

**JOINT MEETING  
of the  
2013 PACIFIC PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT &  
PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE**

*8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July  
Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji*

**THEMATIC SESSION 1: THE NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL RESPONSES: HOW CAN  
NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL ACTIONS SUPPORT AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY**

**Introduction**

There are different approaches to risk governance and decentralization in the Pacific region as suits the wide variety of local interests and the range of relevant capabilities. Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are frequently expressed as having greatest relevance at the local level, but in practice institutional authority can be uncertain about what is the best approach in sharing of responsibilities between national and local levels to best empower local action. Although local knowledge is recognized as being significant, the availability of human, material or technical resources for the activities required may be less so. The fact that differing views and contrary interests exist in local communities is often too easily deflected by assumptions that the implementation of DRM and CC practices are best realized simply through “participatory approaches”.

Scientific evidence shows that for disasters, climate change poses a double threat. Firstly, increases are expected in the frequency and intensity of weather and climatic hazards, such as floods, tropical cyclones, heat waves and droughts (and in some places are already occurring). Secondly, there are likely to be other changes such as ecosystem degradation, reduced availability of water and food, and impacts on livelihoods, which together will reduce the capacities of communities to cope with natural hazards, especially in small islands and developing countries. Being aware of this, climate change policymakers identified the need for reductions in vulnerability and disaster risk in the UNFCCC Bali Action Plan, as key elements for achieving adaptation and sustainable development. Similarly, the global and regional DRM community addressing the issues of disasters have noted the need to address climate change concerns within disaster risk reduction and disaster management strategies.

The Pacific is capitalising on the common concerns of adaptation and disaster risk reduction, both in policies and practical action, by pursuing a “triple win”: (i) lower or eliminate disaster risks; (ii) adaptation to climate change; and (iii) sustainable development outcomes. Clearly, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) share common goals: reducing the vulnerability of communities and achieving sustainable development. Whilst there is increasing recognition that DRR should become a core component of adaptation measures (lately at COP 16 "enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action where appropriate"), and establishment of a mechanism to address insurance on loss and damages, only few of these synergies are currently exploited. The tools developed under DRR – which build essentially on past and

historical data – need to be expanded to accommodate the longer term view of CCA while at the same time we are fully aware of the differences between DRR and CCA.

## **Purpose**

Experiences at the regional and national levels in the integration of climate change and disaster risk management is mainly at the planning process level. This is evident in national teams being responsible for the development of climate change or disaster risk management policies, plans or joint action strategies. The views of the provinces or outer islands are brought in by representatives as members of the national committee or are being collated through consultations.

This is common in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) with a single central government, but in bigger countries in the Melanesian and Micronesian group, local governments or state governments rule the affairs of the provinces including outer islands and the States (e.g. FSM, Palau, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands). Thus it is common in these countries to have a national climate change and DRM policy and a provincial one.

The **purpose of this session** is to facilitate discussions on how best to promote integration of climate change and disaster risk management at all levels (national, provincial and/or local or state) and at all processes ie. from planning to implementation, monitoring and feedback in view of improving implementation and to provide the basis for achieving a triple win of reducing disaster risk, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Not all PICTS have a national integrated strategy for climate change and disaster risk management. The region however, is embarking on a process to develop a ‘new’ regional integrated strategy for CC and DRM to replace Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and Pacific DRR and DRM Framework for Action both of which end 2015.

This session is expected to solicit input from PICTs and other stakeholders on their experiences and lessons learned in promoting an integrated approach to DRM and CC at national and sub-national levels, and identify the priority issues and opportunities to be addressed in the integrated strategy at the national and sub-national level (provinces, villages, outer islands or States).

Particular attention will be given to how integration at the national level can be promoted and become core components of integrated CC and DRM policy and actions at provincial and local or state governments. It is at these levels (provinces, villages, outer islands or States) that land, sea, flood plains, rivers, watersheds, islands and resources are owned and developed. If integrated CC and DRM do not filter down to these levels then the triple wins would not be achieved and communities will continue to be exposed and bear the brunt of hazard events and long term trends.

## **Discussion**

Questions to guide the discussions are:

1. What are some good examples or lessons learned of integrated policy and actions from the national-provincial or state and local governments?
2. What are the challenges that would hinder effective integration of CC and DRM from the regional – to the national – to the local government levels and vice versa?
3. What are the opportunities for integrated CC and DRM at the national and sub-national levels (or from the regional – to the national – to the local government levels and vice versa)?
4. What are the resource needs (in terms of information, capacity, financing, etc.) of stakeholders in promoting an integrated approach to DRM and CC at national, sub-national and local levels?

**Intended Outcomes:**

- Awareness of the opportunities and challenges
- List of key issues to be further considered or consulted in the development of the regional integrated strategy
- Sharing of lessons learned
- Networking of stakeholders involved in this area

**Format:**

Key speakers will make presentations followed by discussions and questions from the floor.

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