



PACIFIC ISLANDS APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MDG-BASED PLANNING, COSTING AND BUDGETING FOR THE POLYNESIAN COUNTRIES Edge Water Resort, Rarotonga, Cook Islands 26-29 May 2008

SOPAC Trip Report 444a

Paul Fairbairn & Paula Holland

Community Lifelines & Oceans and Islands Programmes

BACKGROUND

In October 2006, the UNDP Pacific Centre organized a Regional workshop on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) based planning and costing for 15 Pacific countries. During the workshop, countries requested that there should be technical follow-ups at national and sub-regional level. As a result, 2 sub-regional MDG workshops were held in 2007 for the North Pacific and West Pacific Countries respectively. This meeting concerned a third similar MDG workshop for Polynesian countries. Participants were targeted from Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue and Tokelau and included Government and civil society representatives.

OBJECTIVES

The meeting was conducted to present to countries 'tools' to assist them cost interventions that address MDGs. In so doing, organisers presented on the meaning of poverty and how these relate to MDGs as well. A provisional agenda for the meeting is available in Annex 1.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MEETING

The thrust of the meeting was to introduce countries and agencies to a number of tools that simplify cost estimation of interventions. Six tools were presented to cover the costing of interventions in:

- Education;
- health;
- HIV;
- energy;
- environment; and
- gender.

The 'tools' were pre-prepared Excel spreadsheets that automatically calculate costs as a function of changes in population size/ growth, needs, existing infrastructure, existing budget commitments and so on. Countries were taken briefly through the Excel spreadsheets and shown how to input assumptions (eg. size of population) and how this would change the costs of doing projects in different areas.

Since the meeting was relatively brief (at least in terms of understanding the intricacies of the tools), countries were invited to contact UNDP-Pacific Centre at a convenient time to ask for hands-on support in using the tools. UNDP-PC staff suggested that they could, at an appropriate time, visit a country and work with staff to input critical data to the spreadsheets, assist them identify interventions and then use the spreadsheets to calculate the cost of activities.

It was made very clear at the meeting that the tools could not be used by countries to determine where the funds to pay for MDG activities could be found. They could only be used to identify how much would need to be found. This was disappointing to some country participants who felt that it was pointless to estimate the cost of interventions if sources of funding were not apparent. (This appears to be despite the fact that most donors would be expected to want to know the cost of interventions before agreeing to fund them.)

Another criticism was that the tools were not interlinked so that cross links between sectors (eg., impact of environmental activities on the cost/ scale of environmental interventions) were not made. In fact, the gender tool did make an explicit allocation for gender-impacting work conducted in other sectors, but this was the only tool that allowed for such cross links.

OUTCOMES

The tools presented were of interest to some countries, if not necessarily all. For instance, Niue was particularly interested in using the education tool to cost interventions while representatives of the Tonga team considered the tools were merely academic if funding was not available for interventions. For SOPAC, the tools of most direct interest are likely to be those for energy and the environment. However, it is likely that SOPAC staff could do the same work (and indeed already are) without the UNDP-PC tools. Nevertheless, the tools provide a helpful list of activities and parameters that would assist in considering costs.

SIDE MEETINGS

Sholan Ivaiti, Financial Secretariat Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands

Was interested in SOPAC conducting an economic analysis of potential manganese nodule extraction from Cook Island waters. He commented that the Cook Islands has never exploited any of its mineral resources before and that it has no legislative framework to guide decision regarding exploitation (process for decision making, policy options to ensure transparency, benefit sharing, access to resources etc.). He is therefore interested in an economic analysis to:

- Establish the legislative framework;
- assess prices and pre-feasibility of extraction; and
- consider other issues such as the appropriateness of in-country processing.

Despite Sholan's suggestion that there is a lack of legislative framework to manage mining, it appears that the Cook Islands Government is currently working with the Commonwealth Secretariat to establish such legislation. Underpinning this is a draft Bill (so clearly there has been some considerable discussion on this issue). Paula asked for a copy of the Bill to inform any terms of reference she prepares for an economic analysis. However, Sholan was cagey about this so we are unsure whether we will get it.

At the same time, Sholan stated that Norway has expressed keen interest to exploit the nodules and has offered to provide assistance in development a legal framework for nodule extraction together with a pre-feasibility assessment. He is waiting for two weeks to hear if the Norwegians

will do this. Paula advised that an economic analysis is within the remit and expertise of SOPAC to conduct. However, given that Norway had already offered to do this and that Sholan was waiting to hear if they would go ahead, she asked why the Cook Islands were approaching SOPAC to do the same work. We suggested that SOPAC could undertake the analysis or alternatively could review the analysis of others and or act on a steering committee to provide technical input. Sholan suggested that the Cook Islands Government is interested in support from SOPAC at the technical level but seemed reluctant to explain how a SOPAC economic analysis would fit with a Norwegian economic analysis. In fact, Sholan was a bit cagey altogether and we had the distinct impression that there were some games being played here and that not all cards were being placed on the table. This is unexpected given that it was the Cook Islands who approached SOPAC for help and that SOPAC has nothing to gain by doing or not doing the work. It raises the question how straightforward an economic analysis will be if government reps are not forthcoming. If we are unable to get basic information face to face, there may be challenges securing data for analysis in-situ later on.

The government appears to be keen to exploit the opportunities of manganese nodules. Sholan stated that, even if extraction occurred at the cost of tourism (which is based on the image of a pristine environment), this would be attractive provided that returns exceed tourist returns.

In the end, Paula offered to draft some terms of reference for a SOPAC economic analysis of manganese nodule extraction for consideration and input by Sholan. She said SOPAC will then wait to see if the Cook Islands want to do the work and, if so, we could then discuss timing and so on then.

Easter Galuvao UNDP Samoa

Asked whether SOPAC would be able to conduct an economic analysis of waste for Tokelau. There are substantial waste problems in Tokelau and a number of options for dealing with this. UNDP would like to see an economic analysis of alternatives conducted to inform which would be the best to pursue. Paula observed that SPREP has the remit for (solid) waste management in the Pacific but agreed that it has no economists on board to conduct the work (although it could presumably always contract in experts). She stated that SOPAC has expertise in-house to conduct the work. Paula suggested that if SOPAC were to conduct the work, it would fit best within SOPAC's remit for liquid waste management and technical assistance in this. Paula suggested that UNDP put the request through the Directorate and it could be taken from there.

Hermann Timmermans, David Abbott UNDP-Pacific Centre, Suva

Discussed some minor revisions to a joint proposal recently submitted by SOPAC/ UNDP-PC to the UNDP in Bangkok. The proposal has now been revised and resubmitted to Bangkok for consideration. If successful, SOPAC and UNDP-PC will oversee a project on natural disaster and poverty. The findings of the study will be used to (i) mainstream disaster risk reduction to Pacific planning processes (ii) raise the profile of disaster-poverty issues in the Pacific by providing material to be included in a forthcoming global review of disaster and poverty by the UNISDR. The global review will be published in 2009.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

A CD of all presentations and tools (Excel spreadsheets) presented at the meeting is available from both Paul and Paula.

Publication and CD on Translating CEDAW into Law for the Cook Islands.

CD on FUEL – to change livelihoods, equity, empowerment – overcoming vulnerability to rising oil prices.

ANNEXES

To be added/made available separately include coverage of the following additional meetings / events.

- Launch of the Cook Islands publication and CD – ‘Translating CEDAW into Law’ for the Cook Islands.
- Discussions with Ms Easter Galuvao and Mr Thomas Jensen on the wrap-up activities and terminal / exit arrangements for the PIEPSAP Project.
- Meeting on Energy sector issues and support required for the future.
- Meeting on water / HYCOS issues.

Sub Regional Workshop on MDG-based planning, costing and budgeting for the Polynesian Countries

Edge Water Resort, Rarotonga, Cook Islands 26-29 May 2008

Provisional Agenda

- Day 1 - Achieving national development priorities and the MDGs & reducing poverty: policy implications*
- 8:30 - Registration of participants
 - 9:00 - Opening statement by Ms Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Samoa Multi Country Office
 - 9:10 - Opening address by Hon. Jim Marurai, Prime Minister, Government of the Cook Islands
 - 9:20 - Group photo
 - **MORNING TEA**
 - 10:00 - The MDG framework in the Polynesian sub region, Carol Flore-Smrecznia, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 10:20 - Discussions
 - 11:00 - Data sources, definitions of poverty, and policy implications, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 11:30 - Discussions
 - 12:00 - **LUNCH**
 - 13:00 - Pro-poor policy and implications for MDGs achievement, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 13:30 - Gender-responsiveness for MDGs achievement, Ana Laqeretabua, UNIFEM
 - 13:50 - Discussions
 - 14:25 - Child-friendly policy and child-friendly budget for MDGs achievement, Mereia Carling or Reiko Yoshihara, UNICEF
 - 14:55 - The impact of migration on population structures in Polynesia: Implications for MDGs achievement, Jean Louis Rallu, UNFPA
 - 15:20 - **AFTERNOON TEA**
 - 15:35 - Discussions
 - 16:00 - Group Exercise on gender responsiveness
 - 16:30 - Plenary discussions & Reporting back
 - 17:15 - Wrapping up
 - 17:30 - *Welcome Reception hosted by the UNDP Pacific Centre*

- Day 2* - *Planning and Budgeting to achieve national priorities and the MDGs: Introducing MDG Needs Assessment and costing tools to support policy formulation at sector and national level*
- 9:00 - How to plan for MDG-based NSDS, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo
- 9:30 - Discussions
- 10:00 - Budgeting to achieve the MDGs, TBC
- 10:30 - **MORNING TEA**
- 10:45 - Discussions
- 11:15 - Gender Responsive Budgeting: Rationale, Steps, Entry Points, Good Practices, *tbc*
- 11:45 - Discussions
- 12:15 - **LUNCH**
- 13:15 - Group Exercise on budgeting and GRB
- 14:15 - Reporting back and discussions
- 15:00 - MDG financing and linking cost estimates with national budgetary/ fiscal instruments: the core of the MDG Initiative, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo
- 15:30 - **AFTERNOON TEA**
- 15:45 - Discussions
- 16:15 - Introducing the Education Costing Tool, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 16:30 - Hands-on application of costing tool
- 17:15 - Plenary discussions and feedback
- 17:30 - Wrap up
- 18:00 - Official launch of the *Cook Islands CEDAW Legislative Compliance Review* by the UNDP Pacific Centre and the Government of the Cook Islands, followed by reception.

- Day 3 - We continue with the Costing Tools to identify sector priorities and cost interventions for MDG achievement*
- 9:00 - Introducing the Health Costing Tool, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 9:30 - Hands-on application of costing tool
 - 10:15 - Introducing the HIV Costing Tool, Ferdinand Strobel, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 11:00 - **MORNING TEA**
 - 11:15 - Discussions
 - 11:45 - Energy and Poverty Linkages: Policy implication for MDG Achievement in the Pacific, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok
 - 12:15 - Discussions
 - 12:30 - **LUNCH**
 - 13:30 - Introducing the Energy Costing Tool, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok
 - 13:50 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
 - 14:30 - Discussions
 - 14:45 - Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Policy implications for the Pacific region, Herman Timmermans, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 15:15 - Discussions
 - 15:45 - **AFTERNOON TEA**
 - 16:00 - Introducing the Environment Costing Tool, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok
 - 16:20 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
 - 17:00 - Discussions
 - 17:15 - Wrap-up

- Day 4 - Moving from sector priorities to linking policy, sector / national planning and budgeting: Country experiences and good practices, followed by Action Planning*
- 9:00 - Introducing the Gender Costing Tool, Carol Flore-Smreczniak, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 9:20 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
 - 9:50 - Discussions
 - 10:00 - Case study Samoa
 - 10:20 - Case study Tonga
 - 10:45 - **MORNING TEA**
 - 11:00 - Discussions
 - 11:30 - Case study Cook Islands
 - 11:50 - Case study Niue
 - 12:10 - Case Study Tokelau
 - 12:30 - **LUNCH**
 - 13:30 - Discussions
 - 14:00 - Linking policy, sector plans & national strategy and budgeting to achieve the MDGs: Good practices, David Smith, UNESCAP
 - 14:30 - Discussions
 - 15:00 - **AFTERNOON TEA**
 - 15:15 - Action Planning, David Abbott & Carol Flore-Smreczniak, UNDP Pacific Centre
 - 16:15 - Plenary discussions and feedback
 - 16:45 - Evaluation and Wrap-up
 - 17:00 - Closing
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