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FINAL PROJECT REPORT

"South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management"

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Index

1. General project information

Country:	Inter-regional: Pacific and Caribbean
Project title:	"South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management"
Project Number:	Project ID 00064006 (Atlas)
Implementation site:	Pacific and Caribbean regions
Period:	March 2010 – Dec 2012
Budget:	originally requested – $420,510.00 from Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund actually executed - $420,510.00
Implementing partner:	UNDP Pacific Centre
Type of budget execution:	Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)
Contact person:	Karen Bernard, Programme Specialist, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, UNDP Pacific Centre. karen.bernard@undp.org
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2. Description of project achievement

2.1. Original project purpose and degree of its achievement level

The project was designed to catalyze the great potential for exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices between SIDS in the Pacific and the Caribbean, in order to find suitable solutions and replicate best practices for addressing the various threats posed by climate change and disasters.
The programme's expected overall outcome was stated as: *strengthened safety and resilience of Pacific and Caribbean SIDS communities to a range of natural hazards by facilitating and supporting a South-South cooperation programme targeted at strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction capacity in SIDS, based on the transfer of appropriate 'Southern' expertise and technologies.*
Overall, the exchange of experiences, best practices and suitable solutions was extensively achieved. These outputs are seen by all partners as assets which will enable scaling up and further replication of best practices in the project's next phase. Based on the successes of the activities carried out under the project, partners such as Pacific Islands' Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have already mobilized extra funding from other donors, including African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States - European Union (ACP-EU) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to build on the partnerships and pilot activities established in this project.

Another indicator of the project's success is the interest of regional and global partners who were not initially involved in joining the project and delivering activities, but the partners expressed their keen interest in being key partners for the second phase. New partners include: Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) Barbados, and Fiji Meteorology Service (FMS), a sub-regional service provider. Flexibility in the project design allowed incorporation of these new partners during the ongoing implementation.

The achievements of each output are shown as follows.

2.2. Project outcomes based on pre-set indicators

Outputs and Pre-Set Indicators:

Output 1. Identification, documentation and dissemination of best practices on integrated climate change adaptation and disaster management specific to the SIDS context.

Indicator 1.1: Number of best practices on integrated disaster management and integrated climate change adaptation documented and disseminated via knowledge products.

Key **knowledge products** prepared and disseminated under the project include:

Checklist on how to mainstream gender into disaster risk management in SIDS (Annex 1) This publication was launched at the regional Pacific Platform meeting in September 2012 (held in New Caledonia). Demand has been high so far and feedback very positive, with numerous requests for copies from disaster managers, regional agencies, UN agencies and donors. The checklist has been used as a key resource in training activities in Belize, Vanuatu and other countries. A detailed distribution list has been kept and updated, so that in-depth follow up can be done later on how it was used, and to obtain feedback on the perceived usefulness.

In addition to specialized manual and models provided, the internationally renowned experts in agro-meteorology brought over from Cuba to lead the agro-meteorology training prepared a **detailed guidance note (Annex 2)** in response to students' inquiries. This guidance note focuses on "Logical steps for assessment of climate change impacts on agriculture."

Showing Caribbean experts how drinking water is tested for salinity in water-scarce Kiribati.

An **Issue Brief on lessons learned on mainstreaming of disaster risk management (DRM) in SIDS (Annex 3)** was developed through a series of meetings with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands' Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), and consultation with regional thematic working group.

Noting that mainstreaming of DRM has been under way in the Pacific

for 5 years, it was considered timely to pinpoint lessons learned, which can prove useful to other SIDS countries in Caribbean and Indian Ocean, who are just starting to embark on this process.

Indicator 1.2: Presentations made at regional meetings on replicable Southern solutions to reduce the risk of disasters and climate change for SIDS countries.

A **Project Space on UNDP's Teamworks** was set up as a platform to share the project outputs and results and to discuss and engage with interested parties. As of March 2013, this project space showcased the following content and traffic: 43 members, 19 discussion topics (with 158 views), 15 blog postings (with 93 views), 51 files, 40 pictures (with 47 views), and 14 articles (with 46 views). Therefore, this is considered quite an active and successful site.

Contributions made to **electronic networks**: there were 2 contributions made to the Pacific Solution Exchange on-line discussion on "climate change and gender": (1) to announce launch of the gender checklist for SIDS and (2) to present synopsis of main findings (as yet unpublished) from case studies on gendered approaches to climate change adaptation in SIDS.

Presentations made at **international fora**: the Project Manager made a presentation at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Climate Change Adaptation (Bangkok, March 2012) to share some lessons learned from the project on how to undertake South-South cooperation among SIDS for climate change adaptation. The National Disaster Manager from Solomon Islands participated in a High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (Korea, November 2011) to highlight how the South-South cooperation project has enabled policy and practice discussions between the Pacific and Caribbean regions on common SIDS issues.

Cross-regional participation in meetings: Pacific experts and high-level political representatives were invited to participate in the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) annual Caribbean-wide meeting of disaster managers and stakeholders for three consecutive years during the project. The Pacific experts spoke on the following topics on request from the meeting organizers and in keeping with the meeting themes: traditional food preservation techniques in preparation for cyclone season; how to read the natural signs of incoming cyclones; initiative in Cook Islands to establish a trust fund for disaster recovery; systems for tracking national investment in disaster risk management (DRM) and for developing DRM investment profiles; and mobilization of youth for DRM.

Cooks Islands' Minister of Finance speaks to Caribbean colleagues at Comprehensive Disaster Management regional meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

In a reciprocal exchange, Caribbean experts and high-level political representatives were also invited to participate in the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, annual Pacific-wide meeting of disaster managers and stakeholders, for three years during the project. The Caribbean

experts spoke on the following topics, on request from the meeting organizers and in keeping with the meeting themes: the Caribbean experience with pooled catastrophe risk insurance (CCRIF); how to engage rural communities for more effective disaster preparedness; natural vs. engineered coastal protection measures; and structures and institutions in the Caribbean which coordinate climate change adaptation actions.

This systematic exchange at regional meetings established the institutional relationships across the regions, which did not exist prior to the project, in particular between CDEMA and SOPAC as hosts of the regional meetings. This enabled the participating agencies to become more familiar with each other's mandates and realms of action, as well as the key technical staff and representatives. As a result, the SIDS position at international fora became more unified and more clearly articulated, which observers have noted as a positive development.

Also, this allowed the regional partners to leverage funding from ACP-EU to continue this cross-regional participation at regional meetings, as it was considered essential for networking and knowledge sharing. Acknowledgement of the importance of South-South exchange on common SIDS concerns has also been included in the official declarations from these sub-regional meetings.

Output 2: Transfer and exchange of technologies currently being used by SIDS for effective, equitable and appropriate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, between the Pacific and the Caribbean regions.

Indicator 2.1: Number of technical specialists or professionals from the climate change and disaster management sectors trained in appropriate technologies applied in other SIDS countries for risk management.

A group of 29 technical staff from Meteorology Services and Agricultural Departments from all Pacific islands as well as Maldives and East Timor were trained in agro-meteorology for the first time (Nadi, Fiji, May 2011), as a step towards building the capacity of the islands to independently **assess climate change impacts on the agricultural sector.** In the workshop evaluation, participants indicated that the most useful information that they learned were the crop models and climate models such as WOFOST and LOCCLIM, and how to apply these to staple crops exposed to climate change in their respective countries.

Training on **gender mainstreaming in disaster risk management** provided by a Caribbean senior expert to all 14 Pacific disaster managers (Suva, Fiji, August 2010) as a part of their annual professional development closed session,

Agro meteorology trainees visit demonstration farm in Koronivia, Fiji

resulting in evidence of their better grasp of this issue.

A Caribbean senior expert was identified to collaborate with SOPAC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to design and conduct regional training on **post-disaster needs assessment** (PDNA) for Pacific stakeholders (Vanuatu, September 2010) , integrating best practice from both regions using macro and micro- level assessment methodologies. Subsequently, the same Caribbean expert was brought by the World Bank to lead the first ever PDNA to be conducted in Fiji (and only the second time in Pacific region), following Cyclone Evan.

Four Pacific island students from Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea completed an 8-month **mid-level meteorology technician training at Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados** (September 2011 to May 2012) for the first time ever that Pacific students have studied at this high-level institute. The course was planned to improve the capacity of Pacific island countries, especially remote locations in order to provide quality data inputs for weather forecasting and climate projections, and to provide WMO certification enabling countries to meet quality management standards for the aviation industry. The students are planning to subsequently replicate this training nationally and regionally in the Pacific.

Pacific students at Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology in Barbados, during 8-month training course to strengthen climate observations.

Indicator 2.2: Exposure of DRM and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) practitioners to a range of technologies and tools used in the Pacific and Caribbean regions for effective climate risk management.

A provincial disaster manager from Solomon Islands travelled to Cuba to facilitate **climate risk management training** for Caribbean practitioners (Havana, Cuba, June 2010), emphasizing traditional coping practices used in Pacific outer islands.

Two internationally renowned **experts in agro-meteorology** were brought over from Cuba to lead the agro-meteorology training, specialized manual and models were provided, and a detailed guidance note was developed in response to students' inquiries.

A Pacific delegation of national and regional representatives undertook an **exchange visit (July 2010) to four Caribbean countries which are leading in effective DRM practices**: Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica and St. Lucia. A film documenting this Caribbean-Pacific exchange visit, with initial reflections on the relevance and replicability of best practices was produced and launched in both regions to generate discussion. A Caribbean delegation undertook a field trip to the Yasawas islands in Fiji (August 2010) to see how one remote island community is implementing **community-based disaster preparedness** in the Pacific with minimal resources.

Villagers in Yasawas, Fiji, assemble to welcome visiting Caribbean delegation and explain their community DRM preparedness approach.

Following a **field visit by Caribbean water sector experts to Kiribati,** two spin-off projects for on-the-ground South-South technical cooperation in Kiribati formulated and submitted to Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme as "strategic projects" seeking triple funding. Areas of

collaboration are non-invasive mapping of groundwater resources and eco-friendly agriculture techniques for soil conservation.

Based on contacts established under the project, proposals have been submitted to GEF for the transfer of **Cuban practices in ecological farming**, in regard to land degradation and SIDS-appropriate climate change adaptation. The project assisted to formulate the proposals, which were submitted by Fiji, Kiribati, Niue and Solomon Islands and will likely be initiated in late 2013.

Output 3: Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation included in the broader development agenda through support for national action planning, mainstreaming and advocacy work in the Pacific and Caribbean regions and countries.

Indicator 3.1: Participation of Pacific representative in the planning or implementation of mainstreaming or advocacy work in Caribbean country or region.

Apart from the "lessons learned" issue brief developed to guide the process to mainstream disaster risk management into development planning across sectors based on the experiences from the Pacific, little has been done to meet this indicator.

Indicator 3.2: Increased effectiveness of mainstreaming and advocacy programmes in SIDS due to suggestions for improvement from DRM practitioners from the other regions.

As described above, limited progress has been made on this indicator compared to other indicators.

2.3. Sustainability of the project achievement and outcomes

There are signs of the sustainability of the project's achievements, such as continued participation in cross-regional meetings, and take up of PDNA based on Caribbean expertise, as well as spin-off projects which have been formulated and submitted to GEF. South-South cooperation between these two regions on such activities will continue and will likely flourish on these foundations, eventually without UNDP's facilitation. At the same time, follow up on project activities is ongoing, such as survey currently being conducted to follow up on the application of the agro-meteorology training with the participating countries, and distribution and use of the gender checklist, so further progress toward the outcome is expected in the next few years.

Project partners noted that they feel that for better sustainability, further resource support and continued UNDP facilitation to scale up South-South cooperation among Caribbean and Pacific SIDS is still indispensable. During the project's external evaluation, all parties interviewed expressed unanimous support for a second phase of this project with insightful feedback.

2.4. Other positive/negative impact by the project

This project has generally advanced support for South-South cooperation as a valid development approach and has been a reference point for greater awareness of South-South cooperation regionally and even globally. Additional spin-off projects may be anticipated in the near future, depending on resource mobilization.

No negative impacts have been observed.

3. Quick evaluation

The following aspects provide a quick evaluation of the project:

3.1. Visibility of Japan and partnerships with Embassy of Japan/JICA at field level

The logo or name of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan was included on all publications, PowerPoints and press releases and acknowledged at all public events, to ensure due recognition of the large contribution from Japan to the project (**Annex 4**). MOFA of Japan was also featured on the project shirt/blouse and sulu (sarong), alongside the names of the key partners.

Several meetings to exchange information and compare development strategies were held with JICA staff and consultants and with Japanese embassy officials. The discussions focused on JICA's technical support projects for flood warning systems in Fiji and Solomon Islands (including a site visit in Ba), as well as an incoming South-South and triangular project supported by Japan to facilitate Fijian technical expertise in less developed Pacific countries.

Project Manager outlines the project objectives at a meeting in Havana, Cuba, with a Japanese embassy representative in attendance.

At the field level, a local Japanese embassy representative was invited to make a speech during the Pacific exchange visit to Cuba at UNDP office in Havana. A Japanese expert was invited to join a field visit to Kiribati along with Caribbean experts but was not available. Accordingly he made a presentation to the group during the pre-departure briefing in Suva , Fiji (May 2010), on the innovative foraminifer project under way in Tuvalu, to regenerate sand for fragile coastal areas affected by erosion and sea level rise.

Overall, the visibility for Japan under this project is adequate. If the second phase is actualized and the project is funded by Japan, we will further improve visibility.

Dr. Akihiro Kawada, Coordinator of the Foram Sand Project, explains the beach regeneration project sponsored by Japan in Tuvalu, as a relevant approach for many SIDS.

3.2. Relevance as UN/UNDP work

This project is highly relevant to UNDP and to the entire UN system, as the recent Human Development Report emphasizes the rise of the South, and the related increasing importance of South-South cooperation as a development approach. This was the first inter-regional SIDS South-South cooperation project, and in that regard was quite ambitious and gained high visibility, with comments and suggestions even by the UNDP Administrator.

Agencies such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and GEF have contacted the Project Manager to prepare case studies on this project, given its high profile and unprecedented inter-regional scope. The project has also been featured in a compendium by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

3.3. Efficiency (including cost-effectiveness) at implementation phase

The implementation can be considered highly efficient, given the wide range of activities implemented with a modest budget. Budget analysis indicates that long term (several months') training courses are quite cost-effective, in comparison to regional workshops.

4. Lessons learned and/or recommendation for the future

4.1. New knowledge gained

Feedback from partners through training evaluations and through the external project evaluation recently conducted shows that the new knowledge gained and applicable to other SIDS contexts was largely in these areas: agro-meteorology systems; quality control on climate observations; mainstreaming DRM and Climate Change in development planning across sectors; gender mainstreaming in DRM in SIDS; and methodologies for post-disaster needs assessment.

4.2. Design weaknesses/implementation constraints

- The high number of outputs and activities made the project difficult to manage and led to disproportionate efforts going into implementation of the numerous activities.
- Due to the limited project resources, staff time for project monitoring and follow-up was not secured enough.
- Integration of sub-regional universities did not work well, in retrospect this is beyond the value added UNDP as facilitator, and is perhaps better for academic bodies such as the SIDS University Consortium to lead the initiative.

4.3. Recommendations

- If the contribution from Japan is also expected for the Phase 2, it is recommended to assign Japanese full-time volunteers to Phase 2 of the project to ensure more visibility and communications with the Government of Japan, as well as integrating Japan's contribution more systematically.
- A potential second phase should focus on achieving transfer and replication of relevant SIDS best practices and technologies.
- Instead of exploring new technologies and practices, the second phase should go further in ensuring transfer of the practices already identified as addressing gaps under the Phase 1, such as agro-meteorology applications and support for climate change impact analysis.
- Modest co-funding should be sought from regional and national partners to foster greater commitment and ownership.
- Social media and electronic platforms should be more utilized for the project, including consideration of establishing an informal on-line chat function to enable discussion among SIDS colleagues.

5. Annexes

- ❑ Gender Check List
- ❑ Guidance Note: "Logical Steps for Assessment of Climate Change Impact on Agriculture"
- ❑ Issue Brief on "Lessons Learned from DRM Mainstreaming in Pacific SIDS"
- ❑ Snapshots of JAPAN MOFA visibility
- ❑ Financial Report