

Snapshots

DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Snapshot 80

September and October 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

Greetings to all our readers!

We creep ever so closely towards the end of the year and recently completed the annual milestone DRM gathering for the Pacific – the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM in September. This year the annual Platform was combined with the Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations as a means to bring about a closer working relationship between the 'Disaster' and 'Water and Sanitation' communities in addressing the challenges of disaster and climate-related risk. There is a special section in this edition on the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM

We may have turned the corner on the 2012 Pacific Platform but discussions have already started on the 2013 joint meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and the Pacific Climate Change Round Table. This will be a significant milestone event as we continue the work on the formulation of the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change which we plan to complete by 2015.

There is an interesting variety of stories in this edition covering some of our areas of work and I hope you'll enjoy them.

Mosese Sikivou

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Echoes from the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations

A lot was said and done during the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations and we echo hereunder some of the important messages which were released officially in September.

4th Session of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations opens in Noumea, New Caledonia

The Pacific is one of the most disaster prone regions on earth. The frequent floods, droughts, hurricanes and salt water intrusion also impact the fragile freshwater resources and infrastructure of many countries, adding further pressure to communities and governments. Added to this is increased climate variability and change, which has the potential to increase the severity of related natural disasters and impact water supply.

With this in mind the theme for the 4th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (DRM), is “Disaster Risk Management, Water Security and Climate Change – Integrating our efforts for a more resilient Pacific”. Among the key aims of the meeting is to develop a new Regional Action Plan for water and sanitation in the Pacific and to come up with a roadmap to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation beyond 2015.

At the opening, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, said Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) development partners, and donors must change the way they do business in order to deal with the issues and challenges of disaster and climate risk in smarter way.

“There are many of you here who represent the core leadership group for disaster risk management in our region and you have done a sterling job. For the future however I think you need to embrace more meaningfully the contributions of the various sectors and interest groups and work with them to bring about change and improvement,” Dr Rodgers said. “The collaboration with the Water & Sanitation sector at this year’s meeting is a shining example but I think more can be done.

“We need to adopt a ‘many partners-one team’ approach and focus on improved coordination to address important cross-cutting challenges such as disaster reduction, climate change, food and water security. We must embrace strong engagement with civil society and the private sector.”



Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community at the 4th Session of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations.

Echoes from the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is a key partner and funder of the Pacific Platform. In a video greeting to delegates its head, Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said the meeting is a “strong sign that the region is alive to the challenges and working hard to come up with solutions which will preserve your communities and build their ability to adapt in smart, innovative ways”.

“There is no other region in the world that has more reason to embrace the principles of disaster risk reduction than the Pacific. Few other parts of the world understand as well as you do what it takes to build resilience in response to growing environmental threats,” Ms Wahlström said. “This is particularly clear in your leadership on the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.”

The Pacific Platform is an annual opportunity for countries, development partners and donors to share experiences and knowledge in building the resilience of their island communities to disasters.

The overall fragility of life in small island countries was recognized again this year at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the outcome document, “The Future We Want” it was reaffirmed that “small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities...”

As part of a South-South partnership Pacific island delegates were joined again this year by colleagues from the Caribbean in order to discuss the similarities and challenges faced by small islands states.

Both the ‘disaster’ and ‘water & sanitation’ communities in the Pacific play a key role in helping the region undertake measures to reduce vulnerability and risk related to both geophysical and climate related hazards. This year Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations was conducted alongside the Platform to provide an opportunity for the representatives of both the disaster and water/sanitation communities to interact and discuss crosscutting issues in dealing with disasters, water management and climate risk.

It gave the two communities the opportunity to discuss the issues and challenges of an integrated agenda for DRM and Climate Change (CC) within the specific context of the emerging regional policy framework for the sustainable management of water resources.

This year’s Pacific Platform also looked at strengthening end-to-end early warning systems for all hazards, building capacity at the national level, integrating disaster risk reduction/ climate change adaptation within



Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction speaks to participants via a video message at the 2012 Pacific Platform.

Echoes from the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations

the educational system and improving collaboration and coordination at both the regional and international level.

The 2012 Pacific Platform was organized by SPC in partnership with the UNISDR and supported by partner organisations like, The Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, the University of the South Pacific, United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, AusAID, the European Union and the French Pacific Fund.

Pacific Island Countries to develop a roadmap for regional strategy integrating disaster risk management and climate change

Increased climate variability and change has the potential to lead to more frequent and intense disasters. This is of great concern to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) and delegates at the 4th session of Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Pacific Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations discussed the development of an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change which is to be ready by 2015 to succeed existing separate policy frameworks which run their course by then.

The development of this new integrated strategy will inform the Pacific's contribution to the ongoing global process towards a post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction which will succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015. The Hyogo Framework was the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses.



Participants discuss their feedback on the new regional strategy integrating DRM and Climate Change.

Moses Sikivou, Deputy Director for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Disaster Reduction Programme, said that while the task is challenging SPC and its other coordinating partners, the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), believe it should be kept as simple as possible. "We want to ensure that the various sectors and interest groups that contribute to the overall reduction of vulnerability and risk in our region can get full value out of the new strategy. It needs to be something that provides useful guidance and supports the various countries and territories in the Pacific to define the specifics of what needs to be done,

Echoes from the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations

and how it is to be done, at national and sub national levels. We also need to make sure that the new strategy capitalises on opportunities available at the regional and global level, such as those arising from the Rio +20 Summit and the Millennium Development Goals review,” said Mr. Sikivou.

Jerry Velasquez, Head of the UNISDR for Asia and the Pacific, said that given its track record with the Hyogo Framework, the Pacific was very capable of developing a new strategy. “The Pacific was the first region in the world to take the Hyogo Framework for Action and turn it into a region-wide planning instrument. Again it is taking the lead with the integration of climate change and disaster risk management,” Mr Velasquez said. “It is proof that the region is focused and pro-active. It is an important step in addressing the key challenge of how to make national economies more climate-independent as you seek to safeguard development gains.”

“The Pacific has much to offer the rest of the world by way of good example. I am confident that the outcome of this meeting will provide valuable input for the formulation of the next global agreement on disaster risk reduction in 2015.”

Pacific Islands work towards a new action plan for water and sanitation

Ten years ago Pacific Island Ministers and Heads of State endorsed the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (Pacific RAP) as a regional policy document with priority action to address water and sanitation issues. However Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) are still a long way from addressing many of these issues. At this year’s Pacific Platform island nations met again to identify strategies to contribute to the formulation of a new regional policy framework for the sustainable management of their water resources over the next ten years.

Rhonda Robinson, Deputy Director of SPC’s Water and Sanitation Division, says that while the 2002 Pacific RAP is still very relevant in providing direction and guidance for sectoral support programmes there is a need for the Pacific Community to take stock of what has been achieved, revisit existing and identify emerging challenges and define interventions that provide solutions.

“This is the start of a process to support countries identify their most critical current and emerging threats, and opportunities, in the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation,” Ms Robinson said. “We hope to elevate the level of commitment from Pacific leaders on water and sanitation issues and to secure an agreed framework for future water and sanitation management.”

Most PICTS are a long way from securing adequate fresh water and sanitation for their citizens. These countries struggle against the pressures of growing populations, limited water resources, and incomplete and eroding infrastructure. Poor institutional capacity, thinly spread human resources, and inadequate and irregular funding sources all limit countries’ ability to effectively respond.

Echoes from the 2012 Pacific Platform for DRM and Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations

Across the Pacific, the uncertainty and extremes of climate variability and natural disasters compound and exacerbate these management challenges. Most countries remain unprepared for the floods and extended droughts that are an ongoing feature of the region. Managing the water-related impacts of climate variability and climate change requires a risk-based approach, and adaptation to these impacts requires integration of effective risk reduction strategies across all sectors.

“Water is the primary medium through which climate change and natural disasters influence peoples’ livelihoods and wellbeing, and better water management is a key element to building resilience and adaptive capacity to these impacts,” Ms Robinson said. “This meeting provides an excellent opportunity for those working on either water and sanitation or disaster management to sit down and discuss cross cutting issues and formulate strategies to integrate our efforts to better deal with current problems and future threats like climate change.”

The ‘disaster’ and ‘water and sanitation’ communities came together to discuss specific issues and to find solutions to improve relations and partnerships at the regional, national and sub national levels and how disaster risk management and climate change can be integrated into the new regional policy framework for water and sanitation. This new framework will supersede the 2002 Pacific RAP.

Tuvalu’s Pisi Selganiu and Fiji’s Vinesh Kumar, who both run Global Environment Facility funded Integrated Water Resources Management demonstration projects in their respective countries, welcomed the opportunity.

“Water management is moving beyond the sectoral approach of just providing infrastructure or services. It is now a more integrated approach that looks at entire catchment systems and involves everyone from community to cabinet,” Mr Kumar said. “We’re looking at ways to mitigate the severe flooding that Nadi has experienced over the last couple of years and therefore being able to sit down with regional disaster managers to develop strategies and ways of working together will improve the ways these issues are dealt with in the future.’

Mr Selganiu said that natural disasters like the severe drought Tuvalu faced last year was forcing his country to rethink the way water and sanitation is dealt with.

“We’ve had to come up with innovative infrastructure solutions, like composting toilets, in order to ensure that people have enough water for their survival,” Mr Selganiu said. “With increased climate variability and the possibility of more frequent or intense droughts we must ensure that we continue to find every way of protecting and improving our water resources.”

If you would like to get more information on the 4th Session of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations, please visit the following link:

<http://www.pacificdisaster.net:8080/Plone/pacific-platform>

Disaster Risk Management training in three Provinces in the Solomon Islands

The Training and Capacity Building team supported the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to provide disaster risk management training to 39 students, 5 lecturers, 4 hospital staffs, Provincial Disaster Committees and personnel from key agencies such as Red Cross, Save the Children (Australia), Village Disaster Risk Management Committees, Community & Church Representatives and staff assisting the Provincial Disaster Officers.

This was the first time that the training was conducted outside of Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE), for two nursing colleges of Atoifi in Malaita (27 participants) and Helena Goldie in Western Province (26 participants). The course was also delivered to members of Isabel Provincial Disaster Committee (28 participants).



Atoifi college of nursing students presenting group work.

In previous years, the primary target group for this training was final year students in the Diploma of Nursing programme at the School of Nursing and Health Studies at SICHE, which incorporates disaster risk management training within its curriculum. This year the course was delivered in three Provinces, as part of a capacity building partnership between the NDMO and Western Pacific Union Mission, Wesley United Church in Solomon Islands and SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division to mainstream understanding of disaster risk management and decentralise post disaster initial damage and needs assessment at provincial and community level.

The training was delivered by 3 national trainers with the assistance of 2 provincial disaster officers from Malaita and Western Province with extensive disaster risk management experience, many of whom have been involved with the training at SICHE for the past three years. Since the introduction of TAF/OFDA courses to SICHE over 3 years ago, the SI National Disaster Management Office has gained considerable experience in delivering to a large group. Partners who assisted with the facilitation of this training included Oxfam and DRM practitioners (Mr. Fred Talu and Mr. Rex Tara).

The NDMO demonstrated its capacity to organise and produce the relevant training materials and conduct disaster risk management training and capacity building initiatives under the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme (PDRMP) implemented by the Disaster Reduction Programme (DRP).

The contributions from the participants during the training proved important to the successful completion of the 2 courses. For many of the participants, their experience with working at the community level (during the field work phase of their study) was advantageous as they were able to relate their experience during the

discussions. The instructors contributed a huge level of effort to guiding the participants carefully through the training and ensuring good interaction throughout so everyone benefited equally.

Sipuru Rove, Programmes and Communications Officer of the Solomon Islands NDMO stated “in addition to the knowledge gained, participants also felt that they understood their roles better especially in the context of disaster management, providing a crucial link in the facilitation of disaster risk reduction and creating more resilience in the communities”. Mr. Rove added “as most of the participants will become practising nurses in the provinces, they will be able to provide assistance to the Provincial Disaster Officers through community training and awareness initiatives and during disaster responses with more timely, accurate post disaster assessments utilising a standard format”.

Because of the geographical setting of islands in the Solomons, the nursing students provide a vital link between the National Emergency Operations Centre and the communities in facilitating fast and efficient



Helena Goldie participant presenting group work - Lorima Tuke (Oxfam International, Human Security Programs Officer) facilitating.

response information to cater appropriately for the needs of disaster affected communities. This is why the Solomon Islands NDMO is focusing more on this form of mainstreaming and it augers well with the outcomes of the recent review in the disaster risk management arrangements of the Solomon Islands in which the health sector now plays a major role in the national health cluster in promoting public health awareness and ensuring quick medical and public health support to the disaster affected population” said NDMO Programmes and Communications Officer.

The NDMO team has utilised these visits and conducted disaster awareness sessions for other hospital staff and students whom are not able to attend the courses and share information with communities and schools.

New Vehicle for Palau NEMO

The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) in Palau took delivery of a new vehicle. This was part of the support from the Disaster Risk Reduction (B-Envelope) project aimed at strengthening disaster management in Palau.

The NEMO Coordinator, Mr. Alonzo Kyota, stated that “the assistance will improve our mobility not only with our normal business operations but in visiting remote communities. We need to attend to hazard related issues as quickly as possible and this new vehicle will improve our service to the people particularly for communities that can be accessed by road. The other important mode of transportation in Palau is by sea and we’re also looking at improving NEMO’s capabilities in this area”.

The NEMO Coordinator was very grateful for the support of the European Union to Palau through the B-Envelope project implemented by the Applied Geoscience & Technology Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.



PDN represented at Web 2.0 Training for Senior Journalists in the Pacific

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) with the support of the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) facilitated a one week training on 'Web 2.0 Media for Development Training on Managing Strategic Risks to Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific' for Senior Journalists in the Pacific Region at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji from the 17 – 21 September 2012.

The workshop was facilitated by SPC and participants represented Media and News organisations from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

The main purpose of the workshop was to equip Senior Journalists with Web 2.0 tools and the skills to enhance the dissemination of information pertaining to developments (MDGs, climate change, agriculture developments and disaster risk reduction). With the availability of Web 2.0 tools, media and news organisations can effectively connect with other media and news organisations via their professional networks, collaborate and exchange knowledge, create and share verified content and information and also find and organise news and media. With these skills, media and news organisations and the journalists themselves will have life changing impacts in the work that they do.

The Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) was involved in the training to represent best practices for the use and integration of Web 2.0 tools within its portal, which makes the PDN a collaborative and interactive tool as opposed to a 'read only' website. The PDN Researcher, Sereima Kalouniviti is also currently pursuing an e-learning course on social media tools 'Innovative Collaboration for Development' supported by CTA and facilitated by UNITAR, which integrates well with the training participation.

A field trip to Narewa Village in Ra, Fiji, took place on Thursday 20th September where the Fiji Forestry Department provided 100 seedlings (50 sandalwood, 50 Teak trees) and with their guidance enabled Web2.0 participants to plant Sandalwood and Teak trees at Narewa Village as an initiative towards Managing Strategic Risks to Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific.



Participants at the 'Web 2.0 Media for Development Training on Managing Strategic Risks to Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific'



Sereima Kalouniviti introduces web 2.0 tools available on Pacific Disaster Net

Improving Water Security in Nauru

The Disaster Risk Reduction Project (B-Envelope) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community aims to increase the supply and storage of clean water to the people of Nauru.

The desalination plant operated by the Nauru Utilities Authority (NUA) is the main source of clean water servicing houses and other buildings. The water is stored in six large submerged concrete tanks, each holding up to 290,000 litres at the NUA complex. Unfortunately, over the years the tanks have not been properly maintained and due to leakages they could only hold up to one third of their capacity. In the event of the desalination pump ceasing to operate, this volume of water would last only one or two days.



The project has repaired and installed covers over the six concrete tanks so they can now collectively hold up to 1.7 million litres of water. The covers will also reduce the risk of contamination of the water. In addition, the project has constructed a new building over the six tanks to provide a more secure environment and also a large catchment for rainwater.

There are forty five community tanks (10,000 litres) in Nauru located in all the districts. These tanks are filled once a month from the desalination plant however due to the demand for water they remain empty for most of the month. The project has constructed water catchment sheds over each of the tanks so that they collect rain water and serve the communities for longer periods. The Project Manager, George Beck, stated “we are also working with the Nauru Government to replace guttering to about 150 households to reduce wastage in collecting rainwater. The investment required to rehabilitate the piping infrastructure and repair storage tanks is huge and beyond the means of the project. We need to focus our resources on more sustainable means of supplying water.”



The new building and refurbished concrete tanks at NUA was opened by the Minister of Public Utilities, Hon. Riddell Akua on 17 August 2012. In registering his appreciation to the European Union for providing €600,000 through this project towards the water sector in Nauru he stated “people have endured great hardship in accessing clean water for drinking and cooking. The spirit of sharing keeps us going with the not so fortunate dependent on water from those who have tanks. The Government is committed to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and this project has contributed towards reducing wastage and addressing water security in the national supply”.



The representative of SPC at the opening ceremony, Waisale Naqiolevu stated that “the interventions of the project in Nauru focus on providing a more secure environment for the storage tanks at NUA with the new building and the covers to reduce the risk to contamination. The increased storage capacity will provide a reserve for a longer period of time. Its going to be a huge challenge to return to the good old days when everyone could turn on the tap in the houses and have water. We need to take small steps at a time investing in sustainable practices and promote conservative use and management of water.”

Strengthening Early Warning Communications in FSM

The Federated States of Micronesia will take delivery of new VHF and HF radios to strengthen early warning communications. This was made possible through the Disaster Risk Reduction (B-Envelope) project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Applied Geoscience & Technology Division (SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

A contract has been signed with Radiocom to supply and install thirty four HF and fifty eight VHF radios including ninety four handhelds costing around US\$700,000. The Project Manager, George Beck, stated that most of the radios will be installed in the outer islands some of which are very remote. Part of the package will include solar systems for communities that do not have other power sources.

There is already a good number of radios in the outer islands and the net set of radios will compliment and strengthen the existing radio network to improve early warning communications.

The project has just completed renovation of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) in each State and some of the radios will be installed at the State EOCs. The aim is to improve communication to the State EOCs who would then relay information to and from the outer island communities. The project has also installed six Rural Internet Connectivity Systems in some outer island communities that has also contributed to strengthening early warning communications.

The project is also funding the construction of a national EOC that is currently being built at Palikir, National Capital that is scheduled to be completed in November 2012.



Lami Town Council (Fiji) launches Tsunami Preparedness Signs and Siren

The acting Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Local Government Mr Govind Sami launched the Lami tsunami preparedness signs and siren on Monday 8th October, 2012. In his remarks he congratulated Lami Town Council for being the first town in Fiji to install a mass notification tsunami warning siren system. Lami committed in 2011 to be part of the UNISDR supported initiative “making my town disaster resilient”.

The Permanent Secretary for Provincial Development and Disaster Management, Mr Inia Seruiratu, stated “this is the beginning of a series of activities to ensure that the major urban centres are tsunami ready”. He further added that “the launching is timely since Fiji is celebrating the International Day for Disaster Reduction during the week October 8th – 12th and therefore encourage the residents of Lami to support the initiative taken by the Lami Town Council”



Lami tsunami siren and sign launched by Mr Govind Sami.

The siren will be activated from the National Disaster Management Office when there is a confirmed threat from tsunami. The residents of Lami were very supportive during the launch by calling Lami Town Council to confirm that they heard the siren. Residents as far as Uduya Point in Wailekutu and Delainavesi heard the siren on that day. The technical work in installing the siren system was carried out by COMTECH, a local communication company that is also supporting other government departments in similar work.

The Deputy Director for Disaster Reduction (DRP) at the Applied Geoscience and Technology division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Mr Mosese Sikivou noted that this initiative was made possible through the AusAID funded National Action Plan (NAP) facility managed by SPC/SOPAC. The facility is designed to support countries to develop and implement National Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management. The Government of Fiji is currently developing a Joint National Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change. Mr Sikivou also stressed that the sign and siren is only the beginning and there is more work has to be done which will require the continued support of the Lami residents and business community. The Disaster Reduction Programme will further support Lami Town Council to develop a tsunami evacuation plan.

Nadi Integrated Flood Management Plan

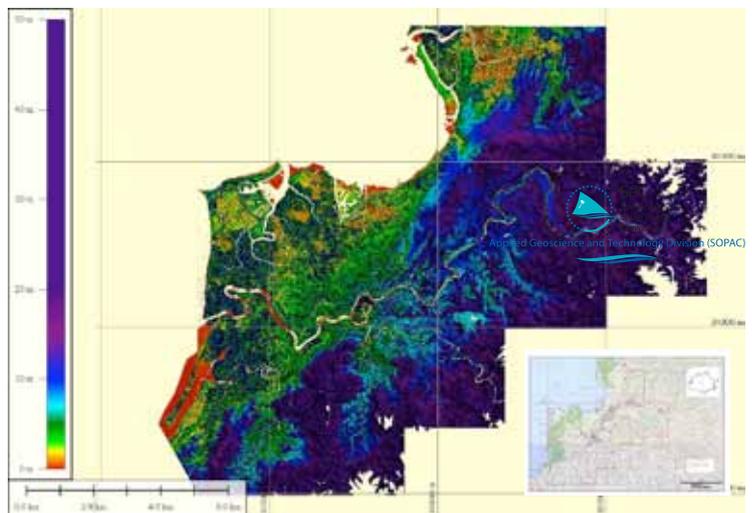
The Nadi Integrated Flood Management project, supported by SPC/SOPAC, World Bank and other partners, contracted UK based Network Mapping Ltd to undertake a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey to capture high resolution topography of the lower Nadi Catchment. The same survey also provides the most current aerial photographs of the area.

The two flooding events in February and April this year delayed the surveys for a few months, but it was important to ensure the chances of having standing water in the floodplain was reduced.

The high resolution topography derived from LiDAR provides a wealth of information such as subtle features in the landscape like river terraces and channel banks, amount and types of vegetation on slopes and building locations and heights. It also captures physical features under tree canopies. This is something which is not possible with technologies that capture satellite imagery and aerial photography. The data captured is an essential prerequisite to determining what factors influence flooding in the catchment. The data from the LiDAR survey will be used for various applications including the creation of a 2 Dimensional (2D) flood inundation model for the catchment.



3D image of Denarau.



Preliminary topographic data derived from LiDAR of the lower Nadi catchment.

Upcoming Events

- 8 – 22 October: New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna: ROM (Results-Oriented Monitoring) mission by external consultants monitoring the OCT project for the European Union
- 30 October – 2 November: Disaster Risk Reduction training, Nasese, Fiji
- 3 – 9 November: Second Meeting of Heads of Geosciences, Noumea, New Caledonia
- 12 – 16 November: Initial Damage Assessment training and Emergency Operations Centres training, Kosrae, FSM
- 1 – 15 December: Conduct of a Cost-Benefit Analysis in Papeete and Rangiroa (French Polynesia)



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