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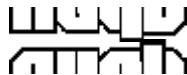
Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme

A programme to support the implementation of the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION



UNITAR



GEF

PICCAP is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded UNDP programme implemented by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. PICCAP is integrated with CC:TRAIN a programme implemented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with the Climate Change Secretariat.

Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed by 155 countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Since that time, more than 140 countries have ratified the convention. It entered into force on 21 March 1994.

The Convention represents a global effort to stem the possible impacts of climate change. Its objective is to stabilise the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG), believed to cause climate change, at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. It poses enormous challenges as well as opportunities for all countries to promote sustainable development.

The Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) is a three-year programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by SPREP in ten Pacific island countries executed by UNDP. It is also implemented in close collaboration with CC:TRAIN, which is administered by the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR).

The PICCAP programme officially started its activities on 1 July 1997 for the following countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



Programme Focus

The PICCAP programme focuses on assisting participating Pacific island developing countries prepare national communications as required under Article 12 of the Convention.

This national undertaking involves:

- **preparing a GHG inventory**
- **identifying options on how best to reduce GHG emissions**
- **undertaking studies on the possible impacts of climate change**
- **identifying options on how best to adapt to the impacts of climate change**
- **preparing national implementation strategies**

In addition, PICCAP will assist countries to consider the policy implications of these studies and integrate them, as much as possible, into each country's development plans as part of a broader climate change response strategy.



Country Team Approach

Realising that these tasks would need to bring together many actors from different sectors over a long period of time, PICCAP has developed a country team approach. This approach involves inviting the national government to designate an agency to host a team of sectoral representatives and national experts which could facilitate policy and decision-making on climate change issues.

During the three year programme, the country team will be trained, supported financially and technically, and made responsible for:

- overseeing analytical studies on climate change issues
- drafting national implementation strategies and/or national communications
- coordinating and implementing national workshops and conferences which focus on training and awareness
- training and organising consultative meetings and public education, awareness and participation activities

The team will also be responsible for consulting and involving as many stakeholders as possible in the process of conducting analytical studies, preparing the national communication, and developing possible follow-on projects.



Country Team Structure

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Host Ministry

(e.g. Economic Planning, Environment)

Country Team Coordinator

(appointed by the Host Ministry)

POLICY FOCUS

- Other Ministries (e.g. environment, planning, energy, agriculture, forestry, transportation, finance, foreign affairs)
- Research and academic community
- Environment and development NGOs
- Local community representatives
- Business and industry

Country Studies Network

TECHNICAL FOCUS

National institutions and experts (e.g. universities, NGOs, research organisations) which can conduct:

- vulnerability and adaptation assessments
- GHG inventory
- mitigation studies



Partner Institutions

In order to provide timely and relevant technical assistance, the programme employs a network of partner institutions. The partner institutions will assist the implementation of PICCAP in participating countries, and will lead in providing training for all tasks/activities to be undertaken at the National level.

Training and workshop materials to be adapted and used in PICCAP have been developed by other CC:TRAIN partner institutions, Environnement et Developpement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA), Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The PICCAP partner institutions are: University of the South Pacific (USP), University of Guam (UOG), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), South Pacific Forum Secretariat (Forsec), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), University of Waikato, University of Auckland, National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), National Tidal Facility of Flinders University, Australia (NTF), and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation-Division of Atmospheric Research (CSIRO-DAR).



Overview of Activities

Technical training workshops

At the national and regional levels from 1998, PICCAP is organising the following:

- training workshops on preparing national GHG inventories
- training workshops on identifying and analysing mitigation options
- a six-month certificate course on assessing vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

These training workshops will be organised primarily for designated country team experts from the participating countries but will also be open to participants from other similar projects or programmes. The workshops will build on guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the US Country Studies Programme, and a joint SPREP/Japan studies in the Pacific.

Policy level workshops and conferences

In addition to the technical training workshops, at the national level, each of the country teams with support from regional partner institutions and consultants will organise the following:

- a workshop on the UNFCCC
- workshops on preparing national implementation strategies and national communications
- consultative meetings
- a conference on implementing the UNFCCC



Phases of Implementation

PICCAP is being implemented in three phases in each participating country. The first phase will involve establishing the country team and creating awareness of climate change issues. The second phase will focus on analyses of climate change issues and undertaking tasks/activities at the national level which are specified by Article 12 of the UNFCCC. The third phase will emphasise policy development and public participation. The corresponding activities and PICCAP support for each of the above phases are tabulated in the facing page.

Not all participating countries will go through the programme in the exact same way. Depending on existing activities in the country, the phasing of the programme will be adapted by the country team to better respond to its needs.



Phase	Activity	T*	TS**	FS***
Establishing Country Teams	Preparing a National Climate Change Policy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Organising Country Team and Work Plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facilitating Policy Development	Preparing a National Implementation Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	National Workshop on Climate Change and Consultative Dialogues		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	National Conference on Implementing the UNFCCC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	National Policy and Consultative Dialogues		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conducting Country Studies	National GHG Inventory		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Mitigation Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* T — Training

** TS — Technical Support

*** FS — Funding Support



Outputs

In the participating countries

The following would be achieved:

- establishment of a country team
- training of designated national experts on climate change analysis
- facilitate the implementation of developing national climate change policies
- the formulation of a national implementation strategy and/or national communication

In other interested countries

Through cooperative efforts with other institutions and programmes, it is anticipated that other countries would be able to participate in, or benefit from, the training activities of PICCAP. This can include participation in PICCAP's training workshops or availing of the PICCAP's training and information resources.

Regional partners network

The PICCAP programme has established a network of regional partner institutions and consultants capable of delivering programme support, training and technical assistance to the participating countries in the Pacific. This network will be accessible to other programmes and projects and will allow other countries not included in PICCAP to avail themselves to the services and materials developed and adapted for PICCAP.

Training and information materials

All standardised training packages (STP) developed by CC:TRAIN's regional partners (ENDA and FFLA) will be adapted and used in the PICCAP programme. In addition, some materials will be adapted specifically for the PICCAP programme will be made available to similar programmes in the Pacific region.



Information about the PICCAP programme and its progress will be made available through:

- regular articles in the UNEP Information Unit on Conventions (IUC) quarterly “Climate Change Bulletin”
- regional newsletters, such as SPREP’s Environment Newsletter, the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Change Newsletter, and CC:TRAIN Newsletters
- SPREP’s web site (under preparation)



For more information

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