**ANNEX A: DRAFT Concept Note and Agenda**

**Virtual Regional Workshop on**

**Comprehensive Climate Change Risk Management in Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**September 23-24, 2020**

**Draft Concept Note**

**Background**

Weather and climate-related loss and damage have increased dramatically over the past few decades. Recent projections in climate research anticipate a significant increase in the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather events (e.g. hurricanes) as well as slow-onset climate-related changes (e.g. sea level rise). These negative impacts of climate change pose a growing risk to the sustainable development of all countries in general, and to least developed countries (LDCs) in particular. From the 1980s to 2013, the average number of natural catastrophes has nearly doubled. In 2014, some 900 extreme weather events caused 100 billion US dollars of damage, with 60 per cent of that damage occurring in developing countries (Munich Re’s NatCatService). Internationally, there is an increasing recognition that the current level of adaptation and mitigation action will not be enough to manage the impacts of climate change and that residual risks will remain, particularly for the most vulnerable communities that are least able to prepare to and respond to increasing climate risks. The L&D debate has thus become an additional pillar of the international climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The topic especially gained importance since the Conference of the Parties in Warsaw (COP 19 in 2013) and the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts (WIM). The Paris Agreement further underlined its importance with a stand-alone provision on L&D (Article 8 in the Paris Agreement, Para 48-52 in the Decision Text). Accordingly, all Parties to the Convention are requested to develop and implement concrete and effective climate risk management (CRM) instruments and measures in order to avert, minimize, or – when these measures are exhausted due to capacity, technological, financial, institutional or other constraints – effectively address residual L&D caused by climate-related extreme events and slow onset changes. Additionally, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction offers some helpful guidelines that require more attention in this context to benefit from synergies at the intersection between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and ensure coherence with the Paris Agreement.

For Small Island Development States (SIDS) in the Pacific Region, building resilience to better cope with the impacts of climate change is among their most important development challenges. The impacts of climate change related events as well as climate change impacts on vulnerable groups, including the private sector (small and micro-sized enterprises), can be particularly severe and should be in focus of attention. Among the sectors most affected are for example agriculture, water and food security, sanitation, coastal and marine resources, infrastructure and tourism. SIDS’s abilities to respond and manage climate-related effects are extremely limited due to their lack of institutional, financial, and technical capacities and resources.

**Purpose**

Under a GIZ funded project “Enhancing action on comprehensive climate change risk management in the Pacific Region” SPREP was able to undertake work with a team on international and regional experts to assess needs and to analyse options. Specifically:

• Identification of risks that will need to be covered (defining the coverage) both in terms of specific events and the level of coverage for individuals, communities, nations and/or the region. By identifying the climate change threats to Pacific Island countries, the nature of the insurance-type response most applicable to those threats can be designed. This includes technical exchange with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) on the results of previous risk assessments and the possible integration of appropriate response measures.

• Build on existing databases of various current risk management and finance mechanisms available to establish an appropriate means of knowledge management on these issues.

This virtual event is organized by SPREP and GIZ with the overall goal to provide a platform for Pacific SIDS to consider the outcomes of this work, and to share perspectives, experiences and lessons learned from their perspectives in order to make recommendations on further action.

**Format and content**

The event will include **two ninety-minute sessions** over **two days** (**17th and 18th of September 2020**) of interactive and participatory learning.

# The format and agenda for the event is based on inputs received from experts in the region.

**Expected outputs:**

Noting that specific topics will be confirmed by the workshop team:

* All presentations and other informative materials used for the sessions will be compiled and made available on the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the SPREP webpage
* The recordings of the sessions including the summary and materials compiled will be posted and made available on the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the SPREP webpage
* A briefing note will be developed to highlight key issues, lessons learned and recommendations for further action

**Expected outcomes:**

* Improved understanding from country representatives the outcomes of the work undertaken by the project and its implications
* Learning and sharing of experiences among countries to facilitate and support recommendations for further action
* Exchange at the country level between those working on the various aspects of comprehensive risk management approaches discussed in the workshop
* Opportunity to enhance the dialogue on loss and damage through the Alliance of Small Island States

A Survey Monkey will be developed and sent out before and after the workshop to try and gauge the outcomes.

**Targeted audience**

This is a targeted event that aims to bring about 30-35 participants from Pacific SIDS. Each country team should strive to include representatives from:

* The climate change focal point or their designate actively engaged in the overall climate change process.
* A representative with knowledge of the loss and damage negotiations or underlying issues
* A representative with expertise in risk management, insurance or similar fields such as Ministries of Finance, Planning etc.

In addition to country representatives, regional partners will be invited to contribute as observers or speakers in the sessions.

**Logistics**

The webinar will be organized using the Zoom web-based platform.

For colleagues who have indicated that they need purchase internet data in order to participate in this webinar, SPREP can reimburse the purchase of up to 10 GB of data based on receipts—which must be submitted no later than Friday, September 18 2020.

# Draft Agenda

**DAY 1**

* Event opening / introductions / general housekeeping *>> 10 minutes*
* Climate risk management & finance landscape *>> 20 minutes*
* Key findings from stakeholder interviews *>> 15 minutes*
* Executive Summary (including messages from London) of the report on “PICCIF: Consultancy for enhancing action on comprehensive climate change risk management in the Pacific Region” *>> 40 minutes*
* Setting the scene for day 2 & country group work\* following day 1*>> 5 minutes*

\* delegate response to Executive Summary of PICCIF report

**DAY 2**

* Event opening / brief recap of day 1 / general housekeeping *>> 10 minutes*
* Addressing delegate response to Executive Summary of PICCIF report *>> 15 minutes*
* Overview of the work on the loss and damage repository\*\* *>> 20 minutes*
* Using standardised vulnerability assessments to inform M&E of national adaptation *>> 30 minutes*
* Closing remarks, recommendations for next steps and outline of post-event country group work\*\*\* *>> 15 minutes*

\*\* pre-work for delegates - how would you like data to be captured, managed & accessed?

\*\*\* delegate response to proposed next steps