



PacSAFE Project

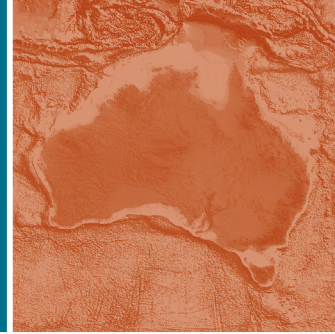


Image: Connor Ashleigh, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Natural hazards frequently cause disasters in the Pacific region. The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is collaborating with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the World Bank to strengthen resilience of Pacific Island Countries against the impacts of natural disasters through the PacSAFE project.

About the PacSAFE Project

The PacSAFE project is a response to demand from Pacific Island Countries for tools to better understand disaster impacts. The project will engage with representatives from national disaster management offices and related agencies who are involved in planning, preparing and responding to natural disasters.

Geoscience Australia, as Australia's technical implementing partner, will continue development of the functionality of the PacSAFE software tool. PacSAFE is a desktop tool based on QGIS and InaSAFE, designed and developed for non-GIS users. PacSAFE¹ was initially developed by the Pacific Community for urban planners to enable hazard data and asset data, such as the Pacific Catastrophic Risk and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) asset database.

In the current project, the PacSAFE tool will be enabled to produce realistic disaster impact scenarios by combining spatial hazard with exposure data. It will provide a simple tool for users to interrogate hazard and impact scenarios within the context of the local knowledge of their communities. This will support users in making informed decisions for disaster response and to develop evidence-based policies for enhancing disaster resilience.

¹ <http://services.gsd.spc.int/pacsafe>

The PacSAFE project will work in parallel with the Pacific Resilience Programme, a World Bank-sponsored programme implemented by the Pacific Community, to enable Pacific Island Countries to integrate the PacSAFE tool into their disaster management processes.

What are the benefits?

The PacSAFE tool will offer a simple but rigorous way to combine data from technical specialists, local governments and communities to provide insights into the likely impacts of future disaster events, the requirements for response and action checklists for emergency managers. The information from PacSAFE will allow Disaster Management Offices to be better prepared to respond.



Image: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The PacSAFE tool will also assist Disaster Management Offices to make informed decisions about remote communities during disasters without having to deploy immediately and therefore provide rapid response support across geographically dispersed island communities.

What is the timeline?

October 2016–March 2017

Consultation and User Analysis—Geoscience Australia and the Pacific Community will undertake consultation with National Disaster Management Offices and related government agencies within Tonga and Samoa to understand how the PacSAFE tool might inform and support disaster management processes. This process will identify fundamental data requirements, priority hazards, and training needs and prioritise those that can be met by the PacSAFE project.

January 2017–June 2018

Implementation and Training—Geoscience Australia and the Pacific Community will be working with identified National Disaster Management Offices and other organisations to integrate the PacSAFE tool into their disaster management processes. Geoscience Australia will be providing training to assess potential impact scenarios for hazards such as tsunami, tropical cyclone and earthquake events in the PacSAFE tool. This training will take users through the ‘plan, prepare and response’ cycle of disaster resilience planning. Regional capacity for modelling disaster events will be further strengthened through provision of specific training to the Pacific Community.

About our organisations:

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia is the geoscience advisor to the Australian Government. Geoscience Australia provides information and advice to the Australian Government and other stakeholders to support risk mitigation and community resilience to reduce the economic, social and environmental impacts of hazard events.

Pacific Community

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical agency supporting development in the Pacific. SPC, through its Disaster Reduction Programme, provides Pacific Island members with technical and policy advice and support to strengthen disaster risk management practices. The programme carries out this responsibility in coordination and collaboration with other technical program areas within the Division and also with a range of regional and international development partners and donors.

For further information

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An Australian Government Initiative



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