

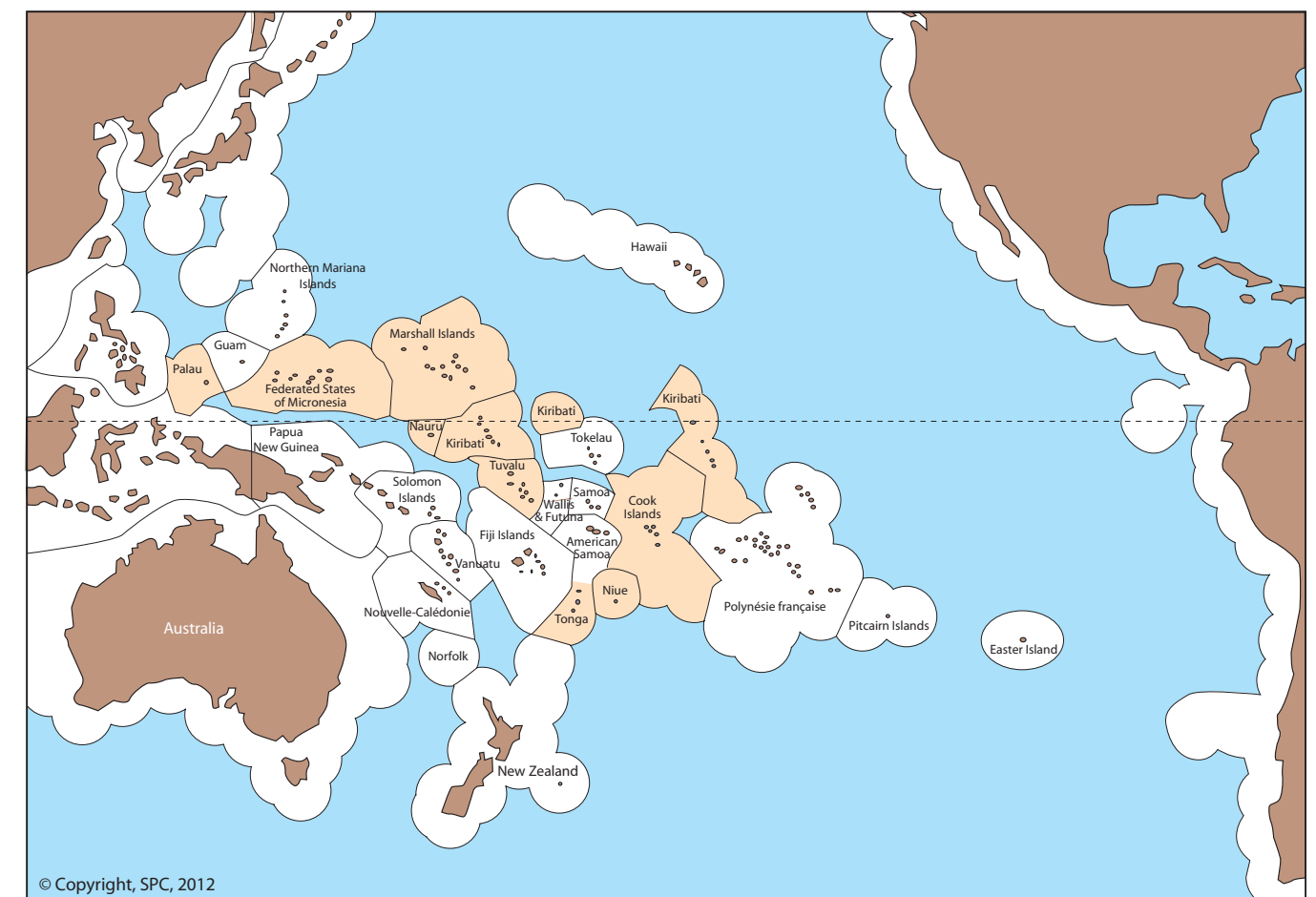


Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States

Secretariat of the Pacific Community and its role supporting climate change response

The Pacific region has for centuries been vulnerable to natural climate hazards such as floods, droughts and cyclones. The frequency of such events varies from year to year and decade to decade due to phenomena such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Climate change resulting from increased greenhouse gases is posing additional risks for the region such as increasing air and sea surface temperatures. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is committed to help Pacific Island Countries and Territories address the risks posed by climate variability and climate change through its sectors and its “whole of organization” approach.

Background to the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States



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SPC and the European Union have agreed to support the governments of nine small Pacific countries, namely Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu, in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change. This initiative is called the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States.

The European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance was established in 2007 to strengthen dialogue, exchange of experiences and cooperation on climate change with developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States.

Small Island Developing States are already facing many development challenges resulting from their small size; remoteness and isolation; susceptibility to natural disasters and environmental change; limited economic diversification and access to external capital; poverty; income volatility; and limited human capacity. These challenges are exacerbated by climate variability and climate change.



Key information

Title: Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States

Implementing agency: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Funded by: European Union

Regional Partners: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and other members of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)*

Countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu

Implementation period: July 2011 to December 2014

Budget: €11.4 million

*CROP agencies are: Fiji School of Medicine; Forum Fisheries Agency; Pacific Aviation Safety Office; Pacific Islands Development Programme; Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Pacific Power Association; Secretariat for the Pacific Community; Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; South Pacific Tourism Organisation; University of the South Pacific.

Objectives of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States

Working closely with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, the initiative is focusing on four main areas.

1

Supporting the countries successfully mainstream climate change into their national and sector response strategies

This will involve helping the countries identify specific adaptation actions, priority investment plans and timelines to respond to climate change impacts in key sectors. Special attention will be given to supporting the countries in their development of robust planning and financial management processes so that they can become eligible for a broader range of climate change funding mechanisms including national and sector budget support.



2

Implementation of national adaptation activities

Provision of training in project appraisal and management will help countries identify effective adaptation measures that can be supported by development partners. The design and implementation of climate change adaptation projects in each country is part of this initiative.



3

Enhancing the climate change information exchange with Pacific small island countries

Helping the countries access external expertise in specific technical areas is another part of this initiative. Working in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, this component will assist with the delivery of climate change services and knowledge management tools to the Pacific countries commencing with the Pacific Climate Change Portal.



4

Building regional capacity to deliver streamlined adaptation finance and targeted technical assistance to countries

This will contribute to improved coordination of climate change activities and donor support across the Pacific. It will advance new opportunities for countries to access and manage climate change funding resources. These may include the potential establishment of a regional climate change finance and technical support mechanism as called for by Forum Leaders at the 41st Pacific Islands Forum, August 2010.

