

Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa
19 – 21st September 2017

Agenda Item 12.1.3: Pacific Islands Coastal Resilience Framework – Implementing a Paradigm Shift

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to advise Members about the development of the Pacific Islands Coastal Resilience Framework (PICoR) and the important role that it can play in strengthening the capacity of Pacific island governments and communities to design and implement effective responses to climate change adaptation and other environmental stressors.

Background

2. There is an urgent need for Pacific island countries and territories to strengthen their resilience to climate change and non-climate change impacts. In doing so it is important to focus on the opportunities and resilience provided by protecting and restoring ecosystem services that underpin national development agendas and community livelihoods.
3. In the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan adopted by Members at the SM27 in 2016 climate change and oceans as are overarching thematic drivers for SPREP, noting that: "Ecosystem-based approaches must underpin development if Pacific island societies are to strike a balance between the aspirations of societies and sustainability of the ecosystem services that support them" (p. 4, SP).
4. The ecosystem approach is referenced in numerous national policy documents and commitments to multilateral environmental conventions; other global and regional sustainable development, climate change and disaster reduction commitments, including Forum Leaders' communiqués, the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, 2013 Laucala Declaration on Conservation in Oceania, Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2014-2020; and sectoral policies, such as the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries - Pathways to Change.

5. Funding instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund provide the opportunity for Pacific island Members to develop, fund and implement holistic responses to climate change based on the ecosystem approach. Ecosystem-based adaptation is one of the programmatic priorities of the GCF.
6. The potential application of funding, such as through the GCF, availability of regionally based technical expertise, policy commitments of national governments to ecosystem-based resilience strategies and climate change adaptation, and growing concern and interest by communities in viable approaches to protect life and livelihoods, create a nexus of opportunity to establish an effective regional coastal resilience programme. Accordingly, the Secretariat has worked with collaborative partners IUCN and SPC to develop the Pacific Islands Coastal Resilience Framework (Annex).
7. The objective of the framework is to help Pacific island governments and communities to strategically and practically address the critical challenges posed by climate change to the social and ecological systems that are the foundations for resilience and adaptation, and to underpin SPREP support to its Members through implementation of the Strategic Plan. Its aim is to facilitate a paradigm shift by Pacific island governments to move from current disjunct and often reactionary approaches to dealing with climate change and other anthropogenic stressors, which tend to focus on sectors, development agendas and thematic responses separately, to integrated holistic approaches within comprehensive analytical frameworks and scenario planning appropriate to the dimensions of predicted climate change impacts and the scale of countries and islands. This includes widening resilience planning and implementation time frames from 3-5 year project cycles to longer time frames to address critical strategic development and resilience issues predicted to be impacted by climate change, such as the demands on water resources, coastal fisheries, forests and agriculture. The framework sets out a 4-step process to guide approaches to adaptation and resilience planning, which can be tailored taking into account country circumstances, donor requirements and other factors, while maintaining a principled and integrated approach.
8. Based on the PIECoR framework SPREP and IUCN, as regional and global accredited Implementing Entities respectively, are collaborating on the development of a large scale, long term *Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change Programme* for funding by the GCF. Countries that have confirmed their participation are Fiji, Solomon Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Vanuatu. SPREP and IUCN are currently in the process of submitting a Project Preparation Funding (PPF) application to the GCF. The PPF will be implemented during 2017-2018.



Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the development and importance of the Pacific Islands Coastal Resilience Framework as a basis for strengthening national responses to climate change;
- **endorse** the framework as an important mechanism to support implementation of the Strategic Plan; and
- **endorse** the framework as an important mechanism to secure funding through the GCF and other relevant funding facilities.

15 August, 2017

