

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY****FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12–16 November 2012)**Regional engagement policy agenda**

AGENDA ITEM 3.3 - PROVISION OF CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED SERVICES TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES – POSITIONING THEM TO FACE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on SPC's climate change related service delivery to member PICTs, to highlight the integrated, multi-sectoral approach that is being adopted, and to briefly report on progress with implementing SPC's internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy that was endorsed by members at CRGA 41 in 2011.
2. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the flow of dedicated resources to PICTs to assist them to respond to emerging impacts of climate change. While it may require a change from previous practice, adopting programmatic approaches that encompass various project activities across multiple sectors offers many advantages, including helping smaller PICTs overcome constraints they may face with respect to absorbing the resources.
3. Governments, regional organisations, and development partners must all be willing to work in partnership to support sector-wide programmatic approaches. In accordance with its internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy, the Secretariat has, over the past year, adopted a more integrated, multi-sectoral approach to service delivery.

Recommendations

4. CRGA is invited to:
 - i. note that an integrated, multi-sectoral approach offers many advantages and has the potential to enable countries to more effectively absorb increased flows of climate change resources in the coming years;
 - ii. acknowledge that it also offers considerable benefits in terms of reducing the management and coordination burden countries currently face;
 - iii. stress the importance of the role of development partners in supporting the move towards more programmatic approaches in terms of providing climate change support to PICTs, especially their willingness to partner with others to jointly fund integrated, sector-wide adaptation programmes;

- iv. recognise that a range of potential climate change financing modalities are emerging that may be suitable for funding such approaches, such as direct budget support at the sector/national level, and national trust funds;
 - v. welcome SPC's integrated 'one-team' approach as a more effective service delivery model for addressing a cross-cutting issue like climate change; and
 - vi. note that the Secretariat will continue to work with member PICTs to develop national-level multi-sector programmatic approaches.
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PROVISION OF CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED SERVICES TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES – POSITIONING THEM TO FACE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Context

1. Climate change represents a significant challenge for the Pacific Island region, and over the coming decades, Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) will need to put in place adaptation measures to accommodate the projected impacts. Due to broad-ranging cross-sectoral nature of climate change, adaptation responses will require a holistic multi-sectoral approach if they are to be fully effective. To achieve this requires significant commitment from a range of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, and a willingness to move towards a new way of doing business. It also requires a willingness to move away from the project-by-project approach that has characterised much of the climate change related technical assistance to date and more towards an integrated, programmatic approach to adaptation.
2. Over the past 12–18 months, the Secretariat has been working towards delivering a more integrated package of climate change related technical support services to member PICTs. This involves blending the Secretariat's specific skill sets across different sectors with the climate change programme resources being provided by a range of development partners (including: the Australian Agency for International Development [AusAID], the Government of Germany through GIZ [its technical cooperation agency], the European Community and the United States Agency for International Development [USAID]). The integrated, 'one-team' approach to service delivery is a key building block of SPC's internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy.

Key issues

3. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the flow of dedicated resources to PICTs to assist them to respond to emerging impacts of climate change. While this is a welcome outcome, it is also evident that some PICTs are facing some difficulties in terms of effectively programming and coordinating the support being provided. In particular, the smaller PICTs face a range of constraints in terms of actually absorbing the resources being made available. This is in part due to the limited human resource bases in some countries but also in part due to the project-by-project technical assistance delivery model that has been adopted by most development partners.
4. At present there are literally hundreds of individual climate projects underway across the region being implemented and/or supported by a wide range of external organisations (including bilateral development partners, multinational development banks, non-government organisations, regional programmes and others). While many of these projects have delivered and continue to deliver useful outcomes and benefits, in general it is evident that many of the projects are not well integrated and coordinated within and across sectors, they are often not linked to sector/national development policies and strategies, and many do not fully take into account other important cross-sectoral causes of vulnerability. Furthermore, the task of managing and coordinating the wide array of independent climate change projects has placed a significant administrative and coordination burden on member PICTs. Given that the quantum of climate change resource flows to the Pacific Islands region is expected to grow significantly over the coming decades, it is clear that the current approach is not sustainable or scalable. New approaches are needed to ensure member PICTs can effectively absorb and utilise the resources that will be made available.
5. Programmatic approaches that encompass various project activities across multiple sectors, and that are directly linked to sectoral/national climate change and economic development plans, offer many technical and administrative advantages for member PICTs. These approaches are more country driven, more amenable to support through new climate change financing modalities (for example,

direct budget support), and can also deliver more sustainable adaptation outcomes in the longer term. The Secretariat has been working recently with several member PICTs to help develop such approaches and put in place effective national-level service delivery mechanisms that can help increase project effectiveness.

Key interventions and potential benefits for PICTs

i. Adopting an integrated one-team approach to service delivery

6. In accordance with its internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy, the Secretariat has, over the past year, adopted a more integrated, multi-sectoral approach to service delivery. This has involved undertaking joint country planning and consultation missions to member PICTs comprising technical specialists from several sectors, blended climate change technical assistance from several programmes supported by different development partners, and also included representatives from other CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) agencies and development partners. The principal aim has been to deliver a coordinated 'one-team' approach to the delivery of climate change related technical support to member PICTs and adopt a more holistic multi-sectoral approach to addressing climate change adaptation issues. Covering multiple issues in one coordinated process helps reduce the number of independent programming missions and facilitates a more programmatic approach to providing climate change related technical assistance.
7. This approach is already paying dividends and several multi-sector activities are underway across the region. For example, SPC is working with the Solomon Islands Government to implement a comprehensive, integrated, multi-sector 'ridge-to-reef' climate change programme in Choiseul Province. This approach tackles climate change vulnerabilities across a range of different sectors simultaneously (for example, agriculture, forestry, water, infrastructure, fisheries, health and others), and targets a specific geographic area to enable maximum impact. The approach blends the resources being made available through several climate change programmes and is supported by dedicated in-country coordination personnel with direct links to national level development plans. The partnership has recently expanded to include the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and several other development partners. The multi-sectoral approach provides a more systematic and programmatic approach to adaptation. Similar approaches are being evaluated in several other countries.

ii. Expanding the climate change related technical assistance services to member PICTs

8. In accordance with Strategic Outcome 1 of its internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy, the Secretariat has also recently expanded the climate change related technical assistance it is providing to member PICTs across all key sectors. At present, the Secretariat is delivering more than 700 on-the-ground national-level climate change support activities, as well as a range of regional-level activities that benefit all member PICTs. The Secretariat has recently prepared a matrix of climate change support activities as part of its internal endeavours to coordinate a one-team multi-sectoral approach to service delivery. A copy this matrix will be distributed to members for their information at the November 2012 CRGA meeting.

iii. Strengthening the Secretariat's delivery capacity

9. In recognition of the significant flow of the climate change support to member PICTs, the Secretariat is in the process of appointing locally engaged national-level coordinators to assist member PICTs to manage and coordinate the support being provided. The positions are funded by the Secretariat and imbedded in key ministries and departments. The primary task of the national-level coordinators is to coordinate the delivery of climate change related support across the different sectors, but in some areas they will also assist in coordinating the work of other partners active at the national level. The Secretariat plans to have coordinators in place in at least 10 member PICTs by the end of 2013.

iv. Mainstreaming climate change across the organisation

10. To ensure that climate change is fully integrated into its work, the Secretariat has recently put in place a range of internal coordination mechanisms to help facilitate the implementation of the 'one-team' approach. Climate change focal points have been established for each sector, regular internal coordination meetings of key managers and sector focal points have been held to identify areas where cross-sectoral engagement opportunities exist and to ensure that an integrated package of services is made available to member PICTs. The Secretariat has also recently completed a draft greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the organisation and has commenced development of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.
11. Although it is recognised that it will take time and effort to put in place the mechanisms at the national level to deliver a single integrated package of services, good progress has been achieved over the past year in this regard. In general, overall progress with implementing the internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy has also been on track.

Key stakeholders and respective roles

12. To work effectively, integrated, multi-sector approaches involve a strong commitment from a range of stakeholders. At the national level, key ministries and departments must be willing to work in partnership to develop and implement multi-sectoral approaches that systematically address the climate related vulnerabilities they face. Regional organisations also need to be willing to work in partnership to support sector-wide programmatic approaches that combine the skills and resources that they bring to the table. Development partners have an important role too, and must be willing to work together at the national level and contribute to integrated programmes of activities developed by PICTs.
13. Although there appears to be a general willingness on the part of key stakeholders to work more collaboratively at the national level, the actual extent of integration remains limited. It is essential that member PICTs drive this process in order to reap maximum benefit from the climate change resources that are available. The increasing project management and donor coordination burden associated with the growing number of projects suggests that adopting a more programmatic approach would be a sensible course of action. This would not only offer an opportunity to combine contributions from several development partners into one stream of support and more effectively deal with cross-sectoral issues, but it may also be the only realistic means of significantly scaling up adaptation response action at the national level over the coming years.
14. The Secretariat will continue to work closely with countries over the coming years to help them achieve this outcome. Progress has been achieved over the past year in integrating the delivery of the Secretariat's climate change services to members, and this is being supported through a range of internal mechanisms. There has also been a discernable increase in cooperation and collaboration between different CROP agencies in the area of climate change. The formation of two important regional-level mechanisms, the CEOs Subcommittee on Climate Change and the supporting officials-level Working Arm on Climate Change, has helped improve the delivery of services to members. Nonetheless, it is evident that much more needs to be done to streamline and integrate the delivery of climate change related assistance to PICTs, especially in terms of effectively engaging a broader range of development partners and non-governmental organisations that are active in the area of climate change.

Next steps

15. The Secretariat will build on the integrated, cross-sectoral work it has already initiated and will work with member PICTs to identify options for replicating and scaling up approaches similar to those being implemented in Solomon Islands (Choiseul Province) in other member PICTs during 2013 and

beyond. Of particular importance is the need to clearly demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of integrated, multi-sectoral approaches in different island country settings.

16. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue to assist member PICTs to help identify appropriate programmatic approaches at both the sector and national level. This will help ensure that climate change response actions are integrated into sector policies and work programmes. Work has already commenced with several countries to integrate the findings of the Pacific fisheries vulnerability study (launched at CRGA 41 in 2011) into fisheries sector policies and development plans. An output of this work will be the development of sector-wide adaptation programmes of action for the fisheries sector. This will also be extended to other sectors in the near future.

Recommendations

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