

Goal of Approach: DALA capacity building/ PICRAFI

The Pacific region is presently subject to extensive hydro meteorological hazards which are likely to be impacted by climate change. Assessment of climate change related hydrometeorological events is therefore critical to ongoing monitoring, and planning to increase resilience as well as support development.

Presently, the focus of the SOPAC Division of SPC is to increase the consistency and comprehensiveness of damage and loss assessment of natural hazard related disaster events. In so doing, SOPAC is presently at Phase II of funding application for the GFDRR to establish a regional pool of expertise in DALA for post disaster needs. The work should provide a consistent means to track disaster impacts economically and should provide a strong foundation for CC-related DALA.

In the meanwhile, economic assessment of adaptation solutions is conducted by SOPAC Division to inform the design of approaches as well as advocate for investment in disaster risk reduction. Since this information relies on effectiveness baseline data, the economic analysis of adaptation responses will be greatly assisted by the DALA work, should this ultimately be supported.

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Main elements of the implementation strategy

The DALA proposal before the GFDRR aims to improve disaster risk reduction in the Pacific by increasing the accuracy of damage, loss and needs assessments via the establishment of a regional pool of personally trained in the application of DALA to inform PDNA. This framework for disaster assessment has been in used by Caribbean/Latin American for around 40 years and – with ongoing refinement – is now used entirely in these areas. The framework is the economic assessment framework for disasters preferred by the UN, EU and World Bank.

The proposal to extend DALA capacity for natural hazard related disasters is intended for funding over 2013-2015 and targets:

- The establishment of a regional pool of experts in DALA/PDNA application (preparation of Pacific-relevant training, training of sector experts, deployment in the field to apply learning)
- Knowledge sharing (development of Pacific-specific guidance materials such as a manual, finalised training package, protocols etc.)
- Sustainability (training of trainers).

The development of the proposal results from a committee of stakeholders led by the SOPAC Division of SPC. The committee includes international organizations (UNDP, ISDR) as well as national agencies. Since its development, consultation with Pacific island governments (via their NDMOs) has secured Pacific island buy-in to the proposal, with it being championed by three of the region's most hazard prone countries – Samoa, Cook islands and Vanuatu.

The work is consistent with requests from Pacific island countries to increase national expertise in the economic assessment of disasters (eg., Palau) as well as recommendations under:

- the Hyogo Framework for Action (Theme 1: Core indicator 1 – Develop new and strengthen guidelines, tools and training programmes to assist national governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction; Theme 2: Knowledge, Information, Public Awareness and Education: Core indicator 7 – support countries to develop capacity to conduct comprehensive disaster impact assessments and cost benefit analysis of disaster risk reduction and disaster management measures; Theme 4: Planning for effective preparedness, Response and Recovery: Core indicator 4 – support the development and/or strengthening of appropriate regional mechanisms in conjunction with key

- stakeholders to respond to humanitarian needs at the request of Pacific island nations); and the Regional Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management (Theme 1: Develop new and strengthen existing guidelines, tools and training programs to assist national governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction and disaster management.

Targeted beneficiaries

Pacific island countries will benefit from improved accuracy in disaster assessment and more targeted and strategic identification of post disaster needs. Donors will have access to more comprehensive and systematic assessments of disasters and post disaster needs enabling more targeted assistance.

Any significant lessons learned

- No lessons yet regarding DALA

Resource requirements

- Yet to learn!

Potential for replication or scaling-up

- Significant for the DALA framework. We would wish to see this work form part of a comprehensive capacity building programme of systematic capacity development that runs into the medium term, starting with the establishment of a pool of experts and ultimately extending to whole-of-government capacity building.

Any additional information

SOPAC conducts economic assessments of climate change adaptation options. Major constraints are the lack of baseline information (and the need for this to be built into project design), uncertainty of the impact of climate change (although there have been substantial developments nevertheless, eg, projections of climate change impact on Pacific island nations generated by the Government of Australia under its PASAP programme) and uncertainty about the likely impact of interventions of key parameters.