

Project Summary

The new Pacific-German regional programme Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPIR) aims to build and strengthen the capacities of Pacific member countries and regional organizations, to adapt to, and mitigate climate change impacts in the agriculture, forestry, and land management sector. The 4-year project, that started in January 2009, has a German contribution of up to 4.2 million Euros and is based with the SPC Land Resources Division in Suva, Fiji. The project will focus activities in three countries, namely, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Tonga.

At the regional level, the project aligns with the Pacific Island Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015 (PIFACC). The project supports Vanuatu in implementing its National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) and contributes to the fulfilment of the Fiji and Tonga National Communications to UNFCCC.

The overall objective of the programme is as follows:

“The capacities of member countries of the SPC to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and to avoid deforestation are strengthened, as a fundamental element for sustainable management of land based natural resources”

In achieving its main objective, the following outcomes (or indicators) are expected:

1. The sector programmes and working teams of SPC Land Resources Division systematically integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation concerns into its strategic approach and advisory services
2. At least 3 member countries access and utilize the new services and knowledge provided by SPC-LRD as a regional knowledge hub to develop and subsequently implement (at least 1 member country) efficient and effective national adaptation strategies
3. Existing strategies, planning documents and related processes on land use planning in Tonga and Vanuatu integrate climate change issues, with gender aspects taken into consideration, and the subsequent first steps in implementing these land use plans are carried out
4. Fiji signs at least one contract using international carbon market instruments on certificates for avoided deforestation

A series of regional and national workshops has been carried out in order to define the strategic fields of work within the above-mentioned frame. Stakeholders elaborated a detailed plan of operations for each of the components and designed and agreed on a monitoring system for the steering and reporting of the programme. This paper provides a summary of the results obtained through these planning steps.

I. MAJOR OUTPUTS AND MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

The outputs¹, with relevant activities, are bundled into four groups according to the four outcomes (or indicators) and are summarised as follow:

INDICATOR 1: Integration of climate change into strategic approaches and advisory services of SPC

In order to **qualify technical staff of SPC-LRD as resource personnel on climate change** (output 1), specific training courses on climate change will be undertaken for SPC-LRD staff and Information & Knowledge Management seminars organized. The sectoral programmes will be screened for future integration of climate change.

As a major regional advisory body for Governments and other stakeholders in the member countries, SPC-LRD will **develop climate change related training programmes at SPC** (output 2). This will include an evaluation on the specific needs of member countries designing specific new training courses (taking into consideration the training needs for member countries), integrating climate change relevant issues into existing trainings and delivery of training courses on climate change to member countries.

SPC-LRD aims to develop into a regional knowledge hub for climate change issues on land-based resources. Thus, providing efficient **information and communication tools on CC** (output 3) is essential. Activities toward this include: regularly collecting and updating relevant data on climate change, undertaking specific vulnerability studies, collation and documentation of best practices on adaptation and mitigation, and developing new “climate proofed” practices on agriculture and forestry. Information and knowledge management systems will be strengthened to ensure easier access to information by third parties, the wider dissemination of information, active dialogue, and the effective coordination of relevant activities among CROP agencies (SPREP, USP, SOPAC).

The **documentation of implementation and integration processes in Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji and SPC-LRD** (output 4) will allow SPC-LRD and other stakeholders involved in the respective processes to capitalize experiences on mainstreaming climate change as a cross cutting issue. After a desk study of similar processes on a global scale, a specific monitoring tool will be developed and the integration processes will be documented.

INDICATOR 2: The development and implementation of efficient and effective national adaptation strategies in three member countries.

In Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, **draft national climate change strategic adaptation plan on land based natural resources** (output 5) will be developed.

¹ Output is defined as the direct product or service provided by the project. It is usually provided to intermediaries for autonomous use.

The review of existing policies will be followed by an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders on all levels. Finally, a draft national adaptation strategy will be elaborated and submitted to the approving bodies.

For information, monitoring and reporting purposes, national **climate change databases** will be developed (output 6). Designing the database, providing hardware and software, running training for specific users are the first activities followed by a regular data collection and updating process.

Implementing model projects on climate change adaptation on pilot sites (output 7) will be of crucial importance in order to gather experiences on the ground and feed them back into the national strategic processes and create success stories of concrete adaptation measures for the benefit of local communities. An intensive consultation process to identify suitable pilot sites and the scope and content of the pilot projects. The implementation of the pilot projects will take place throughout the duration of the programme. On a broader scale, appropriate climate change resistant crops will be introduced and promoted.

Informed members and skilled trainers of the different sectors of the society (output 8) are the basis for a sustainable change in agriculture and forestry systems that promote higher resilience to climate change. Specific activities include the training of journalists, training of national counterparts and local communities, training of lectures and teachers, developing information and awareness material and developing and implementing an overall communication strategy.

INDICATOR 3: The integration of adaptation to climate change in land use plans and related strategies in Tonga and Vanuatu and their implementation

The **draft national rural land use policy & agriculture & forestry policies** (output 9) should integrate adaptation to climate change as a fundamental and cross cutting theme. Based on a sound review of existing land use policies and land use plans as well as agriculture and forestry policies, comprehensive consultation processes will be carried out to involve all stakeholders in the formulation of the new policies and the land zoning. The draft versions will be submitted to the respective approving bodies.

As a practical tool for land use planning, **draft guidelines for rural land-use planning** (output 10) will be developed. There will be intensive stakeholders consultations at all levels to review existing guidelines, and draft the new guidelines integrating climate change issues.

Implementing land-use plans on a pilot-base (output 11) will be of crucial importance in order to gather experiences on the ground and feed them back into the national strategic processes (see output 10) and create success stories of climate proofed land use planning. Assessment of vulnerability and adaptation needs will be undertaken followed by awareness and training activities in the field. Proper land use planning will be done on selected sites and the implementation of the plans will be supported from 2011 onwards.

INDICATOR 4: Linking Fiji's forestry sector to international carbon market instrument through certificates for avoided deforestation

As a first step, **institutional arrangements and capacities regarding the international carbon market have to be developed and strengthened** (output 12). Reviewing and formalizing institutional arrangements for dealing with carbon certificates, defining

mechanisms for distributing of benefits and developing capacities of main stakeholders are the main activities in this field of work.

The **data base on forest resources must be updated** (output 13) as a fundamental element for future negotiations on the international carbon market. Activities toward this include compiling existing data, carrying out a national scoping study for forest carbon inventory, providing related training for main stakeholders and undertaking a national forest carbon inventory.

To develop a full **carbon market instruments for REDD** (output 14), available opportunities on carbon market instruments will be gathered, ad national policy document for REDD will be drafted and a REDD implementation plan will be elaborated. On pilot sites, REDD projects will be developed and implemented.

As direct participation of local communities is a fundamental principal of sustainable forest management, **strengthened capacities of local communities in pilot project site/site selected for full proposal** (output 15) are of high importance. This is also necessary in order to offer eligible pilot projects to the international carbon market and to assure that local communities are benefitting from a carbon credit contract. Informing and consulting the communities on the pilot sites, assuring training, and capacity building and involving them into the process of elaborating the proposal are major activities.

II. THE USE OF THE PROJECT OUTPUTS AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Other stakeholders are expected to make use of or apply the outputs produced through the project. For example, different units of SPC (others than those directly involved in the project) use the information tools (output 3) or training courses (output 2) for their own needs. SPREP and USP could be other users of the new knowledge created at SPC level. The draft national adaptation strategies (output 5-8) and the new “climate proofed” land use, agriculture and forest draft policies (output 9-11), are taken up by the responsible ministries and national coordination bodies (such as the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, NACCC, in Vanuatu) for endorsement and subsequent implementation. Regarding the mitigation component in Fiji (output 12-15), sellers, buyers and the designated national authority use the proposals for negotiating carbon credit contracts and elaborate new projects in other pilot sites.

Using the outputs produced by the project will lead directly to the achievement of the four outcomes (or project indicators) and thus to the achievement of the project objective.

On a higher aggregated level, the achievement of the project goals (through the four indicators) will contribute to overarching goals of the German cooperation policy as well as the policies of the different project countries such as Millennium Development Goals (MDG), gender equality, good governance and poverty reduction.

III. STAKEHOLDERS AND INVOLVED PARTNERS

The main implementing agencies of the German Pacific regional programme are the Land Resources Division of SPC and GTZ. A project management unit has been set up in Suva comprising senior advisors and advisors from the two institutions. In Tonga, the project is attached to and will be coordinated by the Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment (MLSNRE); it also has a focal point in the

Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFFF). In Vanuatu, the project is attached to and coordinated by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) with a strong linkage to the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry Fisheries (MAQFF) and the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC). In Fiji, the project is attached to the Department of Environment (Ministry for Local Development, Urban Development, Housing and Environment) with a strong linkage to the Department of Forestry (Ministry of Primary Industries).

The management units at the regional and national levels will assure a very close collaboration and active involvement of all stakeholders from other regional organisations (SOPAC, SPREP), ministries, NGO, civil society, local communities, science (USP) and private sector.

