





Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC)

Project Inception Workshop Report

Novotel Hotel, Lami

Fiji

10-11 December 2015

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Introduction

Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) is a 5 year subregional project funded by the German Government and implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The project aims to promote the use of ecosystem-based adaptation options in strengthening community resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate change. This will be done through conducting in-depth ecosystem and socio-economic analysis and mapping (ESRAM) surveys, identification and prioritization of EbA adaptation options, and support to the implementation of priority EbA demonstration activities. In addition the project will build capacity amongst multiple stakeholders to use the EbA approach and will seek to integrate EbA into relevant national and provincial policies and plans. Project sites include: Macuata Province and Taveuni Island in Fiji; Port Vila and Tanna Island in Vanuatu; and Waigina (Choiseul Province) and Honiara in Solomon Islands.

This report provides an overview of the project inception workshop that was held in Suva, Fiji on 10 - 11 December 2015.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Introduce the PEBACC project to a broad range of stakeholders
- Make the case for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
- Share information on related projects and identify potential linkages
- Share information on related work streams at SPREP with a view to interdivisional collaboration
- Put in place project governance arrangements

The workshop was attended by a broad range of stakeholders from Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands governments, local and international conservation and development NGOs, UN and CROP agencies, private sector and community representatives. For a full list of the participants please see Annex 1.

The workshop included a short fieldtrip to a municipal recreational development on Suva's foreshore that includes elements of EbA. The purpose of the fieldtrip was to expose participants to a practical example of EbA and for them to exchange and critically engage with the developers (Suva City Council).

Overview of the Workshop

DAY 1

Session 1 - Opening addresses

Opening addresses were delivered by Ratu Wiliame Katonivere (high chief of Macuata Province, one of the project field sites), Mr Peter Forau (Director General of

the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat), Mr Stuart Chape (Director of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division at SPREP) and Mr Tia Masolo (Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands).

In opening the workshop Ratu Katonivere expressed his concerns for the future quality of life of communities in Fiji in light of the growth of unsustainable development practices coupled with the impacts of changing climatic and oceanic conditions. He welcomed the PEBACC project as a means to begin addressing some of these concerns by investing in improved management of environmental goods and services.

Peter Forau similarly expressed his concern about the damage that was being done to the environment as a result of logging and mining. While he recognized the importance of these industries in earning revenue for governments in the region, he questioned their sustainability. He felt the project was timely and was pleased that it is focusing on ecosystems and ecosystem goods and services. He welcomed the mapping and assessment component of the project as existing in-country skills to undertake these studies was limited. He called on the three governments to actively support the project.

Stuart Chape thanked government counterparts and the MSG Secretariat for their on-going support. He also expressed his thanks to the donor – the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) of the German Government. He noted that EbA provides a tremendous opportunity for Pacific island countries as it addresses climate and non-climate change issues impacting on critical ecosystems, and uses ecosystem services as a basis for adaptation and maintaining resilience. If fully embraced it would assist countries to move towards more sustainable development pathways.

Tia Masolo expressed the support of the Solomon Islands Government for the project and was pleased that PEBACC would be building on the work done at Choiseul by SPREP and other partners.

Introduction of participants and Group Photo

See Annex 1 for a list of the participants.

See Annex 2 for the group photo.

Sessions 2 & 3 – Presentations on EbA, PEBACC, Fieldsites and Methods

Stuart Chape provided the context for the workshop by delivering a <u>key-note</u> <u>presentation on Ecosystem-based Adaptation</u> and how it is of relevance to Pacific island countries. It was pointed out that the Pacific islands region has a diversity of ecosystems and high biodiversity values and that Pacific island people continue to rely on these natural systems for their livelihoods. The presentation detailed a number of climate and non-climate related threats that are impacting on the quantity and quality of environmental goods and services provided by ecosystems in the region. An ecosystem perspective on climate change was called for in order to fully understand the environmental and social consequences of development activities and to identify options for more ecologically sustainable development pathways.

Fred Patison presented on <u>SPREP's EbA work to date at Choiseul Province</u> in the Solomon Islands funded under a USAID grant. The PEBACC project builds on this and other EbA work done by SPREP.

Herman Timmermans provided more detail on the <u>PEBACC project</u> and updated participants on the status of various activities.

Nunia Thomas of <u>NatureFiji presented on their work at Taveuni</u>, one of the project field sites. Her presentation included an historical timeline of conservation milestones with regard to the establishment of protected areas on Taveuni as well as information on various biosecurity and invasive control initiatives. It was pointed out that some preliminary work on environmental goods and services had already taken place at Taveuni under the TESSA programme. Nunia proposed a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee be established to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach to conservation and development issues on Taveuni.

Apolosa Robaigau of WWF presented on <u>WWF's work in Macuata Province</u>, which is also a PEBACC field site. Apolosa explained that WWF arrange their work under two programmes: The Great Sea Reef Programme, and The Sustainable Sea Food Programme. Climate change adaptation was treated as a cross-cutting theme. Economic data was presented on the value of the Great Sea Reef to Fiji's economy. He spoke on the *Qoliqoli Cokovata*, a collection of community-managed marine reserves off the coast of Macuata Province, as well as highlighting other related CBNRM initiatives in the area. The 20 year District Development Plan was lauded as an example of a 'green' development strategy. Apolosa's presentation concluded with a number of 'lessons learnt' from their work to date.

Teresia Powell of the Fiji Government's Climate Change Division presented on the <u>Integrated Vulnerability Assessment methodology</u>, which is the government's preferred methodology for undertaking Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments.

Dave Loubser – PEBACC Vanuatu Component Manager, presented on a GIS based methodology that PEBACC was considering for structuring its approach to conducting the <u>Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping</u> (<u>ESRAM</u>) of project sites and at the national level.

Plenary discussion - Project governance arrangements

Herman Timmermans and Sele Tagivuni facilitated a discussion on project governance arrangements. The following principles were presented to guide the discussion:

- Try not to introduce additional layers
- Link with existing structures where possible
- Sub-regional project level structure important for cross-fertilisation between countries
- National and field site level structures important for awareness and coordination

While there was agreement that there was a need for an overall inter-country coordination structure/mechanism, there was no resolution on what such a structure should look like. There was a general hesitance to set up a new project structure which would place additional time and travel demands on participating government ministries. It was suggested that, as the countries participating in the project were all Melanesian countries, a mechanism linked to the MSG Secretariat be considered. It was further suggested that arrangements for project governance at the national and sub-national levels be facilitated by the PEBACC country managers in discussion with their government counterparts in-country.

Cocktail Reception

A cocktail was hosted after Day 1 of the workshop. The highlight of the cocktail was the address given by Ms Litia Mawi, Fiji's Roving Ambassador/High Commissioner to Pacific Island Countries. Ms Mawi spoke passionately about the linkages between environment and community development and encouraged the project to ensure that communities took ownership. She expressed the Fiji Government's support for the project and looked forward to a successful implementation.

DAY 2

Session 4: Fieldtrip

Participants gathered at the <u>MySuva Picnic Park</u> and were given an introduction to the coastal recreational development by the Manager of Works at the Suva City Council – Mr Uma Chand. This was followed by a question and answer session followed by a walk-about to view various places of interest within the park development. Participants were generally impressed with the development and applauded the way in which it had integrated social and environmental values in providing a high-quality recreational service to the residents of Suva.

Session 5: Coordination with Related Projects

This session was geared at sharing information about relevant partner projects and initiatives that share a similar focus to PEBACC and with whom PEBACC will need to coordinate.

<u>GIZ MACBIO</u> – presentation delivered by Dr Jan Steffen. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries is a GIZ implemented project that is funded by the same donor as PEBACC; i.e. the International Climate Initiative (IKI) under the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB). MACBIO has the objective of increasing capacity to manage and conserve marine and coastal biodiversity in five Pacific Island Countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu. MACBIO has three inter-linked components: Integrating economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services in development and conservation planning; Inter-sectoral seascape level planning and adaptation of MMA, MPA & LMMA networks; and Effective approaches to area-based conservation and management. The project is implemented in partnership with IUCN and SPREP.

<u>UNDP R2R and VCAP</u> – presentation delivered by Loraini Sivu. The Ridge-to-Reef project is a four year project funded under GEF 5 and implemented by the Fiji Department of Environment. It will focus on integrated environmental management issues in six water catchments in Fiji. Its objectives are to: Improve sustainability of protected area systems; Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes; Reduce pressure on forest resources and sustain flow of ecosystem services; Maintain and improve flows of agro-ecosystems services to sustain livelihoods; Reduce pressure on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Both PEBACC and R2R will be working in Macuata Province, Fiji. The Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu (VCAP) Project is a four year project funded under the GEF LDC fund (USD8mill). The aim of the project is to improve the resilience of the coastal zone in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate change in order to sustain livelihoods, food production and preserve/improve the quality of life in targeted vulnerable areas. One of its four

components is EbA related; i.e. Improve the adaptive capacity of communities to CC impacts through integrated approaches and community actions in the restoration of productive coastal ecosystems and implementation of applicable concrete adaptation measures. There is no overlap in PEBACC project sites in Vanuatu and the VCAP sites.

<u>SPC RESCCUE</u> – presentation delivered by Dr Isoa Korovulavula. Restoration of ecosystem services and adaptation to climate change (RESCCUE) is a five year project co-funded by Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) and Fonds Francaise pour L'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). Implemented by SPC, the project aims to increase the resilience of Pacific ecosystems and societies facing impacts of climate change, through strengthened and sustained integrated coastal management. Participating countries include New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and French Polynesia. Project sites in Vanuatu are North Efate and in Fiji they are Ra and Kadavu. RESCCUE focuses on ICM planning practice and pilot implementation in selected sites; Use of economic analysis for ICM; Economic and financial sustainability of ICM; Facilitate learning, dissemination and replication of experiences gained from pilot sites; and Provide regional technical expertise on key issues of shared interest.

GIZ CCCPIR & ACSE – presentation delivered by Dr Wulf Killmann. Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) is an eight year programme implemented in partnership with SPC targeting 12 Pacific Island Countries and funded by the German government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BMZ). Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) is a four year project targeting 14 Pacific island Countries and Timor Leste and funded by the EU. Both projects currently run until 2018. CCCPIR work in Fiji focuses on mainstreaming CCA into national policy and the school curriculum; REDD+ policy and implementation; CC village relocation support (Narikosu, Kadavu) and development of relocation guidelines. In Vanuatu the project focuses on: Mainstreaming of CCA into policies & strategies; Energy efficiency of public buildings; Introduction of CC into school curricula, CCA in various communities (e.g. Pele island); and Awareness building (media events). Work in Solomon Islands has included: Awareness material in Pidgin; Implementation on the ground, and support to the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP). Examples of interventions include: Production of root crops more adapted to drought or rainfall; Adapted livestock; Coastal protection through mangrove rehabilitation; Contour planting; Agroforestry measures; and Fish Aggregation Devices.

Pacific Environment and Climate Exchange (PECX) – presentation delivered by Paul Evers, director of Vu Green Projects Ltd. PECX is an initiative under establishment that aims to facilitate corporate funding to environmental projects in the Pacific. Central to PECX is a web-based hub that showcases innovative environmental projects worthy of support.

Session 6: Coordination across SPREP

This session focused on promoting inter-divisional coordination and possible collaboration within SPREP.

<u>Invasive Species</u> – presentation delivered by David Moverly. SPREP has an active Invasive Species management programme within the BEM division. David presented the main invasive threats to island biodiversity in the Pacific and explained the different methods used in managing them. The SPREP programme is built around a GEFPAS project which is coming to an end. It is likely to be continued under a GEF 6 programme.

<u>Ocean Acidification</u> – presentation delivered by Dr Tommy Moore. Tommy explained the chemistry behind ocean acidification and quantified the rate at which it is happening (ocean acidity up by 30% since start of the industrial age). The presentation focused on the impacts of OA on coral reefs and how this impacts on community resilience. Strengthening the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems is proposed as an effective means to deal with OA. The Climate Change Division at SPREP has secured funding from NZ-Aid for a four year OA project. Key components of the project are: Research and monitoring; Implementation of practical adaptation actions; and Capacity building and awareness raising. Like PEBACC, the OA project includes the conducting of ESRAM studies, although project sites have yet to be finalized.

<u>Waste Management</u> – presentation delivered by Stewart Williams of SPREP's Waste management and Pollution Control division. Stewart introduced the SPREP Waste Management Division, summarized key waste management priorities and projects in the Pacific region, and identified potential areas of collaboration between waste management and PEBACC. Some potential areas of collaboration included: targeting critical 'waste' stressors to ecosystems, such as landfill leachate from dumpsites; pollutants from open burning of waste; chemical impacts from dumped batteries, e-waste and pesticide containers; litter/pollution impacts. Activities could include: Cost effective collection, containment & recycling; Large scale green waste composting; Improved landfilling techniques/elimination of waste burning; Recycling of batteries and aluminium; and Education at all levels.

Environmental Impact Assessment - presentation delivered by Dr Melanie Bradlev. SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division. The EMG Division at SPREP actively promotes capacity building and use of the EIA process in the Pacific. After explaining the EIA process, the presentation focused on linkages between EIA and EbA and pointed out the steps in the EIA process for which EbA might be most relevant. It was maintained that EbA has the potential to add value to the EIA process through, for example: Ensuring EIAs incorporate best available knowledge/data; Pinpointing potential environmental constraints, threats/impacts, uncertainties; Highlighting likely future consequences of development choices; Bringing greater precision to the process of deciding on impact management strategies; Helping stakeholders to understand why particular management measures or project designs need to be put in place.

<u>Spatial planning tools and approaches</u> – presentation delivered by Kilom Ishigur of SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Governance division. SPREP promotes the use of QGIS as it is free-to-use, open-source software. SPREP hosts a regional data repository which is called the Environmental Spatial Information Service (ESIS). It was pointed out that there is a disparity in the quantity of data held by the three PEBACC project countries, with Fiji holding a fairly large amount of data, Solomon Islands a medium amount and Vanuatu a low amount. For more information please visit <u>http://gis.sprep.org/</u>.

Workshop closure

Following a wrap-up and vote of thanks by the project manager, the workshop was officially closed by the Chair, Mr Sele Tagivuni.

Outcomes

The workshop was successful in meeting its stated objectives which were to introduce PEBACC to a broad range of stakeholders; make the case for EbA; share information on related projects and identify linkages; and share information on related work streams at SPREP with a view to interdivisional collaboration. While it was less successful in agreeing on project governance arrangements at the sub-regional level, project country managers were given a clear mandate to take these discussions further with their respective government counterparts.

The project management wishes to express its thanks to the government of Fiji for its support in hosting the workshop and to the stakeholders that attended.

Next Steps

- Port Vila ESRAM to begin in early March
- Selection of consortia to undertake ESRAMs for Honiara, Choiseul, Taveuni, Macuata and Tanna.
- Complete recruitment of project staff and operationalize project office
- Follow-up on project governance arrangements
- Begin engaging with stakeholders in the various project sites

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Annex 2. Group Photo



Annex 3. Workshop Programme

| Time | Activity |
|------------------|--|
| Day 1 | Thursday, 10 December 2015 |
| Session 1 | Opening Chair: Herman T |
| 8.30 | Registration |
| 9.00 | Prayer and Opening Remarks Pastor Kelepi Kubunameca Ratu Wiliame Katonivere , Tui Macuata Mr Peter Forau, Director General, MSG Secretariat Mr Stuart Chape, Director Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management, SPREP Mr Tia Masolo, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands |
| 10.00 | Introduction of participants Objectives of the workshop and overview of the program |
| 10.30 | Group photo |
| 10.45 | Morning tea |
| Session 2 | Chair: Dave L |
| 11.15 | Presentation – The case for EbA - Stuart Chape Q & A |
| 11.45 | Presentation – EbA work in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands - Fred Patison Q & A |
| 12.05 | Presentation – The PEBACC Project – Herman Timmermans Q & A |
| 12.25 | Presentation – Field Site: Taveuni <i>–</i> Nunia Thomas (NatureFiji) Q & A |
| 12.45 | Lunch |
| Session 3 | Chair: Sele T |
| 13.45 | Presentation – Field site: Macuata Province - Apolosa Robaigau (WWF) Q & A |
| 14.05 | Presentation – Integrated Vulnerability Assessments - Teresia Powell (Climate Change Division, Fiji Government) Q & A |
| 14.25 | Group exercise – Stakeholder and projects mapping |
| 15.00 | Afternoon tea |
| 15.30 | Plenary discussion - Project governance arrangements |
| 16.00 | Introduction to the fieldtrip |
| 16.15 | Closure of day one |
| 17.00 – 19.00 | Cocktail Reception |
| Day 2 | Friday, 11 December 2015 |
| Session 4 | Fieldtrip – EbA in action |
| 08.30 | Transport departs from hotel lobby |

| 09.00 | MySuva Picnic Park – Suva City Council |
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| 10.30 | Morning tea |
| 11.00 | Return to Novotel |
| Session 5 | Coordination with related projects Chair: Vinaisi D |
| 11.30 | GIZ MACBIO – Jan Steffen |
| 11.50 | UNDP R2R and VCAP - Loraini Sivo |
| 12.10 | SPC RESCCUE - Isoa Korovulavula |
| 12.30 | GIZ CCCPIR – Wulf Killmann |
| 12.50 | PECX – Paul Evers |
| 13.00 | Lunch |
| Session 6 | Coordination across SPREP Chair: Fred P |
| 13.50 | Invasive species – David Moverly |
| | Q&A |
| 14.05 | Ocean Acidification – Tommy Moore |
| | Q&A |
| 14.25 | Waste Management – Stewart Williams |
| | Q&A |
| 14.45 | Environmental Impact Assessment – Melanie Bradley |
| | Q&A |
| 15.00 | Afternoon tea |
| 15.15 | Spatial planning tools and approaches – Kilom Ishiguru |
| | Q&A |
| 15.30 | Plenary Discussion on coordination and linkages- other players? |
| Session 7 | Workshop closure |
| 15.50 | Way forward, closing remarks and vote of thanks |
| 16.00 | Workshop ends |