one vivid example: "*Responses must extend beyond concerns related to the anticipated increases in weather and climate related hazards, also consider the underlying causes of vulnerability to these hazards. These causes include hardship and isolation, poorly informed planning, or no planning at all, and unsustainable resource management*" (2.6.1). In my opinion section 2.6 would benefit immensely from a careful redrafting, perhaps by someone with solid knowledge in current climate change debate.
 - **Section 2.6.2.** The climate projections (as with the rest of the document unfortunately without reference to the source) are presented as 'facts' rather than probabilistic models and suggest that the stated changes are to occur in all Pacific Island Countries equally. This statement should in my view be amended as i) these are averages across the Pacific and actually may vary significantly in the different countries, and ii) these figures are based on models, that have flaws and data gaps – an important aspect to reflect on.
 - **Maladaptation.** The draft strategy is silent when it comes to and avoidance of maladaptation and unsustainable development (it mentions both once in the text without further elaboration (2.3.2) and lists them briefly in the glossary (6.18)). While some adaptive responses can help minimise risk and increase people's resilience, others (e.g. well studied are maladaptive sea walls) may actually cause more problems. In this context, maladaptation denotes inappropriate responses to CC or disaster risk, for example, due to the large uncertainties about future CC or inadequate consideration of local circumstances. Instead of reducing vulnerability such actions may inadvertently lead to increased vulnerability in the long term within the same community or between different communities (Jones et al. 2010, Agrawal 2008). I would recommend adding a short discussion on this in the beginning of the strategy to make policymakers aware of this very challenging risk in their decision-making.
 - **Sudden and slow onset events.** There is little differentiation between sudden and slow onset events; instead disasters and cc are portrayed as one and the same challenge. In my view this is a (common) mistake to assume that the impacts of climate change and disasters are one and the same, or at least very similar. In fact, a lot of the impacts caused by climate change on Pacific Islanders and their livelihoods are likely to be slow-onset events (e.g. sea level rise and salinization of soils, erosion of coastal areas, ocean acidification, and changes in rainfall patterns) rather than abrupt ones such as disasters. It can be expected that people respond very differently to sudden-onset events than long-term changes. It would be good if the strategy reflected these differences.
 - **Women.** I would like to express two major concerns with how the document depicts women: i) it renders women as helpless actors and does not at all tap into women's knowledge, capacities and roles in communities, ii) it depicts women as one homogenous group. The strategy treats women as a minority and ignores the fact that they represent 50% of Pacific Islanders. I would recommend the authors consider the draft *Pacific Gender and Climate Change toolkit*, for some useful guidance on gender in a climate and DRM context. I am aware that feedback on particular gender aspects will be gathered at a meeting this Monday. To ensure feedback is sought and received from other important stakeholders, perhaps the authors could approach specific groups and request feedback (e.g. youth groups, faith based groups, nongovernment organisations, civil society organisations).

- **Language.** Currently, the extensive use of jargon does in my view make this a very unclear and inexact document. A number of terms are not even defined at all (e.g. "*risk governance*", "*humanitarian-development continuum*"). In addition, there are too many long sentences, which are neither clear nor concise (e.g. see para 5.2.1 for a particularly difficult example). In order for practitioners, policy makers and civil society to understand and relate to this document I would strongly encourage the authors to use simpler language, clear and concise sentences rather than lots of abstract concepts.
- **Sources of information.** I agree with previous comments on the need for referencing. The current document entirely lacks references, which in my view reduces its credibility. Statements (e.g. about climate projections) and definitions (e.g. in the glossary) are not verifiable as no sources are provided. For example, "*PICTs are highly vulnerable to natural and other hazards, and are situated in what is recognised to be the most disaster prone region in the world*" (4.4.2). The lack of sources is particularly problematic when it comes to climate projections (section 2.6 *Climate Change*), which are, as I mentioned above, model projections, not 'facts'. As climate models improve it is likely that projections change in the coming years. Hence providing the sources for these (current) projections a key to ensure readers understand the initial assumptions over the lifecycle of the strategy.
- **Implementation.** As of now, the draft presents much generalised statements of what needs to happen to put Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) on a sustainable development pathway. In my view, to make this a practical and implementable regional strategy it would be important to add specific actions on how to implement the ideas. This would be particularly useful for section 2.10. As one example, the importance of participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups is covered to a certain extent, "*All community members, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly and infirm, are powerful agents of change. As such, they should be encouraged to contribute knowledge and learning in meaningful and equitable ways*" (2.8.5). However, the document lacks concrete guidance on how the participation of these groups can be ensured at all levels of decision making for informed actions.
- **Section 2.4.2** "*(...) to ensure that the increase in global temperature is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius*" Where does this figure come from, is this a goal agreed upon by PICT's? The United Nations Conference of Parties and other organizations policy proposals such as the European Union have a 2°C target.

[Malcolm Dalesa](#), Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for sharing the document and I would like to provide a few comments on the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development as follows:

1. It is good to observe the transition in regional strategic frameworks that will enhance a more holistic consideration of risk into the broader development agenda rather than the traditional treatment of climate change and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as separate policy silo matters. Hopefully this will translate into more committed and concerted responses from the respective regional member governments.
2. **Community and sub national level application.** There needs to be a better definition or contextualization of the term sub national level. Given the importance of having community based and bottom up targeted intervention the use of the term "sub

national level" should ideally entail the importance of community based or community driven actions.

3. **Vision.** Omit use of *adverse* in the sentence "...and to the adverse consequences of climate change, variability and extremes." There can also be beneficial consequences to climate change and variability.
4. **Joint planning.** Section 4.2.13 (e) makes reference to joint planning by regional organizations and development planning. Equally, it is vital to state that joint planning will be done collaboratively with governments as well rather than just stating that planning will be responsive to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) needs. This is to facilitate buy in from governments and assist governments in better coordinating climate change and DRM activities. It is sometimes the case where partners including regional organizations set out to implement projects or initiatives but there is minimal input especially at the design phase from governments. Therefore there is duplication or oversight with interventions leading to inefficient resource utilization at the national level.
5. **Civil society priority actions (Section 4.3.11).** Insert or use the term "broader sustainable resource management" to better reflect on areas such as sustainable forestry or proper waste management also. This priority area puts more emphasis on energy conservation or security. A more concerted approach is needed i.e. translating these wide ranging or broader actions in a decentralized manner.
6. **Private sector priority actions.** The same is true (as stated above) of priority actions required of the private sector i.e. again priority actions appear to place emphasis on energy matters compared to national priority actions which have a broader scope. Thus in the spirit of having integrated and trans-disciplinary measures, actions at the national level should also trickle down to or be replicated at all governance levels. Reference to technology transfer (Section 4.3.13 (g)) should make mention or make qualifications relative to the support of tried and tested technologies
7. **Gender (Section 5.5.2).** Women are currently doing great work particularly at the community level where adaptation or Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities are concerned thus reiterating the resource management capabilities of women at both household and community levels. Statements in the draft reflect a more passive and by-stander status/role of women e.g. principal caregiver. Thus referring to women as resource managers with potential to have proactive tangible inputs to adaptation and DRR actions is needed.
8. **Glossary.** Include term related to coping mechanism or coping so as to distinguish between climate change adaptations since cope is also integrated in the risk conceptualization formula (6.20 - Glossary).
9. **Citation.** Referencing sources of information is vital to add credibility of statements contained in the draft strategy. At this stage this is an area which is not adequately addressed within the draft document.

[Dr. Johanna Mustelin](#), Griffith University, Queensland, Australia

Dear colleagues,

As the strategy states, its purpose is to provide high level strategic guidance for the region through a focus on practicality rather than just identification of issues. However, given the

current absence of indicators and other tools to provide such practical input as to how the integrated agenda should be implemented, the strategy in its current form is still somewhat theoretical and difficult to grasp in terms of its contribution to practical action on the ground.

The strategy also states that it is the result of both Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) discussions in the region and is based on the 'lessons learned'. Here it would be important to highlight the main emerging lessons, perhaps in a concise paragraph that explains what these lessons have been. These are presumably the base of the document but an explicit mentioning would be beneficial for those stakeholders that have not necessarily been involved with the high level strategic discussions but yet are the ones to implement and use the strategy.

Many of the regional and global frameworks do not necessarily fit well within the Pacific context. In order for the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) to progress in a robust manner, strong country ownership is necessary. If a Steering Group and Committee are sustained, one need to make sure these is country-driven/owned and also has an equal representation of the different cultural groups in the Pacific. In terms of creating new governance structures in the Pacific, one would expect a careful evaluation of the current governance structures for CC & DRR at the regional level, and explicit identification of 'lessons learned' as to how a new governance body could improve coordination of the myriad of initiatives on-going in the Pacific in the space of CC & DRR. Again, these need to be sensitive to the different regional needs within the Pacific.

In section 5.3.10., there is a suggestion for one single regional forum that would supersede existing forums. While clearly more coordination and collaboration is necessary as countries have also identified the non-coordination of activities as a significant constraint to effective implementation of strategies, it might be worth reflecting whether one single mass forum is the best format. What mechanisms are put in place to ensure that such a forum will represent the different voice in the Pacific, including vulnerable groups as mentioned in the strategy. Also, as the strategy is supposed to guide the implementation of country-level initiatives, it is not clear how the Steering Committee would provide 'oversight of implementation' unless all countries are required to report to the Steering Committee? Or is the Technical Working Group (consisting of who?) going to deliver information on the implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation across the region? What mechanism is put in place to track the progress? Is the formation of new groups and committees the best way or can the existing groups, networks and mechanisms be used for this purpose?

Youth, women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities are mentioned section 2.8.5 as particularly vulnerable groups but also as agents of change. I would suggest all of these groups are mentioned consistently throughout the strategy as in later sections for example, youth is not mentioned alongside these groups (e.g. 5.6.8). Also, while participatory and inclusive approaches are necessary for robust development, one would expect the strategy to make suggestions and spell out how this can be done in practice. For example, based on 'lessons learned' from Climate Change Adaptation, CC and DRR initiatives in the region and the previous frameworks, what are some of the best practice examples that can be utilised to increase participation of vulnerable groups? How does participatory decision-making look like in the Pacific context where for example young people are often traditionally excluded from direct decision-making in chief-led systems? What part can Departments and Ministries of Youth play in the integrated strategy and agenda? Given the very young majority of population in the Pacific, there is a need to engage the youth as they are agents of change who will have to consider this strategy also in the future.

Given that the strategy is supposed to integrate the actions on CC & DRR, it might be worth considering whether separating sections into DRR & CC is the most robust manner for an integrated strategy. For example, the sections in section 4 might be more relevant if combined as

this would show better the synergies between low carbon developments; DRR and CC related actions and risk management.

The strategy also cites in several sections the need for robust evidence base. While the section 4 allocates responsibility and priorities to different actors, the strategy is silent on the research needs and priorities in regards to the integrated agenda, and the role of the research community. What is this evidence base that is needed to inform and implement the strategy? The strategy could allocate particular actions/priorities that include the research community and pinpoint where for example more research would be useful at the regional scale based on the 'lessons learned' from previous frameworks. Current efforts for example for better coordination and sharing of data across the Pacific in relation to DRR & CC should be mentioned; there are many current constraints in sharing data across countries and between partners. The strategy could suggest perhaps how to achieve more equal sharing of information and data among the stakeholders (as this is mentioned as one of the principles for the strategy).

Capacity building and new skills are mentioned throughout the document but little is said as to what kind of capacity should be built and in which areas. Since many regional organisations are focused on capacity building at regional and country levels, it might be worth considering giving examples of the kind of capacity building that is being done and which there should be more of.

The figure 11 (section 6.8) is somewhat difficult to understand in its present form. Perhaps the links between DRR & CCA could be made clearer; the text also in the middle is somewhat blurry and the items would need to be unpacked or separated some more. Conceptually the figure has a somewhat conflicting concept regarding adaptation: for example, much of the anticipatory adaptation is actually planned adaptation, whereas reactive adaptation most often implies spontaneous (but can also be planned to some extent) reactions to for example extreme events. The CCA side of the figure is less nuanced than the DRR and should reflect the same level of conceptual richness as the DRR, including timescales and governance levels involved.

Table 1 (section 6.16) should be in section 1 to clarify the linkages between the different components that the strategy seeks to address.

Dr. Isiye Ndombi, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear colleagues,

Greetings. Let me start by congratulating the team for the great work that has so far gone into drafting this Strategy. It builds on a wealth of experience, culture and traditions both at the community and institutional levels.

I also agree with the three pillars that have been proposed for the strategy: Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Low Carbon Development. However, what I miss is the enabling framework for resilience at regional, national and community levels. I will attempt to list some of the issues below, for your consideration.

Regional:

- The role of regional coordination and integration in ensuring success of the Strategy e.g. strategic regional leadership, regional performance tracking
- Overall regionally-led advocacy (to the rest of the world) for reducing carbon emissions and for sustainable support to climate change and DRM financing
- The role of the private sector in reducing carbon emissions but also in supporting risk mapping, risk reduction and disaster response

- The potential role of catastrophic insurance cover for PICTs, building on experience gained in the Caribbean
- The role of civil society organizations

National:

- Equity-focused national policies targeting individuals and families that are marginalized and disadvantaged. Disasters devastate those marginal and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities hardest. Pacific island governments have to adopt policies that more effectively address the main drivers of inequity and disparity – poverty, gender, geographical remoteness, and disability – in order to ensure resilience for everyone. National plans missing an equity focus (and especially not focusing on the key drivers of disadvantage) will not enable resilience for all.
- Integrity-tested resilience plans around the three pillars. A checklist to ensure that national plans achieve minimum standards
- Capacity to track performance and report on a regular basis
- Coordinated leadership across several sectors.

Sub-National and Community Levels:

- Coordinated leadership to support local action. It will be important to foster coordination between government, traditional and religious leaders to harmonize support for resilience-focused plans.
- Local mapping of risk, preparedness and response plans should be the first line of programming.
- Efforts to diversify risk should be made starting at the community levels to minimize loss and damage.
- Strengthening of cultural heritage and community connectedness to ensure that solidarity is maintained before, during and after disasters.

I hope you find this contribution useful. I'll be ready to elaborate on some of the points if that will be needed.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!

If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Climate Change and Development Community in the Pacific at ccd-pc@solutionexchange-un.net with the subject heading "Re: [ccd-pc-se] FOR COMMENTS: Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific. Additional Reply"

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