



**STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE
TO DISASTERS**



**MITIGATING THE EFFECTS
OF HAZARDS**



**MAINSTREAMING DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT**

SNAPSHOTS

COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME

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Implementation arrangements for the Tonga CCA and DRM National Action Plan

Noa Tokavou, DM Adviser, Mosese Sikivou, Manager CRP and Dr Netatua Peleskoti, Manager Pacific Futures SPREP visited Tonga in late March to assist the CCA/DRM Task Force of Tonga to develop implementation arrangements in support of the Tonga National Action Plan (NAP) for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2010 - 2015.

The development of the Tonga NAP commenced in October 2009 and since then SOPAC and SPREP have provided technical and financial assistance to facilitate consultations with the Task Force.

Tongan officials are targeting the completion of the NAP in late May and hope to be able to formally submit it to Cabinet at that time.

Preliminary costs of implementing the NAP are forecast at the moment at around TOP 11 million over a 5-year period of implementation.

The NAP document will be made available on the Pacific Disaster Net web portal (www.pacificdisaster.net) once it is approved by Cabinet in Tonga.



Dr Netatua Peleskoti (SPREP, Program Manager Pacific Futures) facilitating in a workshop with the Tonga NAP Task Force.



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From the Managers Desk



Mr Mosese Sikivou

Welcome to the April 2010 issue of Snapshots. We have a number of interesting articles chronicling our DRM forays over the past month. A continuing aspect of our work in DRM mainstreaming features again with work we've been doing in the Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga. In addition we present some highlights of the support to the Fiji NDMO in relation to Tropical Cyclone Tomas which ravaged the northern and eastern parts of Fiji in March. We also provide an update of the training on the Desinventar database that our Risk Reduction Team have provided in Vanuatu.

SOPAC took a major step on the road to the integration of its work programme into the SPC when the CEOs of SPC and SOPAC signed agreements to absorb SOPAC ICT and Energy functions into the SPC. In addition, certain activities were also transferred to SPREP. There'll be more to follow as the year unfolds and we'll be sure to keep you posted here in Snapshots.

Finally, this month CRP welcomed a new addition to our family. Ms Frederique Lehoux has joined CRP as the Project Manager for the EU EDF 9 C Envelope Project which provides DRR support to the following Pacific territories: French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island and Wallis & Futuna.

Vinaka!

Mosese Sikivou

NAP Implementation in the Marshall Islands

The Manager CRP visited Majuro, Marshall Islands March 17th-18th to discuss the progress of the NAP implementation with the Chief Secretary, Mr. Casten Nemra and the Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr. Jorelik Tibon. SOPAC and the Government had signed a Letter of Agreement in November 2009 committing funds under the AusAID NAP Facility to address some of the priorities for implementation. The total amount of funds allocated to address the implementation of priorities is US\$167,000. The priorities are:

- Final editing and printing of the NAP for distribution
- Finalisation of draft national DRM governance arrangements
- Development of draft legislation to support new DRM arrangements
- Improve 'NEOC' function by strengthening current NEOC and EOCs for Police/Fire, Met Service and Education Cultural Centre
- Development of new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the NEOC and conduct of a table top exercise to test the SOPs
- Preparation of Emergency Response Plans for relevant Ministries
- Review current situation for land use and settlement planning by conducting a study on land use and building codes implementation

These actions are due for completion by the end of November 2010 and further follow up on implementation will be undertaken in late June. The Chief Secretary has committed to move forward with the implementation of the above actions with some haste.

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) through the Community Risk Programme is committed to working with officials and communities around the Pacific to strengthen the ability of countries to protect people as much as possible from the impact of natural and manmade disasters.

Development of a DRM/CCA National Action Plan for FSM

The CRP responded in March to a request from the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) in Palikir, FSM to continue support towards the development of a DRM/CCA National Action Plan for the Federated States of Micronesia. This support was provided by Stephanie Zoll, Community DRM Adviser and Mosese Sikivou, Manager CRP.

The FSM initially requested the support of SOPAC and partners to develop a joint DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) National Action Plan in 2009 as the responsibility for DRM and CCA rests with the OEEM. Given this scenario, and the similarities in terms of Disaster Risk Reduction and CCA it was logical that FSM develop a single NAP to address both these issues.

A scoping mission for the DRM/CCA NAP was undertaken by SOPAC in September 2009 and a draft NAP planning process was submitted to OEEM for consideration. The mission by the SOPAC CRP in March this year allowed for further discussions with the OEEM in terms of the appointment of a Task Force of officials to oversee the NAP development and implementation process.



Mosese Sikivou (Manager CRP, SOPAC) conducting a briefing with Heads of Departments in Palikir, FSM.

It also allowed SOPAC to participate in a 4-week long Vulnerability & Adaptation assessment in the outer islands and atolls of some of the states which is a requirement under the 2nd National Communications for Climate Change for FSM. Given the overall intention to combine action planning for DRM and CCA the OEEM decided that it is sensible to conduct the V&A Assessment simultaneously with the Multi-State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2005 (MHMP) progress review. The assessment as well as the progress review of the MHMP was identified in 2009 as being a critical part of the process of developing the NAP. A team of about 47 experts assessed the atolls and islands biodiversity, focusing particularly on soil, agriculture, marine life and forestry. SOPAC was represented on the assessment team by Stephanie Zoll who carried out spatial and risk mapping exercises with representatives of communities visited on the various islands and atolls.

The findings of the V&A assessment are to be consolidated by end of July 2010.



Stephanie Zoll (Community-based DRM Adviser) undertaking risk mapping with community members in Losap, FSM.

B-Envelope Project Updates

New Vehicle and Hydrological Equipment for PNG Department of Environment and Conservation

The Audits and Enforcement Branch in the Environment Protection Wing of the Department Environment and Conservation, Government of Papua New Guinea, took delivery of a new Toyota Land Cruiser to support their fieldwork programs in monitoring hydrological stations and collecting hydrological data. This was made possible through the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project implemented by SOPAC and funded by the European Union.

PNG has suffered from large scale flooding of major rivers causing significant damage to infrastructure affecting the local economy and the livelihood of communities residing along the major rivers.

The collection of hydrological data is crucial in providing valuable information on river level raise and flooding for decision makers and the National Disaster Centre. Due to the lack of transportation the capacity of the Environment Protection Wing to provide up-to-date hydrological information has been greatly limited in the past.

The project also supplied the Environment Protection Wing with new ICT equipment and hydrological tools and equipment. The ICT equipment will assist in the processing of the hydrological data collected from the field and greatly enhance their capacity for modelling of flood related risks.

The Project Manager of the DRR project, George Beck, stated that the new equipment will improve disaster management in general in identifying areas prone to flooding which will reduce the risk of loss to property and human lives. Other key stakeholders, such as the private sector, who are involved in the mining sector and hydrological related activities will also benefit from this initiative.

The project will continue to support the work in hydrology through the establishment of more hydrological monitoring stations and improving communications to disseminate early warning to communities.

The head of the Environment Protection Wing, Tony Kuman, was very grateful for the assistance of the European Union in providing his office with the equipment through the project.

In February 2010, the Head of the European Delegation in PNG, Mr. Kay Beese, officially handed over the new vehicle and equipment to the representative of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

B-Envelope Project to Construct Emergency Operation Centres in Solomon Islands.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Project (B-Envelope), implemented by SOPAC and funded by the European Union, will commit up to Euro 500,000 for the construction of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) in selected Provinces in the Solomon Islands.

The National Disaster Council has identified the Provinces of Makira, Temotu, Rennell & Belona, and Western Province to be the first recipients of new buildings. These provinces are remote and more frequently affected by natural disasters such as cyclones, tsunamis and drought.

The National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Works have been working closely with SOPAC in developing the architectural and engineering plans for the EOCs.

The buildings are designed to withstand tropical cyclones and serve as operational centres during the event of a natural hazard.

The project will also equip the EOCs with communication equipment. The provincial Emergency Operation Centres will greatly enhance the capacity of the National Disaster Centre to disseminate early warnings to remote communities and to better coordinate response in affected communities.

The National Project Steering Committee met in March 2010 to approve the plans with tenders for the construction to be launched in April 2010.

Update on World Bank/SOPAC/Asian Development Bank Initiative on Risk Exposure Databases

Michael Bonte-Grapentin (Team Leader Risk Reduction), Joy Papao (Project Officer Risk Mapping) and Susan Vocea (Project Officer Risk Reduction) from SOPAC's Community Risk Programme in collaboration with Phil Glassey (ADB Project Team Leader) from GNS Science and Todd Bosse (Senior GIS Analyst) of Pacific Disaster Centre were in the Solomon Islands March 9th - 30th. The intention of the visit was to work with counterparts from the National Disaster Management Office, Airport Services and Honiara Town Council to carry out Solomon Islands building surveys for Honiara, Noro, Munda, Gizo and Auki.



Janet Batee (Chief Administrative Officer, NDMO Solomon Island), Jonathan Tafik (Project Intern GIS and Information Officer) and Phil Glassey (GNS) surveying in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

A total of over 13,000 points were surveyed which included buildings, major infrastructure and industries. The survey covered about 60% of all buildings in Honiara, Munda and Auki, concentrating on the main urban, commercial and industrial areas and sampling of residential, rural areas and peri-urban settlements. In Noro and Gizo a significant portion of the townships were covered.

Although the Solomon Islands are located along a very active seismic zone, it was surprising to note the high amount of buildings with weak under storeys without bracing. Characteristic of the Solomon Islands these are often comprised of galvanised steel pipes.



Example of a Solomon Island house built on galvanised steel pipes

During the surveys in the Western Province, damage to structures resulting from the Gizo M8.1 and the Rendova M7.2 earthquakes in 2007 and 2010 respectively were noted. While it was encouraging to see reconstruction on tsunami struck Gizo progressing, it was sad to note that the opportunity to enforce a general setback and to move valuable infrastructure out of harm's way has been largely missed.

The overall remarkable amount of data collected within a very short time period was achieved despite some significant challenges the team faced during the survey such as having to contend with Cyclone Ului causing the diversion of government support



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Pacific Disaster Net

www.pacificdisaster.net



PACIFIC DISASTER NET

TC Tomas and TC Ului - Information Management support by Pacific Disaster Net

Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) continues to support information management for the region and in particular for the recent tropical cyclones - TC Tomas in Fiji and TC Ului in the Solomon Islands. The PDN team was able to upload more than 160 documents on these tropical cyclones including alerts, situation reports, weather information, public advisories, etc. which can be found under <http://www.pacificdisaster.net/> (i.e. search for 'tomas' or 'ului') as well as in their specific sites <http://pdn.appspot.com/CycloneTomas/> and <http://pdn.appspot.com/CycloneUlui/>. The PDN team continues to provide latest updates on relevant and official information as it becomes available.

It is very promising to see information management significantly improving within the Fiji NDMO for use in the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), and other response agencies during TC Tomas, following the efforts of the pilot project initiated for Fiji in 2009: "Strengthening Disaster Management Information Systems".

The PDN Team is also delighted to be back to full complement with the return of Fane Ravula-Dinono from maternity leave.

Bangkok Meetings, March 2010

Other PDN news includes the attendance of SOPAC/CRP Information and Database Management Advisor, Jutta May, to the first 2010 meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) held in Bangkok last month (March). The meeting focused on the next cycle of HFA progress reporting, the HFA Mid-term review (including process and implications), and the preparations for the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea in October 2010. The IAP meeting also provided an opportunity for members to exchange recent experiences along with core developments in their DRR work in the Asia/Pacific region as a useful approach to keep each other informed in the spirit of true partnership building.

Following this IAP meeting, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) hosted the third meeting of the IAP Working Group on Stocktaking and Mapping of DRR initiatives and Project Steering Committee to review the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Project Portal, implemented by the ISDR Asia Partnership and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

A side meeting of SOPAC and UNISDR PreventionWeb (<http://www.preventionweb.net/>) presented an excellent opportunity for discussions on greater collaboration between Pacific Disaster Net and PreventionWeb. These discussions revolved primarily around plans for improved exchanges in form of content syndication as a more effective way to share information between partners and other websites.

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Upcoming Events

- March 30th - April 23rd: The SOPAC/GNS/PDC team is currently in Vanuatu and will be surveying Port Vila, Luganville, Ambae, Tanna and Gaua.
- April 19th - 23rd: Solomon Islands DM training for final year nursing students at Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (annual event) - national trainers will deliver Introduction to Disaster Management and Initial Damage Assessment training for up to 35 third year students, supported by TAF/OFDA.
- April 26th - 30th: Cook Islands Training for Instructors course being organised jointly by EMCI and CI Red Cross Society, supported by TAF/OFDA.

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