



PACIFIC ISLANDS APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

Review of the 1999 National Disaster Plan Koror, Palau, 6th – 10th April 2009

SOPAC Trip Report 470

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Community Risk Programme

BACKGROUND

SOPAC CRP commenced the review of the Palau 1999 National Disaster Plan through the EDF 9 Project: Reducing Vulnerability in Pacific ACP States under Key Result Area 3 to support sustainable development in Palau. Given that the review could not be completed within the project timeframe for EDF 9 which ended in December 2008, the progress in 2009 has been facilitated through other donor resources available under the CRP 2009 Work Programme.

PHASES OF THE REVIEW

The review has been progressed thus far in 2 phases. The first phase (September 2008) involved the following:

- Literature review.
- Individual consultations with representatives of key local agencies in the public sector, private sector and NGO/ CSO sector.
- National stakeholder's workshop.

The second phase (October 2008 – April 2009) has involved:

- Development of a set of policy recommendations identifying the necessary changes to the 1999 National Disaster Plan with a view to (1) improving disaster/ emergency response and; (2) effectively integrate risk considerations into the system of development planning and budgeting at national and sectoral level.
- Drafting of a new set of DRM institutional arrangements based on the policy recommendations.
- Consultations with key stakeholders on the policy recommendations and the revised set of DRM institutional arrangements.

A third phase will involve making the final amendments to the revised arrangements (through virtual exchange with the National Emergency Management Office) and possibly a follow-up visit and workshop with the Palau National Emergency Committee. If necessary a follow-up visit would be undertaken in July 2009.

MEETINGS – BRIEF SUMMARY

A schedule of meetings/ workshops and appointments during this second phase of the review is in Annex 1. Those that participated in the meetings/workshops are listed in Annex 2 and Annex 3.

National Emergency Committee

The meeting of the National Emergency Committee was held on Tuesday 7th April. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the NEC with the policy recommendation arising from the review and to obtain its endorsement for the purposes of drafting revised arrangements.¹ The meeting was chaired by the Vice President who carries direct national responsibility for disaster risk management.

The NEC endorsed the policy recommendations as presented and noted that SOPAC has taken the liberty of developing a revised set of DRM arrangements for Palau. The NEC also appointed a sub-committee to work with NEMO and SOPAC to finalise the draft arrangements prior to consideration by the full committee.

The NEC also endorsed in principle a set of forward targets and accompanying timeline for the remainder of the review process as follows:

Activity	Timeframe
Sub-committee review of revised draft arrangements as developed by SOPAC.	Week of 13 th April
Circulation of draft arrangements to the NEC and also to Government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders for comment.	Week of 20 th April
Sub-committee meeting(s) on NEC and stakeholder feedback.	Week of 18 th May
Feedback considered by SOPAC for incorporation into another revised draft.	Week of 25 th May
SOPAC revisions to NEMO and NEC sub-committee.	Week of 8 th June
NEC sub-committee meeting on final draft.	Week of 15 th June
NEC consideration of final draft.	Week of 22 nd June
Consideration of revised arrangements by HE President.	Week of 22 nd June

Stakeholders Workshop

The stakeholders workshop was conducted over 1 ½ days commencing on Wednesday 8th April. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback from participants on the nature of the policy recommendations that had been developed for the review and also to solicit input into some of the key elements for the new arrangements such as the Palau National Hazards Profile, Vision statement and table of agency responsibilities in relation to Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management.

The inputs from this workshop have since been factored into an updated version of the new arrangements.

¹ In anticipation of NEC endorsement of the policy recommendations, CRP had taken the liberty of drafting new arrangements over the period of January – March 2009. This was done to try and expedite the process of the review and in acknowledgement of the challenges faced in relation to on-going virtual consultations between SOPAC in Suva and NEMO in Koror.

Exit Briefing with the Vice President

The briefing was held on Friday 10th April with the purpose of obtaining independent feedback from the Vice President on any aspect of the review undertaken thus far and also on the proposed timeframe and milestones for the completion of the review. There was some significant discussion on the proposal (in the draft arrangements) to activate the dormant National Planning Committee² to be the umbrella entity to lead the mainstreaming of DRR into the national and sectoral planning and budgetary system.

The Vice President seemed content with the progress made and is committed to the finalisation and implementation of the new arrangements. The Vice President has successfully revived the NEC following a 4-year hiatus. Since taking up his appointment late last year the NEC has met already on two occasions. SOPAC CRP intends to work closely with the Vice President and the Director of NEMO to improve DRM performance in Palau.

ISSUES

Whilst the current Government, through the Vice President, is committed to improving the DRM performance of Palau, it is evident that for any real progress to be made the strengthening of the NEMO and other agencies in relation to their responsibilities as identified under the new arrangements is of critical concern. The new arrangements draw direct reference to this and thus on-going support from SOPAC and donors/ partners will be required.

The Vice President is supportive of using the review process as a first step towards the identification of both DRR and DM measures for the future. This review thus sets the process in-train for a DRM National Action Plan for Palau.

RESOURCES

- Latest version of the draft DRM arrangements for Palau is obtainable from Neta Pelesikoti.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Work with NEMO and NEC sub-committee to finalise draft arrangements.
- Undertake further visit to Palau (mid-late June) to assist NEMO with the presentation of the final draft of the new DRM arrangements to the NEC.
- Further liaise with NEMO on the development of a DRM National Action Plan for Palau as an additional complementary mechanism to the new arrangements.

² The NPC was established in 1984 by Executive Order of the then President for the purpose of coordinating national development planning but has been largely inactive. As a result, development planning and budgeting by Government agencies is largely undertaken with little or no cross-agency consultation. The NPC's activation could help to address this problem.

ANNEX 1

Schedule of Meetings/ Workshops

Date	Activity	Expected Duration
Monday 6 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NEMO Office (Alonzo Kyota and NEMO staff) – logistical arrangements for NEC meeting and stakeholders workshop. – discussions on the Policy Recommendation paper and Draft DRM Arrangements. 	Whole day
Tuesday 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NEC Round Table Meeting to raise awareness of the draft policy recommendations and obtain feedback. ▪ Debrief with NEMO. 	Half day
Wednesday 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders Workshop on Draft DRM Arrangements. 	Whole day
Thursday 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders Workshop on Draft DRM Arrangements. ▪ Debrief with NEMO. ▪ Revisions to draft DRM Arrangements. 	Half day (morning) Half day
Friday 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NEMO consultations on revisions to the Draft DRM Arrangements. ▪ Appointment with Vice President – ‘Exit Debrief’ covering the proposed way forward. ▪ Revisions to draft DRM Arrangements. ▪ Depart Palau. 	Full day

ANNEX 2**NEC Meeting Participant List****April 6, 2009****Old OEK Building, Koror**

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY/DEPT.	TEL. No.	EMAIL ADD.
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ANNEX 3

DRM FRAMEWORK WORKSHOP
REVIEW OF 1999 NDP
APR. 8-9, 2009
KOROR STATE ASSEMBLY HALL

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