

Current approaches to adaptation in the Pacific

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SPREP Work on climate change

- Since 1991 actively supporting Pacific Island Countries in the FCCC process
- Support for 1st National Communications, commenced work on adaptation in region
- 1st stage 3 adaptation project in 4 countries
- Currently PACC in 14 Pacific Island Countries and 1 territory



Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change

- PACC project implements on-ground measures in water, food security and coastal infrastructure
- Community based V and A, combining a bottom-up/top-down approach
- Seeking implementation solutions that are supported by science as well as acceptable to the community



Loss and damage in the Pacific

- Some Pacific Island Countries are extremely vulnerable - others are equally vulnerable through the distribution of economic activity
- Relocation of productive sectors from coast is not a feasible option
- There are limits to adaptation that cannot be met by mainstreaming or project-based approaches



Some thoughts on the mechanism

- Three components are called for by AOSIS - insurance, rehabilitation, risk management
- All are integral, mutually supportive and required to work in synergy
- The components of the mechanism are inter-dependent and all are needed as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to minimizing and addressing loss and damage
- Equally important is the need to have requisite and corresponding structures at the national level to enable Pacific Island Countries to benefit from the opportunities that the mechanism will open.



Insurance

- Need to better manage financial risks
- Limited penetration of insurance products in the region
- Need for capacity building to better utilize and spread innovative mechanisms
- Need for exposure to new ideas in insurance



Rehabilitation

- Sectors require looking beyond standard management responses - eg in fisheries
- Tipping points are not accounted for in current adaptation planning
- Slow onset damages to eg water sector require much more integrated responses
- National structures require greater support if response is to be commensurate to the scale of problem



Risk management

- There is a need for enhanced technical and financial support to risk reduction efforts for climate-related extreme weather events
- Facilitation of information and training on how to reduce risk from the impacts of progressive negative impacts of climate change - sea level rise, increasing sea and air temperatures, ocean acidification, and so on, to enable awareness of and the wherewithal to limit impacts on coastal infrastructure, shorelines, coral reefs in an integrated approach with the other two components.



Conclusions

- Significant up scaling of capacity at the national level
- One is not a substitute or an alternative for the other
- Technical capacity and materiel should also be built in to technological developments for adaptation, eg multiple overlay high resolution GIS linked with climate early warning systems
- Countries with a very low level of insurance penetration in markets and sectors and to begin building up the skill sets required to implement the insurance component at the national level.

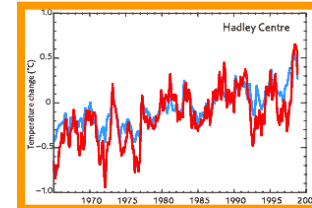


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Impacts - storm surges





**Kommol tata!
Faafetai tele lava!**