



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

International Platforms and Collaboration on Loss and Damage

Loss and damage at the regional level

- As mentioned loss and damage as a concept has evolved significantly within the UNFCCC process, but this is also the case at the regional level, where the concept largely originated
- The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable has historically been a key forum for loss and damage discussions, although it had a checkered history of attendance and organisation
- When revamped in 2010 it established a series of working groups – adaptation working group had focus on loss and damage
- In 2015 the region established the Pacific Resilience Meeting to guide the joint disaster risk and climate change framework. Many loss and damage aspects were covered by its working groups on adaptation and on forced migration
- CROP agencies have formed a joint support mechanism for UNFCCC and climate change in general which has focussed on bringing regional loss and damage concerns to the international level and supported Pacific negotiators

Engagement of fisheries sector in climate change

- There have been several attempts over the last decade to ensure better representation of fisheries issues in climate change work
- Challenge of silos at both national and regional level, and speaking different languages
- Inclusion of fisheries in a major donor funded regional project in 2010 failed due to economic development focus versus coping with climate change impact focus – need to ensure climate change rationale is there
- Regional study on climate change impacts on tuna fisheries was a major turning point
- Increased interest given the dire economic consequences for the region
- Major Green Climate Fund project under development with several regional and international partners

Opportunities for engagement

- Important that there is increased climate change “literacy” within fisheries
- Opportunities under the UNFCCC for decarbonization of sector could have economic benefits as well
- The need for adaptation action in fisheries sector is clear, but options need to be articulated and communicated
- The risk of loss and damage, as highlighted by tuna report is also clear, and is a situation unique to Pacific SIDS and a few other countries (Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles)
- Need careful consideration of how and what the new Loss and Damage Fund may be able to support region with in terms of addressing loss and damage
- UN Security Council regularly addresses the security implications of climate change – could be raised
- Regional work on security of maritime zones and Exclusive Economic Zones also has implications for climate change and fisheries

Conclusion

- Engagement and dialogue at national and regional level is critical
- Facts and science are indisputable around impacts on fisheries
- Eloquence and moral high ground of small island states is paramount, given that the Pacific is only sustainably managed regional fisheries
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