

Report of the 2008 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
Apia, Samoa
14-17 October 2008

The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) was held from 14 to 17 October 2008, at the National University of Samoa (NUS) Gymnasium in Apia. The Government of Switzerland funded the PCCR, while funding for the preparation of the Action Plan for the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change came from New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency (NZAid). The PCCR was organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in cooperation with the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) and national climate change focal points, and SPREP acted as Secretariat for the PCCR. The Government of Samoa provided significant logistical assistance.

The PCCR was attended by government representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Representatives of the following organizations also attended: Asian Development Bank, Caritas, Conservation International, Counterpart International, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, East-West Center, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, National University of Samoa, University of the South Pacific, World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Samoa Red Cross, World Wide Fund for Nature South Pacific, and the Swedish Commission on Climate Change and Development. Journalists from the following media also attended: Samoa Observer, Radio New Zealand, Tonga Broadcasting Commission, Cook Islands News, Niue Star, Island Sun Solomon Islands, Pacific Magazine Fiji, Saipan Tribune, Pacific Islands News Association Fiji, Islands Business Fiji, Island Times Palau, Woman's Time Samoa, Tuvalu Media, PNG PM Ltd, and Savali Newspaper Samoa. The list of participants is annexed.

Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday 14 October

Registration at NUS

Opening ceremony

Prayer – Rev. Elekosi Viliamu, EFKS Aleisa West

Official welcome – Asterio Takesy, SPREP Director

Introductory statement by Swiss Government – H.E. Dr. Beat Nobs, Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga

Keynote address – Professor Patrick Nunn, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Welcome address and official opening – The Honourable Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa

Master of ceremonies – Taito John Roache, SPREP

Session 1 – update on Action Plan for the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate change (2006-2015)

Adoption of the agenda and housekeeping issues

Working arrangements for PCCR - Facilitator – Lelei LeLaulu (Counterpart International)

Historical and regional context of the Roundtable – SOPAC paper presented by SPREP

A Swiss proposal for an international adaptation financing instrument – Ambassador of Switzerland

Introduction to Action Plan as a guiding document to the discussions – SPREP

Session 2 – working groups on Action Plan

Three working groups will be constituted, broadly clustered around the themes of the Action Plan. A lead presentation and background papers have been prepared for each working group.

Group 1: Adaptation

Facilitated by Martin Sharp (Australia)

Lead presenter – Taito Nakalevu (SPREP)

Group 2: Improving our knowledge of climate change

Facilitated by Eileen Shea (National Climatic Data Center, U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)

Lead presenter – Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea (Samoa MetService)

Group 3: Mitigation

Facilitated by James Hardcastle (The Nature Conservancy)

Lead presenter – Pepe Clarke (IUCN)

Day 2 – Wednesday 15 October

Session 3 – reporting back to plenary

Working groups report back to plenary on their discussions

Session 4 – Pacific Climate Change Portal – information and communications

Presentation on information needs, communications issues and potential for a regional climate change web based portal. Lead presenter Eileen Shea (National Climatic Data Center, U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)

Session 5 – introduction of the matrix of activities

Presentation by SPREP on previous and existing matrices, and introduction of new draft matrix.

Session 6 – working groups on matrix

Same groups will discuss the matrix in the context of their previous discussions

Day 3 – Thursday 16 October

Session 7 – reporting back to plenary

Working groups report back to plenary on their discussions

Technical working group on climate change portal

Small group to meet

Session 8 – discussion on gaps in implementation of the Action Plan

Session to be led by Facilitator – Lelei LeLaulu (Counterpart International)

Session 9 – Pacific Year of Climate Change

Presentation by SPREP, discussion of possible activities

A proposal for an Inter Agency Climate Change Centre in the Pacific – UN

Day 4 – Friday 17 October

Session 10 – next steps

Presentation of results from the Steering Committee for SPREP/SPC/USP/FAO project on climate change and food security (see note below).

Presentation of draft note by the Facilitator on next steps.

Closure of the Roundtable – Facilitator

Executive Summary

The PCCR was held at the National University of Samoa in Apia, Samoa from 14-17 October 2008. It was attended by 133 participants from governments, regional organizations, academia, civil society and the media.

The objectives of the PCCR were to share information on current and planned actions on climate change in the region, to finalize a matrix to provide a clear overview of ongoing and planned activities including a climate change portal, and to agree on next steps for the Action Plan and PCCR process.

The PCCR received a wide array of information on climate change activities in the region both at the national and regional levels, as well as information on new opportunities for financing projects and for establishing partnerships with existing initiatives.

An inventory of regional activities was developed and plans were set in place for developing a Pacific Climate Change Portal.

A regional study by an expert team on climate change and food security also presented proposals for how to improve food security in the region through the implementation of the FAO Food Summit 2008 outcomes, and proposals were presented for future cooperative work.

The Facilitator presented a series of proposed next steps for the PCCR process, took note of the views expressed by participants and, without negotiation, recommended additional next steps. The PCCR agreed to meet again in 2009, and requested the Secretariat to seek financial assistance to convene the PCCR, noting the interest of the Marshall Islands in hosting the PCCR.

Report of the PCCR

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was officiated by Taito John Roache, Corporate Services Manager (SPREP) as Master of Ceremonies. He noted the presence of The Honourable Misa Telefoni Retzlaff, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, and introduced the Reverend Elekosi Viliamu, of EFKS Aleisa West, who blessed the participants with a reading and led the meeting in prayer.

The Director of SPREP, Asterio Takesy, gave a welcoming address on behalf of the organizers. He thanked the Swiss Government for their generous support, and outlined some of the key climate change issues facing the region. His statement is annexed.

His Excellency Dr. Beat Nobs, Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga, made an introductory statement on behalf of the Swiss Government. The common concerns over the impacts of climate change had catalysed the need for broad cooperation across regions, and the Swiss Government was keen to work with the most vulnerable countries to seek a robust and equitable climate change framework to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. His speaking notes are annexed.

A keynote address prepared by Professor Patrick Nunn, University of the South Pacific, Fiji, was delivered by Dr. David Hunter, Lecturer at the University of the South Pacific, Samoa. He presented a specific case study on the current and future flooding situation in Nadi, Fiji, and gave five recommendations that the region should take note of. His statement is also annexed.

The Honourable Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa delivered the welcome address and official opening statement. In thanking the Swiss Government for their generous support, he also congratulated SPREP for the preparations that they had carried out for the PCCR. He urged the meeting to look at solutions to the climate change challenges and refrain from simply casting blame. His statement is also annexed.

Session 1 – update on Action Plan for the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate change (2006-2015)

The agenda as revised by the Secretariat was adopted. The Facilitator of the PCCR Mr. Lelei LeLaulu (Counterpart International) was introduced by the Secretariat. The Facilitator presented his ideas for the working arrangements for the PCCR, which were approved by the participants.

A presentation on the historical and regional context of the Roundtable prepared by SOPAC was presented by the Secretariat. The presentation outlined the process that started in 2000 in Rarotonga and culminated in the preparation of PIFACC and its endorsement by the Pacific Island Leaders in 2005.

A Swiss proposal for an international adaptation financing instrument was presented by the Ambassador of Switzerland. The proposal would establish a new mechanism for

national and international climate change adaptation to be financed based on emissions and economic strength. The proposal would be further refined for presentation at Poznan in December. Questions were raised as to whether the Pacific Islands would be required to pay into the fund. After clarifying the level of emissions from each Pacific Island Country the Ambassador suggested that the PICs would only be beneficiaries of the fund.

An introduction to the PIFACC Action Plan as a guiding document to the discussions was presented by the Secretariat. The Action Plan is closely based on PIFACC and is the result of extensive consultations with SPREP climate change focal points and climate change experts in the region, as well as CROP experts and civil society representatives. Six in-country visits have also been completed in the preparation of the Action Plan. The discussions at the PCCR should focus on inventorying current and planned actions with a view to identifying gaps, challenges and opportunities. Some examples of activities that had been carried out in the various priority areas of PIFACC were presented.

The Facilitator explained that three working groups would be convened in order to progress discussions. These would focus on adaptation, improving knowledge on climate change and on mitigation.

Session 2 – working groups on Action Plan

Each working group heard a lead presentation based on the background papers that had been prepared for each working group. All background papers are available at the PCCR website http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/pccr.htm and other papers will also be uploaded there, including the official statements.

The lead presentations gave a snapshot of what is happening in the region on the various issues related to climate change, challenges faced and opportunities. In the ensuing discussions the facilitators were urged to seek out the lessons learned from best practices in the implementation of climate change programmes at the national and regional level. Participants were encouraged to raise issues such as gaps, challenges and opportunities in implementation. Regional and international partners and donor agencies were invited to highlight international technical support and financing opportunities for climate change activities.

The working groups were asked about the state of these activities and the degree to which the Action Plan is being implemented as a result of these activities, thereby looking at gaps and challenges. The working groups were constituted as follows:

Group 1 on adaptation was facilitated by Martin Sharp (Australia) and the lead presenter was Taito Nakalevu (SPREP).

Group 2 on improving our knowledge of climate change was facilitated by Eileen Shea (National Climatic Data Center, U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) The lead presenter, Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea (Samoa MetService), was unable to present due to personal reasons, so Dean Solofa (SPREP) assisted the meeting.

Group 3: Mitigation was facilitated by James Hardcastle (The Nature Conservancy), with Pepe Clarke (IUCN) as the lead presenter.

Session 3 – reporting back to plenary

The working groups reported back to the plenary on their deliberations. Each group described a wide range of activities that were occurring, but identified gaps such as the overemphasis on renewable energy over energy efficiency (mitigation), concentration on software assistance as opposed to actual installations (adaptation and mitigation), the complexity of financing procedures (all groups) and the need for a consolidated information resource to access and share climate change related activities for the region, and for accessing information on donor resources and opportunities.

Session 4 – Pacific Climate Change Portal – information and communications

Eileen Shea (National Climatic Data Center, U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) presented on her views on information needs, communications issues and potential for a regional climate change web based portal, based on experience with existing initiatives such as the Pacific Islands Climate Information System (PaCIS). Peter Murgatroyd (SPREP) presented on his findings and recommendations based on experience with the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN).

In the discussions further initiatives were highlighted such as the existing Pacific Disaster Web (a multi-agency initiative reported on by SOPAC). Several issues were raised about the ease of access and the need to have a low-graphics version available of the portal. Suggestions on the types of tools that should be available were also discussed, noting that countries would need to be proactive in getting information loaded on the portal.

It was agreed that the detailed technical issues that need to be resolved would require a dedicated working group of technical experts and interested persons to discuss the details of the portal, and this was convened in a working group meeting morning of Day 3.

Session 5 – introduction of the matrix of activities

The Secretariat gave a presentation based on experience with previous and existing matrices, and introduction of new draft matrix. The discussions, having been enlightened by the previous discussions on the portal, raised a number of issues on the levels of detail required. There was also a caution on the need to reduce the reporting burden of countries. In this regard it was suggested that countries could consider their various reporting requirements to donors and agencies as the basis for information for the matrix. It was also suggested that as a first approach the Secretariat should complete the inventory to the extent possible and circulate that to the participants for further input in the working groups.

Session 6 – working groups on matrix

Two working groups met to discuss the inventory prepared by the Secretariat.

Session 7 – reporting back to plenary

The working groups reported back to plenary on their discussions. Presentations were made that confirmed the need for more time, and that a more intricate matrix could be developed from the inventory in due course. Mention was also made of the work undertaken on a regional matrix by the UN agencies, CROP and donor agencies based in Suva, and that their work would be expanded to seek to include non-Suva based input.

Technical working group on climate change portal

A small group met during the day and reported back to the plenary on their findings. They confirmed that the region should pursue a Pacific climate change portal as a high priority, and that the small technical group had agreed to serve as the core of a Pacific Climate Change Portal Working Group on behalf of the Roundtable. They also invited further participation from the Pacific Island Countries participants as core partners. They would start by looking at what already exists in the international and regional communities, and explore the lessons learned from pacificdisaster.net, PI-GCOS and other regional initiatives. They recognized the importance of engaging experts in communications in the design and implementation of the portal and to capitalize on portal technology to establish an integrated team with distributed responsibility for databases. They also agreed to explore multiple options in context of a scoping phase. They noted that SPREP has a mandate as a clearinghouse for climate change information, and urged that SPREP pursue a climate change knowledge advisor position at SPREP as a high priority and an ongoing role in support of the Pacific Climate Change Portal. NOAA, Australia and New Zealand agreed to explore options for a scoping phase, as reflected in the discussion on next steps.

Participants welcomed the presentation, and encouraged the technical group to work towards a speedy conclusion.

Session 8 – discussion on gaps in implementation of the Action Plan

The Facilitator led a discussion on gaps identified by the working groups, but on the basis on views received on the inventory. It was noted that there were several cross-cutting issues across the working groups. Participants agreed that the inventory should be made into a spreadsheet programme like Excel for ease of sorting and analysis. It should build on the linkages between national matrices and a regional matrix. It should support local capacity to start the inventory and to regularly update it, as it would not be possible without national inputs, buy-in, ownership, etc. It was deemed necessary that inputs to the inventory be voluntary. There should be a reference to how a project originated, whether from an outside organization or as a result of a government initiative. It should also provide easy links to project summaries and WebPages, including information on the persons involved in the implementation or as advisors. Finally, it was agreed that the Secretariat would finalize the inventory and send it out to participants for comments.

Session 9 – Pacific Year of Climate Change

The Secretariat presented on the Pacific Year of Climate Change 2009 and its mandate, and on its initial suggestions for activities during the year.

Under other matters Dr. Vili Fuavao, the Acting Resident Coordinator of the UN agencies on a proposal made a presentation for an Inter Agency Climate Change Centre in the Pacific. He explained the rationale behind the proposal and that the presentation represented the launch of an in-depth review and consultation process with all relevant stakeholders such as government climate change focal points, CROP experts and civil society. The proposed centre had already been granted a parcel of land from the Government of Samoa and he thanked them for their continued generous support. To further develop and strengthen the capacity of Pacific countries and areas to understand and respond to the effects of climate change. The centre would provide a means to effectively channel the resources of the UN, other partner agencies, regional institutions and development partners on climate change. It would also approach climate change from a sustainable human development perspective rather than just an environmental issue. He also posed the questions that the consultations would revolve around, namely how do stakeholders see the current role of the UN on climate change and what should be its role in the future, and whether the establishment of a Climate Change Centre would increase the effectiveness of climate change programmes of the UN and other agencies in the Pacific. He also noted that the proposal would also provide an opportunity for bringing all the UN agencies based in Samoa together in one centre for improved delivery of services in other fields than climate change.

Participants then engaged in discussion, questions and answers.

Session 10 – next steps

The plenary heard a presentation of the results from the Steering Committee for the SPREP/SPC/USP/FAO project on climate change and food security. During the week this steering committee met in closed session to look at next steps on how to incorporate Rome 2008 Summit Declaration into the Action Plan and the PACC project, as well as other initiatives. The presentation highlighted some of the key food security issues for the region, with emphasis on those that had serious climate change implications or where climate change would exacerbate the current stresses. The Expert Group recognized that climate change would exacerbate threats already affecting food security, and pose new challenges. They concluded that there is an urgent need to build the resilience of food production systems to climate change, particularly by diversifying the options for growing crops and harvesting fish. Other issues of relevance to the region that the Expert Group identified include the need to step up investment in science and technology for food and agriculture, undertake vulnerability analyses for all food production sectors, and mainstream climate change adaptation into national policies, strategies and programmes related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. They also highlighted the need to maintain biodiversity and apply an ecosystem approach.

It also presented some ideas as to how the region could put the Rome outcomes into a proper regional perspective. In terms of next steps, the presentation highlighted the need to undertake vulnerability analyses for all food production sectors, raise awareness of threats to food security and available solutions at the community level, provide incentives for economic growth to increase the options for achieving food security, and ensure the appropriateness of agricultural courses taught in tertiary institutes. FAO would convene a further meeting of the Steering Committee in the near future.

The Expert Group recognized that work in this area should be aligned closely with the Mauritius Strategy for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and the UNFCCC Bali Action Plan.

FAO will convene the next meeting of the Expert Group to finalize the plan to ‘regionalize’ the High Level Declaration and implement the adaptations needed in the Pacific to provide food security in the face of climate change.

The Facilitator then presented a draft note on his conclusions from the PCCR. Participants engaged in discussions and the following points were agreed ad referendum pending confirmation through email exchange.

1. The working groups having met to discuss the three groups of themes – adaptation, improving our knowledge of climate change and mitigation, found that there were a lot of activities reported on and that this highlighted the cross-cutting nature of climate change and the ongoing need for coordinated support to national level capacity in addressing this challenge. In noting that capacity building at all levels was a challenge, there was broad agreement to continue to seek the involvement of community groups, civil society and other stakeholders. The PCCR must in focusing on future activities seek to address the needs of communities – this will require a shared vision to be developed.
2. The recommendation from the keynote address that country ownership and leadership on the climate change issues be strengthened was welcomed by the PCCR. There will also be a need for better coordination between CROP agencies.
3. While climate change impacts are being felt across the region, there is still a need for a precautionary approach and to use evidence-based decision-making. This will require a strengthening of basic data observation and data capture and recovery.
4. There was strong support for developing project proposal writing and management training courses, and that these should be offered on a regular and predictable basis, either by CROP or UN agencies.
5. There was also a suggestion on the need to establish a joint Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change as a working group jointly between the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Nature Conservation Roundtable, to advise on, monitor and evaluate project implementation, and the Secretariat would look into this possibility.
6. The discussions on the matrix were detailed, and in response to calls for an easily navigable matrix, we decided as a first step to compile an inventory of all climate change related activities. To reflect the feeling of the PCCR we agreed on national as well as a regional inventory to be developed. The Secretariat developed a basic inventory and commenced the process of populating it.

7. However, discussions in plenary and in the working groups concluded that further consultation was required to collect the relevant data and information on planned and implemented programmes. The inventory compiled will be upgraded with information provided by participants and circulated. It is suggested that this will be completed by the end of November and that a further round of consultations will then take place. Once additional information is received the upgraded inventory will be emailed to participants and made available on the PCCR website. [a dedicated email address for PCCR correspondence will be set up]
8. In keeping with the wishes of the PCCR the Secretariat will compile and maintain the inventory as a first step towards the construction of the national and regional matrices. The purpose of the matrices is to provide a summary for countries and partners of available support under the six principles of the PIFACC, to assist in coordination and harmonization.
9. Further to the Action Plan's call for the establishment of a mechanism to better share wider information on climate change, the participants discussed the general architecture of a web-based information portal and asked a portal technical working group to present a design and a phased approach to the creation of a simple and accessible vehicle to be called the Pacific Climate Change Portal as requested by the Action Plan. Such a portal should include the matrices.
10. It was further agreed that a consultant would be contracted to scope available technology for the most suitable structure for the Portal to meet the needs of various user groups in the Pacific. Simplicity and ease of access and alignment with existing mechanisms is key. Australia and New Zealand undertook to explore options for supporting the scoping phase, which was welcomed by participants. The Secretariat activity in seeking additional support for such technical capacity was also noted.
11. It was further agreed that the technical working group, which would become open to further participants, would continue its oversight of the process in consultation with the Secretariat. In view of the imminent Pacific Year of Climate Change the technical working group was urged to expedite this consultancy process.
12. The Pacific Year of Climate change was recognized as an important unifying element for all climate change activities in 2009. The Secretariat welcomed all suggestions for implementing the aims of the year and was grateful to those countries and organizations that offered substantive, funding and programmatic support, and took note of suggestions from participants. The need for national programmes for the year was seen as integral contributions to the success of the year.
13. The UN SG announced to the Niue Forum that a proposal for a climate change centre in Samoa to be built into a new UN house as a mean to strengthen UN's

contribution to climate change programmes in the Pacific. Participants welcomed the intention of the UN that there would be broad consultations with Pacific Island Countries and Territories, CROP, civil society and development partners on the establishment of the proposed centre and recognized its value as a coordinating unit for the growing body of UN system activities on climate change. Participants welcomed the assurances of close consultations with the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and the Secretariat to ensure synergies.

14. The Facilitator took note of the views expressed by participants and, without negotiation, recommended the following additional next steps to the PCCR:

- The PCCR should be reconvened next year to consider the ramifications of COP-14 at Poznan. The next meeting would further look at the PYCC and be held in time to produce actions in further support of the year. Such a meeting would also harmonize approaches to COP-15 in Copenhagen. Questions on timing and co-location need to be considered. Arrangements will be made to convene future Pacific Climate Change Roundtables in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to help raise awareness of Climate Change issues throughout the region, and to assist PICTs to take ownership of the issues. The PCCR noted the interest of the Marshall Islands in hosting the next PCCR.
- The next meeting would also consider operationalizing the matrix and the portal, as well as other emerging issues.
- It is anticipated that there will be a rapidly growing body of knowledge in the region in the aftermath of Poznan, so it will be important for the PCCR to examine how it can support Pacific participation at Copenhagen, and ensure that a “Pacific Voice” which harmonizes the aspirations of the many stakeholders in the region is key for the process leading to Copenhagen.
- The PCCR envisages different working groups on key issues to be convened between sessions of the PCCR, communication electronically in the interim, and the actual PCCR meeting would consolidate the outputs from these working groups.
- Continuity, consistency and sustainability were viewed as important by the participants. The Secretariat was encouraged to seek the necessary financial and technical resources to ensure that the PCCR process is sustainable.
- Participants are encouraged to consider the need to make future meetings of the PCCR as carbon neutral as possible and look for community programmes in the host country to donate their carbon offsets to, building on existing initiatives.
- Furthermore, participants were encouraged to start discussing the transformation of their organizations into carbon neutral entities.
- The participants should explore other initiatives in the education, awareness and training fields such as curriculum development for all levels.
- The need for utilizing community “gurus” such as athletes, celebrities, churches and elders should be pursued for promoting climate change issues and challenges.
- The need for the Secretariat to investigate the potential for a regional study on the economic aspects of climate change for the Pacific region.

- The need to study the climate change impacts on and of tourism and to take appropriate actions on adaptation and mitigation. Tourism is a particularly vulnerable sector to climate change because the ecosystem resources upon which it is built are threatened because the tourism infrastructure is often in low lying coastal areas and thus threatened because global mitigation policies may affect long haul air travel crucial to island tourism so island tourism needs to adapt and develop a vulnerability resilience framework suitable for tourism destinations to adapt -- specific to island destinations so adaptation involves -- physical work (barriers, renewable energy alternatives); ecological work (mangroves) business change (diversified product); marketing (selling green); policy (on long haul travel)etc for tourism.
- The importance of seeking private sector support was recognized, not just for financing activities but also for assisting with outreach into communities.

The Facilitator thanked the participants and the Secretariat, and after some closing remarks and thanks from the Director of SPREP, closed the meeting of the PCCR.

Annex 1

Statement by Asterio Takesy SPREP Director to the opening ceremony of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, 14-17 October 2008, NUS, Apia, Samoa

Thank you Reverend. Your Excellency the distinguished Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Your Excellency the Ambassador of Switzerland, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Samoa and to this Pacific Climate Change Roundtable being held here at the National University of Samoa. On our collective behalf, I wish to thank the NUS, particularly the students for allowing us to use their magnificent facility. Let me also take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you, in particular those of you that have travelled vast distance, for coming to this meeting. I am deeply honoured by your positive response to my invitation.

As you will be aware, SPREP was directed by the Forum Leaders to develop an Action Plan for the implementation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change. As part of the work on developing the Action Plan, generously funded by New Zealand for which we are most grateful, it became clear that an improved implementation and oversight mechanism would be required. Climate change as we all know impacts on all sectors and affects communities in so many ways that it will be impossible to consider it as only an environment issue. Far from it, and that is why we have sought as much as possible to involve a wide range of stakeholders in our consultations so far, to ensure that this will indeed be a Pacific meeting, that the processes we establish are Pacific, and that we build on the cooperation that we have among regional agencies, governments, international agencies and civil society. Clearly SPREP cannot do this alone, and we ask you all for support. It is my hope that the regional and national ownership of this process and of the Action Plan will endure and continue to grow. We at SPREP are very much encouraged by the number of agencies that have submitted views and papers to the different working groups and of course by the number of participants.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. This Roundtable would not have been possible without the generous support from the esteemed Government of Switzerland. SPREP has enjoyed very good working relations with the Swiss Embassy in Wellington and we are grateful to His Excellency Ambassador Nobs for his presence and his support. One of the positive outcomes of our cooperation is the manner in which the Swiss resources have catalysed others to support the Roundtable. As you can see from the programme, there will also be a media-training workshop taking place parallel to the Roundtable, thanks to the support of the Government of Canada and UNESCO. This will assist us in raising awareness around the region on the climate change issues and on the solutions that we hope can be found through the process. You will notice that there are several journalists present and they may request to interview you during the Roundtable – I hope that you will find the time to oblige and for country delegates to present your national climate change issues to them.

Also during the week we will have meetings of the Steering Committee for a joint project on climate change and food security. This is a partnership among SPREP, SPC, USP and the FAO. The steering committee will meet to look at next steps on how to incorporate Rome 2008 Summit Declaration into the Action Plan and the PACC project, as well as other initiatives. They will present their report to the closing plenary. While the session is open to invited delegates, it will also be open to other interested persons, bearing in mind the space limitations and the work of the plenary and working groups of the Roundtable.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates. We have structured this Roundtable around the Action Plan, and we have consulted widely on the agenda. I hope that you will find the sessions useful, that you will share information, identify gaps, challenges and opportunities, but above all that this Roundtable catalyse new actions on climate change in the region in respect of adaptation and mitigation. It is time to ensure that the Action Plan is properly implemented, and that we all have a better understanding of where we need to do more, as well as learning from our experiences in the region and in other regions of our globe. We know that our region is extremely vulnerable to climate change and that we need to begin to act if we are going to adapt to its adverse effects. While mitigation of emissions in the region would contribute very little towards halting climate change it does make economic sense and it sends a powerful message to countries with significant emissions that are refusing to do their share. Without strong mitigation measures from the major emitters it will become all the more difficult for our islands to adapt, for some to survive.

We are also giving an opportunity to our delegates who will be attending the AOSIS preparatory meeting in Singapore and the Conference of the Parties in Poznan to have a discussion on what sort of support and preparations that they would like to see prior to and at those important meetings. The next two rounds of negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Kyoto Protocol are of crucial importance to us in the Pacific. Adequate preparation for and active high-level participation at these negotiations will make a decisive difference for the better for the Pacific people. SPREP will do its utmost to support you.

I would like to conclude by wishing you all and this Roundtable the very best of success.

May the Lord guide you and be with you.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 2:

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, Apia/Samoa, 14 – 17 October 2008

Notes for introductory statement by Ambassador Beat Nobs, Switzerland

Mr. Minister, Director of SPREP, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

It gives me great pleasure to represent the Government of Switzerland here at the first Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. Switzerland is proud to be in partnership with the SPREP in making this important event possible. We do thank SPREP (Director Asterio Takesy and Climate change team leader Espen Ronneberg) for all their efforts in preparing this Roundtable and we extend our thanks also to the Government of Samoa to host us all here today.

You might ask yourself why Switzerland is willing to engage with you in this important endeavour addressing the issue. We are a relatively small country far away in Europe with no traditional, i.e. colonial ties with you.

Let me tell you, there is a number of reasons why we are happy to engage with the Small Island Developing countries of the Pacific in fighting climate change.

1. Universal Foreign Policy of Switzerland: Switzerland pursues a universal approach in its foreign policy. It is important for us to maintain good and friendly relations with all countries in the world, irrespective of their geographical distance. We know how important CC is for the small developing countries of the South Pacific. We are therefore ready to work with you in a partnership in this domain and support you in your efforts to address the adverse effects of CC.

2. The environment in general, CC in particular, is one of five focal areas of Swiss foreign policy

Art 54 of the Swiss Federal Constitution determines the five focal areas of our foreign policy. The environment is one of them. CC is currently posing the most serious challenge in that regard.

3. CC is global threat: Requires global answer

- Vulnerability of Switzerland is great. We understand: In order to reduce our own vulnerability, we need to work with all other partners of the international community to address the adverse effects CC in both adapting to it and finding political global solutions to mitigate emissions in the future.
- Solutions: Bali plan of action basically sets out solution: Shared vision first, but then shared action, so that by COP Copenhagen we have a common set of actions involving all major emitters. We don't believe in that regard, that Annex I alone can do the trick. Of course we need to be the vanguard, including the USA, but in the end 25% of the emissions will not be able to do the trick alone.

4. Very important: Role and program of Roundtable

·Multilateral Approach: CH is not in position to do individual projects of a classical ODA nature in the region of the South Pacific. But we stand ready to do our bit to support common regional efforts in this region. This roundtable, so ably prepared by SPREP, provides such a platform for us.

- This workshop has, as far as we are concerned, two important directions:
- Adaptation important for everyone: (CH and Islands). It is important to have a keen understanding of the technical challenges posed by CC in every individual case and it is therefore very useful for all participating countries to learn to share experience, learn about best practice and draw conclusions to address issues at home.
- Mitigation: is key. Preparation for Island delegations for Copenhagen is decisive. We would be happy to hear the strong, courageous voice of the Pacific in the negotiations up until Copenhagen and beyond.

5. The Future

Swiss Development Cooperation is currently undergoing a major overhaul. Climate Change will in the future be one of our new focal areas and I am pleased to let you know that this engagement here today is the just the beginning of a long term partnership with the countries of the South Pacific region through SPREP. We are looking forward to new regional project proposals by SPREP and do hope that our engagement here contributes also in your appreciation to the deepening friendship between Switzerland and the countries of the South Pacific region.

Thank you and good luck!

Annex 3

Presentation by Professor Patrick Nunn, University of the South Pacific, Fiji, delivered by Dr. David Hunter, University of the South Pacific, Samoa¹

Susu lau susuga i le Ta'ita'i o le Sauniga. Afio lau afioga I le Ali'i Sui-Palemia. Afio fo'i lau afioga i le Ali'i Minisita. Ae maise le mamalu ua tatou faatasi i lenei taeao. Ia viia ai pea IESU! Good morning and Greetings distinguished delegates, participants, ladies and gentlemen. Now that you now know I am not Professor Patrick Nunn, I am making this short presentation on behalf of my senior colleague who, for personal reasons, is unable to attend this important meeting. He sends his sincere apologies. This talk will summarize some of the key issues concerning climate change in our part of the world and suggest new ways forward for coping with the challenges.

Earth-surface temperatures are rising. Temperature rise, according to the latest IPCC report, is projected to accelerate significantly this century. This map, from the 4th Assessment of the IPCC issued last year, shows that through most of the tropical Pacific, we can expect a warming of 2-3 degrees Celsius by the year 2100. Sea level is rising and the rate of rise is also projected to increase significantly this century.

This summary figure from the IPCC's 4th Assessment shows (at the top) the rise of temperature over the past 150 years or so. You can see that the rate of rise has increased since the 1970s. In the middle you can see the rise of sea level. And at the bottom, you can see the shrinkage of snow cover, mainly a sign of warming.

The IPCC Chairman reminded us earlier this year about the economic implications of climate change. He also alluded to the inadequate response that the world was making in the face of the increasing pace of climate change. Pacific island nations face a crisis. At the first climate change meeting in the region in 1988, President Kabua of the Marshall Islands expressed his concern. He hoped that the appeal of Pacific peoples would convince the industrialized nations to discontinue their contamination of the atmosphere. But they did not. In the year 2000, nothing much had changed, and then then-Director of SPREP bemoaned this eloquently. "What is there to celebrate about a new millennium?" he asked. Nothing much has changed since then.

So let us turn to some examples. Most people in the Pacific, like those of Navuti shown here, live along island coasts, usually occupying narrow coastal plains that are increasingly being threatened by drowning from sea-level rise. If sea level rises as projected, Navuti will be underwater in 30 years time. Our atoll islands are increasingly inundated during king tides. How long will it be before they become uninhabitable? For some, 30 years seems a generous estimate.

Many of the low-lying coastal towns in our region are flooded regularly, an outcome of heavy rain and rising sea level. How long might it be before towns like Nadi are so often underwater that normal activities become impossible there? 20-40 years. Sea-level rise in

¹ The full paper and powerpoint presentation will be available on the PCCR website.

our region has already led to many sandy beaches being removed by erosion, leaving behind the beachrock that developed beneath them over perhaps thousands of years.

This morning, I want to talk briefly about three things. First the major threats from future climate change for our region of the world. Professor Nunn identifies these as environmental sustainability and the loss of usable land. Second I would like to suggest the five management imperatives that Professor Nunn regards as being needed to put our region in the best-possible position to confront the effects of future climate change. Finally, I shall end with a short discussion of one way forward, as proposed by Professor Nunn. So let me begin with threats from future climate change.

Rainfall – precipitation – is one of the key elements of climate for sustaining the environments that support almost all the people of our islands. It is not the only one, as this slide shows – land management is critical too. The latest IPCC report shows areas of the world that are likely to receive more rain (blue-green) and less rain (yellow pink) in future. Without going into great detail, it is projected that the tropical Pacific may receive more rainfall at least during December-February. Coral bleaching is a greater concern. Largely a result of high ocean-surface temperatures, dire predictions exist for Pacific reefs.

This diagram shows the average ocean-surface water temperature in Tahiti from 1860 to 2100. The red surroundings show extremes, mostly linked to ENSO activity. The upper coral tolerance threshold (about 29.2 degrees) is shown by a broken line. Bleaching began when this threshold was first crossed in the 1970s. Around the year 2055, bleaching will become almost permanent. Coral across the Pacific will die. The implications for food security in the Pacific Islands are immense.

Today in the Pacific, many crops for both subsistence and sale are grown on coastal lowlands, but you do not have to travel far to find examples of problems associated with increasingly salty groundwater. This is attributed to sea-level rise and overwash by storm waves that reach annually further and further inland. Sea-level rise is associated with shoreline erosion. This is a familiar sight along many island coasts in the Pacific.

And then there is the issue of inundation or flooding by the sea. For this village, sea-level rise over the past ten years has meant that large parts of the village are underwater every time the tide is high. Many atoll islands are built from a core of hard coral rock overlain by loose beach sand. As sea-level rises, the coral rock resists erosion but here at high tide, the sea level overtops the coral platform and erosion of the sand cover is rapid.

Now I would like to turn to the second part of my talk, on what Professor Nunn believes needs to be done in order for Pacific Island countries to be able to meet the challenges of climate change successfully. The five imperatives that Professor Nunn suggests all have to do with management – I shall deal with them one by one. First Professor Nunn argues that climate change is largely perceived in our region as an alien problem. Of course to some extent it is, but the solutions require us to act. He would suggest that Pacific Island nations need to take ownership of climate change. They need to develop their own

solutions rather than continue to depend on alien solutions that are often environmentally and culturally inappropriate.

Second, Professor Nunn would argue that there should be long-term development plans for Pacific Island countries that include the likely effects of climate change. Our children's future, our grandchildren's future depends on environmental sustainability not on economic growth. He accepts that there is a dilemma inherent in this for countries that are trying to increase economic growth. But too often this growth occurs at the expense of the environment.

Third, Professor Nunn argues that increasing understanding of climate change within the Pacific islands is key to improved responses in the years to come. The media need to be educated, they need not to focus on extreme scenarios as in this example. There needs to be coordinated efforts to raise awareness in appropriate ways, using vernacular languages. The role of churches in his view could be much greater in spreading the word about climate change. School education is important too.

Fourth, Professor Nunn would argue that many routine decisions about environmental futures in the Pacific Islands are made at community level, a situation that will continue into the future. For this reason, community leaders should be targets of awareness campaigns about appropriate responses to the effects of climate change. National bodies have an important role in community-level awareness raising, as well.

Fifth and finally, re-location. For many, this is indeed the unthinkable option. No-one wants to be told that the place where they live, where their ancestors lived, is not going to be habitable in the future. But there is no way to sugar-coat this message. There are parts of our Pacific world, just as there are parts of every other part of the Earth, that will not be habitable 20 years from now because of sea-level rise.

Take the example of Nadi Town in Fiji. Every year for the last few years, floods have filled the town centre. The general perception is that this is a human problem. Perhaps the town drainage is at fault. Perhaps the river channels need dredging. But improving the drainage and dredging the rivers are only short-term solutions. I refer you to the top diagram. What is happening today in Nadi is that forests have been cleared upslope, so water pours rapidly into the lowlands when it rains. Nadi is built on a river delta, which is sinking because of compaction and groundwater extraction, similar to deltas everywhere. And the sea level is rising. If you look at the lower diagram. This shows the situation in 2027. Nadi will be below sea level. It is unlikely that Nadi will ever attract the funds to enable the construction and maintenance of the engineered structures necessary to preserve it. So Nadi will have to be re-located.

Re-location is something no-one wants to do, but there is no doubt that early action can considerably reduce the disruption that would otherwise occur. So let me conclude with some of Professor Nunn's thoughts on the way forward. It seems that food security is one of the most worrying and least researched aspects of climate change in the Pacific

islands. How will people feed themselves when coral reefs no longer exist 47 years from now? We must diversify, and here are some of the ways we can do this.

We need to anticipate future land loss. We need to re-locate as early as possible, we can strengthen coastal resilience by various means, including the planting of mangrove barriers as shown here. We need to manage the challenges of climate change as best we can. These are the five management imperatives that I discussed earlier. And look at the photo. This village found itself to be vulnerable when located along the shoreline, so it decided to move 200 meters inland.

At the moment, Professor Nunn, and I am sure most of us, if not all, are pessimistic about the future. Globally, the Chair of the IPCC has characterized the global response to climate change as inadequate. The same applies to our part of the world.

Thank you and Soifua.

Annex 4:

Statement by The Honourable Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa - Realities, Challenges and possible Solutions – climate change in the Pacific

Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, Director of SPREP, Heads of Delegation, Honourable Delegates, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am grateful for this opportunity to address this Pacific Climate change Roundtable that is being convened here in Samoa at a particularly important time, given the focus of the international debate around the crucial issue of climate change – one that is a major challenge for our countries, our communities and our people. As was stated by Samoa at the recent United Nations General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Samoa highlighted our vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, which will affect all the vital economic, social and environmental sectors of Samoa and of all of our countries. Our economies already face challenges, but climate change will present many of our lower lying islands and coastal areas with annihilation by the impacts of climate change.

The desire to preserve the environmental integrity of home and territory runs deeply in every human community. The dilemma for our islands is that in the face of global climate change we have little ability to control the actions of others; worse, without a global response measures and assistance, the impact of climate change diminishes the ability of islands to adapt.

It is clearly stated in customary international law that States have “... the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction”. Bearing this in mind it is those responsible for causing damage to the environment that bear the responsibility for rectifying that damage. I have on many occasions reiterated that the international community must take up its responsibility, and to assist those of us who are at the frontline of climate change. I believe this to be a simple statement of the facts because climate change will in essence violate our human rights.

We all know that our countries are contributing tiny amounts to the global emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore this problem of climate change can only be solved if there is the political will in the international community. We have been informed by eminent scientists working through the UN that there is very strong evidence that climate change is man-made, but also that it is economically feasible to mitigate its causes and physically possible to adapt to inevitable changes and impacts, if only there is political will to take action.

That being said, this Roundtable is not intended to be forum to reiterate our concerns and our fears, or to cast blame. It is important to know what the political issues are, and I hope that I have assisted the meeting by getting that point out of the way. We must focus the meeting on the opportunities that exist; we must share experiences and assist each other in bridging gaps and overcoming challenges.

The tools required exist in the developed countries to take action on mitigation, and strong measures in those countries and other major polluters will assist us by lowering the bar and allow us the space to adapt to inevitable changes. There is a lot of know-how and expertise in this region to assist our communities in adapting to climate change, and this Roundtable should give consideration to how we can share those resources, assisted by the developed countries.

The region is by no means sitting still. All of our countries are implementing programmes and projects. I wish to share some of the experiences of my own country with you and the approaches that we have used.

It is a given that for adaptation to climate change to function and be sustainable it must be acceptable to the communities. After all they are the ones who will have to live with the changed situation, whether the adaptation fails or succeeds. At the same time any action must be linked to Government's broader development and planning processes. In the context of our adaptation projects we have therefore conducted extensive consultations and have developed proposals for each participating community in accordance with their priorities and needs. Some of these proposals were taken up by previous funding opportunities, while others are being considered under the new regional adaptation project or in our own LDC Fund project.

To give you some practical examples of what these home-grown adaptation projects will entail in Samoa the indicative activities include:

- Reclamation of land
- Buffer zone protection
- Replanting and improving the existing mangrove stands
- Construction of engineered coastal protective infrastructure for a 50-year storm event
- Construction of drainage and outflows for a 50-year storm event; and
- the additional cost of seawall construction taking into account sea level rise of 88cm

These are some of the ideas that we can share with you, and we are also interested in hearing what is being done or being planned in other communities that could be of use to us here in Samoa.

In conclusion I wish you a productive meeting.

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