

# Snapshots

## DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Snapshot 78

June 2012



The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) through the Disaster Reduction Programme is committed to working with officials and communities around the Pacific to strengthen the ability of countries to protect people as much as possible from the impact of natural and manmade disasters

# From the Managers Desk



Mosese Sikivou

Bula Readers!

Welcome to this edition of Snapshots for June 2012.

We officially reached the mid-point of 2012 and it's been a particularly busy time for all of us at the SOPAC Disaster Reduction Programme. During June a number of us were involved in the launch of the World Bank's Policy and Practice Note for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific Islands Region which took place in Suva on 3rd – 4th June . After that we switched gears a bit and coordinated a workshop the very same week, with our colleagues in the UNISDR and SPREP on 7th – 8th June in relation to the 2011 – 2013 national progress reviews in all Pacific island countries for the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015. Following the workshops we immediately launched into the national progress reviews and by the time of writing this reviews have been completed in Palau, Niue and Fiji.

Two of our staff became the first from our programme to provide capacity building support to Pitcairn Island, as part of the EU-funded EDF9 project for Overseas Countries & Territories and their experience is included in these pages.

There's been quite a lot of DRM training over the course of the year and June provided its 'supply' as well. Our Training and Capacity Building team cover the training undertaken to date.

Moving forward we continue our build up to the 2012 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management which is to be held in Noumea, New Caledonia from 17th – 21st September. There are so many details that we need to work out but we're confident that working alongside our colleagues in the New Caledonia government we will be able to provide all participants with a rewarding and meaningful experience.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

*Mosese Sikivou*

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# World Bank's Policy & Practice Note for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012

The World Bank, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme co-hosted a High Level Dialogue on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development at the Holiday Inn in Suva, Fiji on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The regional meeting included the participation of senior representatives from Pacific Island countries, regional organizations, donors and development partners and used the recently completed 'Pacific Regional Policy and Practice Note on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development (PPN)' commissioned by the World Bank and GFDRR with the theme "Acting Today for Tomorrow" as the basis for the dialogue.

The PPN contains current practice, guidance and lessons learned from the implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives in the region. It is based upon extensive consultations with Pacific Island countries and territories and, donor and regional organization partners and has been subjected to rigorous technical and high-level policy peer review as well as the internal review and decision processes of the World Bank.

The overall objective of the meeting was to bring together relevant stakeholders and actors to discuss the potential utility of the PPN and its key messages as a catalyst for both organizational as well as collective efforts to progress the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as to discuss opportunities and options for how countries and partners can focus future efforts to achieve climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific at local, national and regional levels.

The meeting was attended on the first day by chief executives of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) with each delivering key messages in support of the PPN. The Director General of the SPC, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers stated: "We believe the PPN is a timely and significant contribution to our ongoing efforts to better understand and reduce the vulnerability and risks facing our island countries. Importantly it advocates for change and improvement in how we do business in the whole disaster and climate risk realm".

SPC (SOPAC), SPREP and UNISDR have agreed to use the PPN as an important reference in the ongoing development of an integrated regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change which is targeted for completion and submission to Pacific Leaders by 2015.



# SPC and SPREP sign 'Roadmap' Letter of Agreement

The initiative to develop an integrated regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change by 2015 received a significant boost in June when the Chief Executives of SPC and SPREP signed a Letter of Agreement to articulate their commitments in relation to the process of formulating the new strategy commonly referred to as the 'Roadmap'.

The Letter of Agreement maps out the collaborative arrangements in respect to developing an integrated regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change by 2015 and reinforces a Memorandum of Understanding which SPC and SPREP had signed in September 2011.

Through the Letter of Agreement, SPC and SPREP have agreed to jointly facilitate a process for developing an integrated regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change to replace the two existing regional policy frameworks for DRM and for Climate Change - Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 - 2015 and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 - 2015 (PIFACC).

The development of the regional strategy has been endorsed by representatives of Pacific island countries and territories, and development partners. The process of formulating the regional strategy, the 'Roadmap', was endorsed at a series of meetings in 2011, which included the Pacific Platform for DRM, the Directors of Meteorological Service Meeting, SPREP Governing Council, and the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations.

SPC Director General Dr Jimmie Rodgers, said, "SPC welcomes the opportunity to strengthen our support to member countries and territories through this working partnership with SPREP. It will help consolidate our efforts to address disaster risk management and climate change, which are areas that touch all of the sectors we work in." He added, "an integrated approach is essential, recognising the varied elements that contribute to climate change and disaster risk management, and taking into account the many partners and stakeholders working in these areas."



# SPC, UNISDR and SPREP support national progress reviews of the Hyogo Framework for Action and Pacific DRR & DM Framework for Action

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the SOPAC Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) collaborated to facilitate a Regional Inception Workshop on National Reporting in the Pacific Island Countries for the 2011 – 2013 Progress Review Cycle of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (Regional Framework for Action or RFA) from 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji.

The biennial HFA progress review is a multi-tier process to monitor progress on the implementation of the HFA at the local, national and regional level, led and owned by Intergovernmental organisations, national and local government. The review is based on a self-assessment through multi-stakeholder engagement. The SOPAC Division of SPC coordinates the reporting on regional progress of the HFA as well as the RFA.

The objective of the workshop was to provide an overview of the roll-out of the 2011 – 2013 HFA/RFA progress review cycle at regional, national and local levels in the Pacific. The workshop provided an opportunity for countries to begin developing national work plans for the 2011/13 review cycle, with associated timeline, milestones and stakeholder engagement strategy.

Furthermore, the workshop also provided an orientation on the post-2015 global framework for disaster risk reduction and on the implementation arrangements for the 'Roadmap' towards an integrated regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change by 2015 in the Pacific. The workshop also discussed national programming arrangements for the European Union-funded EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility which will commence implementation in 2013.

# Palau Hyogo Framework for Action/ Regional Framework for Action review completed

A team from SOPAC assisted the HFA/RFA review in Palau from June 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The review provided an opportunity for Palau to determine the level of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Regional DRR and DM Framework for Action (RFA). As the Coordinator of the National Emergency Office, Mr Alonzo Kyota stated that “the review will help us to get a better understanding of where we are at in terms of Disaster Risk Management and importantly also identify areas which need strengthening”. Mr. Kyota and his fellow DRM stakeholders in Palau are keen to get a better idea of the areas that need further attention as there are a number of opportunities available for DRM investment in the future. One such opportunity is through the European-Union funded EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility which is scheduled to commence in 2013.

Apart from directly informing immediate and medium term priorities for funding the review process will also be used as the starting block for the development of a Joint Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change National Action Plan (JNAP) for Palau. Vice President Hon Kerai Maraur in opening the multi stakeholder workshop for the review stated that “Palau is also prone to disasters such as landslides and typhoon which is now more severe hence a strategic action plan is to be developed to consolidate all efforts in minimising the damages”. He added: “We see this progress review as the first step in the process of developing a JNAP”.

The Palau HFA/RFA review involved one on one consultation with 29 agencies, a 2-day multi stakeholder workshop and meeting with the National Emergency Committee.



Maria from the Weather Service presenting her group's work.



Participants of the multi stakeholder workshop.

# New Disaster Risk Reduction Course reviewed by expert reference group

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the newest course to be added to the suite of training offered under the Pacific Disaster Risk Management (Training) Programme (PDRMP) was piloted in Nadi, June 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> with a panel of DRR specialists and practitioners from the region. The attendees from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon Islands utilised their knowledge and skills as DRR practitioners to review the training materials, evaluating the flow and content of the training and test the course exercises. A particular focus of the pilot was to ensure the training is in keeping with best practices in the Pacific and that the examples and case studies presented are relevant. The collective feedback is being used to revise the training materials before the course is rolled out in target countries across the region. The first country to participate in the training will be Samoa, July 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Following Samoa, the course will be conducted in Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

## Expert Reference Group

Act for Peace - PCIDRR

Fiji Ministry of Health

Fiji Department of Agriculture

Foundation of the Peoples for the South Pacific

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tonga Red Cross Society

Samoa Disaster Management Office

Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office

The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



# PDN Strategic Plan released

A Strategic Plan for the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) was developed through a collaborative process involving key stakeholders and organisations .

The document provides guidance on the 'core business' of the PDN over the next 3 years, from 2012 to 2014. It reflects feedback from countries and partners to enhance the PDN to make it a more significant tool to strengthen decision-making in Disaster Risk Management.

Pacific Disaster Net's vision is to be the leading information portal for disaster risk management in the Pacific.

The Pacific Disaster aims to support disaster risk management activities by national and regional governments and organisations at all levels, inspired by the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 in terms of the vision of building communities and nations resilient to disasters.

PDN will form a solid knowledge foundation on which the safe and secure future of Pacific nations can be built, by bringing together the widest selection of information sources available and supplying tools that the DRM community needs.

We recommend the plan to all who are keen to support the enrichment of the Pacific's understanding of disaster risk.

The booklet with 28 pages is available online and can be downloaded from [http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/PDN\\_2012\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/PDN_2012_Strategic_Plan.pdf) .



PDN Strategic Plan.



# Enhancing linkages between DRR Project Portal and DRR related information management systems in Asia and the Pacific Region

On the 5 - 6 July 2012 the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) organized a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand under the 'Regional Stocktaking and Mapping of Disaster Risk Reduction Interventions in Asia and the Pacific' initiative of the UNISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The participants included DRR Information Managers from national governments of project countries where a DRR Project Portal is currently being developed – Cook Islands (we reported in the last Snapshots issue 77), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Philippines as well as IAP partners such as UNESCAP, IFRC, Duryog Nivaran, ADPC, SPC (SOPAC) and Information Technology related technical staff.

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Share experiences of countries and partners on development of DRR project portal (or similar initiative), identifying challenges, solutions and lessons learnt; b) Engage in discussions about links and clarification on duplication and c) Identify trends - learning and stimulation from outside- what can technology these days do for us.

Presentations from regional partners and national participants, a mapping exercise on linkages between the national and regional systems, a presentation on information collection for the national portals as well as a session on suggested improvements for the regional DRR Project Portal resulted in lively, constructive and progressive discussions during the workshop days.

The workshop was the timely opportunity to learn about issues, strengthen linkages and support future information system developments. Discussing the challenges, synergies and possible solutions for the regional and national DRR Project Portal contributes to achieving the overall objective of the IAP initiative. To maximize the usage of the portal, as well as to ensure its long-term sustainability, linkages could be strengthened with various DRR related Knowledge Management Portals in the Asia Pacific Region. These include the Disaster Management Information System of IFRC, Duryog Nivaran, the Asia Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development and the Pacific Disaster Net.



# National Emergency Operation Centre of the Federated States of Micronesia is taking shape

Construction of the National Emergency Operation Centre in Palikir, Pohnpei, is progressing on schedule, with completion expected by December 2012. Work has progressed rapidly over the last few weeks with the foundation and main wall structure nearing completion.

The new building which will cost around US\$220,000, is funded by the European Union through the Disaster Risk Reduction Project (B-Envelope) implemented by the Applied Geoscience and Technical Division, of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The Project Manager, George Beck, who visited the construction site in early July was quite impressed with the pace at which work was progressing and was confident that the project would be completed within the estimated timeframe. The project will also furnish the building and install early warning communication equipment to strengthen the capacity of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management in their work. The B-Envelope project has completed renovation of all State Emergency Operation Centres and will also install early warning communication equipment to some outer islands in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A total of Euro 1.4 million was allocated to upgrade infrastructure and strengthen early warning systems in the Federated States of Micronesia.



Construction of the National Emergency Operation Centre in Palikir, Pohnpei.

# Drilling for Clean Water in Tonga

The B-Envelope project is working closely with the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources (MLSNR) to drill six boreholes on Tongatapu. A contract was signed with NEEDS Engineering Ltd for approximately TOP120,000. Work has just been completed in drilling the first borehole near the international airport that was at a depth of 55 meters with other sites to follow.

The borehole at Fu'amotu will be drilled to a depth of 65 meters while the three boreholes at Mata'kieua wellfield will be at a dept of 24 – 35 meters. The boreholes will be used by MLSNR to monitor water quality. This is very important as the water piped through the reticulated supply to households in Nukua'lofa and in most villages on Tongatapu is sourced from the underground water lens. The data collected through monitoring the water quality including salinity is essential for good management of the water supply. The MLSNR visit all boreholes on a regular basis to collect samples for testing in their laboratory.

The project has also completed upgrading the infrastructure at the Mataki'eua wellfield with construction of new wellsheds, supply of electric submersible pumps and supply of rainwater catchments to the outer islands. We are also working with the Tonga Community Development Trust to raise awareness concerning water issues with the outer island communities. This will promote good conservation and management practices so that they have clean water and to use it wisely. The assistance by the European to Tonga is around Euro 1.1 million addressing water security.



Borehole samples collected.



Borehole drilling at Fu'amotu.



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