

"Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific"

Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers

14-18 August 2017
Honiara
Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 8.0 : Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

Purpose:

To inform the meeting of the progress on the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), and discuss implications and opportunities for the work of PMC in the new Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) that will monitor implementation of the FRDP.

Background:

The Framework for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) is intended to succeed the previous regional frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management (respectively, the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015 and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015). The premise of the FRDP was presented to PMC-1 in 2011, that there was a need to mainstream climate change and disaster risk at the regional level in the same manner that PICs were doing at the national level through their Joint National Action Plans for climate change and disaster risk.

The overall aim of the FRDP is to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of climate change and disasters by developing more effective and integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the FRDP provides targeted high-level strategic guidance to key stakeholder groups that are recognized as having a critical role to play in addressing challenges posed by climate change and disasters in the Pacific. These stakeholder groups include Governments and Administrations, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations and Communities, Regional Organisations and other development partners.

Progress update

The FRDP was endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in September 2016. In order to progress implementation of the FRDP, the Leaders requested PIFS to convene a technical working group to deliberate on the FRDP governance arrangements.

The original FRDP Technical Working Group which was established in 2013, in order to provide technical advice and support and to facilitate the development of the FRDP, was seen as a useful vehicle to support the meeting and progress matters. It comprises representatives from six regional intergovernmental and UN organisations including the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The FRDP Technical Working Group will be dissolved once the PRP governance arrangements have been approved and set in place by the end of 2017.

PIFS convened several meetings throughout 2017. The key premise of the discussion was based on the Leaders decision and vision. Successful implementation of the FRDP depends on robust and genuine partnerships between Pacific island countries and territories national and sub-national governments, communities, citizens, non-government and civil society organisations, private sector entities, regional and global partners.

The PRP will facilitate different stakeholder groups and communities of practice working on climate change, disaster risk management and sustainable development to:

- Document and share information, experiences and lessons learned;
- Harmonize and strengthen linkages between all levels of implementation from sub-national including communities, national, sub regional, regional and international levels;
- Undertake regional coordination, including cooperation on project development and implementation;
- Support monitoring, evaluation, reporting, learning, and communications; and
- Identify and address gaps as well as strengthen linkages, tracking and reporting against the SAMOA Pathway, Framework for Pacific Regionalism and other agreements/frameworks, such as, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and UNFCCC, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

PRP Governance arrangements

The PRP will build on and utilise existing mechanisms to avoid potential duplication and to ensure the direct involvement of decision-makers. To be successful the FRDP and PRP must be owned and led by countries and territories with the support and involvement of all stakeholders. The Pacific Island Forum Leaders are at the peak of the resilience agenda to provide broad direction on priorities. Through the Forum Officials Committee and the SPC and SPREP Governing Councils, the Pacific Leaders and Ministers' meetings can direct action and respond to reports from the PRP.

The PRP will include the:

- Pacific Resilience Meeting
- PRP Taskforce
- PRP Taskforce Support Unit
- PRP Technical Working Groups

On a biennial basis the PRP Taskforce will work with relevant PRP members to organise the regional meeting of all FRDP stakeholders notionally designated the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM). The Pacific Resilience Meeting would provide the opportunity for the sharing of implementation progress on the goals and objectives of the FRDP and other related DRM and climate change global and relevant regional strategies with an emphasis on showcasing best practice examples of resilience action and lessons learnt. This will form an important opportunity for NMHSs to contribute with examples, lessons and challenges. It could also provide impetus for greater engagement by NMHSs in producing a scientific evidence base for adaptation action in the region.

The PRP Taskforce will provide guidance and support to enable implementation of the FRDP to proceed through a range of regional and national mechanisms.

Support for the functioning of the PRP Taskforce will be through the PRP Taskforce Support Unit.

The final arrangements will be put to Leaders at their meeting in September 2017 in Apia, and will be circulated to the SPREP meeting as an attachment to this working paper.

Opportunities for PMC:

As a subsidiary body of SPREP, as well as in its capacity as a major provider of climate change science work in the region, PMC can make valuable contributions to the implementation of the FRDP. This can be through technical working groups to be established, through SPREP as a member of the Taskforce Support Unit or the Taskforce (on rotational basis with SPC, USP, PIFS). As mentioned above, this will form an important opportunity for NMHSs to contribute with examples, lessons and challenges. It could also provide impetus for greater engagement by NMHSs in producing a scientific evidence base for adaptation action in the region.

There is also scope for requests to be made by the Pacific Resilience Meeting or the PRP Taskforce for specialised work to be carried out by PMC or NMHSs. It should be noted that any such requests would be subject to the availability of funds and resources to the PMC.

The FRDP and the PRP are also opportunities for highlighting linkages in the regional work in implementing both the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework. Particularly the Paris Agreement recognises the need to strengthen national and regional scientific capacity, which can only be to the enhancement of NMHSs delivery of services to the region and their communities. This also provides for opportunities to seek resources for this work, for example as shown by the Vanuatu Green Climate Fund project.

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** the progress in the work of implementing the FRDP and establishing governance arrangements.
 - **Direct** the Secretariat to play an active role in the PRP governance and report to Members on progress.
 - **Seek** to have active engagement by PMC and NMHSs in the relevant bodies of the PRP governance structure in the context of their national delegations to those meetings.

Attachments

- Annex 1 FRDP
- Annex 2 Draft governance structure for PRP

[27 July 2017]