

Internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community



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1. Introduction

Climate change will impact on all areas of Pacific development and livelihood — from subsistence food production for food security in villages and rural communities to industries and commercial development in towns and cities. It will impact on our oceans, land and forest resources, which sustain livelihood and economic activity for a majority of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs). It will also affect human rights and political landscapes as well as social, cultural, spiritual and economic aspects of Pacific Island communities.

The challenges brought about by climate change demand a coordinated response from our region, based on ‘many partners, one team’ working collaboratively to achieve a common goal — the sustained resilience of Pacific Island communities to climate change.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is only one of the many regional and international agencies working with PICTs to help improve their understanding of and resilience to climate change-related events. It is therefore important for SPC to have a clear understanding of its role in addressing climate change in the region. This Internal Climate Change Engagement Strategy for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community addresses this need.

The strategy presents a ‘whole of organisation’ approach to climate change, with the combined capabilities of all SPC’s programmes pulling together to respond to the challenges at national and regional levels. The strategy also aims to ensure that SPC’s work in the climate change arena is complementary to that of other regional organisations, in particular the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Pacific Power Association (PPA).

In essence, the strategy presents a vision of how SPC will contribute to the region’s efforts to manage the risks related to climate change and help to strengthen the resilience of PICTs to its impacts. It also highlights SPC’s existing contribution to the regional effort to build climate change resilience across the Pacific Islands (Annex 1). The strategy therefore supports the achievement of three strategic outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity of Pacific communities to respond effectively to climate change
- Climate change integrated into SPC programmes and operations
- Strengthened partnerships at the regional and international level

working collaboratively to achieve a common goal — the sustained resilience of Pacific Island communities to climate change.

2. Rationale and context

2.1 Climate change in the Pacific region

The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment Report* (2007) states that the Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, although the severity and extent of these vulnerabilities vary between and within countries. Issues such as maintaining food and water security, protecting coastal areas, managing the increased risk of economic infrastructure loss and damage, and accommodating the broader socio-economic and cultural implications of climate change will be a major challenge for PICTs in coming decades. In particular, projected sea-level rise over the course of this century poses a major challenge for both atoll communities and the low-lying coastal regions of high volcanic islands. Except in Papua New Guinea and to some extent Fiji, the majority of the region’s population lives in coastal zones, and this is also where much of the region’s vital economic infrastructure is located.

Compounding these climate change vulnerabilities is a range of other pressures and development constraints, including high population densities and growth rates in many PICTs; significant exposure to natural hazards; limited natural, human and financial resource bases; and high external dependency of many island economies. On current trends, the region’s population is projected to double by 2045, with some PICTs reaching this earlier. In many countries, worsening poverty levels, rapid and often unplanned urbanisation, and increased pollution and waste streams are already major issues. Furthermore, land and marine resources are under considerable stress from existing unsustainable resource use patterns. These patterns, when combined with the other development issues mentioned

above, continue to undermine the resilience of natural ecosystems and economies to climate-related risks. It is clear that addressing these existing development issues will be a crucial element of the region's response to climate change.

Responding to climate change is likely to further strain human resources and budgets, especially in the smaller island nations.

Key challenges for PICTs include assessing and analysing climate-related risks, identifying viable adaptation options, and marshalling the resources to implement appropriate responses in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

SPC and other regional/international agencies and development partners can supplement existing national technical capacities, as well as human and financial resources, to effectively identify risks and develop viable adaptation options. Understanding of the timing and magnitude of climate change impacts and the costs and benefits of potential adaptation response options is still rather limited. There are knowledge gaps in climate change information and data, and in scientific understanding of climate change impacts on different sectors in individual PICTs. The localised and unpredictable nature of specific climate change impacts constrains the ability of PICTs to identify, formulate and implement appropriate climate change adaptation responses. Much more needs to be done to build the knowledge and skills base on which the region can develop its national climate change responses.

2.2 Regional partnership on climate change

Increasing awareness of the risks that climate change poses to development is reflected in national and regional dialogue on climate change and the emergence in recent years of specific planning documents and policy statements, both in individual PICTs and at the regional level. In 2005, Pacific Leaders endorsed the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) 2006–2015. The vision of the framework is: 'Pacific island people, their livelihoods and the environment resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change'. Under PIFACC, regional organisations, development partners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have scaled up their involvement and support for climate change action. Reducing vulnerability and managing climate-related risks will entail a significant commitment on the part of the region to build resilience and sustain the capacity to cope. These are not easy tasks, and regional organisations and other partners must coordinate the provision of assistance to PICTs through a 'many partners, one team approach'.

Building climate change response capacity in PICTs will be the primary focus of regional organisations and development partners in the coming years. It is often difficult for individual PICTs to develop and sustain the full policy and technical capability and specialist skills needed to address climate change related challenges at the national level. Strengthening the regional capacity to respond to climate related challenges requires focusing on specific issues and economies of scale. It is crucial that all regional and international partners coordinate their climate-related interventions to achieve the best possible outcomes for PICTs.

CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) agencies have a particularly important role in assisting PICTs to develop and implement their national climate change adaptation and mitigation responses. The small size of many PICTs, coupled with lack of human and other resources, often provides the case for delivering certain services through regional programmes that have the benefit of economies of scale and administrative efficiency.

In relation to climate change, CROP agencies provide members with a pool of experts and specialists across a range of disciplines, including scientific, socio-cultural, human rights and economic expertise, comprising a 'virtual one-stop shop' that can support members, particularly in areas where the skill-set is not available at national level. They also help facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst PICTs, assist members to attract and coordinate development partner assistance, link members to relevant international institutions and networks, assist and support PICTs' engagement in international climate change negotiations, and undertake climate change related analysis and scientific research in partnership with or on behalf of PICTs.

CROP heads have established the CROP CEOs Climate Change Sub-committee, which is jointly chaired by PIFS and SPREP. Its objective is to guide and coordinate the climate change support activities of CROP agencies, all of which

have a role to play in addressing climate change within their respective areas of work. Collectively, they represent a ‘many partners, one team’ approach to climate change. SPC is committed to supporting this integrated regional approach, as well as to the development of an integrated regional strategy for disaster risk management and climate change that could perhaps provide the basis for the policy framework that succeeds PIFACC and the RFA.

2.3 SPC’s climate change support role

SPC has for many years been implementing activities that are directly or indirectly linked to addressing climate change-related risks and constraints facing PICTs, particularly in building national capacity to identify and manage these risks. Annex 1 has more detail on how SPCs existing programmes and expertise can be applied to build climate resilience in PICTs.

SPC’s work covers almost all the key economic, environmental and social sectors. These include the natural resources sector (agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, water); the human and social development sector (education, health, sanitation, culture, gender, youth, human rights), the economic development sector (energy, ICT, infrastructure, transport); the oceans and islands sector (coastal zone management, geological assessment, sea-bed mapping, maritime boundary delineation); cross-cutting areas (disaster risk reduction, statistics and demography, food security); and research, policy analysis and advice. All the sectors are vulnerable to existing climate variability and to the changes that are projected over the course of this century. Key areas of susceptibility include food and water security; human health; exposure of critical infrastructure to extreme weather events and sea-level rise; energy, transport and communication security; and social and cultural processes.

It is essential that we quantify and improve our understanding of the impacts that climate change will have on the livelihoods and the socioeconomic and natural systems of PICTs. This information is vital to enable decision makers to monitor and evaluate change, formulate ‘no regrets’ adaptation and mitigation strategies, and develop innovative and integrated solutions to key climate change challenges.

Over the coming years SPC will scale up climate change support to its members. The principal rationale for the development of this internal strategy is to mainstream climate change and risk management awareness across the whole organisation and to implement a ‘whole of organisation’ response to climate change and disaster risk reduction. The strategy also delineates SPC’s role vis-à-vis the roles of other regional, international and national partners. It also outlines how SPC will engage with PICTs to strengthen their approach to managing climate-related risks to sustainable national development.

SPC’s decentralised mode of service delivery is particularly suited to working on the ground with members at the national level. The joint country strategies (JCS) that SPC has developed with its members are the key vehicle for providing this support. The JCSs are complemented by a range of other national and sector-focused intervention approaches, such as joint national action plans for disaster risk management and climate change (JNAPs) which some countries (e.g. Tonga, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Niue) have embraced to facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster and climate risk into national planning and decision-making frameworks.

*Mainstreaming
climate change
and risk
management
awareness across
SPC*

3. The strategy

This climate change engagement strategy will guide SPC's climate change work over the five year period 2011–2015 and will contribute to the achievement of the organisation's vision and mission. It provides an overarching framework for our work in relation to climate change, sets organisational objectives, and identifies key result areas against which SPC can monitor and report progress. The aim is to present a systematic and coordinated 'whole of organisation' approach to providing climate change support to member PICTs, recognising that identification and reduction of risk comprise the best way to address impacts.

The strategy identifies how SPC will apply its existing scientific, technical and analytical skills and strengthen ongoing support across the different sectors to assist PICTs in their climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. It also identifies where SPC needs to adjust internally to increase its own understanding of and resilience to climate change and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. It also discusses how SPC will contribute to regional climate change coordination with other partners to deliver a comprehensive and cost-effective package of services to PICTs.

Key to the success of this strategy will be the development of an advocacy role at regional and global levels with all partners and stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective delivery of action at the national level.

SPC's vision

A secure, resilient and prosperous Pacific Community whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way

Goal of SPC's internal climate change engagement strategy

Pacific Island countries and territories are able to effectively manage the risks presented by climate change.

Basis of the strategy

To assist Pacific Island countries and territories to adopt a sustainable 'whole of country, whole of region' approach to addressing climate change challenges, through identification of risks and provision of relevant climate change knowledge, technical assistance and resources to enable them to make informed policy and operational decisions.

Strategic outcomes

The climate change engagement strategy targets three strategic outcomes that are linked directly to SPC's vision. These are:

- i. Strengthened capacity of Pacific Island communities to respond effectively to climate change*
- ii. Climate change integrated into SPC programmes and operations*
- iii. Strengthened partnerships at the regional and international level*

Strategic outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of Pacific Island communities to respond effectively to climate change

Strengthening the capacity of member PICTs to respond to climate change is the single most important objective of the SPC climate change engagement strategy. The central focus is to assist PICTs to build their resilience to climate change through providing up-to-date climate change science and knowledge and on-the-ground technical assistance, especially drawing on SPC's existing expertise to supplement national capacities. Given the different sizes and institutional capacities of PICTs, the type and level of specialist technical assistance/services SPC provides will vary considerably. Larger PICTs are generally better placed to sustain the technical skills required to plan and manage climate change-related activities, and SPC support will likely focus on building national level capacities across different sectors. However, for some of the smaller PICTs, which already depend more heavily on external technical assistance, SPC support may include both building their national capacity across different sectors, as well as directly supplementing their implementation capabilities at ground level.

SPC is well placed to undertake relevant climate change research and analysis in partnership with or on behalf of PICTs. The organisation has devoted resources to research on climate change and disaster risk reduction issues confronting PICTs and will maintain this approach over the next few years. A case in point is the major research study on the impact of climate change on tropical Pacific fisheries and aquaculture, which was published in October 2011. It is essential to undertake similar research on the impact of climate change on tropical agriculture and forestry, and perhaps also on human health. The findings of these types of research provide policy options for decision-makers at national and regional levels.

Through the joint country strategy process, SPC will work with members to:

- identify areas where SPC's pool of technical specialists can be used to supplement national capacities;
- provide direct assistance through existing programmes to build and/or strengthen national capacity in, and understanding of, climate change;
- utilise technical exchange and training opportunities between PICTs and relevant regional institutions to build necessary skill sets;
- identify specific areas of research and analysis that SPC could undertake to help fill knowledge gaps on climate change impacts at national level;
- support the integration of climate change and disaster risk management planning efforts.

SPC will work in close partnership with SPREP, PIFS, USP and other regional agencies and institutions to ensure that funding channelled through SPC from development partners for climate change-related initiatives forms part of the broader, integrated and coordinated package of services provided to PICTs at the regional level.

Strategic Outcome 1 has two key result areas, namely, strengthened PICT climate change response capabilities at the sectoral and national level, and strengthened SPC climate change delivery networks in member PICTs.

Key result area 1: Strengthened PICT climate change response capabilities at the sectoral and national level

1

Building the capacity of PICTs to integrate climate change considerations into their national development plans and policy settings is a priority action area. The extent of progress in developing national climate change plans and strategies varies among PICTs, with some already receiving assistance from a range of development partners and regional organisations to support efforts in this area. SPC will contribute to this work as necessary, particularly at the sector level, noting that the complexity and breadth of climate change issues require a holistic national planning and policy approach.

Many PICTs have produced national adaptation plans of action or national strategies that identify potential climate impacts and constraints for different sectors. In some countries (e.g. Tonga, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Niue), adaptation strategies have been combined with national action planning efforts to address disaster risk management, commonly referred to as joint national action plans for disaster risk management and climate change. This is now the preferred approach, given the linkages and interrelationships between disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. Some PICTs have identified strategies and actions that contribute to reducing the rate of growth in greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. the Tonga energy roadmap). However, it is evident that many PICTs need to develop their specific climate change action plans and strategies in more detail, especially at the sector level, and to fill the information gaps that constrain their ability to identify appropriate response measures.

SPC will assist PICTs in further developing their portfolio of adaptation and mitigation projects, sector-wide strategies and national plans, and provide technical assistance to implement these. Assistance could be provided to ensure that national plans contain a full analysis of costs, the effectiveness of alternative actions, and relative priorities in terms of national planning and decision making. Assistance could also be provided to identify policy and regulatory changes that may create the necessary enabling environment and incentives to support climate change-related actions. These priority action plans can then be used to secure support from development partners and/or other sources of international finance and assistance to implement these actions in a timely manner.

KRA 1 outputs

Output 1: Improved governance mechanisms and strengthened national capacity to manage climate change challenges;

Output 2: Improved capacity of PICTs to identify and address adaptation and mitigation needs;

Output 3: Increased two-way flow of relevant climate change information, technical and analytical outputs and services between SPC, member PICTs, CROP agencies and other relevant stakeholders;

Output 4: Enhanced integration of climate change considerations into sectoral programmes and policies at the community, national and regional level;

Output 5: Enhanced capacity of PICTs to access and manage climate change finance and external technical assistance;

Output 6: Gender, youth, human rights and community group perspectives integrated into national adaptation and mitigation plans and actions.

Key result area 2: Strengthened SPC climate change delivery networks in member PICTs

2

KRA 2 focuses on working more closely with members at the national level to assist them in identifying, developing and implementing climate change responses. The joint country strategies are the main framework through which SPC will coordinate climate change technical assistance to member PICTs. The existing network of national level contacts and delivery mechanisms provides an excellent vehicle for delivering climate change technical assistance to PICTs, especially in highly exposed sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water, health, energy, infrastructure, transport and forestry. The cross-cutting nature of climate change effects necessitates developing more integrated multi-sector (holistic) approaches that are linked to broader national climate change response strategies and plans.

SPC intends to strengthen and build on its decentralised approach to providing services and will devote more resources to national level activities. SPC already has a presence on the ground in several countries, which, with additional support, will facilitate national level engagement on climate change-related issues. A key feature of SPC's 'on-the ground' approach is the participatory nature of project development and implementation at national level, ensuring that all stakeholders have a say in the project process, from planning through to monitoring and evaluation.

SPC will continue to work closely with other stakeholders and organisations providing climate change support at the national level.

KRA 2 outputs

Output 1: Stronger national level linkages between SPC programmes and national level agencies on climate change issues;

Output 2: SPC climate change technical assistance linked to national climate change action plans/national action plans and JCS priorities;

Output 3: Strengthened capacity of SPC on the ground to coordinate and manage technical assistance inputs and linkages at the national level;

Output 4: Future SPC research and analysis activities identified to meet the needs of individual PICTs and the region and inform decision makers on key climate change matters.

Strategic outcome 2: Climate change integrated into SPC programmes and operations

The main focus of this element of the engagement strategy is to ensure that all SPC programmes are climate change cognisant, SPC is able to meet the increasing needs of members in the climate change area, and the organisation adheres to the key principles of PIFACC.

SPC needs to invest time and effort in ensuring that the organisation is equipped, across all facets of its work programmes and operational areas, to tackle climate change related issues. This will include identifying and implementing appropriate climate change responses, such as minimising the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations and increasing the resilience of the organisation to climate change impacts. It is also important for SPC to build sufficient internal climate change support capacity to help SPC's divisions and programmes coordinate and deliver climate change technical assistance and information to PICTs in a 'whole of organisation' approach.

Strong commitment from SPC staff will be needed to achieve these objectives across the organisation. Training and technical skills development will be provided as appropriate to ensure that staff have the most up-to-date information on how climate change will impact on their specific areas of focus.

Under *Strategic Outcome 2* there are three key result areas, namely: climate change integrated into all SPC programmes and operations; climate change scientific, technical and policy support capacity at SPC strengthened; and organisational greenhouse gas emissions reduced and resilience to climate change impacts increased.

*'whole of
organisation'
approach*

Key result area 3: Climate change integrated into all SPC programmes and operations

3

SPC's work covers more than 20 sectors, all of which are affected by climate change and all of which can contribute to climate change solutions. This KRA will focus on strengthening the climate change knowledge base and capacity of each of SPC's major technical programmes covering the key sectors impacted by climate change. The climate change support team will work closely with SPC divisional managers and programme staff to help identify areas where existing programmes can be expanded to incorporate activities that will meet the climate change-related needs of members.

KRA 3 outputs

Output 1: Climate change considerations fully integrated into the planning of SPC programmes to ensure targeted technical assistance is provided to meet identified PICT needs;

Output 2: Enhanced capacity of SPC programme staff to understand how climate change impacts on natural ecosystems and human welfare.

Key result area 4: Climate change scientific, technical and policy support capacity at SPC strengthened

4

The bulk of climate change support to members will be provided through SPC's technical divisions and programmes. Each division is in the process of incorporating more dedicated capacity to support climate change programme activities, which will enhance cross-organisational linkages on climate change and pave the way for a more coordinated 'whole-of-organisation' response. This will include streamlining the management, delivery, monitoring and reporting of all climate change programmes supported by various development partners against the strategy objectives. SPC is also in the process of building a dedicated climate change team to provide advisory support and coordinate climate change activities across the organisation. The appointment of SPC's Senior Climate Change Adviser in September 2010 was an important first step in this process. The climate change support team will work in close collaboration with all staff to:

- develop cross organisational linkages to ensure consistent and comprehensive services are delivered to member PICTs;
- coordinate the 'whole-of-organisation' response to climate change;
- help manage the delivery of technical assistance being provided to PICTs under several development partner-funded climate change projects;
- monitor and report on progress in implementing SPC's climate change engagement strategy.

KRA 4 outputs

Output 1: Dedicated internal climate change policy and advisory support services in place to meet organisational needs;

Output 2: Timely technical advice and support provided to the SPC executive, divisions and programmes on climate change matters;

Output 3: Dedicated climate change staff in place to ensure effective 'whole of organisation' coordination, monitoring and evaluation of SPC climate change activities;

Output 4: Climate change monitoring and evaluation framework in place and linked to SPC's overarching monitoring and evaluation framework.

Key result area 5: Reduction in organisational greenhouse gas emissions and increased resilience to climate change impacts

5

SPC will adopt responsible climate change organisational policies and operational procedures. To achieve this objective it is proposed that SPC tackle this issue on several fronts, including: implementing operational changes and investments to reduce the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions (covering all SPC-owned and managed assets and operations); implementing necessary measures to increase the resilience of SPC's assets to the impacts of climate change; and implementing staff training and information activities to build climate change awareness and promote sustainable practices in the office and at home.

SPC owns and/or operates a wide range of office and staff housing assets, and these all generate greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly. SPC generates greenhouse gas emissions through internal energy usage, other internal operations (operation of office equipment, paper usage, water consumption, etc.) and travel.

As part of SPC's climate change strategy, it is proposed that the organisation develop and implement a five-year action plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. It is recognised that any expansion or contraction in the size and operational activities of SPC that occur in response to member decisions will have greenhouse gas emission consequences. It will therefore be important to develop a broad set of indicators (such as emissions intensity per unit of service delivery) to assist in monitoring and reporting against the organisation's overall emissions abatement target.

SPC also needs to identify the climate change exposure risks it faces and the possible response options available to manage these risks. While many of these impacts will manifest themselves over the longer term, it is important to identify potential impacts now and put in place appropriate response options as needed, especially in relation to any investments in long-lived assets, such as new office facilities, housing and operational facilities.

For SPC to achieve its internal climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives, it is also important that staff develop an enhanced understanding of climate change and are empowered to initiate action at the personal level. Taking simple and appropriate action in the work place and at home can make a significant contribution to emission reduction and reduced vulnerability to climate risks. To build staff understanding and awareness of climate change, SPC will conduct regular internal training and develop written and web-based information materials to assist staff to identify and implement appropriate actions at work and at home.

KRA 5 outputs

Output 1: Greenhouse gas inventory and monitoring system developed for SPC;

Output 2: Achievable reduction target set and performance indicators established, with annual reporting to SPC executive and members;

Output 3: Cost-effective emission reduction measures implemented;

Output 4: Adoption of, and adherence to, best practice green conference principles and guidelines, including potential emission offset mechanisms for SPC convened events;

Output 5: Climate risk assessment for the organisation completed and cost-effective adaptation response options identified and implemented as necessary;

Output 6: Increased climate change awareness and empowerment of SPC personnel to adopt appropriate climate change response measures.

Strategic outcome 3: Enhanced partnerships at the regional and international level

Climate change is everybody's business and demands a 'many partners, one team' approach. Effective coordination of regionally provided climate change services is important not only for the efficient and effective delivery of climate change-related services to members, but also for attracting additional financial and technical resources to the region.

SPC acknowledges the lead role of SPREP in climate change advocacy, regional and international coordination, regional climate change policy and frameworks, and its own work in climate change mitigation and adaptation. We also acknowledge the role of PIFS in providing political leadership and in coordinating climate change financing initiatives for the region, the critical role of USP in climate change education and research, and the roles of FFA and PPA in climate change adaptation and mitigation. For its part, SPC covers the broadest range of sectors that are impacted by climate change in the region. It has in-house capacity to assist members to develop and implement climate change adaptation responses in all these sectors it works in at the national level. SPC also undertakes scientific research on the impacts of climate change on natural ecosystems, and has strong capacity to analyse the socio-cultural and economic impacts of climate change on the region. SPC is directly involved in implementing climate change adaptation work on the ground at national level in all PICTs across all the sectors it works in, as well as in undertaking advanced scientific research in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Under Strategic outcome 3 there are two key result areas, namely: strengthened regional climate change coordination and partnerships, and strengthened international partnerships.

Key result area 6: Strengthened regional climate change coordination and partnerships

6

This KRA focuses on the importance of adopting a coordinated approach, i.e. CROP agencies, development partners and NGOs operating as one team to provide members with the necessary technical and financial support services they need to respond effectively to climate change. SPC strongly supports the concept of a coordinated regional team approach with contributions from a range of agencies. At the national level, SPC is committed through its joint country strategy approach to working closely with other CROP agencies, NGOs and development partners to deliver a consistent and seamless package of technical backstopping services to support national climate change responses. Inter-agency coordination on climate change issues is already occurring through several processes and mechanisms. It is clear that the regional coordination effort will grow in importance and will need to be strengthened as the level of climate change resources and financing expands in the years ahead.

The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) coordinated by SPREP operates as the main coordination forum for climate change issues in the Pacific and will continue to be an important mechanism for PICTs and the agencies and institutions providing climate change related assistance to them. CROP agencies have also recently formed the CROP Executives Climate Change Subcommittee to better coordinate their climate-change related support to PICTs. SPC will actively support and engage in these regional coordination mechanisms. SPC will also, where appropriate, participate in other coordination activities with key development partners and multilateral agencies, including, for example, the Development Partners in Climate Change (DPCC) meetings that are regularly convened in Suva. This will ensure that SPC plays an active role in the broader regional team delivering climate change related services to PICTs.

It is essential that SPC and other CROP agencies work collaboratively with SPREP, which has the lead role on climate change in the Pacific Islands region, to deliver regional support to address climate change across multiple sectors.

Given the likelihood that the level of external financial resources dedicated to climate change actions will grow substantially over the coming decades, it is essential that SPC works in close partnership with PICTs, CROP agencies and development partners to ensure that these resources are delivered in the most effective and efficient manner. In this regard, SPC will contribute to broader regional efforts to assist PICTs in accessing international funding mechanisms. This will include technical backstopping to identify and prepare project proposals suitable for funding, assisting with reporting on and monitoring these activities, and supporting PICTs to put in place plans and financial governance frameworks that will allow resources to be delivered through direct budget support and sector-wide approaches.

KRA 6 outputs

Output 1: Enhanced coordination and partnerships with other regional organisations, development partners and NGOs, in providing a single integrated package of climate change technical assistance to PICTs;

Output 2: Increased use of SPC's professional expertise, knowledge and technical services by other regional organisations, multilateral agencies and development partners delivering climate change technical assistance to PICTs;

Output 3: Enhanced sharing of expertise among all relevant agencies;

Output 4: Regular production and dissemination of climate change information to the region to help guide policy makers and other stakeholders in developing the region's response to climate change.

Key result area 7: Strengthened international partnerships

7

This KRA focuses on representing and advocating the region's engagement in international climate change processes, and building international partnerships that can result in an improved flow of information, technical services and financial resources to member PICTs. This will include supporting SPREP and member PICT participation in international climate change negotiations, forming strategic partnerships with relevant international science and policy research institutions, and articulating the issues and constraints facing the region for the broader international community.

SPREP has the lead role in coordinating the Pacific region's engagement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. SPC is committed to providing technical and administrative support to SPREP to assist its efforts in this area, especially in terms of providing up-to-date information on the existing and projected future impacts of climate change on PICTs in areas under SPC's jurisdictions such as food and water security, economic infrastructure, health and other climate sensitive areas. This information could be used in preparing briefing materials for Pacific delegations, underpinning official national or regional positions on selected climate change issues, or providing input to Pacific side events at meetings convened by UNFCCC and other international meetings and conferences.

Opportunities also exist for supporting south-south technical exchanges between PICTs and other developing countries/regions, especially with members of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) that face similar climate change challenges. Caribbean AOSIS members also have regional organisations and research bodies that undertake work on behalf of their member countries, including research on sea-level rise, coral reef systems, disaster risk reduction and tourism. Establishing relationships and information sharing networks with these bodies could be useful for PICTs. SPC will promote south-south exchanges where benefits for PICTs are likely.

The quantity of international climate change research and analysis outputs has grown enormously in recent years. SPC is committed to maintaining and expanding links with science and policy research groups that produce up-to-date climate change information relevant to the region across the wide range of sectors that it covers. Such information provides vital input to national and regional level climate change impact assessments and research on climate change across different sectors. SPC will also use opportunities that arise during international conferences and meetings to disseminate the results of the climate change work that is being undertaken in the Pacific. This will assist in raising international awareness of the challenges that PICTs face and help generate new partnerships with the international community to address emerging issues.

KRA 7 outputs

Output 1: Increased technical support and flow of relevant climate change information to PICTs and SPREP to assist the Pacific region's participation in international negotiations;

Output 2: Stronger climate change related technical and information exchange links established with organisations and professional networks outside the Pacific region;

Output 3: Increased international awareness of climate change challenges facing the Pacific region, and the results of work undertaken to address these issues, and higher visibility for the concerns and needs of the Pacific region in global negotiations.

4 Monitoring, evaluating and resourcing the climate change engagement strategy

4.1 Monitoring and evaluation

SPC will develop a comprehensive climate change monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to enable the organisation to track progress across the key result areas. It will link to the SPC-wide monitoring and reporting framework and will be an important management tool for ensuring that implementation of the strategy remains on track and meets annual targets and objectives.

The climate change M&E framework will be used to produce regular reports for the SPC executive and programme managers on progress towards achieving the strategy outcomes and will form the basis of reporting to SPC members and development partners. The framework will also provide a means of identifying important cross-sectoral linkages on climate change issues and tracking progress on mainstreaming climate change across the organisation.

4.2 Resourcing the strategy

Implementation of key elements of the strategy has already begun. SPC will continue to build the climate change programme as resources become available. In addition to the internal resources devoted to climate change activities, several development partners have already committed, or have pledged, funds to support SPC's implementation of climate change activities at both the national and regional level. Most of these funds are allocated to climate change technical assistance, training and project support activities in individual PICTs. However, some resources are also available to assist CROP agencies to build their capacity to deliver services to PICTs, undertake important climate change research and analysis, and mainstream climate change into existing regional programme activities.

The Australian Government, through the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI), is providing approximately AUD 9.0 million over 2010–2013 to enable SPC to undertake relevant research and field work in the area of food security, especially on the vulnerability of Pacific fisheries, the development of climate-ready crops in the agriculture sector, and health. ICCAI funds are also used to support SPC's climate change mainstreaming activities across the organisation, and dedicated climate change support staff.

The Government of Germany is providing a total of EUR 17.2 million over the period to 2015 to support a joint SPC/GIZ programme, Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR), which will support a range of climate change related activities in several sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, education and tourism. The programme is supporting national level planning and coordination activities in selected PICTs, and assisting SPC and SPREP to build their capacity to service the needs of members.

The Government of Germany is also supporting a EUR 4.9 million REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation) programme to 2014 through SPC, which will help Melanesian countries to enhance their ability to participate in a REDD+ instrument. This includes support for preparing national planning, policy and legislative frameworks, developing effective monitoring, reporting and verification systems, and supporting pilot projects on the ground.

The European Union is providing funds through SPC for climate change related activities under two separate projects. A total of EUR 11.4 million over the period 2011–2014 has been allocated under the project, Increasing the Climate Resilience of Pacific Small Island States, through the Global Climate Change Alliance Project. The key focus of this project is to support the further development of national climate change plans and strategies, fund pilot adaptation activities, and support regional climate change coordination and technical support mechanisms. The EU is also providing EUR 20 million through SPC to support disaster risk management (DRM) activities in the region. The programme supports DRM capacity building in Pacific Island ACP states with the aim of improving the understanding of hazards and risks in-country and strengthening the capacity of national agencies to assess, predict, mitigate and manage disasters.

The United States of America is also providing funding assistance to SPC to build enhanced vegetation and land use mapping capabilities and support the adoption of farm management techniques to improve food security and climate resilience in Pacific Island communities. The USD 4 million project will be implemented over three years from 2011 to 2014. The projects funded by the EU and GIZ include support to SPREP, and USA also provides separate project funding support to SPREP.

These projects provide a significant resource base that will enable SPC to implement a comprehensive package of assistance to members across key sectors that are vulnerable to climate change.

Annex 1: SPC and climate change

SPC already implements a range of programme activities across different sectors that contribute to building the capacity of PICTs to respond to climate change. The organisation is well placed to expand the depth and range of climate change technical assistance to PICTs, building on work that is currently under way. This annex provides a brief overview of SPC activities and climate change-related technical support capacities across selected sectors.

Agriculture and food security

Issues: Climate change presents a major challenge to maintaining adequate food production by the agriculture sector and is likely to have significant implications for long-term food security, especially for communities that depend on wild harvesting and subsistence agriculture. Climate change induced changes that are likely to impact on agricultural production include: changes to the seasonal and annual distribution of rainfall, projected increases in the intensity and frequency of droughts and floods, more intense and destructive tropical storms, changes in salinity of coastal aquifers, changes to pest and disease regimes, changes in carbon dioxide concentrations, and increases in average and extreme temperatures. Climate change is also likely to increase the risks of loss of or damage to critical infrastructure (roads, bridges, ports and energy supply systems) that supports the food supply chain. PICTs will need to put in place measures to adapt to these changes and increase the climate resilience of their agricultural production systems.

SPC's role: SPC already implements a range of activities that will assist PICTs to improve their understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on food security, and to develop and introduce appropriate response measures. Through its Land Resources Division (LRD), SPC is undertaking research and development of climate-ready crops that are more tolerant to drought, floods and saline conditions, and early-maturing species suited to post-disaster recovery efforts. SPC is also assisting PICTs to undertake food security vulnerability assessments, evaluate the implications of climate change on agro-biodiversity, and ascertain the impacts of increased carbon dioxide concentrations on crop yields. Other activities, such as programmes directed at improving land use planning and management, agricultural soil management and integrating sustainable agro-forestry techniques in existing production systems, also contribute to increasing the climate resilience of subsistence and commercial farming systems. It is important that these activities are scaled up at the national level across the region over coming years, especially expanding the on-the-ground application of new climate resilient crop varieties and management approaches.

SPC's objective is to assist PICTs to develop agricultural systems that are more resilient to climate change through the provision of better research outputs, specialist technical assistance, capacity building and on-farm trials that make use of available scientific information. It will also be important to work with communities to apply traditional knowledge in the development of responses that are best suited to local conditions. More extreme climate events require a reactive approach. SPC will assist PICTs to respond in these situations and at the same time to strengthen capacity at the community and national level to deal proactively with the challenges posed by climate change. This will require a participatory approach and the delivery of integrated solutions. SPC's LRD is well-placed in this regard with its expertise across all components of the food supply chain. SPC will increase the flow of research outputs and specialist technical assistance to PICTs, and link national counterparts to other institutions and organisations, to assist them to develop agricultural systems that are more resilient to climate change.

Fisheries and food security

Issues: Climate change will have significant impacts on the productivity of Pacific fisheries through rising sea temperatures, changes in currents and nutrient supply, coral reef degradation and ocean acidification. These changes will have implications for food security in the region and also for the longer-term viability of commercial fisheries such as tuna. SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) is presently engaged in a range of climate change related fisheries activities. These include a comprehensive assessment of the impact of climate change on Pacific fisheries, establishing baseline datasets for coastal fisheries in selected countries to enable them to monitor and respond to the impacts of climate change, and modelling the impact of projected changes on the distribution and productivity of tuna stocks. The Oceans and Islands Programme also contributes to near-shore

fisheries management through the provision of technical services to characterise bathymetry, habitats, marine water quality, tidal/seasonal flushing regimes and other coastal processes.

SPC's role: SPC has a world-class contingent of fisheries development and management experts and scientists who can work in partnership with PICTs to address the impact of climate change on Pacific fisheries. SPC's engagement in Pacific fisheries will focus on producing and disseminating climate relevant fisheries research outputs, working with national and regional fisheries counterparts to use this information to identify policy and management response options, and providing technical assistance to build national capacity to identify and implement climate change adaptation measures.

Many of the impacts of climate change will exacerbate problems that are already emerging in the region's fisheries. Strengthening national and community-based coastal fisheries management will build resilience to the impacts on coral reef fisheries. Providing alternative fish supplies from coastal tuna fishing and aquaculture development will improve food security, while alternative income-earning opportunities can be sought from non-extractive marine resource uses such as diving and sport-fishing. FAME is well-placed to assist in the delivery of adaptation measures. Its Coastal Fisheries Programme already supports these initiatives in PICTs but they need to be stepped up. Similarly, for the tuna resource, the Oceanic Fisheries Programme is well placed to provide scientific advice on management measures that take account of changes in abundance and distribution, but there is an urgent need to improve our understanding of the oceanic ecosystem to ensure that the models used are valid and robust in a changing climate.

Forestry

Issues: Forest resources in many parts of the Pacific are already under development pressure. Climate change is expected to impact on the resilience of forest ecosystems and the communities that depend on them for their livelihoods.

Increases in temperature, changes in rainfall patterns, and the emergence of new pests and diseases will affect the productivity of forest systems, reduce their ability to perform key ecosystem functions such as watershed management and soil retention, and potentially increase the risk of forest fires. Preserving forests and improving forest management will have important adaptation benefits in terms of maintaining ecosystem services to communities that depend on forest products to support their livelihoods. Well-managed forests can reduce the impacts of extreme weather events through their ability to moderate floods, maintain water supplies in dry periods, maintain water quality, and reduce sediment loads on coastal systems and coral reefs. Improved forest management and conservation will also help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. There may be opportunities for generating income through emerging international mechanisms to support carbon-sequestration activities, including REDD (reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) activities.

SPC's role: SPC, through LRD, implements a range of activities that assist PICTs in developing and implementing sustainable forest management approaches. In particular, an active REDD+¹ support programme has recently assisted several countries to develop forest carbon inventories and baselines, improve forest management practices and build national capacities to participate in emerging REDD+ market mechanisms.

The primary focuses of SPC activities in the forestry sector are to scale-up REDD+ technical assistance and support activities; work in partnership with PICTs and other relevant bodies to assess the impacts of climate change on the forestry sector; and raise awareness of the role of forests in national and community-based adaptation responses, especially in terms of their downstream benefits for fisheries and water resource management and their contribution to enhancing the climate resilience of subsistence communities.

Water and water security

Issues: The impact of climate change on the availability, distribution and quality of fresh water will be a major issue for PICTs over the coming decades, and for some it will be one of their most important adaptation challenges in the short to medium term. The type of climate and water issues faced will vary significantly across the region. Some

¹ REDD+ refers to REDD activities that incorporate a broader social and ecosystem services perspective, rather than just focusing on the quantity of carbon retained or sequestered.

countries are projected to become wetter, others drier, while all are expected to experience an increase in rainfall intensity and seasonal variability.

Changes in water quality and availability due to climate change are likely to have an important influence on peoples' livelihoods and well-being. Most PICTs already struggle to provide adequate fresh water and sanitation for their citizens. Issues such as growing populations, limited and ephemeral water resources, incomplete and eroding infrastructure, limited institutional capacity and human resources, and inadequate financial resources are major constraints facing water sector managers in the region. Many PICTs are not well equipped to cope with droughts and floods. These factors will constrain the ability of PICTs to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change related threats to existing water resources, increased uncertainty, potential increases in climate variability and extremes of existing variability will severely strain the ability of water sector managers and individual communities to cope. 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. A critical element of PICT climate change adaptation responses in the water sector will revolve around better water management.

SPC's role: SPC is the lead organisation delivering technical assistance to PICTs on water sector issues. SPC is already providing assistance to improve water sector governance and management. Integrated water resource management (IWRM) is an approach that is integral to SPC's work in member countries.

SPC's Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) is undertaking a long-term programme of capacity building, advocacy and awareness in sustainable water management for PICTs, covering water and sanitation services, water governance, and water resources management and assessment. This work aims to strengthen the capacity of countries and communities to deal with today's serious water challenges, in order to improve their ability to respond to current climate variability and adapt to future climate change. The programme responds directly to needs identified by PICTs through the *Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management* by strengthening the capacity of countries to monitor, assess and understand their water resources; enhancing the application of climate information to cope with climate variability and change; and changing the management paradigm from one of disaster response to one of hazard assessment and risk management.

A key objective of SPC's climate change strategy is to maintain and build on the current work programme and ensure that countries build their awareness of climate change impacts on the sector as well as their capacity to identify and implement appropriate adaptation measures.

Reducing vulnerability to weather related disasters

Issues: The frequency and severity of extreme weather events (floods, extreme wind and rainfall events, droughts and storm surges) are projected to increase with climate change. This will represent a major challenge for PICTs that are already highly exposed to climate hazards. Weather related disasters not only result in loss of life and significant reductions in the GDP of island economies, but can also inflict added hardship on the poorer members of the community, especially in terms of post disaster health and food security issues. However, much can be done to reduce the vulnerability of Pacific communities to extreme weather related events. Implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures, such as improved building standards and infrastructure design, land-use zoning and planning, and installing early warning systems can significantly reduce vulnerability and economic losses. Other measures, such as strengthening emergency preparedness and relief capacities, extending insurance coverage, and a range of other sector specific policies and measures, also reduce vulnerability and assist with post disaster recovery. PICTs will need to expand and strengthen their DRR efforts and emergency response capabilities in coming years to reduce their vulnerability to climate induced changes to extreme weather events.

SPC's role: SPC is the lead regional organisation providing disaster risk reduction and emergency response related services to PICTs. It works in close partnership with other members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network to ensure effective coordination of member efforts in delivering assistance across the region. The Disaster Reduction Programme, implemented by SPC's SOPAC division, provides PICTs with technical and policy support to strengthen disaster management practices, and is guided by the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework 2005–2015, which was approved by Pacific Leaders in 2005.

The Oceans and Islands Programme also undertakes work on wave climate and inundation modelling and the potential effects of extreme wave events on coastal zones and near-shore resources (e.g. groundwater) and makes an important contribution to understanding vulnerability to weather related disasters.

Key focuses of SPCs climate change strategy in this area are to provide DRR technical support, contribute to regional DRR and emergency response coordination efforts, and integrate with other climate change efforts across key sectors (e.g. infrastructure, energy, agriculture, water and health sectors).

Energy

Issues: The energy sector has been a central focus of the climate change debate for many years, both in terms of its contribution to global emissions and its susceptibility to climate change impacts. Although the region is not a major contributor to global emissions, opportunities exist to implement cost-effective emissions mitigation measures in the energy sector that would contribute to global emission reduction efforts, but also provide economic benefits and contribute to reducing the region's dependence on imported petroleum. Measures such as increasing the energy supply and end-use efficiencies, transport system efficiencies, and utilising renewable energy technologies, where these are cost-effective, should be implemented to the fullest extent possible.

The susceptibility of energy system infrastructure to extreme weather events and changes in renewable energy resource availability are also issues that need to be addressed as part of national adaptation responses. Climate induced changes to environmental variables such as wind, rainfall, temperature and solar energy (through changes in cloudiness) are likely to affect the availability and cost of renewable energy supplies, particularly hydropower, which forms an important component of energy supplies in several PICTs. Increasing the climate resilience of energy system infrastructure and enhancing the reliability of energy supplies will be important to maintaining energy security.

SPC's role: SPC is the lead regional agency in the energy sector and has primary responsibility for coordinating regional energy matters and providing technical assistance to PICTs in accordance with the framework for energy security approved by Forum Leaders and SPC's governing body in 2010. The Economic Development Division's (EDD) Energy Programme has well established programmes in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and petroleum and energy policy support, and works in close collaboration with the Pacific Power Association (PPA) and SPREP to ensure well coordinated delivery of energy sector support to PICTs.

The main focus of SPC's energy and climate change activities will be to maintain and expand technical assistance to PICTs to capitalise on their cost-effective emissions mitigation opportunities; work in partnership with PPA to assist countries to identify and implement measures to reduce the vulnerability of the electricity supply and distribution systems; and assist countries to understand the implications of climate change on renewable energy resources, especially the impact on hydro electricity production potential.

SPC also contributes to the understanding of potential renewable ocean energy options. The SPC Oceans and Islands Programme within the SOPAC Division collects data needed to investigate the potential for wave energy and tidal flow velocities for renewable energy applications, and holds and collects regional data pertaining to deep-water bathymetry, which supports investigation of options such as OTEC (ocean thermal energy conversion).

Economic infrastructure

Issues: The type, quality and location of infrastructure in PICTs has a significant bearing on their vulnerability to climate change and the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions they generate. Changes to the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events will increase the risk of loss or damage to the region's infrastructure. Ensuring the resilience and integrity of critical infrastructure (such as ports, airports and roads, emergency response facilities, and energy and water supply systems) is vital to economic activities such as tourism, agriculture and fisheries, as well as to the provision of essential social services. Introducing measures to protect critical economic infrastructure will be a cornerstone of national and regional climate change adaptation responses.

SPC's role: SPC, through EDD, provides technical and policy support to PICTs on transport and infrastructure matters, and will play an important role in integrating climate change considerations in regional transport and infrastructure programmes. It will also work in close partnership with PICTs, other organisations and programmes (e.g. DRR programmes, geotechnical and hydrological areas and the Australian PASAP programme) to identify and respond to the impacts of climate change on economic infrastructure. Measures such as working with PICTs to recalibrate infrastructure and building engineering standards to take account of projected changes in climatic variables, land use zoning changes, assessing the vulnerability of vital transport links to climate change impacts, and reducing the vulnerability of key industrial and human settlement economic assets will be important focuses of SPC's support in the infrastructure and climate area.

Coastal zone management

Issues: The Pacific Islands are characterised by long coastlines relative to their land mass. In most PICTs, the majority of the population lives in coastal zones. This is also where most of their key economic assets are located and where economic activity occurs. Climate change induced changes to weather extremes, near-shore reef systems and sea level rise will have important implications for the coastal regions of PICTs. Coastal and near-shore zones play a dominant role in underpinning the livelihoods of PICT communities. Therefore the coastal zone will be a key focus of the region's climate change adaptation response, especially in relation to the impacts on human settlement patterns, livelihoods and traditional subsistence modes of living. In the case of the region's atoll communities, their entire island environment is in essence 'coastal' in nature.

SPC's role: A range of SPC programmes and divisions already provide support to PICTs with regard to appropriate climate change response measures in coastal zones. The SOPAC Division's Oceans and Islands Programme (OIP) provides a range of coastal zone, shoreline and oceanographic scientific and technical services to PICTs. These services are deployed to improve management of coastal resources, planning of infrastructure and understanding of vulnerability to climate variability and change. The development of data-based, no-regrets adaptation responses is being implemented in coastal zones by OIP and these technical capacities are already utilised by numerous other agencies to underpin the technical design and implementation of adaptation activities and vulnerability assessments. OIP also contributes significantly to regional and international climate change science through its long-term commitment to work such as sea level measurement (SPSLCMP – the South Pacific Sea Level & Climate Monitoring Project), shoreline monitoring (PRISMS – Pacific Regional Island Shoreline Monitoring System) and wave climate modelling. It also contributes to international forums, such as the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and scientific publications.

The work undertaken by FAME in terms of understanding and managing the implications of climate change for coastal fisheries and aquaculture also plays an important role in assisting PICTs to develop appropriate adaptation strategies in coastal zones. From another perspective, SPC's Human Development Programme can provide valuable assistance to PICTs to facilitate community engagement and highlight the important cultural, social and gender issues that need to be incorporated in coastal zone climate change adaptation responses. A core component of SPC's climate change response will be to support PICTs in identifying appropriate data-based coastal zone adaptation responses through the provision of scientific, technical, economic and social policy support.

Health

Issues: Climate change is likely to have significant health implications through changes to factors influencing vector and water-borne diseases, heat stress, food contamination and exposure to pathogens and fungal diseases. There will also be health stresses associated with extreme weather-related disasters (especially floods and tropical cyclones) and nutrition issues from potential declines in agricultural and fisheries production. These factors are likely to put further stress on national health systems that are already strained in terms of their capacity to meet community needs. Although many climate change and health projects and activities have been implemented or are under way, knowledge of climate change impacts on health, and the awareness and engagement of the health sector in climate change adaptation responses, are less well advanced than in other sectors. Much more needs to be done to build a stronger national and regional health sector response to climate change.

SPC's role: SPC is the lead regional organisation in the region's health sector and works closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO). SPC and WHO are the principal providers of regional technical support to PICTs on health matters, and the Public Health Division is one of SPC's most significant areas of programme activity. Climate change will feature increasingly in health programme activities with several PICTs having identified health as an important area of focus in their national adaptation strategies. Considering the potential significance of climate change for human health, SPC will focus on mainstreaming climate change considerations in national and regional health programmes and policies.

The human dimension

Issues: The range of projected climate change impacts in the Pacific region means that different groups of people will face different risks, have varying capacities to adapt to climate change, and have different perspectives and priorities on adaptation approaches at the national and community level. There is clearly an important human rights dimension to climate change, including the right to life and an adequate standard of health, food, water and personal security. Related issues include nationality, culture, participation, non-discrimination and self-determination. There are also issues associated with the rights of people displaced by the impacts of climate change and, in the longer term, the potential loss of exclusive economic zones. Climate change cuts across the full spectrum of civil, political, economic and cultural rights, and it is important that these considerations are fully integrated into adaptation decision-making processes.

There is a strong link between gender and climate change issues, as women and men often have different knowledge and skills in relation to climate change adaptation and face different degrees of vulnerability. There is a need to ensure that the views of men and woman are adequately reflected in adaptation assessment and decision making processes.

The effective engagement and involvement of youth are essential as they and their children are the generations that will face more severe climate change impacts in comparison to today's decision makers, but they are rarely given appropriate recognition in the climate change dialogue. The Gender Strategy and the Pacific Youth Strategy provide the foundation for addressing climate change-related issues.

The traditional knowledge of communities in managing and responding to changes in environmental conditions should be given appropriate attention alongside scientific assessments. The application of traditional knowledge in coping with climate stress can augment the scientific approach and contribute to solutions that are socially and culturally sensitive and have a greater chance of community acceptance and engagement. Unfortunately, inadequate attention has often been given to integrating traditional knowledge and cultural perspectives into adaptation response measures, even though many projects have been designed through participatory approaches. Devoting more attention to the views and perspectives of the community, and sub-groups within those communities, will be essential to the long term sustainability of adaptation responses.

SPC's role: SPC will play an important role in generating knowledge and awareness of the factors that make different groups of people in the Pacific vulnerable to climate change. In particular, it is important to consider the factors that help or hinder people's capacity to adapt, the different coping and adaptation strategies available to them, the factors favouring adaptation, and the potential contributions that different members of society can make. Disaggregating the impacts of climate change, and the impact of adaptation strategies adopted to address these impacts, by sex, age, geographic location, disability and ethnicity, will provide important information to decision makers in evaluating response options.

SPC will also place considerable emphasis on mainstreaming gender, human rights and youth engagement considerations across all its climate change support activities. The Human Development Programme and the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) will work across the agency, and with PICTs, to facilitate this mainstreaming approach. Priority actions will include building the capacity of PICTs and SPC programme areas to understand and identify human rights and human development issues, and then integrate these into climate change adaptation and mitigation responses; identify opportunities where SPC and other organisations can better engage women, youth and indigenous communities in decision-making processes; monitor the impacts of climate change adaptation strategies on different groups and communities; and help ensure that a broad-based participatory approach underpins adaptation response planning

Education

Issues: Integrating climate change science, expected impacts and possible adaptation and mitigation options in educational curricula, courses and teacher training is vital. It will help to equip young Pacific Islanders with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop appropriate adaptation and mitigation responses as they progress through the education system.

SPC's role: SPC, through its education programme, plays a vital role in supporting curriculum development and assessment. Developing climate change awareness and knowledge from a young age is the best way to change behaviour and ensure that the next generation has the skills to cope with the changes they will face. Teachers will also need to be supported to integrate climate change into key courses such as geography, science and agriculture. SPC will work with USP and other tertiary training institutions to provide opportunities to climate change research students to undertake applied research.

Integrating climate change into the curricula for formal and vocational education and training can help to ensure that skills developed by students are relevant to the changes they may face in their careers. Curricula change can be done through the work of the Pacific Association of Technical Vocational Education and Training (PATVET). SPC's Community Education and Training Centre will assist community leaders to understand the relevance of climate change to their work with local communities, emphasising the importance of traditional knowledge and adapting solutions to the local context. The SPC-GIZ project has a specific education component that will, over the period to 2015, make a significant contribution to integrating climate change in the education sector across the Pacific region.

Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance

Issues: Political leadership is essential in addressing climate change. Each country needs committed and passionate political champions who are respected in their communities to lead the efforts to address climate change. Enhancing the knowledge base of all Pacific parliamentarians about the dangers posed by climate change to PICTs and the urgency of taking effective adaptation action at the political level is a key ingredient to the solution.

SPC's role: SPC hosts the secretariat of the Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG). This body was established by Pacific parliamentarians to address population and development challenges, as well as issues of political governance. It is the only body with representation from both sides of parliament, including speakers, and provides an excellent avenue for advocacy as well as political decision making. SPC can work with the secretariat and executive of PLPG to develop a Pacific parliamentarians' awareness, advocacy and capacity-building plan that has a focus at both national and regional levels.

Statistics, indicators, monitoring and evaluation

Issues: The timing and magnitude of the impact of climate change is difficult to quantify, yet it is crucial that appropriate climate indicators are developed to measure the impact of climate change across all sectors and areas. Such indicators will provide the basis for more effective monitoring of the impact of climate change, as well as the effectiveness of responses. They will also enhance further planning.

SPC's role: SPC is the lead regional organisation in statistics and demography and has already started developing a minimum data set for development indicators, including climate change. In addition, SPC is working with partners to develop a more comprehensive set of climate change indicators across sectors that will form the basis for a Pacific climate change indicator data set.

Communication and information dissemination

Issues: Effective communication is crucial in any climate change strategy. It is important to ensure that the information is correct, presented in a way that is easy to understand, and disseminated through all relevant dissemination technologies and channels.

SPC's role: SPC has in-house capacity to produce and disseminate climate change information, including through its regional media centre (RMC), which produces TV documentaries and radio programmes that are broadcast in all 22 PICTs. The SPC Publications Section publishes information in English and French and other member languages when needed, thus reaching all PICTs. The Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning facility (SEPPF) and all technical and scientific programmes produce technical, scientific and policy briefs to inform, empower and enhance decision-making at national and regional level. The use of electronic as well as print media for disseminating climate change information and news ensures a greater reach of communication.

Annex 2: Intended actions by key result area

Key result area 1: Strengthened PICT climate change response capabilities at the sectoral and national level

1

Actions

- Provide timely technical assistance, analysis and policy support at sectoral and national planning levels, to build national climate change capacity and awareness.
- Identify and implement priority climate change related training activities at the national and regional level, in conjunction with other regional organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies.
- Supplement national climate change response capacities through the provision of short-term attachments of SPC technical specialists, or other independently contracted technical experts, to meet priority assistance needs.
- Identify and support short-term attachments of national staff and research students in SPC divisions and other relevant regional organisations (e.g. USP and SPREP).
- Identify emerging national and regional issues that require specific scientific, and/or policy, research and analysis that SPC could undertake in partnership with PICTs, or on their behalf, to generate knowledge products that assist in prioritising climate change response actions, and that would also have broader knowledge creation and dissemination benefits for the region.
- Provide assistance to PICTs to identify and design a portfolio of climate change projects and sector-wide programmes that can be supported by bilateral and multilateral development partners, or submitted to international finance mechanisms.
- Work in close partnership other CROP agencies, especially SPREP and PIFS, to assist PICTs to articulate their key concerns and needs in regional and international climate change dialogue and negotiations, and to access international climate change financing mechanisms.
- Provide technical assistance to PICTs to identify, design, implement and report on the national level projects that SPC is committed to deliver under agreements with different development partners.
- Work with other regional, bilateral and multilateral agencies to undertake vulnerability assessments in priority areas, and assist countries to use this information to develop appropriate national response strategies.
- Provide PICTs with access to SPC social and human development services that address issues such as gender and climate, human rights, youth and community level development and empowerment.
- Support the development of governance and accountability mechanisms that will facilitate cross-sectoral coordination within the country, and approaches to work with communities.

Key result area 2: Strengthened SPC climate change delivery networks in member PICTs

2

Actions

- Increase dialogue on climate change issues with PICT counterparts, as part of the joint country strategy process, to identify areas where SPC can provide support and link existing SPC climate-related programme activities to the specific needs identified.
- Increase SPC resources and staff time devoted to on-the-ground national level coordination and consultation.
- Increase national level consultation on SPC research and analysis priorities.
- Increase the in-country time of SPC technical specialists working with national counterparts on climate change-related issues.
- Support regular technical attachments of national level staff in SPC programmes to increase awareness and understanding of the technical support services available.

Key result area 3: Climate change integrated in all SPC programmes and operations

3

Actions

- SPC divisional managers undertake regular assessments of programmes and work plans across different sectors to identify and address climate change-related issues confronting their sectors.
- Identify options to expand the breadth of climate change assistance to PICTs through existing programmes and activities.
- Provide internal training to SPC staff to increase their knowledge of climate change and how it could impact on different sectors.

Key result area 4: Climate change scientific, technical and policy support capacity at SPC strengthened

4

Actions

- Augment SPC's existing climate change capacity to ensure that sufficient technical and policy advisory capacity exists to meet the needs of programme staff and executive.
- Develop a 'whole of organisation' climate change monitoring and evaluation framework to track and report on progress on climate change activities.
- Prepare and provide climate change training and skills development activities for SPC staff.
- Prepare regular SPC climate change reports and policy briefs on SPC climate change activities.
- Create cross-organisational linkages between SPC programmes and divisions to ensure integrated multi-sector information exchanges and work programme synergies.

Key result area 5: Reduction in organisational greenhouse gas emissions and increased resilience to climate change impacts

5

Actions

- Compile a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory for all SPC assets and operations, covering both direct and indirect emissions, and establish an emissions reduction target with supporting indicators.
- Identify and implement cost-effective actions (based on full life-cycle analysis) to reduce emissions from SPC-owned and operated assets, including a possible assessment of offset schemes for travel emissions.
- Complete an SPC climate risk assessment to identify key risks to existing assets and implement appropriate response measures.
- Undertake staff climate change awareness training activities to empower SPC staff to implement appropriate climate change response measures in the office and at home.

Key result area 6: Strengthened regional climate change coordination and partnerships

6

Actions

- Work in partnership with relevant CROP agencies, especially SPREP, PIFS and USP, on regional climate change coordination matters, and actively participate in the CROP Coos Climate Change Subcommittee and related CROP officials' meetings, DOCK meetings and other relevant activities.
- Provide support to SPREP to enhance its capacity to provide regional climate change coordination services.
- Work in partnership with all stakeholders at the national level to deliver an integrated package of technical assistance services in line with national plans and joint country strategies.
- Establish working level partnerships with the World Bank and DAB to ensure cooperative and mutually beneficial delivery of technical and financial support to PICTs, including activities implemented under the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience.
- Develop improved regional and national climate change specific data sets that can inform regional level responses.
- Publish regular policy briefs and other information products to increase awareness and understanding of climate change issues and response options across the region.
- Support linkages with civil society, including youth organisations, women's groups, and human rights and community groups, to increase their participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Establish a database of expertise in regional organisations to support technical capability sharing and attachments across the region.

Key result area 7: Strengthened international partnerships

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Actions

- Actively support the participation of PICTs in international climate change dialogue and negotiations through providing technical and administrative support to SPREP to coordinate and manage the engagement process.
- Establish linkages among international climate change science, adaptation and policy research institutions that will contribute to increasing the flow of relevant climate change information to member PICTs.
- Prepare research papers and policy briefs on climate change related matters for publication in journals and the media.
- Identify and support partnerships and south-south technical exchanges with relevant regional organisations and research institutes in other developing countries, especially small island country members of OASIS that face common climate change issues.
- Disseminate the results of SPC climate change activities to a broader international audience through conferences, meetings and other relevant forums.
- Support the linkages of civil society organisations with global and regional forums, especially from youth organisations, women's organisations and indigenous groups, so that the concerns of the Pacific region are better reflected in global and regional debates and negotiations.

